

# CHAPELS

## Memoirs of Wesleyan and Methodist Chapels of Ewelme

### *Tape 1 -*

One chapel on site of Suffolk House car park – demolished.

### *Tape 2 -*

**Methodist chapel** on site of Suffolk House.

The other one is now the Post Office and was used for storing flour.

### *Tape 3 -*

**Methodist Chapel** on site of new almshouses – popular with children. Mrs Poupart gave children sweets for attending.

Other chapel was a corn chandlers.

### *Tape 6 -*

**Methodist Chapel** - Mrs Poupart's – children went there before going to church!!

### *Tape 8 -*

**The chapel** – Mr Calcott, a resident took the chapel and invited ministers which took place by Thatchings. Real hymn singing and oratory from 6-8 pm on Sunday nights. Mr Calcott lived where Sue Plath lived entertaining ministers to tea. Services always full and she adored the singing. Mr Calcott played the harmonica.

### *Tape 10 -*

Played the harmonium for Mrs Poupart when needed.

### *Tape 11-*

There were two chapels which were non-conformist.

**Wesleyan** - One where the Post Office is and one where the new almshouses are. Bill's family belonged to one of the chapels. Part of the reason for this was the Church of England's action [towards farmers] during the depression in the 1930's.

### *Tape 12 -*

Where Suffolk House now is there was a chapel near what is now Barrie Blakeley's workshop. Supposed to be Methodist but not strictly so. Mrs Poupart who lived in the Old Pottery was a bit of a religious maniac – claimed the Spirit of the Lord descended upon her, so she preached. Julian was in the Boy Scouts which was run by her husband in a hut. She came up to Julian one day and told him she had a vision and that he and everyone who had been in the hut were blessed and hallowed. The Pouparts ran a Sunday School and gave the children a trace and a sour apple. They were very evangelical. Mrs Poupart would come to church and sing at the top of her voice out of tune which made the children giggle. The Trust bought her house when she wanted to sell so they said she could go into an almshouse, but she is now in a nursing home. Joan Cannon visits her, she was the sort you couldn't get rid of.

### *Tape 14 -*

The chapel which stood where Suffolk House is now was brick built with a slate roof and held about 30 people.

### *Tape 15 -*

Remembers the chapel on the site of Suffolk House but it was empty then.

### *Tape 16 -*

Couldn't remember the post office being one, it was always a store. Mrs Poupart's chapel – she remembers it there.

### *Tape 19 -*

One near post office. Mr Calcot preached at this **Baptist** [?] Chapel. As children went to other dissenting chapel for harvest supper and always went. It was something to do on a Sunday and very active. Choir was very active as was Mother's Union. No women in the choir until Mrs Jenkins took over during WW II. Went on holiday with the choir to Butlins.

### *Tape 22 -*

**Wesleyan** - One of the dissenting chapels was opposite her house, [Post Office] but it closed fairly early on. Lucy thinks it was Wesleyan. At the time Lucy's mother was married both church and chapel were regularly full. Lucy went to chapel for occasions such as harvest festival, as did her mother, if it didn't clash with church. Chapel was less orthodox than church, more evangelical. It was run by Moses Winfield, then taken over by Beatie his daughter who was a great character – very hearty. Suffolk House is now on the site of this chapel.

### *Tape 23 -*

A chapel where Suffolk House is now and another at the Post Office. Several went to chapel but more went to church. Suffolk House site was Methodist, Post Office was Wesleyan.

### *Tape 24 -*

Mrs Poupart's chapel - very popular lady - gave so much to the village. Younger than her husband by about 25 years. Different type of service to the 'traditionalist C of E' - liked to sing 'I am H A P P Y' etc. His father used to read lessons there. (The villagers seemed to commute between Church and Chapel very naturally).

### *Tape 27 -*

**Chapels** - Remembers the chapel run by Mrs Poupart - very nice lady, kind hearted, but would always steer the conversation round to religion.

### *Tape 41 -*

Churches and Chapels – 2 chapels in the village, one next to the Bennetts Shop (ie old Post Office) but I don't remember that being used. Mr and Mrs Poupart ran the other one – on site of new Almshouses. Bertie and Kathleen Poupart played an important part in village life. Kathleen played the organ.

### **Primitive Chapel**

[Emily Powell came from the prosperous coach building family in Benson, whose home was the substantial Kingsford House (plus an acre of ground behind it). There is a Humfrey/Powell family legend that strict Chapel-going Emily refused to marry Anglican Edward Humfrey for many years and that he built her a chapel in Ewelme. It could not be the Wesleyan Chapel built earlier in 1842 so was it was the Primitive chapel once situated on the car park of what is now Suffolk House and known generally as the Poupart chapel? Edward Humfrey rented Fords Farm from John Franklin and moved away in 1902 when Franklin died and the farm became the home of the Edwards family].