

Antony Solomon and Graham S. Ward, Providence, Northampton: *The history of Providence Chapel, of Fish Lane, Abington Street and The Headlands, Northampton, Dunstable: The Fauconberg Press, 2007, pp.v + 80, ISBN 978 0 900366 16 1, £4.80 including p & p from The Fauconberg Press, 10 Priory Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU5 4HR*

Providence Chapel, originally in Fish Lane, Northampton, is now the oldest Baptist Church in the town. It was formed in 1792 by some members who left the College Lane Church, because of their disagreement with the theological views of its pastor, the Revd John Ryland, Junior. At first the new church, like the College Lane Church, observed open communion but in 1835 it was re-established as a Strict Baptist cause and continues as such until the present day. The church moved to a new chapel in Abington Street in 1860 and then in 1957 to a new site at The Headlands on the outskirts of the town. The last pastor, Antony Solomon, resigned in June 2004. When the services of a visiting minister cannot be obtained, there are 'reading services', that is, the church elder reads a previously delivered or published sermon.

Two members of Providence Chapel, John Adams, Junior, and Sarah Slinn wrote hymns. Those of John Adams, Junior, are still in use among Gospel Standard Baptists.

In tracing the earlier history of Northamptonshire Baptists, Antony Solomon and Graham Ward have provided information about the earlier history of the Baptist Church at College Lane (now College Street), which was not given in the tercentenary souvenir, David Powell, Moments in Time, A Brief History of College Street Baptist Church 1697-1997.

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