



Wolverhampton Street
Bilston

A Record of Events¹ 1936 - 2025

Jan Clark

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¹ See *Pentecost in the Black Country*, J.E.Clark 2018

Abbreviations used in this document: **AoG** refers to Assemblies of God GB, **RT** refers to Redemption Tidings

Excel's beginnings:

The 1930s saw significant church growth in the West Midlands mainly due to evangelistic crusades held in the majority of towns surrounding Bilston.

As God changed lives there developed a longing amongst the believers to see their friends and neighbours come into a living relationship with Jesus also.

A Pentecostal Church in Bilston came into existence in the mid-1930s through the endeavours of H.Barnes (pastor) assisted by James Turley.² The group decided to affiliate with Assemblies of God Great Britain in 1936.³

The following information gives a brief insight into the church's history and records significant moments during its journey to the thriving church it is today.



² James Turley pastored the church ~1940-1960

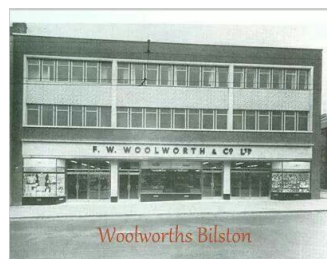
³ See page 5, *Assembly & Ministerial Lists*, 1936

Since its inception, the church has been known by three different names and has gathered to worship in various locations.

Table showing names and locations of the church:

Church Names	Initially known as Zion Full Gospel Assembly followed by Bilston Pentecostal Church now known as Excel Church, Bilston
Address	Wolverhampton Street Bilston WV14 0LT
Previous addresses <i>where known</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Upper room' in J.Turley's house in Dudley Street⁴ 2. Room in an office block in Prosser Street⁵ 3. Full Gospel Assembly, Market Street⁶ 4. 1951: building in Prosser Street <i>approximately on the present site of McDonalds</i>

20th Century Bilston



⁴ Information from Derek Clark; his first wife, Mary, was J.Turley's daughter.

⁵ Information received from Les Owen (24/2/12), a member of Bilston Pentecostal Church in 1941

⁶ See below: RT Adverts 29/3/46, p8

Excel Church Ministers:

Name	Incumbency dates
Harold Barnes ⁹	Mid 1930s
James Turley	~1940 – 1960
Fred Turley	1960 ¹⁰ -1966 (Dec.) ¹¹
David Hindry ¹²	1967 ¹³ - 1970 ¹⁴
Harry ¹⁵ & Lillian Edgington	1970~ – 1988~
Maurice & Sylvia White	1989~ – 2006
Derek ¹⁶ & Heather Dudfield	2006 (Oct) – present
Dan ¹⁷ & Joy Lee	2002 – present

⁹ See i). List of AoG *Assembly & Ministerial Lists*, 1936, ii). Report of *Coseley Assembly Opening*: H.Barnes noted as 'from Bilston', RT 17/12/37.

¹⁰ Induction of F.Turley, RT 11/3/60, p14, *see fig.12*

¹¹ F.Turley's resignation announced: correspondence to Mr.L.G.Owen (sec.) 1, Westfield Road, Willenhall, RT 9/12/66, p16

¹² D. Hindry had been co-pastor with Ray Graham at Lichfield Assembly, RT 19/10/67, p13. D.Hindry received Probationary Ministerial Status in 1968, RT 4/7/68, p11. Announcement of a daughter 'Ruth Karen'; congratulations from Bilston congregants, RT 27/2/69, p6. Address: 14, Grafton Court, Olive Avenue, Parkfields, Wolverhampton, RT 17/7/69, p7. Change of address: 9, Sudbury Close, Wolverhampton, RT 19/2/70, p10. D.Hindry received Full Ministerial Status in 1970. RT 7/1/71, p10

¹³ D.Hindry accepted the pastorate of Bilston Assembly (23/9/67), RT 15/9/67, p4

¹⁴ D.Hindry resigned the pastorate of Bilston Assembly in 1970. Correspondence to Mr.L.G.Owen, 1 Westfield Road, Portobello RT 29/10/70, p7

¹⁵ Harry Edgington received Probationary Status in 1974, *see Assembly & Ministerial Lists* 1974, RT 4/7/74, p4

¹⁶ Derek Dudfield received AoG Ministerial Status in 2015. He had held Delegate Status since 2008.

¹⁷ Dan Lee received AoG Ministerial Status in 2023.

Notable Events & References:

- In 1942, Pastor J.Turley was taken ill and Ruby Rowe, a student at Hampstead Bible School,¹⁸ was told by Howard Carter to take her bike and go to Bilston to help.

'...in March 1942, I took my case and bike - left nothing at Bible School ... and left for Bilston for 21 days. God began to move ... I prayed for the sick - healing took place. On free days, I found the doors open to speak in other churches.

*Pastor Turley recovered and invited me to help in the Wednesbury church. I got a Children's work going and on Wednesdays, a Ladies meeting. I was young and on fire for God & worked with children and young people.'*¹⁹

(Mrs. Rowe later pastored Malmesbury AoG Church and was Beryl Skelton's²⁰ pastor. Mrs. Rowe moved to Canada and continued to be actively engaged in God's work – actually preaching on her 100th birthday. Her work on earth completed, God called her home in 2024!) See fig.16

- From 2010, Bilston Assembly undertook missions to Bulgaria.
- Further missional endeavours were arranged for Spain (church group), Italy (D. & H. Dudfield), 'Samaritans Purse' (D. Lee), tentative exploration of working with a Swedish church
- 2025 – Missional Year

Community Events

- Tuesday Soup Kitchen c.2008
- Annual Children's Holiday Club
- Christmas Grotto
- Food Bank
- Various events for Senior Citizens have included Lunch Club, Dementia Singing, *Welcome Cuppa'*

¹⁸ Hampstead Bible School was AoG's Bible College in London; Howard Carter was the principal.

¹⁹ Taken from an email to the writer from R.Rowe 8th January 2012, see fig. 16

²⁰ David and Beryl Skelton pastored AoG Assembly, Gads Lane West Bromwich 1971-1997

Change of Buildings:²¹

For the past three years we have longed for a place of our own to worship in.

After much prayer, our Pastor found a piece of ground and there we started to build to the glory of God.

After three years of worshipping God in one of the rooms of our Pastor's home, the day came for us to move, on June 30th this year.

A happy band of God's children gathered for the opening. The House of God was opened by our Brother C. Beardsmore of Upper Gornal. He spoke of entering His gates with praise, and into His courts with joy.

The hall holds approximately 150, and about that number gathered to hear Brother David Powell who spoke in the afternoon on the House of Bread (Bethel), then in the evening the word was on Depression (Luke 24: 13).

If anyone came in feeling like that, it should have gone before the end of the service.



Cookman (Bristol); D. Garet (Crosley); D. Powell (Rotherham); J. Tuley (Bilston); C. Beardsmore (Gornal); A. Sturgess (Tipton).

Opening of Zion Full Gospel Mission, Prosser Street, Bilston, Staffordshire
Redemption Tidings Aug. 17th 1951, p4

The building in Prosser Street was constructed from corrugated iron and painted a distinctive Saxe blue.²²

In 1987, road development in Bilston meant that the 'tin hut' in Prosser Street had to be demolished. Wolverhampton Council²³ relocated the church to its present site in Wolverhampton Street.

As God blessed the church, a larger building and carpark were needed to accommodate the growing congregation.

²¹ The construction of the building was the responsibility of Mr. Herbert Hodgson, information from Derek Clark

²² Recalled by the writer.

²³ Reference to planning & design of the new church, May 1987 can be found in Wolverhampton Archives, see http://blackcountryhistory.org/collections/search/?q=bilston+pentecostal+church&c_b_submit=Search

Extension to Excel church



Excel Church Building, circa 2014

In 2012, land behind the church was purchased in preparation for the church extension.²⁴ In 2015, the church was remodelled and extended.²⁵ Funding came from the congregation's sacrificial giving and grants from various companies.²⁶ The church now incorporates *Bilston People's Centre*²⁷ enabling the church to minister to the needs of the community. The official opening took place on April 16th 2016.



The interior of Excel Church 2016

²⁴ See Express & Star, 24/9/15

²⁵ For further details see *An Adventure of Faith*, M. Wilkes

²⁶ A grant was received from Veolia Environmental Trust, see Express & Star September 18th 1966, p7

<http://www.veoliatrust.org/news/detail/?/2007/New+Bilston+church+community+centre+completes>

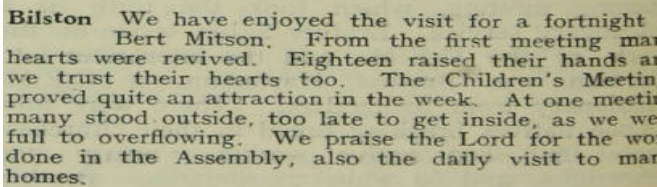
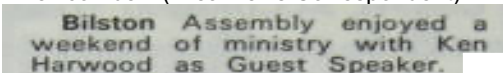
²⁷ Initially, the newly appointed Centre Manager's position was partially financed by Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club.

References to Excel Church in *Redemption Tidings*:

Redemption Tidings was the official organ of AoG, later known as *Redemption*, *Joy* and *Re* before becoming an online magazine (spring 2012 - June 2015).

Date	Page	Details
Adverts:		
7/12/37	13	Mr. H.Barnes (pastor) & members of Bilston congregation supported the opening of Coseley Mission in November 1937
28/9/45	12	(Market Street) Visit of A.C.Wilson (Oldham)
29/3/46	12	BILSTON: Full Gospel Assembly, Market Street. Visit of Clifford Rees, April 27—May 5. Week-nights (ex. Fri.), 7.30; Sun. 11 and 8.30.
30/8/46	12	Evangelistic Crusade. September 7 th - 22 nd Speakers: Tom Wilson & Clifford Rees
25/4/47	12	Full Gospel Mission Market Street, Evangelistic Campaign May 17 th -29 th . Speaker: Bert Mitson
8/6/51	back page	Bilston: Opening soon, Zion Full Gospel Pentecostal Mission, Prosser St., opposite Stonefield St., Bilston. Pastor: J. Turley. Secretary: W. E. Osborne.
12/10/51	back page	Revival & Divine Healing Campaign. Speaker: Henry Shave
7/1/55	16	Evangelistic Crusade with Tom Wilson and Gerald Rowlands
24/6/55	16	Missions Anniversary. Speaker: W.Hacking (Blackburn)
29/6/56	16	5 th Anniversary (of new building) Services. Speaker: W.Mercy (Crosskeys)
12/10/56	16	Visit of John Wallace
19/4/57	16	Easter Convention. Speaker: Ken Harwood (Nottingham)
28/3/58	16	Second Easter Convention. Speaker: W.Hacking (Blackburn)
4/7/58	19	Annual Mission Anniversary. Speaker: R.J.Locke (Bristol)
11/9/59	20	Revival and Divine Healing Campaign (Prosser Street) Speaker: Bert Mitson
14/10/60	19	Autumn Convention. Speaker: Eric Briggs (Northern Ireland)
17/6/60	20	Church Anniversary Service. Speaker: E.J.Thomas (Bristol)
27/1/61	19	Pastor's first Anniversary. Speaker: J.E.Hindmarsh (Surrey)
7/4/61	20	Visit of Donald Gee

9/2/62	19	Bilston : Visit of Evangelist Peter Scothern, February 24th to 26th. Saturday at 7.30 p.m. and Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Congregational Church, Oxford Street. Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. in Assembly of God, Prosser Street. Monday : Great Rally in Town Hall at 7.30 p.m. Bring the sick. All welcome.
29/6/62	19	Anniversary Services. Speaker: E.J.Thomas (Bristol), Convenor: F.J.Turley
9/11/62	19	Visit of Evangelist Peter Scothern
7/12/62	19	Revival Healing Crusade led by Richard Bolt
28/6/63	19	Anniversary Services Speaker: David Powell (Rotherham)
13/9/63	19	Second Advent Convention. Speaker: Maynard O.James (world-travelled evangelist)
31/1/64	23	Pastor F.J.Turley's 4 th Anniversary Speaker: T.Percy Johns (Apostolic Pastor, Bradford)
3/7/64	23	Church Anniversary Services and Revival Crusade. Speaker: Harold Miles (Peniel Chapel London)
18/9/64	22	Convention for the Deepening of Spiritual Life. Speaker: Maynard James (International Evangelistic)
10/6/66	22	Visit of Evangelist Alf Harley
3/3/67	20	Visit of Evangelist Alf Harley
14/8/69	13	Summer Convention. Speaker: Ernie Crew (Bristol)
19/2/70	14	Special Weekend. Speaker: Wayne Austin (Dartford). Baptismal service: Sunday March 1 st
27/8/70	13	Special visit of E.Crew
Reports:		
2/6/39	15	Congregants from Bilston Pentecostal Church attended a 'Group Convention' in Birmingham in June 1939
9/11/45	4	Bilston. Great Blessings were experienced at the visit of A. C. Wilson who conducted a week's Revival Campaign. Truly God has Blessed every meeting for we have been on a rising tide from the first until the last. The Saints moved by every message and testified how grateful they were to be in Pentecost. We praise God for one soul and backslider, others under great conviction. Also for Divine Healing to a Brother suffering from stomach trouble, terrible pains endured even to passing of blood. Hands were laid upon him by Brother Wilson and God met and delivered him. J. TURLEY.
25/10/46	6	'...during the visit of Tom Wilson and Clifford Rees – several souls were won for the Lord'.

20/6/47	10	
21/12/51	22	Revival & Divine Healing Campaign. Speaker: Henry Shave
5/8/53	12	Photograph of children's Campaign (<i>see fig.1</i>)
15/4/55	13	Evangelistic Crusade...souls saved and saints blessed
2/5/58	15	Joint baptismal service with Wednesbury Assembly; Pastor John Bowen assisted by J.Turley (<i>see fig.4</i>)
11/3/60	14	Induction Service of F.J.Turley (<i>see fig.12</i>)
1/4/60	14	A Night of Surprises (<i>see fig.2</i>)
22/7/60	15	Anniversary Month at Bilston (<i>see fig.3</i>)
3/8/62	16	10 th anniversary of opening of new hall in Prosser Street. Speaker: E.J.Thomas (Bristol), solo from Jim Clemson (Tipton) (<i>see fig.5</i>)
11/1/63	16	Revival Healing Crusade led by Richard Bolt (<i>see fig.8</i>)
16/8/63	15	Blessings at Bilston -11 th Anniversary Services (<i>see fig.6</i>)
19/10/ 67	13	Induction Service for D.Hindry (<i>see fig.7</i>)
24/10/68	<i>front cover</i>	Baptismal Service (<i>see figs.9 & 10</i>)
7/6/73	17	<i>Section of Report by F.Newcombe</i> ²⁸ (Area News Correspondent): 

²⁸ On leaving the pastorate of Tipton AoG, Ken & Betty Humphreys purchased F.Newcombe's house.

Photographs and Reports:



BILSTON, Staffs. It is a joy to report great blessing on our Children's Campaign, held by Sister Williams, Children's Evangelist. The outstanding thing of these meetings was the joy on the children's faces. Many of them had never seen anything like this before. There were 26 decisions for Christ. It has brought an increase in our sunshine corner and Sunday School. The photograph shows the the girls' section.

Figure 1

RT 5/6/53, p15

A NIGHT OF SURPRISES AT BILSTON

Sunday evening, February 21st, was a night of surprises at the Bilston Assembly. In the first place the service was the Annual Prize-giving to the Sunday School scholars. The service was conducted by Pastor F. J. Turley who gave a suitable Gospel address for the benefit of the unsaved parents of the children who were present. The prizes were presented by his wife, Mrs. R. Turley.

Following this a presentation was made to Pastor and Mrs. Turley, senior, this was most unexpected to them and came as a great surprise. They were presented by Brother H. Edgington, an elder of the Assembly, on behalf of the members, with an inscribed gold pocket-watch in recognition of the 20 years faithful ministry as pastor. His wife was given a beautiful china tea-service, and to put it in her words, it was just what she needed.

Brother and Sister Turley expressed their appreciation of the generous way in which the Assembly had thought of them. We in the assembly are glad that although he has resigned from the pastorate of the church, they will still be present with us as members and we know that they will be as loyal and as keen for the Lord's work here and will give their utmost support to their son and his wife as they seek to carry on the ministry. Since Brother Fred Turley took over the church we have had the joy of welcoming two new members and we are looking for the Lord to do great things for us in the future.

Figure 2

RT 1/4/60, p14

July 22nd, 1960

ANNIVERSARY MONTH AT BILSTON, STAFFS.

The month of June was Anniversary month for the Assembly at Bilston. We commenced the first Sunday with the Sunday School Anniversary. The two services were conducted by P. Griffin, Pastor of Bearwood, whose ministry to both the children and adults was humorous and pointed. He brought the claims of Christ before the many unsaved parents in the evening service. The singing and other items by the children were very good and also in them the Gospel was proclaimed. The following week-end the ministry of Miss Hodgetts on the Saturday evening and Sunday morning was really a blessing to the local believers. She also conducted the concluding Children's Service on the Sunday evening, arresting both the attention of the young and old with her graphic presentation of the "Journey of Life". We pray that many of those unsaved will come to know the Lord. The last week-end in the month was the Church Anniversary. We had the ministry of Pastor E. J. Thomas of Bristol. His messages were indeed touched with a real anointing of the Spirit and we as an Assembly were challenged afresh and encouraged to renewed consecration for the future. On the Saturday evening we were blessed by the singing of a Male Voice Quintet. We appreciated the support given to us on the Saturday and Monday evening meetings by members from other local assemblies.

F. J. Turley

Figure 3

RT 22/7/60, p15

EASTER JOYS AT BILSTON

It is with joy and praise to God that we report blessings this Easter from God's storehouse. The ministry of the Word was given by Bro. W. Hacking of Blackburn under the anointing of the Spirit. At each meeting the message was on the Resurrection.



Figure 4 John Bowen (Wednesbury) & J Turley RT 2/5/58

ANNIVERSARY AT BILSTON, STAFFS

The 10th Anniversary services of the opening of the present hall in Bilston was celebrated over the week-end of July 7th-9th. The Lord's messenger was Brother E. J. Thomas of Bristol and his messages were such that none could but be blessed under an evident anointing of the Spirit upon him.

In the Saturday meeting we were challenged to expect revival as we lived under the presence of the Spirit of God. The Sunday services too were richly blessed of the Lord. Monday's meeting also was a challenge to enter into the river of the blessing of God, for there were waters to swim in. Brother Jim Clemson of Tipton thrilled our hearts in this service with two solos. We appreciated the support from local Assemblies and it was good to see at the close a number indicating their desire for a fuller life in the Spirit of God. We praise the Lord for His blessings over this week-end and look forward to another year of service for Him.

Figure 5

RT 3/8/62, p16

BLESSINGS AT BILSTON

The 11th anniversary of the opening of the present hall in Bilston was celebrated over the week-end of July 6-8th. Recently the hall has been tastefully re-decorated inside and out and has been enhanced by the addition of two beautiful sepele church doors on the front porch. The Lord's messenger for the week-end was Brother David Powell, of Rotherham, whose forthright ministry was a blessing and challenge to us all. The singing on the Saturday of Brother and Sister Jeavons (Junior) from Tipton and the Male Voice Quartet from the West Bromwich Assembly added greatly to the blessings of the meetings. A fortnight later over the week-end of July 20-22nd we had, through the good offices of the Apostolic Church Headquarters, a visit from Pastor T. Percy Johns, of Bradford. His ministry on the person of Christ, the gifts of the Spirit and Body of Christ was anointed of the Holy Ghost and was rich to all our hearts.

We look back over another year and rejoice to see a measure of progress in that seeking hearts from the denominational churches in the town are coming in, desiring and receiving the baptism of the Spirit. We look forward to future months of usefulness in the service of the Lord.

Figure 6

RT16/8/63, p15

INDUCTION SERVICE AT BILSTON, STAFFS.

On Saturday 23rd September, Pastor Ray Graham (Lichfield) convened the Induction service of David Hindry to the Pastorate of the Bilston Assembly, Staffs. The hall was packed to capacity with saints from all the local Assemblies, the service was greatly blessed with liberty and the Lord's presence mightily felt throughout. Pastor Giles (Dudley) opened the service in prayer.

A warm and sincere welcome was given by our retired Pastor J. Turley, Snr. (Bilston) and Pastor Colley (Tipton) on behalf of the Birmingham District Council, also Bro. Garrattley (Deacon-Lichfield) who paid tribute to our Bro. Hindry's work at Lichfield as their Co-Pastor.

The Birmingham District Secretary, Pastor Griffin, gave a timely word and charged the

new Pastor and the Church with their responsibilities and love towards each other. Our new Pastor David Hindry gave the final message.

Ministry in song by Bro. David Worrall brought tremendous blessing. Afterwards leading brethren present laid hands on Brother Hindry and prayed that his ministry would prove fruitful.

Pastor H. Evans (West Brom.), closed in prayer and committed the Pastor and the work in Bilston to God's almighty care and Divine blessings.

Figure 7

RT 19/10 /67, p13

RICHARD BOLT AT BILSTON, STAFFS

The Bilston Assembly prayed and believed for great things during the Crusade conducted by Richard Bolt from December 8th-13th. The opening meeting was held in the College Hall. The local Salvation Army songsters sang two pieces, including "How great Thou art", and indeed God proved to be great and do great things.

The services continued in the local Assembly Hall and each night our brother preached the full Pentecostal message and prayed for the sick. At least 12 people were counselled after making a decision for Christ. Among those who were healed in the meetings include: woman with varicose thrombosis, the lumps on her legs instantly disappearing; Methodist man healed of stomach ulcers, brother with lump in the eye instantly

disappeared, two sisters healed of heart trouble. Some of these were revealed to our Brother through the Word of Knowledge. Also a lady in the meeting living in disobedience to the Lord in heart and life. This was revealed to our Brother through this gift of the Spirit. It was reminiscent of the story of Ananias and Sapphira.

Through the instrumentality of a teacher in the local grammar school who was with Brother Bolt as a student at Durham, he was able to visit and speak to most of the forms concerning the full gospel. Present at one time was the local vicar, and he invited the evangelist to speak at a drawing-room meeting in the vicarage after their Sunday night service. In the meeting three accepted Christ and two were prayed for and testified healing.

Figure 8

RT 11/1/63, p16

Willitts. Dennis Willitts, aged 56 years, for many years a faithful member of Bilston Assembly, Staffs., was called suddenly into the presence of the Lord on Friday, May 10th. The love and sympathy of the Assembly are extended to our Brother's relatives.

RT 9/6/68, p12

BAPTISMS IN BILSTON

On September 7th at Zion Full Gospel Church, Prosser Street, Bilston, Staffs, a congregation of 80 people witnessed eight young people go through the waters of baptism. It was a great thrill to see those who had recently professed faith in Christ, taking this step of obedience, and an equal thrill to say that some of those candidates had recently been baptised in the Holy Ghost. Pastor David Hindry assisted by Pastor J. Turley baptised the eight candidates. The service was on the first anniversary of the Pastor's ministry in Bilston.

Michael Jarvis (Youth Secretary) gave a very timely word on "Repentance". God's presence was mightily felt in the midst, and great blessing was received by all.

Figure 9

RT 24/10/68, front cover



Figure 10

Pastors D.Hindry & J.Turley baptising a church member

RT 24/10/68, front cover

Leaders' Profiles

James Turley:

● **OBITUARY**

JAMES TURLEY

On Friday, 23rd July, another veteran soldier of the Cross, James Turley, laid down his sword. Under his leadership the Bilston Assembly has sounded forth the Word of God in no uncertain manner for around 40 years, until his retirement.

"Big Jim", as Brother Turley was affectionately known by many of the D.C. brethren, was a force to be reckoned with in council meetings, being a man of frankness, forthrightness and of the highest integrity. Until the latter years of his life Brother Turley was a man of consistency regarding attendance at District Council meetings, making valuable contributions to the district's welfare.

A brother beloved has gone to be with the Lord

7th OCTOBER, 1976

he both loved and served faithfully. Truly, Brother Turley fought a good fight, finished his course and kept the faith which was once delivered to the saints, a crown of righteousness awaiting him.

We mourn not as those without hope, but know that soon we shall participate in a grand re-union with loved ones who have gone on before.

The unanimous prayer of the Midland West District Council is that the God of all grace will comfort, strengthen and sustain Mrs. Turley and her family in the days that lie ahead.

Percy Griffin
(Midland West D.C. Secretary)

11

DID YOU KNOW?

Veteran minister James Turley, who pioneered the Bilston Assembly over 40 years ago and was pastor until retirement, died suddenly on Friday, 23rd July, aged 71 years. He fellowshipped in his retirement at the Dudley Assembly and was worshipping there the previous Sunday. A brother beloved and respected senior minister of the Midlands West District Council. His widow would value your prayers at this time of parting.

Figure 11

RT 19/8/76, p4

TURLEY, Mrs. Mary, widow of the late Jim Turley who pioneered and pastored Bilston Assembly, went home to her reward on 14th October. Mary was a faithful and loyal worker for God and worshipped at Dudley Assembly after her husband's homecall. Aged 77 years she often said, "I was no good on the platform but stoked up the coke fire for my Lord with great dexterity."

8 DECEMBER 1987 7

APPRECIATION

Mrs. M. Turley wishes to thank all those who upheld her in prayer during the loss of her dear husband, also for the many floral tributes and letters received. God bless you all.

Name	Details
J.Turley <i>see figs. 4 & 10</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastored Bilston Assembly • Was 'caretaker pastor' at Corporation Street Walsall in 1965
F.Turley <i>see figs.12 & 13</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of James Turley • Change of address: 31 Dudley Street Bilston, RT 12/10/45 • Preached at the 'British Pentecostal Fellowship' London area, RT 17/4/59, p19 • Worked with <i>Home Missions</i> • Address: 86 Willenhall Road Bilston, RT 19/8/60, p19 • Resigned the pastorate of Bilston AoG to affiliate with the United Pentecostal Church of GB & I.²⁹

FRED TURLEY (Bilston) assisted in the work of Home Missions before he joined the R.A.F. during the war. On his release he was put in charge of the newly-formed assembly at Shrewsbury, where under his ministry the work made steady progress. At present he is in charge of the work at Hereford, and is faced with the problem of having no hall in which to meet. This necessitates their having to meet in a house. He writes: "Please ask readers to pray for the new assembly that they may find a suitable hall."

RT 17/3/50, p7

²⁹ See <http://upcgbi.org.uk/about-us/heroes-of-faith/>

March 11th, 1960

ASSEMBLY NEWS

INDUCTION SERVICE AT BILSTON

Saturday, February 20th, was what could be termed the "Welcome Home" induction service for Brother F. J. Turley. He was returning to his home Assembly to succeed his father as the pastor. The service was conducted by Brother Beardsmore (Chairman of the District Council) who in his own inimitable way encouraged the congregation to stand by the new pastor, he also charged him to be true in his ministry and seek at all times to shepherd the flock of God faithfully as his father had done for over 20 years previously. Miss Wood of Wolverhampton led the meeting in prayer and Brother Middleton of Coseley read a suitable portion of scripture after which Brother Giles from Dudley expressed his own personal joy at the fellowship enjoyed with Brother Turley, Snr., and wished the new pastor and the assembly a rich harvest of blessing in the coming days.

The presence of the Lord was felt in the solemn moments when the pastors present laid their hands upon the new pastor and his wife and sought the blessing of the Lord upon them in their new sphere of labour. Afterwards Brother Turley ministered the word from 2 Sam. 16: 13-14, stressing the need for us to have a constant supply of the Holy Spirit as did the newly-anointed David and not to be foolish like Saul and to lose the presence and power of the Lord. We are looking for great things in the future in Bilston, praying that God will bless the ministry to the saving of precious souls and the building up of the saints

Figure 12

RT 11/3/60, p14



**F. J.
TURLEY**

**Pastor of the
Assembly of God
at
BILSTON
Staffs**

Brother Turley was brought up in a Pentecostal home, his mother and father being saved when the Pentecostal testimony first came to Bilston under the ministry of the late Pastor Harold Barnes. After Mr. Barnes had returned to his native Bristol, Mr. Turley (Senior) became pastor of the work.

Our brother accepted Christ in his early teens, and was soon baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit. He spent 12 months at Hampstead Bible School, after which he served in the R.A.F. for two years. Upon his release he served the Lord under the auspices of Home Missions for a time, then took over the pastorate of an independent Pentecostal church in Bournemouth. Following this he entered the ranks of the United Apostolic Faith Church, ministering in Yorkshire and London.

His father decided to relinquish the pastorate of Bilston Assembly after 20 years of faithful and arduous service, and the Assembly invited the son to succeed him. Our brother has now been pastor there for two-and-a-half-years, and a number have been saved and added to the Assembly, being baptized in water and in the Spirit.

Whilst in the forces he met his wife, who was in the W.R.A.F. They have one child, David, aged 10 years.

Figure 13

RT 14/9/62

Name	Details
David Hindry <i>see fig.10</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had been assistant pastor to R.Graham at Lichfield Assembly prior to accepting the pastorate at Bilston
Harry & Lillian Edgington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local to Bilston & had worshipped at the Assembly prior to their accepting the pastorate. • Harry had been an elder. • Ministered faithfully and successfully at the Bilston Assembly. • L.Edgington died in 2015
Maurice & Sylvia White:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pioneered Sedgley Assembly prior to accepting the pastorate of Bilston Assembly • Pastored Upper Gornal Assembly (2015- 2017) • Maurice is a pharmacist & has AoG Ministerial Status • Maurice cared for Sylvia during an agonising illness. • Maurice married Iris (née Middleton)³⁰ in March 2018
Derek & Heather Dudfield <i>see fig. 14</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home assembly was Tipton AoG • They began worshipping at Bilston Assembly in 1990 • World Christian Ministries³¹ trustee • Worked as a HGV driver & Heather is a Social Worker Manager • Heather's father, M.Wilkes, pastored Wakefield, Tipton & Sedgley Assemblies • Derek has AoG Ministerial Status & is Zone leader for AoG West Midlands
Dan & Joy Lee <i>see fig.15</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Lee came to Bilston Pentecostal Church with the <i>Pais</i>³² Project in 1998 • Appointed Youth Pastor in 2000 • Joined leadership team in 2006 • Ministers in local schools • Dan received AoG Ministerial Status in 2023 • Associate pastor 2024 • Joy leads <i>G Force</i> & various admin. roles

³⁰ Iris' father, William Middleton, pastored Coseley AoG Church (1955-1968), see *Pentecost in the Black Country*, J.E.Clark p74 ff.

³¹ <http://wcm.org.uk.websitebuilder.prositehosting.co.uk/about-us>

³² The *Pais Project* was founded by [Paul Gibbs](http://paimovement.com/about/) in 1992, see <http://paimovement.com/about/>



Dek & Heather Dudfield 2015
Figure 14



Dan & Joy Lee, 2015
They have two daughters, Alicia and Lillian
Figure 15

Mrs. Ruby Rowe, *see page 3*



Figure 16

West of England District Council 1959 (Mrs. Rowe centre)

RT 8/1/59, front cover

Ministries emanating from Excel Church Bilston:

- Jane & Paul Pearson accepted the pastored Kingswinford Christian Fellowship and later Brierley Hill Assembly
- Steve & Andrea Buckland, and Bob & Jackie Campbell followed God's leading and moved to Bulgaria.
- Kurt & Ann Francis moved to Radley Manchester
- Sylvia & Derek Fellows left in 1999 to start Keyway Christian Fellowship in Willenhall which later merged with Darlaston AoG Church to become Keyway Pentecostal Church³³
- Joe Clark left in 2002 and, as one of three senior leadership-elders, pastors the Church at Junction 10, Walsall

Excel Church Bilston

Assemblies of God Church

1936-2025

³³ See <http://keywaychristianfellowship.co.uk/#!/about-us/4536424693>