

MEMORIAL PLAQUES AT
LADY HUNTINGDON'S CHAPEL
TRAFALGAR ROAD, WESTON
BATH



Photographed by P J Bendall on 27-Mar-2013

The *Bath Chronicle* of Thu 15 Dec 1853 p2 and subsequent weeks had advertisements for "THE NEW CHAPEL AT WESTON, NEAR BATH In the Countess of Huntingdon's Connection, Subscriptions, at Christmas, or New Year's Gifts, will be gratefully received by Mr. NOYES, 7, Bladud Buildings, towards the liquidating of a Debt of £180 still remaining on the Chapel." Following a list of subscriptions "Since the erection of this Chapel, the spirit of hearing the Gospel has been very encouraging, so much so, that an enlargement would be desirable if it could be accomplished. ..."

From the *Bath Chronicle* of Thu 23 Apr 1857: "THE COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON'S CHAPEL, WESTON, NEAR BATH.—(From a Correspondent.)—About four years ago a nice chapel was erected in Trafalgar Place; two wings have been lately added, and a new gallery, and a bell turret placed in the front of the elevation. The whole of this addition has been paid for by three friends, but an old debt of £200, including £50 for the organ, still remains to be liquidated. There are two full services conducted in the place of worship on the Lord's Day. In the morning, the Liturgy of the Church of England is read, and a sermon preached by Mr. Noyes, who has, these last five years, regularly resumed at Weston his ministerial labours, which have extended over more than forty-five years. A Sunday adult and juvenile school has been established. A week-day service is also performed gratuitously, in which Rev. John Owen, once a month gives sermons.

From the *Bath Chronicle* of Thu 17 May 1877: "A correspondent informs us that the difficulty, which for some time past has caused a division among the members of the countess of Huntingdon's chapel at Weston, no longer exists, the Rev. W. E. Darby having resigned." However it wasn't until 20 Sep 1877 that a notice in the newspaper stated that "The Rev. W. E. DARBY concludes his Ministrations at the above Chapel on SUNDAY, the 30th inst. in consequence of long continued difficulties between himself and the Managers. From Sunday, the 7th October, the Services will be conducted by various Ministers of the Connexion." Shortly afterwards (11 Oct 1877), an article reported that Rev Darby and his supporters were using the Assembly Rooms for services.

From the *Bath Chronicle* of Sat 12 Apr 1913, reporting on the 100th annual report of the Bath Sunday School Union: "We have no return from the Upper Weston Countess of Huntingdon School, and understand that it is difficult to find teachers for it. As this school was founded by the Union in the first year of its existence, and has been maintained practically ever since, we most sincerely hope that it will be continued. Ninety-nine years ago, at the end of its first year of life, it had sixty scholars." The Sunday School persisted as in May 1925 there was report of Sunday School anniversary services including special singing by the scholars.

From the *Bath Weekly Chronicle and Herald* of Sat 30 Jun 1945, the chapel had been certified according to law as a place of meeting for religious worship in December 1856 and that it had just been registered for the solemnisation of marriages. "This has been done in order to provide for returning members of H.M. Forces living at Upper Weston who wish to get married there ..."



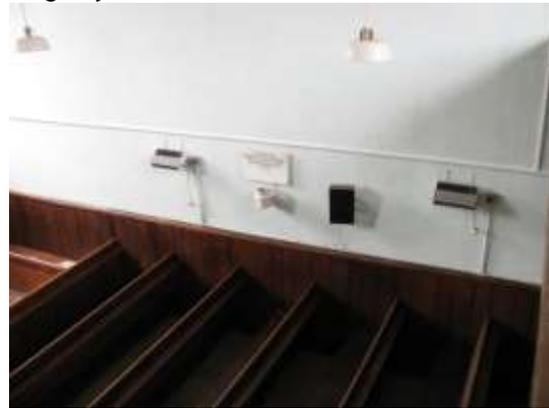
The lectern



The gallery



The southern wall with Gardner & Stokes plaques



The northern wall with the Bolwell plaque



The organ

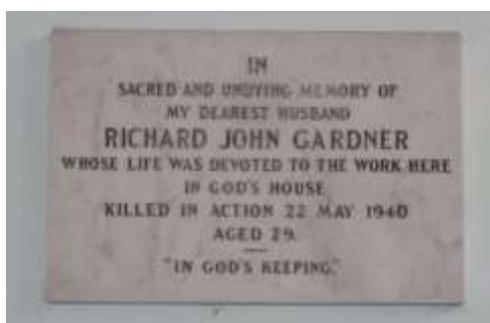


Birth registered 1890/Q4 Bath, mother's maiden name: Pike.

In the 1901 census at 28 Brook Road, Twerton: Thomas Bolwell, aged 48, widower, foreman horse keeper, born at Bath, and children: Alice K, aged 20, born at Bath, and Harriet E, aged 10, born at Bath.

In the 1911 census at 8 Third Avenue, Oldfield Park, Bath: Thomas Edward Bolwell, aged 58, widower, general labourer, born at Bath, and children: Alice Kate, aged 30, unmarried, at home, born at Bath, and Harriet Elsie, aged 20, unmarried, school teacher, born at Bath.

The death of Harriet Elsie Bolwell, aged 59, was registered 1949/Q4 Bath.



The marriage of Richard John Gardner to Elsie Rose Smith at All Saints', Weston was registered 1939/Q4 Bathavon.

From the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* of Sat 18 Jan 1941:

FELL AT DUNKIRK - Tablet to Memory of Bath Soldier -

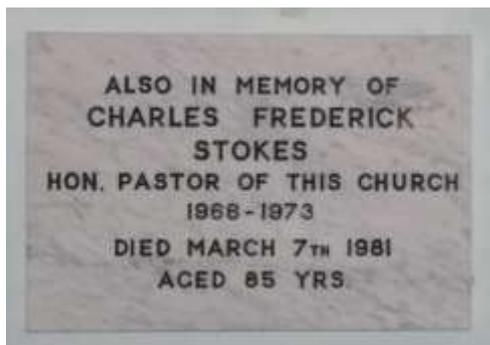
At the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, Upper Weston, Bath, on Thursday, a tablet was unveiled to the memory of Lance-Corpl. Richard John Gardner, of Bath, who was killed at Dunkirk on May 22, 1940. The tablet was erected at his wife's wish, two brass vases and many flowers being given by the members of the church and Sunday School at which Mr. Gardener was a keen worker.

The widow, who was unable, through ill-health, to attend the service, sent roses.

Messrs. Huntley and Overton conducted the ceremony. Mr. Gardner's favourite hymn, "Fight the Good Fight" being played by Mr. Stokes at the organ. The singing of "Abide With Me" concluded the service.



The death of Edith Rose Gardner, born on 20 Apr 1911, was registered 1987/Jun Bath. Buried in Locksbrook Cemetery - Weston Section (H.1721).



The birth of Ellen Beatrice Birth in 1883 was registered 1884/Q1 Bath, mother's maiden name: Comley.

In the 1891 census at 15 Margarets Hill, Walcot, Bath: Richard Birth, aged 41, mason, born at Bath, wife Louisa, aged 31, born at Bath, and children: Ada L, aged 11, born at Bath, Ellen B, aged 7, born at Bath, and Richard S D, aged 3, born at Bath.

In the 1911 census at 21 St Kildas Road, Bath: Richard Birth, aged 60, mason (waller), born at Bath, wife Louisa, aged 50, married 30 years 6 children of which 3 then living, born at Bath, and daughter Ellen, aged 26, tailor's machinist - clothing factory, born at Bath.

The marriage of Charles Frederick Stokes to Ellen Beatrice Birth at St Swithin's, Walcot was registered 1920/Q4 Bath.

The death of Ellen B Stokes, aged 77, was registered 1966/Q2 Bath. Buried at Haycombe Cemetery, Bath (51.K.241 (G)).

The death of Charles Frederick Stokes, born on 10 Dec 1896, was registered 1981/Q1 Bath. Buried at Haycombe Cemetery, Bath (51.K.241 (G)).