

2009 – A New Beginning?

In a world dominated by speed and convenience it has been difficult to match the sincerity of the words contained in Eric Williams' article of 1959. Although the pace of life was a little slower fifty years ago, the pressures to survive with few resources were always there. The chapel was the focal point of village life and provided religious education and spiritual guidance from the age of six. Many Bretton children earned the fifteen year medal on attaining their twenty first birthday when they would move into the chapel for adult worship.



Medal Presented to Frederick A. Lewis on Joining Sunday School 1924



15 Year Medal presented to Frederick A. Lewis 1939

Examples of Chapel Sunday School Medals 1924 & 1939

Using modern digital technology it has been possible to revive some of the memories contained in old photographs, some tiny. Scanning and enlarging has lent a new lease of life to these treasured heirlooms. Grateful thanks are extended to all those people who have so generously contributed photos for the 'treatment'. Particular thanks go to Pamela Lewis, Phillip Holland, Margaret Lindop, Jim Chilton (now living in Sale), Jo Chaloner, Maureen Wayman, Bernard and Estelle Roberts and Keith and Janet Rogers. The response has been magnificent and spontaneous. Thanks also to villagers for their verbal memories of times gone by.

And so, our 2009 Booklet is dominated by photographs as a visual reminder that God has been, and is, in this place, at all times. Perhaps if we take a few moments each day we may become aware of His presence and His great love for us.

*Bill Hanks – 2009
For Gordon and Matthew*