

Trentham Methodist Church



William Barnett standing outside cottages where the first services were held [Family collection]

In 1870 a small society of Methodists were meeting at Miss Marrow's cottage [number 1 in the photo] on the Longton Road. When numbers grew they moved to the cottage of William Barnett, a carpenter on the estate [number 2 in the photo], but by 1878 they needed larger premises. To test public support for this cause, they held an open air service at the Ash tree on the roundabout at Ash Green. It caused quite a stir and when Mr Barnett approached the Duke for permission to build a chapel, he received a positive response. The Duke leased the land for £2-0s-6p per year on a 99 year lease. His architect Thomas Roberts, also a Methodist, prepared the plans and building materials were prepared in the estate workshops. The foundation stone for the church was laid on 17th May 1883 and it was completed by the end of the year, having cost about £500 to build. A Sunday School was started and in 1887 a separate school room was built when further land was leased from the Duke for £1-0s-2p on a 94½ year lease.

The local families who played a leading role in the early life of the church were the Barnetts, Hackneys, Adcocks, Pidducks, Holdcrofts, Mayers and Mitchesons. At one time the church counted two mayors within the congregation. George Mitcheson was Superintendent for the Sunday School for many years and District Treasurer for the Aged Ministers' Fund.

Sunday school was held before the morning service and again in the afternoon along with a men's bible class, which was very active and well supported before the days of the First World War. An evening service began at 6:30 pm and hymn singing often continued at Mr Barnett's home after the service.

According to the 1911 census there was a Wesleyan Minister, Richard Webb, living at 11 Earl Street [now Earls Road] Hem Heath.



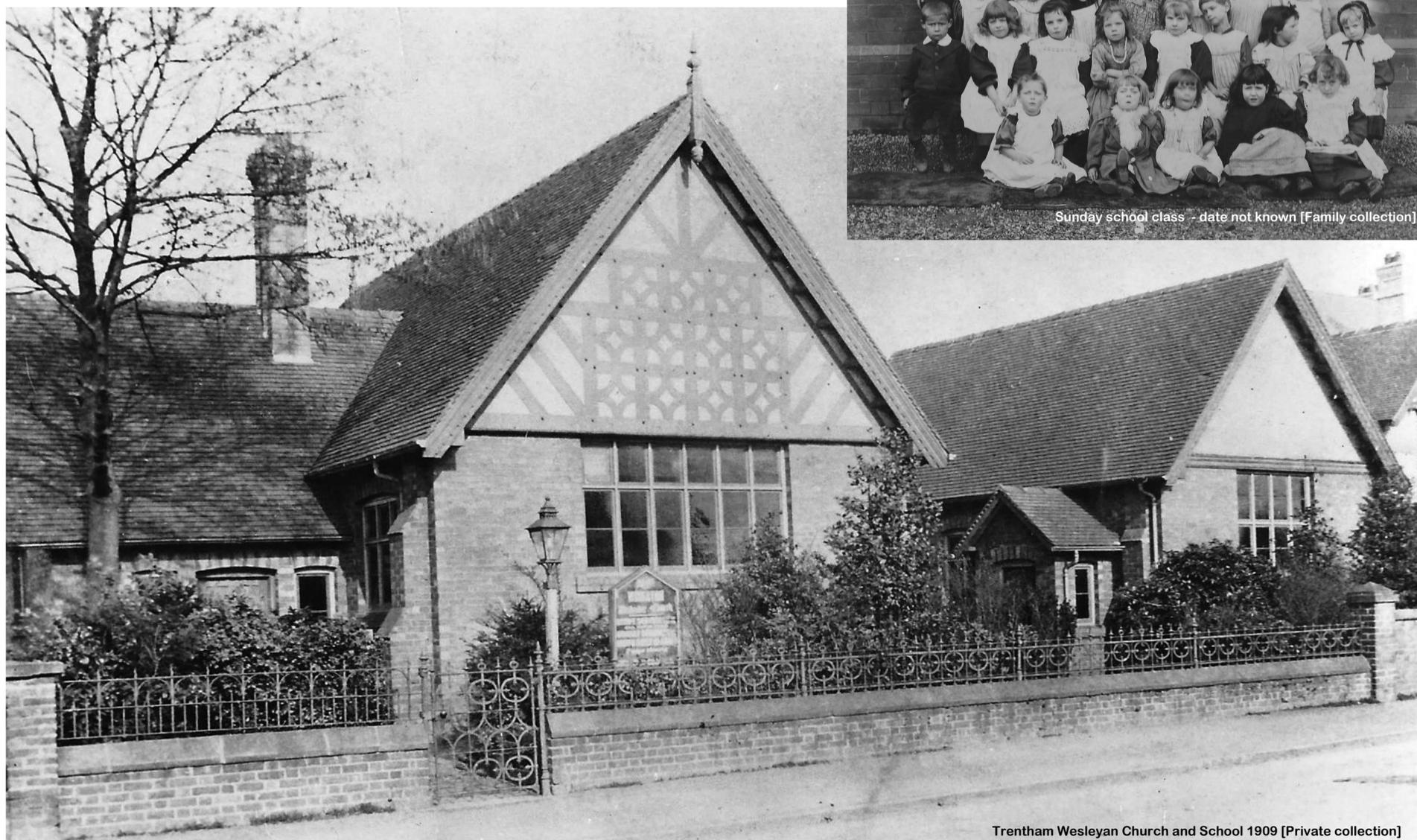
Ash Green showing the Ash Tree on the right where the open air services were held [Private collection]



Sunday school class - date not known [Family collection]



Sunday school class - date not known [Family collection]



Trentham Wesleyan Church and School 1909 [Private collection]