

The Floral Arrangements

Walking Sticks of Whitefield and Adams - in the  
main vestibule.

Memorial to Nonconformity	...	South window
Where Whitefield Preached	...	South window
Baptismal Font	... ..	North window
To C. E. W.	... ..	North window
To Music	... ..	North window

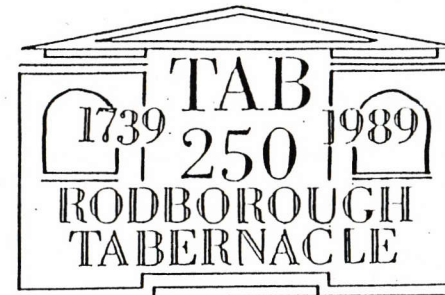
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REFRESHMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE  
WATSON ROOM

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FESTIVAL SERVICES, SUNDAY, JULY 9TH

- 10.30 a.m. Including dedication of the 250th  
year commemorative plaque by the  
Minister, the Rev. Colin Evans.
- 6.00 p.m. Festal evening service with Christ  
Church Orchestra from Nailsworth.



United Reformed Church

250TH ANNIVERSARY

of the founding of the  
Church of Christ now gathering  
at

RODBOROUGH TABERNACLE

July 8th and 9th 1989

Rodborough Tabernacle owes its origin to the open air preaching of George Whitefield on Minchinhampton Common. Following his preaching tour of this area in July 1739 three local societies sprang up, and one of Whitefield's first converts was Thomas Adams, who formed a society at Minchinhampton. The need for more adequate accommodation becoming acute, with two other societies meeting at Lightpill and Standish, a central meeting house was planned. Rodborough, where Adams gave the ground, was chosen. The building was completed in 1749 and Whitefield preached in it the following February. Following Adams' and Whitefield's deaths in 1770, it became the centre of the 'Rodborough Connexion', covering a wide preaching area into Wiltshire and Wales, and eventually a Congregational, and then, in 1973, a United Reformed Church. In all it has had some twenty three pastors and ministers.

TAB.250 TOUR

Welcome to our Festival Weekend. Begin your tour at the choir vestry door on the left at the front of the church and, proceeding to the Communion Table, you will find:

1. Whitefield bust: Normal permanent position in the main entrance vestibule; a copy of the 16th century 'Treacle' Bible - the old pulpit bible set in the Communion Table.
2. Whitefield's chair: The chair used by Whitefield whenever he visited the Tabernacle.
3. Memorial to Thomas Adams, founder of the church. A copy of the inscription, now badly eroded, is on the display table at Figure 8.
4. Original colours of 1st Rodborough Girl Guides, the first company to be founded in Gloucestershire (in 1914).
5. Hymn board stands fashioned from the bedstead used by Whitefield and other prominent figures of his day. (See plaque).
6. The chair used by King George III on his visit to Stroud in August 1788. Presented to the church by the Marling family who had a close relationship with our church - Nathaniel Marling played a prominent part in the building of the first Kingscourt School by Rodborough Tabernacle in 1837.
7. Memorials to be seen above the gallery on the opposite wall are mainly of the Marling family.
8. Display Table with exhibits leading up to the year 1836 when the Tabernacle was remodelled, greatly enlarged and re-orientated from its original north to south position. (Pass through vestibule to north aisle).
9. Display Table (post 1836). This table contains a picture of Eliezar Jones (1832-1840) during whose ministry the 1836 changes were made and Kingscourt School established, and also includes exhibits from two other outstanding ministries - Dr. William James Shergold (the only minister to serve two pastorates, 1904-1907 and 1946-1951) and the Rev. C. Ernest Watson (longest serving minister 1909-1942).
- 10/11. Memorials to Dr. W. J. Shergold and Rev. C. E. Watson on the south wall.
12. The choir vestry door was the main door to the much smaller church before 1836.

In the Little Chapel

The Little Chapel was formerly the church coach house and was reconstructed in its present form through the generosity of Reginald Tyrrell, a wealthy retired businessman who lived at Innsbruck, Walkley Hill. The work was done in two stages, in 1925 and 1936, principally for the Guilds of the Tri-Sigma, an imaginative and very successful youth organisation founded by the Rev. Ernest Watson, in which Mr. Tyrrell took a great interest. Though the Guilds no longer exist the Little Chapel remains in use and is a memorial to him and his wife, with two windows by Henry and Edward Payne of Box dedicated to them. The third window is to the memory of Ernest Watson.

13. Display Table (in vestibule) with a photograph of Ernest Watson and exhibits from the Tri-Sigma Guilds and the Sunday School Tri-Sigma League associated with it.
14. Display Table containing memorabilia of the Rodborough Operettas, a highly successful series of musicals written, produced and conducted by Watson himself between 1922 and 1936. His last, in a very different modern setting, was in rehearsal at the time of his death in 1942 and was never produced.
15. The enamel work cross on the rear wall of the chapel, by Italian craftsmen, is said to be unique and believed to be the largest piece they made.
16. The brass symbol of the Guilds of the Tri-Sigma represents the three Greek S's of Sincerity, Self-Surrender and Service.
17. This new 250th anniversary commemorative plaque is the work of Ian Rank-Broadley, noted sculptor to the Tower Mint, London, who has made his home and established his studios at Stanfields and become a near neighbour of the Tabernacle. The Nativity window was inspired by the tiny east window at Elkstone Church near Birdlip and is the work of the late Henry Payne.

The exhibition floral displays in the Tabernacle and Little Chapel are by ladies of the church.