

Trevilla

Park Dreens
Great Pile field
Crackadden
Colly Vease
Pons field
Moddrick

Tregoose

Outer Ninnis
Glana

Tresithick

Culver House meadow
The Gleaner
Stately field

Trolver

Great Trelarren
Stennack
The Gews
Carnon Mine Croft

Higher Devoran

Nonesuch
Boatswain meadow
Park Braws
Clodgy
Vineyard

Harcourt

Trelarren field
The Gears
Skipping close
Kite close

Penpol

Park an Wilkin
Homer great close

Chycoose

Minnin
Lower Lambraws

Sandoes

The Boggan

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ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY NOW WORSHIPPING IN
GOONPIPER CHAPEL

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In 'More about the Early Methodist People' the late Dr Leslie Church refers to the work of Elizabeth Collett in establishing Methodist Preaching in Feock, giving as his source the 'Life of Mrs Elizabeth Collett', edited by her son Richard Collett and published in Volume 2 of Taft's 'Sketches of Holy Women' c.1828. Born Elizabeth Tonkin in Gwinear on May 9th 1762, at 16 she joined the local Methodist Society, which probably met at the home of one of the members. Four years later, in 1782, she moved to Feock and finding there was no Methodist society or chapel in the area, she obtained the consent of the family with whom she lived to have Methodist preaching in the house. She herself seems to have secured the Superintendent's permission for preachers to attend regularly to conduct services. Redruth Circuit covered this part of the county and its Superintendent Rev. Joseph Taylor was one of the first 100 Ministers appointed by Wesley under the Deed of 1784. In 1784, the Feock Society had 43 members but four years later these had dwindled to 14.

The Bishop of Exeter's registry of Meeting-house Licences has an entry stating that a 'lately erected house at Feock' was registered on April 4th 1807, at the request of Robert Shepherd, Charles Thomas and Hannibal Edwards. This may refer to the building traditionally regarded as the first Methodist chapel in Feock, which was on the road to King Harry Ferry at Sandoes. A farm building now stands on part of the site and the ruined wall adjoining may have been part of the chapel. The phrase 'lately erected' is no real clue, as registration, although required by law immediately on erection, was often delayed. This would appear to have been the case at Sandoes, for within a few years this building was replaced by a new one erected, it is believed, on the present site at Goonpiper, registered at Exeter on 19th July, 1819. Registration was at the request of Francis Truscott, Wesleyan Minister of Truro. The membership was then 40 and the ground leased to the trustees at 8/- per annum. There was seating for 180, the majority of the seats being backless benches. This chapel cost £154, of which £44 had

been raised by the time of opening, the rest being borrowed.

The earliest legal document so far found relating to the Goonpiper property is an Assignment of lease dated 22nd March 1860, when the first legally constituted Methodist (Wesleyan) Trust appears to have been formed. This document refers to an indenture of lease dated 29. 7. 1856, when the property was leased for 99 years, on lives, by John Samuel, Charles Prideaux Brune and the Hon. Anne Dorothea Gilbert to Henry Michell, Calenick (merchant), John Michell and William Enstice, Feock (farmers) and Richard Stephens. Truro (gentleman). By the deed of 1860 these four assigned the property to themselves together with: John Cook (carpenter), William Crowle (grocer), William Enstice (farmer), Jeremiah Marshall (farmer), Benjamin May (shoemaker), John Magor (farmer) and William Magor (farmer) of Kea; these 13 became the trustees. The ground rent was £1 p.a.

From this document and from the tithe map of 1842, it is clear that a chapel already existed on this site, presumably the building registered in 1819. This was superseded by the present chapel in 1867. There is no evidence of any part of the old building being incorporated in the present one, nor are there any remains of a structure nearby. In the tithe apportionment, the landowners are the Assignees of Thomas Daniel and the trustees jointly, the acreage being 1 rood, 5 perches.

An interesting feature of the Assignment is the declaration by the four original lessees that 'such lease was made to us not for our benefit but for the use of the people called Methodists'....and that 'the purchase money therein stated to have been paid to us was in truth paid by the Society.'

In 1866, under the guidance of Rev Edward Nye, a building was erected consisting of a chapel with a gallery giving seating for 250 people, a Sunday School under the chapel, a vestry and stable, at a cost of £700. In 1879 the trustees received a legacy from Miss Crowle of £20 and a gift of £30 from Capt. T. Gray; this money was put towards alterations in the following year. It had been found that the roof was too

heavy for the walls, which were lowered by 18 inches, and the gallery was removed at a cost of £300. The seating was reduced to 150.

Mr H.L. Michell of Penpol recalls an old man telling him that he had seen the removal of the gallery and the lowering of the roof, and new slates being placed in position about 1890. He also said that an orchestra led the singing on Sundays. The preachers arrived on horseback so the stable was an important part of the premises. From the Collection Journals it is found that many collections were taken for the 'Horse Hire Fund' which averaged 10/- per Sunday. In 1935 this fund was renamed the 'Motor Hire Fund' and has now disappeared completely. In 1960 a part of the stables was converted into a kitchen.

In 1921 the Freehold was bought from Trelissick Estate for £15 although there were only 19 members at that time.