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CENTRAL CHAPEL, CLECKHEATON.

THE large and noble chapel an engraving of which occupies the front page of this Magazine, is one of the largest and most beautiful in the Connexion. It is also a monument of the earnestness and liberality of the Cleckheaton friends, and of the energy and ability of its late pastor, the Rev. J. Myers, during whose nine years' pastorate the chapel was erected. Though something like four years have elapsed since the completion of the building, a brief description may be interesting to some of the readers of the Magazine. The site of the chapel is advantageous and prominent, being quite in the centre of the town, having a frontage of thirty-six yards in one principal street, and of sixty yards in another. Entrances are provided at the principal front, which lead into a spacious vestibule the whole width of the chapel, sixty-two feet by twelve feet. The floors of these compartments are laid with encaustic tiles, as are also the gallery entrances in the towers. The portico in front is fifty feet long by fourteen feet broad, and forty-two feet high, and is approached by a noble flight of steps.

The body of the chapel is ninety-six feet by sixty-two feet within, and is lighted by six windows and a large transept window on each side; the gallery is similarly lighted. At the west end of the chapel are the choir and organ, underneath which are the preacher's vestry (beautifully furnished), lavatory, and singers' vestry. Immediately in front of the choir is the platform pulpit, sixteen feet by ten feet six, with communion in front, circular staircase at each end, with massive carved mahogany newel-posts and handrail, and pitch-pine carved balustrades and carved frieze under the handrail. The whole elaborately treated with a wood carving in bas relief in the centre panel representing the Good Shepherd finding the lost sheep. At each end, under the vestibule, are lavatories provided for the use of the congregation. The building is lighted by three large sunlights and chaste chandeliers, and is warmed by hot water on the most approved principles. The three large sunlights also assist in extracting the vitiated air from the chapel. The ceiling is

of ornamental plaster-work. The pews are of pitch-pine, varnished, and a gallery runs round three sides of the chapel five pews deep. The back part of the front gallery is fitted up with pitch-pine pews for the use of the scholars, with sitting accommodation for seven hundred.

The style of the building is classic, freely treated. Externally the front elevation shows an open portico, approached by a noble flight of steps, broken by a landing, and is flanked at each end with colossal towers rising ninety feet in height, with burnished iron turrets. The approach to the galleries is by a winding stone staircase in each of these towers. Between the towers are four Corinthian columns and two three-quarter columns, three feet in diameter at the base, which support a bold entablature and parapet. The front and side of the chapel facing the principal streets are of cleansed Crosland Moor ashlar stone, the remainder being Delph wall stones and Crosland Moor dressings. The total accommodation is for seventeen hundred and sixty-three persons.

The chapel was opened on Monday, January 20th, 1879, when the late Dr. Punshon preached to a crowded congregation; services were also conducted by the late Dr. Mellor, Revs. M. Miller, A. Holliday, J. Guttridge, S. S. Barton, and J. Adcock. The great drawback in connection with the services in the chapel, till within a recent period, was the absence of a suitable musical instrument. During the past year, and under the pastorate of the Rev. B. J. Tugate, that want has been supplied. A magnificent organ has been erected at a cost of £1150, and the chapel is now in every way complete. The total cost of the building, including organ, has been nearly sixteen thousand pounds, and a debt of about three thousand five hundred still remains. The Church membership numbers now about three hundred, and the Sunday school is in a very flourishing condition, numbering, with teachers and scholars, over seven hundred. The congregation is steadily growing, nearly a hundred fresh sittings having been let during the year. Thirty-eight have also been admitted into the Church during 1882. The Cleckheaton friends are full of heart and hope about the future. The Church and congregation are united and peaceful. The young men and women are actively interested in its welfare, and the leaders and officers of both Church and chapel work hard and long for success. Better than all else, we have rich signs of the Master's presence, and we are finding our greatest joy and prosperity in the fulfilment of His promise, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." The architect for the building was R. Castle, Esq., of Westgate, Cleckheaton. The builders, Messrs. Hart and Brier, of Dewsbury, and W. Brunton, of Bradford. The organ builders were Messrs. Booth and Hepworth, of Otley, and the decoration of both chapel and organ was successfully carried out by Mr. J. Crowther, of Cleckheaton.

B. J. T.