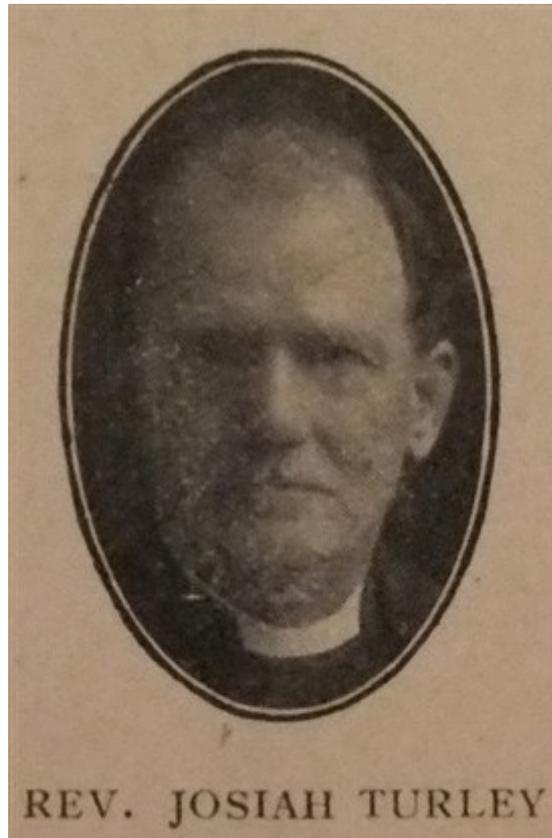


## JOSIAH TURLEY

Josiah was born on 3 November 1845 at Hampton's Load, Quatt, Shropshire

Josiah married Annie Lee in the summer of 1872 while he was stationed in Maidenhead. Annie was an evangelist in the Nottingham District before her marriage. They had four children

Josiah died on 8 June 1926 at Bournemouth, Hampshire



A much fuller account of his life can be found via:

[http://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/category/primitive\\_methodist\\_ministers](http://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/category/primitive_methodist_ministers)

## **Josiah was not afraid to speak his mind with regard to social issues.**

### CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY AT SOUTHSEA

Members of the Victoria-road Congregational Chapel, Southsea held their twenty-second anniversary on Wednesday commencing with a public tea in the school room, at which there was a large attendance This was followed by a meeting in the chapel. Mr. Henry Martin presided, and was supported by the Pastor (the Rev. Felix Williams) and the Revs. Josiah Turley and W. L. Brimmel.

The Chairman having congratulated the church on its flourishing condition, the Rev Josiah Turley followed with a stirring address. He reminded his hearers that they, as Non-conformists, were free from any secular control such as was imposed upon the Pope and the Church of England. They were free to do as they liked, but they had greater responsibilities because of that freedom. Free churchmen, concluded the speaker, should avoid making their church a political party, so was the great tendency nowadays.

The Rev. W. Brimmell also gave an appropriate address. A collection was taken during the evening on behalf of the church funds. (Portsmouth Evening News 8 November 1906)

### CURES FOR SOCIAL EVILS

#### REV. J. TURLEY LECTURES AT SOUTHSEA

“The conditions of the masses and how to cure it as Liberals and Free Churchman” was the subject upon which an interesting lecture was delivered by the Rev Josiah Turley, at the Primitive Methodist Church, Somers-road, Southsea on Monday morning.

Mr T. H. F. Laphorn J.P. presided, and, in opening the meeting, referred to the strenuous and successful work in which Mr Turley had for several years been engaged in connection with that branch of the Christian Church and also in other directions in Portsmouth.

It was a lamentable fact and a reflection on the Church that many who yearned for purer social conditions looked not to churches but outside them for social reform. Christianity, if rightly applied, could do much to improve the conditions of the poorer section of the community. It was the duty of the church to spare no efforts with regards to the temperance question and housing reform.

As to the great question of the relation of capital and labour, Christian people were not altogether free of reproach, inasmuch as they did not always consider the effects of “sweated” labour. The Church might not interfere in trade disputes but they could insist that such crises should be settled by a sense of justice rather than by the arbitrament of force in the form of “strikes” and “lock-outs”. (Hear, hear).

The Rev Josiah Turley spoke at length of the conditions of the masses as affected by poverty, unemployment, overcrowding, gambling and drinking, especially drinking among women. As a remedial measure he suggested that help be given to the agriculturalists to enable the workers on the land to keep away from the towns. The labourers and workers had their rights and claims upon the State, and to ensure their well-being should be regarded as a national duty.

He held that the Christian Church had not done all that it should have done for the masses and declared that it was to the abiding disgrace of the Bishops that, with a few exceptions, they had sided with the landowners and capitalists and the aristocracy until the working-man might well look upon them politically with abhorrence.

He urged the need of reform with regard to the tenure of land, and legislation for the amelioration for the condition of the the aged and deserving poor by means of old-age pensions. He advocated arbitration rather than war - which led to suffering and distress. Summing up, he urged that the working classes should themselves remove the hindrances in the way of their own well-being, the vices that held them down being the result of moral madness.

To think more and drink less was what was required by a great proportion of the working classes and the way would be clear to a better and higher condition of things than they had experienced. (Applause)

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and lecturer terminated the meeting.

(Portsmouth Evening News 28 May 1907)

### **He seems to have been particularly active during his time in Portsmouth**

Portsmouth Free Churchmen will generally regard with regret the impending departure of the Rev Josiah Turley from Portsmouth. During the time Mr. Turley has been the minister at the "Jubilee" Primitive Methodist Church Somers-road, he has by his energy considerably improved the financial position of the church. He has by his able and vigorous championship of Free Church principles won for himself the respect of all the Free Church denominations, and his election as President of the Portsmouth Free Church Council in 1905 was a tribute to his ability.

(Portsmouth Evening News 1st June 1907)

### **His was greatly supported throughout his working life by his wife Annie**

Mrs. J. Turley.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Turley, widow of the late Rev. Josiah Turley, which took place at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. H. Lancaster, Hampton-on-Thames, on May 22nd.

Mrs. Turley had lived a life of triumphing in her Lord for 87 years, and she died peacefully in the thought of re-joining her beloved husband, who pre-deceased her by nearly three years.

As Miss Lee, of Great Gonerby, Lincolnshire, she was a well-known and ardent evangelist, and during all the years of her husband's active ministry she splendidly supported him, rendering much appreciated service as a local preacher on all his circuits. She was held in very high esteem by all who knew her. Many will remember her preaching gifts, which were exercised very powerfully in the hey-day of her vigour.

Of her five children, two daughters only survive. Three of them were cut off in youth, including the Rev. T. J. Turley, whose death at the beginning of a very promising ministry in our Church was a great grief to his parents.

We laid her to rest beside her "beloved" in the Bournemouth East Cemetery, when a service was conducted by the Rev. W. J. Musson, and shared in by Revs. J. W. Gregory, J. T. Evans, A. Jones, and J. Lindley.

(Primitive Methodist Leader 30 May 1929)