

## Chaddesden Methodist Church

Church Lane is the lane leading to St Mary's church - but why Chapel Lane when there is no chapel? Chapel Lane was originally the south side of the village green, but the open space to the north, bounded by Morley Road and the brook, was built upon hundreds of years ago.

In 1838 a small Wesleyan Methodist chapel [1] was built in a field near the brook. For the next eighty years, this chapel was adequate for those who preferred an alternative style of worship to that provided at the parish church. In the days before street name signs, custom and practice led to the name changing from The Green to Chapel Lane.

The increasing population of Chaddesden from the mid-1920s and the corresponding increase in attendance at the Methodist chapel led to the need for a larger building. It was arranged for Sunday services to be held in the village school on Chaddesden Lane [2].



The old village school photographed in 2007 by Peter Cholerton.

The old school continued to be used as a Methodist church when the village school was replaced by a larger, new school on Morley Road. The redundant chapel on Chapel Lane became a private house, although a small one. This house was demolished around 1951 and a larger house built on the land behind. House no 22, named Chapel House, is as a reminder of the chapel that once stood there.

The church on Chaddesden Lane was last used in 1957 when it was replaced by a new church on Chesapeake Road facing the end of Washington Avenue. The building on Chaddesden Lane still stands as the Community Hall.

Chesapeake Road Methodist Church was the shortest-lived of them all, closing in 1978. It became a Community Centre which itself has now closed.

Peter Barnes



Chesapeake Road Community Centre photographed on 28 July 2007 by Gregg Marley.  
The trees behind are Half Moon Plantation.

### Footnotes

1. according to Kelly's Directory 1876
2. Chaddesden resident Catherine Rees, born in 1918 as Catherine Oldershaw, was a pupil at the village school and remembered its use as a church on Sundays.

