

JOHN CHARLES TRAFFORD

John Charles Trafford was born on 11 September 1851 at Luton , Bedfordshire the son of Charles Trafford a Straw Hat merchant.

One can do no better than let two obituary notices speak of his life:

DEATH OF THE REV J C TRAFFORD AT EXETER

“The deceased had an interesting career as a Wesleyan Minister. He began his ministry at the age of 21 at Wolverton, in the Midlands, where he laboured for three years. From there he proceeded to Stuggardt in Germany, where he took charge of a new church for English speaking people. There were a good many Americans there and during his stay of three years he accomplished much in the way of building up a permanent congregation and for the spiritual welfare of the people. Mr Trafford then returned to England and was stationed at Aldershot, having charge of the Wesleyan Soldiers’ Home. At the end of one year he was called away to become the assistant of the then President of the Wesleyan Conference, Dr Osborne. He went to reside one year at Richmond College, where Dr Osborne was theological tutor. Then he went on the following number of circuits in each of which he remained three years: Wandsworth, Maidenhead, Walton-on-Thames, Southsea, Bedford, Sunderland and Truro. From Truro the deceased came to Exeter, at the time of his death being in the second year of his pastorate here”

(Western Times 12 May 1905)

J CHARLES TRAFFORD

“As a preacher, pastor, and administrator, he was most efficient and highly appreciated. Clear insight into truth was coupled with a charming freshness of style.

It was however as a pastor that he excelled. His supreme gift was sympathy. With him, kindness was a natural instinct, and became a spiritual grace. He could make himself one with his people in all their varied experiences. In their homes he was always welcome.

As a leader in Christian fellowship he could make the hour one of delight and blessing. He greatly loved his work among young people, and was warmly loved by them in return.

In business matters he had quick perception and sound judgment, was careful as to detail, and ready and tactful in dealing with difficulty.

As a colleague he shared the anxieties and rejoiced in the successes of his brethren. He was enthusiastic in all that concerned the special office of the Ministry, and was most anxious that a high standard of character and efficiency should be maintained.

One of his last utterances was, "How I have loved to be a Methodist minister !"

By his deep sympathy, his ceaseless and devoted service, he won many to Christ, and was eminently successful in leading those who held aloof from membership to join the Church.

He died a lingering and painful illness with wonderful courage and uncomplaining patience.”

(Minutes of Conference 1905)

John Charles Trafford died on 11 May 1905 aged 53