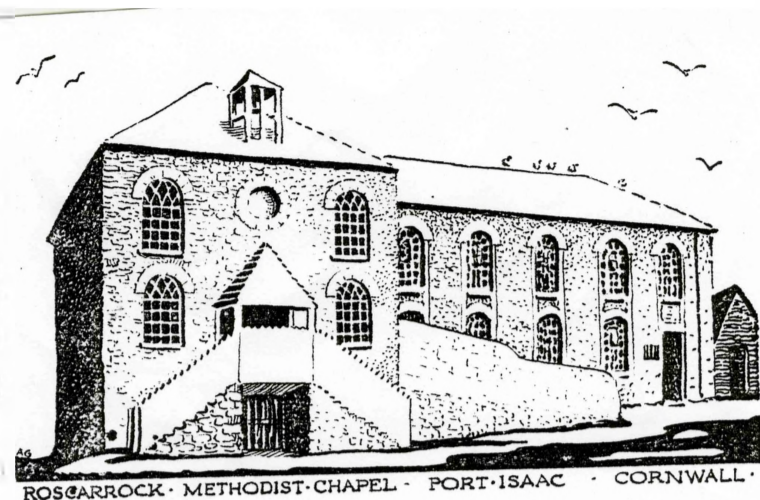


The Roscarrock Hill Chapel

In November 1836, Thomas Rosevear, along with Mark Guy of Roscarrock and Thomas Phillips, a Port Isaac fisherman, took out a long lease on two cellars at the foot of Roscarrock Hill for the sum of £20 from widow, Ann Richards. The new Chapel was built over the cellars and jutting out from the hillside while Ann continued to use the cellars.



This was the place of worship for the Port Isaac Methodist Society, but it had a poor reputation in the Methodist circuit, described as "a cold, dead place" and "one of the most unpromising in the circuit".

Three years later this reputation changed. A Watchnight Service in the Chapel was conducted by John Harley and William Roberts Brown and from that service a new influence spread among the fishermen and people of Port Isaac. Instead of their usual swearing, quarrelling and drunkenness, the fishermen turned to hymns of praise and at seining time their melodious voices could be heard singing hymns as they hauled their nets ...

In 1846 the Chapel was registered as a place of worship and by 1950 it was placed on the Wesleyan Model Deed and had a regular congregation of more than a hundred worshippers.

In 1865 a new Church was built alongside the existing one to accommodate the swelling congregation, changing the original premises to a Sunday School. The cost was £862 17s 10d

Sunday services were held at 11am and 6pm. Children also attended 10am Sunday School.

The inside of the Church was simple and sombre; the women would sit on one side and the men on the other. The front and central pews had end doors and these were pay seats; a bench rent of three shillings a year was charged with the money going to the upkeep of the Church. The remaining seats were free.

The building was lit by small oil lamps and these also helped to heat the Church in the winter.