

# MEMORIES OF CAREY

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, LEICESTER

## A Word from our Minister

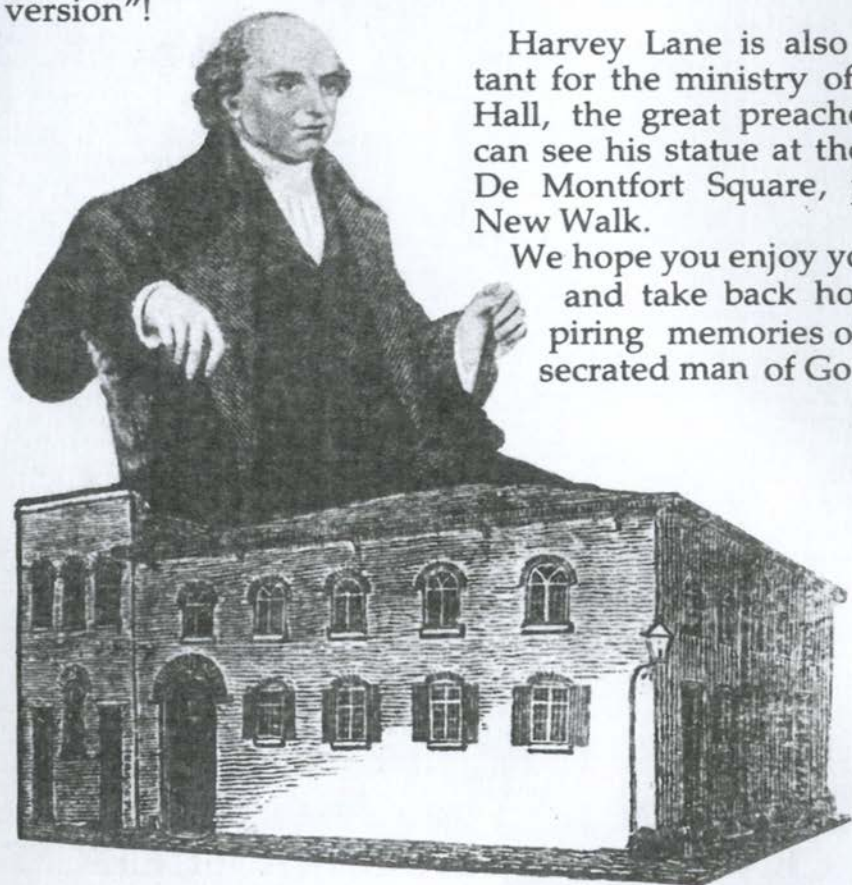
We give you a very warm welcome to Central Baptist Church, a Christian community whose roots go deep in terms of Baptist history, yet a fellowship very much part of the modern city around us.

You have paid us a visit to learn something about the pioneer missionary William Carey and you have certainly come to the right place. It was in Leicester that Carey's famous *Enquiry* was published and it was from this city that William Carey and John Thomas, a medical doctor, set out for India in 1793.

The minute books of the Harvey Lane Baptist Church have been deposited at the County Record Office, at 57 New Walk. These can be inspected and include the time of Carey's ministry. In fact there are two that cover the same ground, one is a transcription and may be called a "revised version"!

Harvey Lane is also important for the ministry of Robert Hall, the great preacher. You can see his statue at the top of De Montfort Square, just off New Walk.

We hope you enjoy your visit and take back home inspiring memories of a consecrated man of God.



## Carey Memories at Central

William Carey, a young minister from Moulton, in 1789 was invited to become the minister of the Baptist Church in Harvey Lane. Also in Harvey Lane was the cottage in which he and his family lived. The Chapel was destroyed by fire in 1921, and three years after, Harvey Lane Memorial Hall was built; this was demolished in 1963, and the cottage in 1968, to make way for the Central Ring Road. The Holiday Inn now stands on this site. Opposite The Reception is a plaque commemorating William Carey, and they have named their lounge/bar "Careys".

Carey's cottage was bought in 1915 by a group of business men for the B.M.S. and fitted out as a House of Memories. For over fifty years this Carey Museum was visited by Christians from all over the world. The plaque from over the door is now part of the garden wall of Wygggeston House Leicester Costume Museum.

When Carey left for India in 1793, Benjamin Cave became the minister, to be followed by Robert Hall, and then James P. Mursell. After Mursell had been there for nineteen years Harvey Lane proved to be too small for the worshippers. In view of this, Joseph Hansom (inventor of the Hansom cab) was asked to design a new chapel. So Belvoir Street Chapel was built, this was affectionately called "Pork Pie Chapel". The fellowship left Harvey Lane for Belvoir Street in 1845. Harvey Lane itself being used by several different groups.

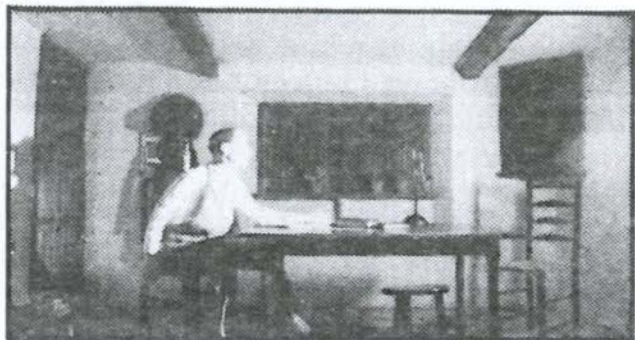
To continue our story, in 1940 the fellowship of Belvoir Street joined with that of Charles Street to become the United Church. When Carey's cottage was demolished the exhibits, including the six Tableaux, were moved here and a Carey Room set up. Since then we have been joined by the fellowship of Victoria Road to become, in 1983, the Central Baptist Church.

When we recall that Charles Street was started in 1831 by some members of Harvey Lane, and the last folk to use Harvey Lane Memorial Hall were Victoria Road fellowship, you can well understand why we say - is there any worthier place to show Memories of William Carey?

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Photographs by Graham Lee Art work by John Goodman  
Written by Tom Budge

## The Story told by the Tableaux



### Tableau No. 1 The Vision

William Carey, a shoemaker apprentice, is pictured in the living room of his small cottage in Piddington, Northamptonshire. He is reading *Journal of Captain Cook's Last Voyage* which thrilled him and showed him a world of people in spiritual darkness, and intensified his conviction that the Master's orders in Matthew 28:19,20 were still binding on all Christians. He looks through the window with the earnest yearning that the Good News of the Gospel should be heard by them.

This was the vision of the young man who was a worshipper and founder member of the Baptist Church in the adjoining village of Hackleton, where he preached his first sermon.

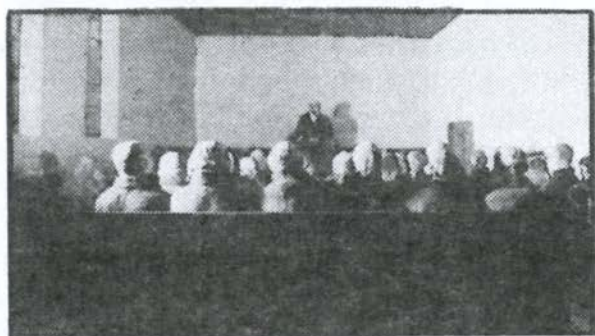


### Tableau No. 2 Reading the Enquiry

While at Piddington Carey preached regularly at Earls Barton and Hackleton and in 1785 moved to Moulton to become schoolmaster and then pastor of the Baptist Church. In 1789 the young married man of 27, with three sons, was invited

to become pastor of the Harvey Lane Baptist Church in Leicester. Two years after, he was ordained, on 22 May 1791. After the service, Samuel Pearce asked Carey if he would read his *Enquiry* to them. For eight years Carey had been working on this book, gathering information about the world – its people, their languages and their religions. Here, in his cottage, Carey is reading the result of his researches to John Ryland, John Sutcliffe, Andrew Fuller and Samuel Pearce – they listen intently.

The book was published the following year in Leicester. There is a facsimile in the Exhibition Cabinet, as well as the original letter of transfer of Mr. Carey and his wife from the Church at Moulton.



### Tableau No. 3 The Deathless Sermon

Carey's opportunity to let his fellow Baptists know his heart's concern came on Wednesday 30 May 1792, for he had been invited to preach at the Assembly of the Northamptonshire Association held at Friar Lane Baptist Church in Nottingham. The day began with prayer at 6.00 in the morning and Carey preached at 10.0 a.m. His text was Isaiah 54:2 and 3. The facts he had collected for his book were clothed with life and passion. His message and his challenge were summed up as:

Lengthen thy cords,  
Strengthen thy stakes,  
Expect great things from God,  
Attempt great things for God.

Resulting from this Deathless Sermon (as it was called) the ministers met in Widow Wallis's home in Kettering and the B.M.S. was formed on 2 October 1792.

A facsimile of the minutes of this first meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society is in the Exhibition cabinet.



**Tableau No. 4 The Translator**

The first missionaries to be sent out were William Carey and Dr. John Thomas, they sailed in 1793 to India. The work was not easy but they were concerned that the people should have God's Word in their own language. Carey proved to be a genius with languages. After forty years he had translated the Bible into six languages and the New Testament into thirty three. It was Carey who introduced printing and paper manufacture into India. The Tableau shows Carey at work, assisted by his Pundit, while Ward enters the room with a proof sheet from the Mission Press in his hand.

Besides the Bible, Carey printed grammars, dictionaries and various kinds of Christian literature.

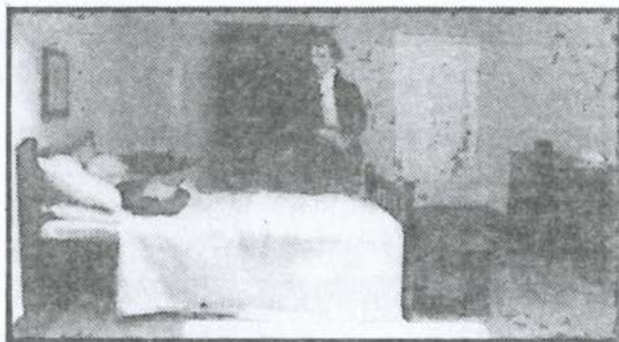


**Tableau No. 5 The Social Reformer**

Carey was really a genius in more than one sphere – Translator, Botanist, Agriculturist, Educationalist and Social Reformer. He witnessed customs that filled him with horror

and disgust and Carey strived hard to get them abolished.

Here he is witnessing the burning of a Hindu widow on the funeral pyre of the dead husband. He relentlessly fought against this evil practice of "suti" and must have been overjoyed on Sunday 5 December 1829 when the Governor General instructed him to translate an Edict abolishing "suti".



**Tableau No. 6 Dr. Carey and Alexander Duff**

Carey's work came to be appreciated by Christians of all branches of the Church and Carey enjoyed their fellowship and cooperation. One such youthful admirer was Alexander Duff. This visit took place near the end of Carey's life. Just as Duff was leaving a feeble voice called him back: "Mr. Duff, you have been speaking of Dr. Carey, Dr. Carey. When I am gone say nothing about Dr. Carey - speak about Dr. Carey's Saviour."

What made Carey tick? The "love of Christ constrained him" and we honour Carey if the love of Christ makes us tick and we are as concerned to share Him with others.

## What is on view

Six Tableaux designed by D. P. Carrington in 1938  
Shoemaking tools of Carey's time. (He had sold his own)  
Fire Irons from Carey's Cottage  
Transfer Letter of Mr. Carey and wife from Moulton  
Communion Chalice and Plates from Harvey Lane  
Photo copy of Harvey Lane Church Book, 1760-1794  
Facsimile of the Kettering Meeting on 2 Oct. 1792  
Facsimile of *The Enquiry*  
Bookmark from Carey's Bible  
Some letters written by Carey  
Invitation to a Dance sent to Carey by an Indian V.I.P.  
Oriental Idol from Harvey Lane  
Photograph of Carey, Marshman and Ward  
Hand made brick and a slate from Carey's Cottage  
Two tablets from Harvey Lane referring to William Carey  
and Robert Hall  
Memorial Tablet to Carey from Harvey Lane, on the wall  
Album of photographs of Harvey Lane Chapel and Cottage  
Album of photographs of the Exhibition for sale  
Model of Carey's Cottage by Mrs. J. M. Middleton  
Old Pew from Harvey Lane. These last two under stairs  
There is also a Tape Commentary

You would also find interesting:

<i>William Carey</i>	S. Pearce Carey 1923
<i>William Carey</i>	Mary Drewery 1978
<i>By Trade - A Cobbler</i>	Kellsye Finnie 1985
<i>Not Disobedient . . .</i>	Sheila Mitchell 1984
<i>It All Began Here</i>	Fred F. M. Harrison 1986