# West Dulwich Congregational Church/Chancellor Grove Methodist Church

Closed
Congregational/Methodist
Corner of Chancellor Grove and Park Hall Road

*Congregational. Chancellor Grove exterior*

**Historical summary**
The foundation stone of a small Congregational chapel in Rosendale Road was laid in October 1851 by the well-known anti-slavery campaigner Revd J. Burnet and opened in 1852. The Revd C. G. Rowe was the first minister. The chapel seated 100 and cost £400 but soon proved too small and a larger building was erected at the corner of Chancellor Grove and Park Hall Road. It cost £2,750 and opened in 1855. During Revd Walter Hardie's ministry, between 1867-69 the construction debt to was cleared and, in 1868, a school hall at the back of the church by architect J. Nicholls was added.

The church was badly damaged by a land mine in September 1940 and had to be demolished. The members subsequently attended services at the Emmanuel Parish Church Hall in Tritton Road and later in their own school hall in Chancellor Road (now Grove). After the war the Congregational Chapel and the Hamilton Road Methodist Church, which had also been destroyed by enemy action during the war, merged and became the Chancellor Grove Methodist Church. The Methodists bought the site from the Congregational Union and, in 1958, a new church was designed by G. Stanley Harrison of Harrison & Stevens. It cost £10,000 and opened in May 1959. The minister was the Revd T. Francis Glasson.

The church closed in 1975 and the church and the old school hall are now used as a nursery

**Historical background**
Incomplete list of ministers
1852-1862 CG Rowe
1862-67 JW Richardson

1867-69 Walter Hardie
1870-1874 Thomas Stephenson
1874-1883 WP Dothie
1884-87 Edward William Tarbox
1887-93 CFW Wood
1894-c1921 RC Sandison
c1959 T Francis Glasson

The foundation stone of the chapel in Rosendale Road was incorporated in the fabric of the new chapel, and two inscribed stones record that: THE STONE BENEATH THIS IS THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL IN DULWICH and below that: THIS STONE WAS LAID BY THE REV. J. BURNET, OCTOBER 7TH 1851.

**Sources:** Southwark Local Studies