

Baptist Historical Society: Local Church History Review

Rugby Baptist Church Bicentenary: A history of 200 years of Baptist witness in Rugby 1803-2003, pp.42.

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Rugby Baptist Church was founded by Sir Egerton Leigh (1762-1818), who was ordained to an 'itinerant ministry' by Roland Hill. The first Baptist chapel was erected in 1803. Sir Egerton arranged for Edward Fall to train at Bristol Academy before succeeding him in 1811. During Fall's long pastorate, which ended in 1848, the chapel was enlarged, pews were provided, and a small schoolroom was added. In 1881 the old chapel was pulled down and a new one erected. In the 1890s a larger building was needed for the growing congregation and the Revd James Butlin of Leamington purchased land at the cost of £1,200 and offered it to the church for £500. The new building was opened on this site in 1906. Dr L.G. Champion became President of Bristol Baptist College, the Revd A. Ellis Mold became General Superintendent of the West Midland Area of the Baptist Union, and the Revd Reg Harvey served as General Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society. The church's bicentenary booklet contains a heritage trail, which enables people to visit various places associated with the history of Baptist work in Rugby.

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