

Wesley Memorial Methodist Church

Time Line
1743 - Present

1743 John Wesley preached his first sermon in Chowdene

1754 A preaching house was built in Low Fell, financed by William Bell
It was the first Methodist Chapel in County Durham

1789 Wesley Sunday School was formed

1882 A new sanctuary on Durham Road, Low Fell, superseded the old chapel
Sunday School premises - the Southern Memorial Hall, followed this a years later

1883 The organ, by Nicholson, was installed in the church

1898 The stone from the old chapel was redressed and built into the Wesley Manse
The Wesley Manse, on Church Road, is now a private residence

1910 The Southern Memorial Hall was extended, as fully as the land available would permit, as it was found that the premises were still inadequate

1927 The Scout Group was formed

1936 The wooden Scout hut was erected behind the church

1960 New floors were laid in the Main Hall and the Upper Hall

1970 The store cupboard for the gymnasium equipment was converted into a kitchen and the Miller Youth Centre built

1997

The Church Council agreed to embark on a major refit of the Church Hall Premises

1998

VISION 2000 was launched

2006

Completion of Church Hall refurbishments, providing accessible access for all

2008

Fundraising began to refurbish the church interior

2010

Completion of church interior refurbishments, including the entrance, pews, communion rostrum, upper choir stalls and organ

Pre-
sent

Hope to complete refurbishment of upper gallery pews when time and funds allow