

The Hilda Nelson memorial chair

At the front of Methodist Chapel, there is a large chair whose ornate decoration forms something of a contrast with the rest of the building.



Set into the chair-back is a commemorative plaque:



Hilda Nelson was the second daughter of Joseph John Nelson and Amy Amelia Nelson (nee Greenwood). She was born in Ferrybridge, in the first half of 1895.

Her father was born in Appleby, Westmoreland, in 1867; her mother was born in the same year in Bingley

Joseph worked for the Midland Railway. He started at Oxenhope, in September 1882, before moving on Bingley and then Ferrybridge (in January 1894). He took up the post of Station Master at Kildwick station in January 1902.

Hilda must have had a good singing voice, as she is named in several newspaper articles in the early years of the 1900s as performing solos in services at the chapel.

In 1911 she was chosen, by the people of Junction, as their representative at the lighting of the bonfire on Farnhill Moor to celebrate the coronation of King George V.

Hilda had two sisters: Mary (b. 1894) and Hetty (b. 1901). Both of these went on to marry Farnhill men who volunteered to serve in WW1. Mary married Herbert Barker, in 1919, and they set up home at 9 Mary Street. Hetty married Richard Inskip, in 1932; they lived in a house called Edendale, in Holme Lane, Sutton.

The dedication of the chair in memory of Hilda Nelson was reported in the West Yorkshire Pioneer on 14th July 1916.

FARNHILL.
IN MEMORY OF A DAUGHTER.—Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, of Station House, Crosshills, have presented to the Primitive Methodist Church a beautiful carved oak chair in memory of their daughter. The chair, which is placed in the pulpit, bears the inscription: "In memory of Hilda Nelson, who died June 3rd, 1914. Peace, perfect peace."

Postscript

At the time of writing, April 2016, the chapel are still looking for a buyer and a new home for the Hilda Nelson memorial chair.