



The New Church, opened in 1887.

Clitheroe Times Friday August 5th 1910

Moor Lane UMC New Pastor

The Rev. A.W. Utting of Middleton has been invited and has accepted the invitation to succeed the Rev. W. Bailey as pastor of Moor Lane UMC and he expects to begin duties on August 28th. Mr Utting is a native of Norwich and was recommended by their circuit to their college in Manchester in 1897. During his two years stay there he became the Cuthbertson Prize man and on the expiration of that period was appointed to the Leeds Lady Lane circuit. Since then he has travelled in Leeds, Park, the old London VI circuit and Heywood circuits and is just completing his fourth year in the latter, having had charge of the Middleton and Habers churches. He is deeply interested in all forms of Christian work but at Middleton has concentrated on Free Church Council and Christian Endeavour work, having been co-secretary of the FCC for three years and President of the Middleton CE Union for a similar term.

The Times Friday July 28th 1916, Clitheroe Lancashire.

Six years pastor

PRESENTATION TO Rev. A.W. Utting

FINE CONGREGATIONAL TRIBUTE

A congregational meeting was held at Moor Lane School on Wednesday evening for the purpose of making a presentation to the Rev. A.W. Utting, who after six years' service at Moor Lane is to leave in August to succeed to the pastorate of a London (Catford) circuit. It speaks well for the regard in which Mr Utting is held by the congregation that a large number assembled on a beautiful night not conducive to large meetings. That regard was further expressed in several speeches of sincerity testifying to the success of his work and to the spiritual influence he had exercised. Ald. J.T. Whipp presided and he was supported on the platform by the pastor, Messrs J. Ford J. Scott and J.W.Blackburn. Introducing the chairman, Mr Utting said that he had received many kindnesses from Alderman Whipp during his stay in Clitheroe and that night he added another kindness to the list by presiding over the gathering. Ald. Whipp had also done many kindnesses to the church and they all owed him a debt of gratitude.

Ald. Whipp said that he had usually to say that he did not much care for such duties but on that occasion he could say sincerely that it was pleasure for him to occupy the chair. All were very sorry Mr Utting was leaving. He had done a great deal of good work many in Clitheroe. He knew no man in Clitheroe who was more regarded. Mr Utting had been a most consistent worker and he at any rate had nothing to complain of in his sermon. Whatever Mr Utting had done had been accomplished conscientiously. He wished him the best of success in his new circuit and hoped that someday he might become president. He (the speaker) never expected to be Mayor of Clitheroe and Mr Utting probably never expected the presidency. At the same time they hoped he would obtain that proud position.

Mr Ford said it was with mixed feelings that he addressed the gathering. When Mr Utting first entered the circuit he was about the first to welcome him and he then came to the conclusion that Mr Utting would be a man that would serve them well. That hope had been fully realised. Today the air was full of farewells. For two years they had been passing through a very serious trial not only as a church but as a nation. Many were directly interested for it had been their experience to wish many farewell. Many young men had left the school shown by the fact that on Sunday only two men, over military age were in the men's class. Now came the time to say farewell to Mr Utting. He had certainly been a trier and if the church and school had not been as successful as possible it was certainly not been Mr Utting's fault, for he had done his level best. Mr Ford proceeded to lament the falling off in attendance at Sunday School and the dearth of workers. He claimed the school was the finest in the time as regards proportionate numbers, but regretted a danger of losing scholars through lack of workers. Delivering an earnest appeal for more workers, he said all could help, adding it was a bounden duty on all who could help to do so. He also regretted sparse congregations at morning service, and

expressed a fear that dangerous spirit of indifference was evident. Again he uttered an appeal for more active interest. Turning to the more immediate question of Mr Utting's departure, the speaker had not realised how much they loved Mr Utting until news came that he was to leave. There had been good men before Mr Utting however and he was sanguine enough to believe that good men would succeed. But however good the man he must have encouragement and he urged that of the people of Moor Lane and give him all the help they could. Mr Utting had been a good man for them 'working like a brick'. They were sorry now that the time had come to lose him, but parted from him in the best of good feeling and wished him enduring success. In Clitheroe, Mr Utting had laboured in difficult times but they could look back over the six years of his pastorate with a fair amount of satisfaction.

Mr Blackburn was the next speaker and he emphasised the fact that Mr Utting was well thought of by people of other denominations for his kindness and his sociability. Some ministers made friends with the wealthier people and neglected others. That charge could not be laid against Mr Utting who had neglected nobody. In the same way he was willing to do any work he could. Mr Blackburn also paid a tribute to Mrs Utting and concluding wished Mr and Mrs Utting the best of success and prosperity in their new sphere of work.

The actual presentation was made by Mrs Porter, the senior member of the church, making it clear that she was not the oldest in Years! She read the following address: - 'The members of the congregations of the several places of worship forming the Clitheroe circuit of the United Methodist Church wish to convey to you their sincere appreciation of the services you have rendered during your six years Ministry in this circuit. You have carried out your duties zealously and cheerfully. Every call made upon you for your services has been readily responded to and in all your dealings you have shown the true spirit of a Christian gentleman. Your consistent conduct and readiness to help anyone in need of your services have won for you the regard and the respect of many outside our own churches, and of many who do not generally go to any place of worship nor profess any religion whilst the attention that you have given to the welfare of our young men on our roll of honour has earned for you their generous thanks. We trust in taking leave of us you will carry with you in your new sphere of labour many pleasant recollections of your residence amongst us. We pray that God's blessing will go with you and Mrs Utting and your children and that you may have health and happiness in years to come. Material gifts can never adequately repay spiritual services, but as a token of some little recognition of our indebtedness to you, we ask you to accept the accompanying purse and its contents'

Mrs Porter then handed to Mr Utting a purse containing twenty guineas.

Mr Utting who was heartily received thanked all who had shown such kindness to him and his, not only that night but during his six years stay amongst them. He came as a stranger and they

took him in and he could never regret the time spent in Clitheroe. One church stalwart once prayed at a welcome meeting to a new pastor. 'Lord keep him humble and we will keep him poor'. Apart from any question of poorness, some had devoted themselves to the task of keeping him humble. Devoting themselves with a certain amount of earnestness, which might have been expended on a worthier object and in a better cause. He did not object to criticism, only to the spirit in which criticism had been offered. One did object to criticism which came from those who did little to help one in the work. Honest criticism he had never shunned or resented but had always tried to profit by it. In Clitheroe he had never lacked friends and he was glad to number amongst his friends men and women of other denominations than his own. Roman Catholics, Churchmen and others. He could also honestly say that he had never put friends before principle. In thanking them for the many kindnesses shown to him, he would say that the best way they could repay him for any work he had done was by perpetuating the work he had tried to do. He endorsed Mr Ford's remarks and bade all who could assist to rally to the help of the principle workers. Nothing could please him more to hear that they in Clitheroe were successfully grappling with the problems confronting them. It was with sorrow that he remembered that many who welcomed him at first were no longer with them, but he was happy in the thought that they were still with them in spirit applauding their good work, rebuking them if they failed in their duty. Against the losses, he put new names in the baptismal register, remarking that he was astounded at the number of infants which had passed through his hands. He hoped great things of the new scholars, hoped that the work of the school would be more glorious than ever. He must also refer to the young men who had gone away. Many volunteered in the glad joyous spirit. Now that joy was chastened, the joy considerably toned down, and their men with others served as matter of stern duty. They were doing their best and he would continue to think of them and pray for them. It was one of the greatest regrets he had that he was not staying to see them come back, but he would not forget them. He was glad reference had been made to his wife. For nobody realised the very valuable assistance she had given him. He spoke of her generous endeavours to assist him and declared much of his work would have been impossible but for her self-sacrifice. Mr Utting referred to his successor. They had Mr Jefferies engaged as their pastor after the war was over, he being now with the forces. During the next twelve months they were to have had Mr Hopkins, but he too was to become a chaplain. Now their choice fell on the Rev. Dutton, who for twelve months was to serve them. He was a gentleman who had rendered good service and would certainly do his best for them. He hoped they would show his successor the same kindness and thoughtfulness that had been displayed to him. In which case he was sure their work would prosper (Loud applause)

During the evening several items were excellently given by Misses A. Lord and I. Watson.