

HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, HEBDEN BRIDGE, WEST YORKSHIRE.

(1 7 7 7 - 1 9 7 7)

Secretary's Address - 6, Ingle Dene, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire.

Dear Friend,

This year we at Hope are celebrating the Bi-Centenary of our Church. The whole Baptist denomination is familiar with the wonderful hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds", written by John Fawcett in 1772. The hymn was composed soon after he had succumbed to the pleas of his congregation at Wainsgate to remain with them, even though he was ready for the move to a fashionable London church and his furniture was already loaded on to waggons in readiness. Dr. Fawcett remained at Wainsgate for another five years and then he moved from the hilltops to the valley bottom with many of his congregation and started the Ebenezer Church in the more populous and growing town of Hebden Bridge. He ministered here for a further forty years and his influence spread far and wide. Later, in 1858 the Ebenezer Church became too small and the fellowship built a larger Church in a more central position in Hebden Bridge and this was known as Hope Baptist Church.

In view of the great esteem in which Dr. Fawcett is held in Baptist circles we thought that you would be interested to know that we are arranging a "John Fawcett Rally" on Saturday, 11th June, 1977. This event will be held at Wainsgate Church, Old Town, Hebden Bridge beginning at 3 p.m. It will be preceded, however, at 2 p.m. by a short open-air service, near our own Church in the centre of Hebden Bridge. The singing at this open-air meeting will be accompanied by the Hebden Bridge Brass Band. The speaker at the Rally will be Rev. Frank Goodwin, of Hinckley, President of the Baptist Union, 1976-77. Tea will be served after the meeting.

To mark this anniversary a commemorative plate, in a limited and numbered edition, is being produced by a local craftsman. The plate includes a portrait of John Fawcett and photographs of Wainsgate and Hope Churches and it is expected to attract a great deal of interest. These plates will be on sale at the Rally or may be obtained from me, price £6 including postage and packing.

Wainsgate is very attractively situated on the hilltop about three miles from Hebden Bridge and at the edge of the Pennine moors and a visit will make a very interesting outing for friends from other churches. It would help our catering arrangements if you would let me know, by 1st June, the number of persons who may be attending from your Church.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you every blessing in the work of your Church.

Yours sincerely,

Stanley W. Shackleton.

Church Secretary.