

This page grew from my investigations into the chapel at High Town.

In the late 1950s I used to cycle to work at the International Stores (formerly Smithers) in Bitterne. I recall the Methodist chapel in High Town, on the corner of Botley Road and Bursledon Road as a green painted galvanised iron building (but that may be subject to correction!!). We used to deliver a weekly order to a lady who lived in Botley Road immediately behind the chapel and who was very much involved in the work of the chapel - her name escapes me. I have been able to find the chapel only on the 1947 OS map and no others; the description is 'Meth Church'. The 1940 buildings list says it was wooden and seated 120 on forms. There is modern housing now on the site.

Sholing and Woolston are on the east side of the River Itchen, across from Southampton. By the mid 19th century Woolston was well established and Sholing was developing to the north of it. What follows, owes much to a [website](#) maintained by the Local Studies Department of Southampton Central Library. There is a section on Methodism and sections on each of the chapels. It seems to owe quite a lot to a book published in 1964 by local historian Jim Brown to commemorate the silver jubilee of St Andrews (see below).

1856 a Primitive Methodist chapel was built in Church Road (Now St Monica's Road). Also referred to as Botany Bay. This was replaced in 1876 by a chapel in South East Road. In 1968/9 this was replaced by another new building on the corner of South East Road and Butts Road called St Andrews. See below.

1864 a Wesleyan chapel was built in Obelisk Road. In 1920s a Central Hall was considered for Woolston due to the anticipated extension eastward of Southampton Docks. This did not happen; the docks were extended to the west and a Central Hall was built in Southampton. In 1934 Obelisk Road closed and merged with the United Methodist congregation in Manor Road to form Woolston Methodist Church which is still functioning. See below.

1899 a Bible Christian chapel was built in Manor Road. Became United Methodist 1907. In 1934 merged with Obelisk Road and built the current chapel in Manor Road, known as Woolston Methodist Church and now the only Methodist church still functioning in Woolston and Sholing.

Bursledon Road, High Town. This quote from [Sotonopedia](#) may give the origin of the High Town chapel; it has an early interior photo too. In 1968/9 merged with the congregation in South East Road to form the new St Andrews [Methodist](#) Church (I think the webpage here, wrongly locates High Town). St Andrews [closed](#) in 2010 and was used by various community groups until 2022. It was [sold](#) in 2024 and became a Day [Nursery](#).

Geoffrey Goodall's Closed Chapels document has various notes under Sholing and Woolston.

The 1940 Buildings list says Manor Road and South East Road chapels were both damaged in the war. Manor Road seated 370 on chairs. South East Road seated 250 on pews.

Keith Guyler has a [photo](#) of St Andrews and two of [Manor Road](#)