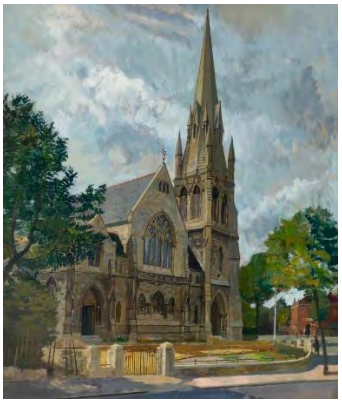
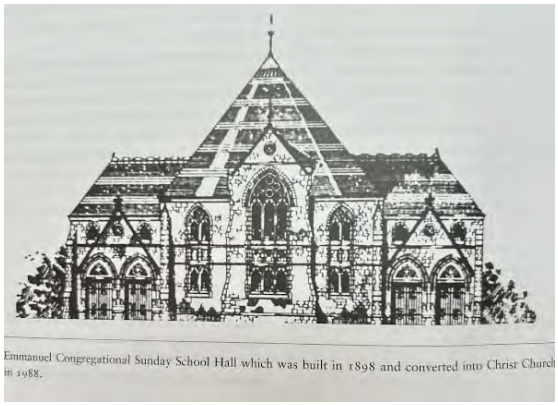
# Places of Worship in Dulwich

## Christ Church (formerly Emmanuel Congregational and Barry Road Methodist Church)

Active
Congregational, United Reformed and Methodist
263 Barry Road, SE22 0JT



*Emmanuel iron chapel, Emmanuel church watercolour and photograph*



*Emmanuel church hall which became Christ Church*

*Wesleyan Methodist church and hall, Barry Road*

*Wesleyan Mission, Lordship Lane*

**Historical summary**

A temporary Wesleyan Chapel was established in 1843 near the corner of Lordship Lane and Barry Road, funded by Thomas Gurney of Brixton Hill. It stood on the site opposite Dulwich Library, now occupied by shops, and served until 1874.

In May 1873, the foundation stone was laid for a new Wesleyan Methodist church on the corner of Barry Road and Upland Road, on land that cost £6,350. The occasion included a lunch held in a decorated cowshed at Friern Manor Farm. Designed by Charles Bell in the French Gothic style, the church opened in 1874 and seated 650 people. A church hall was added in 1880, and by 1884 the spire had been completed and galleries installed. The building became known as Barry Road Methodist Church. Between 1878 and 1881, the Revd Hugh Price Hughes served as minister and is said to have doubled the congregation; by 1891, membership had reached 445. Services followed an Anglican style in the mornings and were non-liturgical in the evenings. A separate Lordship Lane Wesleyan Mission operated until 1939 at what is now 114 Lordship Lane. The Barry Road church itself was demolished in 1965, after which services continued in the adjoining church hall until 1988, when the site was sold to the New Life Assembly church.

Meanwhile, Emmanuel Congregational Church was established as a temporary iron structure with a permanent stone church replacing it in 1891. In 1898, a church hall was constructed, by which time £10,000 had been raised for the overall building effort. The hall, designed by W. D. Church & Sons and built by Holloway Brothers of Battersea, cost just under £4,400.

In 1972, Emmanuel Congregational Church merged with Barry Road Methodist Church. Emmanuel Church was subsequently deconsecrated and became Barry House. The adjacent church hall reopened in 1988 as Christ Church, serving a United Reformed and Methodist congregation. It remains a place of worship today and is used by the New Testament Church of God Assembly.

**Historical background**
The memorial stone of the new Church Hall and Sunday school in connection with Emmanuel Congregational Church, Barry Road, was laid in 1898 by Edwin Jones, J. P., L. C. C. Before the ceremony a short service was held in the adjoining church. The pastor, Revd Adam Averell Ramsay, mentioned that, in the nine years since the constitution of the church fellowship, £10,000 has been raised for building purposes. [N. B. Revd Ramsay's grandson was Michael Ramsay, Archbishop of Canterbury 1961-1974]. Rev Ramsay lived at Cardell, Overhill Rd. In 1900 he was interviewed by Charles Booth for his Poverty maps and was described as an elderly Scotchman of about 60 who had been at the church for 12 years during which time he had raised and spent £17,000.

The contract price of the new buildings, erected by Holloway Brothers of Battersea, from designs by W. D. Church & Sons, was £3,900, with the total estimated expenditure just under £4,400.

The building was designed in the early decorated Gothic style, faced externally with Kentish ragstone in drop course work, with dressings of Bath stone and lined internally with Farleigh Down ashlar and the floor paved in Minton tiles. The columns are polished Aberdeen granite.

The Barry Road Methodist mission started in Mr Falkner's premises in Upland Road before moving to his premises at 41 Hindmans Road. It then moved to a stable in Felbrigg Road before the chapel in Lordship Lane and then the church in Barry Road were built. The walls were of a soft salmon colour with red enrichments and an encaustic tile reredos under the chancel windows. Bevingtons of Soho supplied the organ. During WW1 the church held joint services with Emmanuel Congregational Church. In 1964 the minister Dr A. Stanley Leyland decided that the church should be demolished and the site sold to a housing association. The old church hall was converted into a church at a cost of £22,000.

When Emmanuel Congregational Church closed, the fittings were sent to the Wellingborough Prison for use in a prisoner hobby shop. When the workshop closed, the plaques were rescued from a skip and then forgotten until the prison's closure in 2012. They were then passed to Sywell Aviation Museum, which contacted the Dulwich Society. Meanwhile, at Christ Church, the names on the lost plaques had been preserved in a Book of Remembrance funded by a congregation member.

Barry Road Methodist ministers (incomplete)
1873-5 Thomas H. Ingram
1875-8 H. T. Smart
1878-81 Hugh Price Hughes
1881-4 Enoch Salt
1884-86 J. C. Fowler
1886-87 A. T. R Bartrop
1887-89 Joseph H. Hopkins
1889-92 Charles E. Wansbrough
1892-95 John H. Goodman

1895-98 Thomas G. Selby
1898-1901 John H. Goodman
1910-1914 A. Kenrick Smith
1914-1919 Eric S. Waterhouse
1919-22 George Sara
1922-25 EJW Harvey
1925-30 Athur Walters
1930-33 James R. Batey
1933-37 Arthur Phillips
1937-40 Albert S. Hullah
1940-41 Sydney P. Jacoby
1941-43 William C. Dowling
1943-46 Leslie G. Buckingham
1946-49 Charles F. Davey
1949-50 J. C. Wynne Davies
1950-56 Leonard E White
1956-60 John H. Chamberlayne
1960-63 Montague M. Capey
1963-67 A. Stanley Leyland
1967-8 Bernard Lewis
1968 David W. Smith

Emmanuel ministers (incomplete)
-1908 A. Averell Ramsay
1908- Maxwell R. Kirkpatrick
1929-32 John A. Patten
1934- J. D. Jones
c1949 Gordon K. Hawes
1967 Charles Lucas
1967-c1981 Ernest W. Southey

**Sources**: Southwark Local Studies. Dulwich Society. Dulwich College Archives