

later date. Miss. Hailes of Linton made the whole project possible by donating £300 to the building fund.



The Opening of the Church Hall, 1908

In 1972, the chapel was affiliated to the United Reformed Church.

Linton Free Church remains a lively and vibrant community of worshipping people with a youth group, Junior church and other mid-week groups.

Service times:

Sunday morning worship: 10.30am

3rd Sunday of the month – Café Church

Contact Chris Kemshell for details of other activities

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE CHURCH AND GROUNDS:

- FAMILY NAMES ON GRAVES:

*WHIFFIN, SMOOTHY, KIDMAN,
SIMKINS, PAMMENTER*

- FAMILY BURIAL CHAMBERS -
THE SUBJECT OF A
PRESERVATION ORDER

Minister: Rev. Chris Kemshell

Tel: 01223 892991

Information correct in February 2014

For further information about the history of Linton, see <http://www.lintonhistory.org.uk> or purchase a Linton Heritage Trail booklet from the Post Office.



A Brief History of Linton (URC) Free Church

The present building of **Linton Free Church** dates back to 1818, but the site was home to dissenting families from the 1690's onwards.

After the **Act of Toleration** in 1689, the independents were able to register a barn as their place of worship and within a few years they had a large congregation. **A Chapel** was then built off Horn Lane in 1698, west of the river.



Original painting of 1698 Meeting House presented in 1914

It was built in Thomas Huppup's orchard which was at the bottom of his long High Street plot on which all the properties in Horn Lane south backed.

Inside, a large pulpit faced a singer's gallery over the door, and two other galleries were built

in 1703-04.

The congregation, including people from other parishes, numbered 83 adults in 1703 and had grown to 147 by 1728. The building faced south (the opposite of today), over the meadows, and access was by way of a footbridge over the Grip stream.

About a century later, the plot in Horn Lane which was adjacent to the meeting house, was bequeathed to the church by Edmund Taylor, the tanner and miller, so that when the **present Meeting House was built in 1818** (at a cost of £1000) it faced Horn Lane, and the plot became the forecourt, as it is today.

The congregation declined to 100 (with only 17 full members) by the 1790's when there was a sharp division over a new minister. In 1797, the larger faction called a minister named Thomas Hopkins, whose energy revived the chapel.

In 1799, he started a Sunday

School, which was a great success, with 150 pupils in 1833. The church grew under his leadership.

In 1817, the old meeting house was pulled down and the current building was finished in 1818. The organ was installed in 1827. By 1851, the attendance averaged 280-350, besides 50 Sunday school pupils. By 1850, the chapel owned a Manse by the Red Lion (which was once on the corner of the High Street and Horn Lane).



Thomas Hopkins

The hall on the side of the chapel was built in 1908 to house the Sunday school and was linked to the chapel building at a