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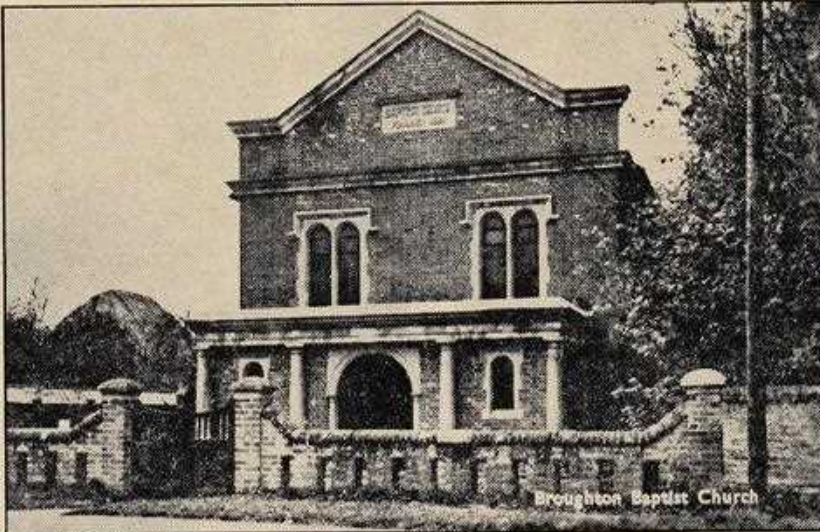
BROUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH, HANTS.

1651 - 1951

Minister :- *Rev. Harold Wardle*, M.B.E.

## GLINTS OF GREATNESS

A Ter-Centenary Souvenir by  
Rev. HARRY J. FOX F. Ph. S.



### CELEBRATION PREACHERS.

- |            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| April 29th | - | Rev. W. D. Jackson, B.A., Area Superintendent |
| May 2nd    | - | Rev. Eric Sharpe, M.A., Bournemouth           |
| May 6th    | - | Rev. Sidney Morris, Hon. C.F., London         |
| June 24th  | - | Rt. Hon. Ernest Brown, C.H., M.C., London     |
| June 27th  | - | Rev. J. R. Edwards, Hon. C.F., London         |

## A LIMITED OPPORTUNITY.

A month before the celebration of the Ter-Centenary of Broughton Baptist Church was due to begin, not a line of this Souvenir had been written; and the writer is regretfully aware that what follows in succeeding pages can only be regarded as a "make-shift" history. He has never seen the church, and only knows of it in a general way as the oldest Baptist Church in Hampshire. To anyone with a sense of history that fact alone would be enough to stir the imagination; but more than an awakened imagination is needed if history is to be a record, and not a romance. Dr. Underwood, in writing his "History of English Baptists", said his purpose was to "bring out the ideas that clothed themselves with power .... to bring to life the men who were gripped by those ideas."

Certain ideas gripped the men who were the foundation members of Broughton Church, and how they laboured and suffered for the furtherance of those ideas, and how the rolling years have vindicated the stand they made and the sufferings they endured, is a story that merits full and enthusiastic telling.

Given ample time to explore the books of the Church, to ransack the pages of forgotten magazines, to consult civic records in which accounts of fines and imprisonments are preserved, and to integrate it all with the social and religious conditions prevailing in England 300 years ago - then a worthy and ample story could be told.

But the compiler of this Souvenir had only five hastily written pages of notes, kindly sent by Rev. H. Wardle, M.B.E., and a copy of a sketch made by Rev. E. Compton, some 80 years ago, and then only a few days in which to get this material into story shape. He hopes, therefore, that liberal allowances will be made by all who may read this inadequate sketch of the heroic days of the past.

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