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In 1935 woodworm became evident in the timbers of the roof, and the pews. Which caused some concern, especially as their continual progressive policy was rather a heavy financial burden to the society. Help had to be sought from Chapel Aid to the tune of £30.00, and the whole of the woodwork was given a coat of Pertokil. This proved most effective indeed, and only occasional traces of this devastating pest are noticed at the present time, which needless to say are immediately dealt with by the same remedy.

Now we turn to the out of doors, and in June 1938, 433 yards of ground are purchased at the rear of the premises from Mr. Brown of Thornton. What a bargain at £10.16s.6d, for this purchase made possible the wonderful school extension over 20 years later. For this we have to thank the Rev H Bainton and Mr. H Kind, officiating as trust secretary.

The outbreak of war in 1939 created some problems for village Churches, not the least being that of observing the blackout regulations. The difficulties to many Churches were insuperable, but the Newbold Verdon society tackled the situation from the very start. The higher window and the top portions of the lower windows were permanently blacked with thick paper, and drawable curtains fitted elsewhere. A sombre aspect resulted, and it was a considerable relief that things were returned to normal after hostilities ceased. Evening Services, however, were maintained from the very start, which was not always possible everywhere.

Very early in the war years the attention of the Government was drawn to the need for intensified youth work, and appeals went forth through Local Education Authorities for Youth Clubs to be formed. The Sunday School Officials were not slow to accept the challenge and a Christian Youth Club was formed in August 1942.

Under the immediate leadership of Mr. H Wilkinson, Mr. W Bills and Mrs. G Patrick, many voluntary helpers were recruited; Mr. Ken Farmer as treasurer, with his wife as assistant. Canteen helpers were required and many years of association began between Mrs. H Wilkinson, Mrs. B Lawrence and Mrs. W Bills. Such features as sausage and mash suppers and picnic outings became commonplace.

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Almost at once M A Y C came into being and a party of 19 attended the first London Weekend for the 'Launching of the Good Ship M A Y C'. Several times this trip was made during the following years and the experiences of 'tube shelter hospitality' Albert Hall and Westminster Hall Services, Harringay Display and the highly enjoyable packet lunches at 2/- each in Westminster are still spoken of.

The club is proud that they are founder members of M A Y C and their most recent trip was for London Weekend 1962. To tell of cricket in the South Leicestershire League, annual charity parades, construction of a tennis court, and all the wonderful bazaars, fetes and concerts organised, would need a separate brochure.

Sunday School and youth work was now settling down to a very steady pattern under Mrs. G Patrick as Superintendent and Mr. W Bills as Secretary and Mr. H Wilkinson as Treasurer, a combination maintained for quite a long time, and still operative in 1962. Growth was slow but steady, and much is owed to the increasing Christian influence of the leaders.

The sincerity and the fellowship evident among all the members and friends can rarely be surpassed. And so, the war years over, life gradually returns to normal, and people begin to look round again.

Our little pipe organ has been rendering yeoman service for more than 20 years, but there is a growing feeling that something a little better is called for. And so when in 1949, we hear that our friends at Earl Shilton are installing a new one, what more natural than that we consider their discard? Investigation shows that the organ is very suitable, and due to the generous nature of the society at Earl Shilton we are able to install at a cost of £120.00. What about the money? Why not try something we have never done before? A Gift Service, with of course, a tea, and the organist from Earl Shilton to show us how to use his late organ. This was arranged and the Rev W Charlton received the gifts in the

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Church. To our utter amazement these reached the magnificent total of £98.0s.0d and total receipts for the day were £116.10s.0d.

It may be appropriate here to draw attention to the yeoman service of Mr. William T Clarke, who had been Treasurer of our Church for some years. A regular worshipper at the Church practically all his life, he displayed his generosity substantially at this effort, and remembered the Church with a bequest of £100. There is a flower vase suitably inscribed to his memory on the communion table.

As a little extra, because some brickwork had to be disturbed, the walls of the Church were also given a fresh coat of colour wash.

THE NEW PROJECT

Housing presents a problem, and with mining subsidence limiting sites, Newbold Verdon is chosen as a suitable place for municipal development. Estates are laid out and houses spring up. Private development takes place. Slowly the effect becomes evident in the Sunday School and in the 1950s the little school room 23'x 23' gradually becomes inadequate. By 1956 it is plain to see that if the society is to keep pace with its youth commitments something substantial must be done. The history of the Church at Newbold so far had been one of considerable progress, and the same spirit was still there. In April 1951 Electrical heating was installed in the Church and School at a cost of £34.15s.0d to make the premises one of the very first to be conveniently warmed. In 1953 piped water coming to the village made it possible to erect modern toilet and kitchen facilities at a cost of £88, without need of a loan so, it was only natural to hear of an Extension Fund being started, with a view to very early development. In the first year (1956) £250.11s.9d was raised. Sums in the region of £3000 would be required, and how could so comparatively small society contend with such a problem.

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The growing Sunday School helped to provide an answer and very quickly parents and friends were invited to form a fairly large committee to raise funds by Annual Fetes and Bazaars. out of this committee emerged some very good workers, including a most energetic and faithful chairman, Mr. J R Watson, who continued in office to see the project through, and also consolidate the financial position to date.

The village responded magnificently, carnival bands and all kinds of displays made the outdoor fetes and parades attractive Sunday School scholars from all the Churches in the village provided a Queen and eight attendants, and the proceeds from the street collection were always given to worthy charity, as had been the case for years.

Then in the autumn of each year we held a bazaar, so that by the end of 1958 the comfortable sum of £1003.6s.4d. was safely invested in the Trustees Bank. And now the youth position was desperate. For the Sunday School opening, scholars were standing round the walls of our little schoolroom and it was a regular feature to see five separate classes scattered round the pews of the Church.

And so we feel that our hands are being forced, and very prayerfully a state of mind is reached, where the trustees are called together, and possibilities discussed. Do we really need a much larger building? Can it be that God is calling us to do something for the young people? We feel that this is so, and in December 1958 plans are prepared, discussed and presented to the Local Authority and permission to build obtained.

Tenders are invited and estimates received for a school building, without any decoration or furniture, ranged from £2,277 to £3,250. Trustees meet and very carefully agree that it appears necessary that we must postpone our plans for at least a further six months, and as this is March 1959, see what a further Fete and Bazaar brings forth. What is £1,000 against £2,277 with such a small society? Hearts are heavy at the close of the meeting, but in less than 24 hours a new spirit has arisen. 'O ye of little faith'. Before the end of the same March, only a few days after our first meeting, it was decided to accept the tender of Messrs F W Chadwick for £2,277, to submit to General Purposes Committee for their

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approval, and commission the Rev G W Argyle to present our case personally at the May Synod. So successful were all these negotiations, that complete confidence was restored, and orders were given to Messrs Chadwick to commence building as soon as possible, which materialised in December 1959, at which time our finances stood at £1,379.5s.5d. From now on our story is one of increased ambition, and joyful fulfilment.

Our Church must not fall behind in this progress, so we decide to completely replaster and redecorate; also, install modern electric lighting, and bring all electrical equipment up-to-date. Our new schoolroom must be equipped with radiant heating, and stained floor. The approach to the School Room must be of concrete and the surrounding ground must be levelled and made usable, as a car park. But what of our financial position? By the grace of God, by the continuing work and sacrifice of our people, there was never a moment's anxiety on this score. Our stone laying realised over £300, the Albert Road Circuit diverted £600 from the 'Middlefield' Trust to our building fund, and by March 1961, carpets, furnishings and equipment, added to the building cost, made a total expenditure of £3,778.3s.5d. By August 1962, all bills had been met and the society in all departments was able to record a balance left over of £226.18s.6d.

Amidst all this story of successful effort, the loss of two faithful and loyal trustees must be mentioned. Mr. H Kind collapsed during a bazaar and passed away almost immediately, leaving a task that had been very dear to him, and for which he had devoted a great deal of energy. Mr. George Frearson passed away peacefully, having spent a lifetime in energetic work for the Church. He will be remembered by many, for his continuing efforts in raising funds for the Harvest Thanksgiving and Christmas Carollers.

The culmination of all our efforts was reached on September 17th 1960, when Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wilkinson were accorded the great privilege of opening the new schoolroom. The Rev W Shepherd addressed a full gathering under the chairmanship of Mr. J H Warner, of Hinckley, who had proved a very good friend, and provided much encouragement over the years.

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It was a little longer before the Church could be opened for public worship. The plastering was found to need more than just patching up, so a complete renewal was made, but in the end, the further wait of three or four weeks was fully justified. Over and above all these necessary things, we had been aware that there would be a need for additional embellishments. Our faith was justified, however, our immediate needs had been met.

The Ladies Guild, under their secretary, Mrs. S Smith, undertook the responsibility of recarpeting the aisle and the pulpit area of the Church. Mr. Rowland Statham provided a clock for the new schoolroom in memory of his wife, who had been a staunch worker for many years in the sphere of the Ladies Guild. Mr. Statham himself held the office of society steward for many years and is still an honorary steward. Curtains were presented by Mrs. H Wilkinson, and Mr. Leslie Hill (the electrical contractor) presented an electric clock for the small room.

It is a privilege now to make mention of two families with a long history of faithful service. Mr. and Mrs. George Brown and family had exercised great influence for many years prior to 1935. Their work was commemorated by the presentation of a lectern (by their daughters) for use in the schoolroom.

Four of the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Statham are members of the society, and the whole of the family have been attached to the Sunday School and Church. Mrs. Mabel Brown was Trust Secretary during the extension period and for many years beside, in addition to being an ardent worker with the Ladies Guild and other spheres. Mrs. Gladys Patrick, to use her own words 'has always believed', and has worked her way through all the Sunday School stages to become Sunday School Superintendent. Mrs. Jessie White has devoted her energies to the cause of the Missionary side of the Church. It was therefore with great pleasure that the Society accepted the gift of a very fine communion table in memory of their mother, herself a member for many years.

And so we found ourselves completely and adequately equipped. The winter of 1960-

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1961 showed the value of this. The Sunday School average attendance was 123, and other branches of Youth work developed. A most successful Girls Guildry was inaugurated under the presidency of Mrs. Patrick, helped by workers from other Churches in the village. The open Youth Club at last found room to operate successfully under the leadership of Mr. W Bills, Mr. Len Wilkinson and Mr. Rex Wilkinson.

Thus we hope begins a new period when this Methodist Society will be in a position to offer still more influence and service to a growing community.

SOME PERTINENT PARTICULARS

Rev G W Argyle	Superintendent Minister
Rev A Bland	Local Minister
Mrs. Mabel Brown	Trust Secretary

ACTIVE TRUSTEES

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Coy
Mr. & Mrs. John H Wilkinson
Mr. Rowland Statham
Mr. Wilfred Bills
Mrs. Gladys Patrick
Mrs. Nina Smith
Mr. Harry Kind
Mr. George Frearson

The Church

A fine building 33 feet long and 23 feet wide and perhaps 25 feet to the apex. Permanent seating consists of 14 fixed pews seating 84 adults. By temporary seating this capacity

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has been doubled on special occasions, especially where young people are concerned, but not without some discomfort. Nine windows of characteristic Church architecture.

The Small Middle Room

This could now be called a Vestry 23 feet by 23 feet and used for small meetings such as Fellowship and Ladies Guild. Also the home of the Primary Section of the Sunday School.

The Main Schoolroom

44 feet long 33 feet wide, with a kitchen, storeroom, ladies cloaks and toilets at the side. A stained and polished floor with adequate windows and skylights. At the side of the Church, a paved entry exclusively to the kitchen, and on the other side a concrete entrance to main room flanked by adequate parking space. Electric heat and light throughout. The whole area approaching 1,400sq yards.

On the side of the building are eight foundation stones, laid in memory of:

Mr. William Warner (local preacher 1874-1946)
Mr. Mrs. J T Wilkinson
Mr. Mrs. W Kind
Mr. Mrs. H W Kind & Family
Mr. Mrs. W E Bills & Family
Mr. Mrs. J Fradsham & Family
Mr. Mrs. J H Wilkinson & Family
Members of the Society

These stones are a symbol of the generosity of the families who have had a lifelong association with the Sunday School and Church at Newbold Verdon.

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What it all cost.	**£**	**s**	**d**
Main School Room.	2800	11	05
Repairs & Alterations.	188	09	09
Church Repairs.	588	17	07
Furniture Carpets etc.	231	10	05
	£3809	**09**	**02**

Where The Money Came from.

Seven Fetes.	1053	10	00
Six Bazaars.	477	11	01
Interest on Investments.	148	16	10
Sale of New Goods.	128	10	00
Gift Boxes.	168	00	00
Stonelaying	302	03	08
Opening ceremony	66	12	06
Middlefield Trust	600	00	00
Chapel Aid	250	00	00
Ladies Guild	163	07	09
Various Efforts	450	17	04
	£3809	**09**	**02**