

THE RIVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL TRUST

The Trust originated in a deed dated 15th July, 1704, making over to the trustees the chapel of Rivington and the land on which it stood. Since that date, various other properties have been given to the Trust, some for specific purposes as detailed in the various documents and some for the general purposes of the Trust. The principal are:-

1. Given by deed dated 15th July, 1704, the donor being Hugh, second Lord Willoughby, of Shaw Place, Heath Charnock. It makes over "All that plot of land in Rivington and all that Chapel or Oratory and other buildings erected thereon and known as Rivington Chapel.". The Trust is to "suffer the said chapel or oratory to be used and employed for the exercise of divine worship therein and by such congregation and assembly of Protestants only as shall be dissenting from the Church of England for and during so long a time as the laws of this realm will permit.". If the laws do not permit worship, the Trust shall distribute the revenue from the land in acts and works of piety.

2. Given by deed dated 31st July, 1786. This endowed the Trust with land and a house, later known as Chapel House, situated a short distance from the Chapel on Sheepfoot Lane. The Trust is required to let the land and house and pay over the amount received, less any costs incurred in its upkeep, to the minister of the Chapel providing he is acceptable to the Trustees. If he is not acceptable, or if there is no minister, the revenue to be available for the general purposes of the Trust, and nothing else.

The house and land was the gift of John Andrews who had previously lived there, but had moved to Rivington Hall, which he had rebuilt and extended in 1774. The land and house was sold by the Trustees in 1969, with the approval of the Charity Commissioners, for the sum of £ 4396 net, and the proceeds invested in trustee securities, bringing an income of about £ 280 per year.

3. By deed dated 19th June, 1872. A piece of land and the school building thereon, purchased from the general funds of the Trust. To be held under the general terms of the Trust.

4. Given by an indenture signed 11th November, 1859. Originally to be purchased by the Trust, but in fact bought by R.D. Darbyshire and given to the Trust, to be used as a burial ground in connection with the Chapel, the fees received to be used for permanent improvement of the Chapel or grounds, or for the benefit of the minister, or both. The terms of use are strict, viz:-

Strangers be not allowed to have graves under any condition.

Charges to be 20/- per person per grave for members who are day labourers, two guineas for those of the middle class.

The burial ground is now filled, so the conditions regarding fees are no longer of importance.

5. By conveyance dated 21st January, 1887. Ground rents in Little Lever, to be applied to the maintenance or improvement of the Chapel. These ground rents have been sold and the proceeds invested.

6. By an indenture dated 2nd February. Certain properties, not specified, but later sold and the proceeds invested, now forming the major portion of the British Transport stock currently held. The income is to be used for the promotion of knowledge or practice of the Presbyterian faith among the inhabitants of Rivington, Anglezarke, Heath Charnock, Anderton and Horwich, or for their spiritual or temporal benefit profit and advantage in any way.

7. Given by a probate dated 19th December, 1895. £ 108.50 Consols, the interest to be used for the upkeep of the Shaw family pew and grave. Recently this interest has been paid to the Chapel general committee, who have assumed responsibility for carrying out the work.

8. Given by deed dated 12th January, 1906. Railway Stock now represented by part of the current holding in Transport Stock, the income due being about £ 2.00 per year. This is to be paid to the minister or, if there is no minister, to the person occupying the pulpit.

In addition to the above, there have been a number of gifts of money without special object being named apart from the general purposes of the Trust. There has also been some accumulation of funds on occasions when the whole of the income has not been required for the immediate needs of the Chapel. This cash has been invested in various trustee securities, as listed in the annual accounts, and placed in the name of Mosley Street nominees. All other papers are held by Alexander, Tatham and Co., of 11, St. Peter's Square, Manchester.

From this abstract it will be seen that the particular duties of the Trustees of the Chapel are:-

1. To see that the Chapel is kept fit **for** divine worship, and that it is used only by dissenting protestants, as long as this is legal.
2. To preserve the land in Section 4. as a burial ground.
3. To apply the fund from Section 6. for the benefit of local people.
4. To apply the Shaw bequest in maintenance of the Shaw pew and grave.
5. To pass the income from Section 8. to the minister or preacher.
6. To apply certain other funds to the maintenance or improvement of the Trust property.

The sale of the Chapel house may have left the formal duties of the Trustees uncertain regarding the use of the income resulting from the

sale of the property, as the Charity Commissioners gave no positive instructions in the matter, but there may be a requirement to pay it to the minister. Even if this should be so, the Trustees might consider that the use of a portion of the money to build a positive income-producing property such as the garden of rest as justifiable, though there will be an appreciable delay before income is received, and that this could be taken into account when resolving the amount due currently to the minister. Meanwhile, the present policy of the Trustees is to pay to the Chapel general committee the major portion of the income produced from the investment for them to use in augmentation of the minister's stipend.

Charles Taylor.

19th March, 1974.