

'A year I will always remember was 1964'.

Marjorie Perrett remembers

While the town only had a population of 2,000 people, Highworth had two Methodist churches, yes two. Marjorie remembers that time well and was the youngest person present when the two church councils - known as the Leaders' Meeting in those days - met together to make the decision to join and become 'The Highworth Methodist Church'. It was the oldest member present, Mr Sid Drewitt, Dorrie Strong's father, who proposed the merger and Marjorie seconded it. The second proposal that evening was that they should sell their existing buildings and build a new one, and of course that happened, their vision came true just 45 years ago this year. Marjorie said 'A piece of land became available to purchase - the Lord provided the right place at the right time. Years before it had been an allotment, owned by a local man known as Hamel Head, but then was the Welcome Home Field which was a tribute to those who fought in World War 2.'

Marjorie speaks of the wonderful relationship that bound the two churches together. 'There was a great sense of being a Christian family. We loved each other so much and we knew that it was the right way forward. We had shared in a service together every Thursday evening, one week being led by the minister of the Elms Church and the other one by the minister of the Lechlade Road Church. The minister of Lechlade Road had a total of 32 churches in his care and came out to us from Swindon. We had shared Sunday School together for a while before the join, and Dorrie's father was my Sunday School teacher.

'The opening in 1964 was a wonderful time. We came together in great faith, knowing that He who had led us so far was able to do much more than we could ever ask or think'. And He has, hasn't He. How profoundly thankful we are for the promises of His word' - as true for us in 2009 as it was in 1964 and all the years before.