

## **PLYMOUTH BRETHREN**

Park Road, Chipping Campden

It is claimed (see below) that there were meetings of Plymouth Brethren in the late 1800s; certainly the Vinn/Wheatcroft family were leading members in the early 1900s. Evelyn Wheatcroft's parents, George and Susette Vinn, owned Yverdon in Park Road and built a meeting room on the side of their house. Don remembered meetings initially in their sitting room.



Meeting room on the right hand side of the house

### **Diana Evans recalled:**

The 1881 Census shows John Badham and family living in Three Gables. Allan Warmington told me that John Badham was a member of the Plymouth Brethren. The SW part of Three Gables (the part next to The Gables) appears on a map as a chapel. (John Smith bought Three Gables to add to The Gables from Lord Gainsborough in 1883). The 1891 Census shown John Badham and family still in Three Gables, 'part used as a chapel'. By 1901 Three Gables was 'uninhabited'. The New History of 2005 quotes on p296, 'A small congregation of Plymouth Brethren meeting in Park Road has also ceased to meet.'

### **Don Wheatcroft remembering his father Harry Wheatcroft**

Born in Ebrington village in 1878 he lived with his grandparents Alfred and Elizabeth Wheatcroft in 'The Summerhouse' on the estate of Earl Fortescue. He attended the village church and was 'converted' as a young man while attending a mission held there. This commitment was to mark his life, shaping him into an upright, 'godly' and honest man of discipline and high morals all of which he endeavoured to pass on to us boys and was respected for. He had a love of singing hymns, with a natural ability to sing both the bass and tenor parts by ear. I am grateful to say, I inherited this ability and still have the joy of being able to sing in harmony even at 97! My mother Evelyn whom he had married in 1906 was also musical and would sing in harmony with him sometimes playing her violin.

At some point (not talked about) there was a rift about the Brethren sects and Don's family left Campden. The Brethren continued to use the meeting room into the 60s. History still uncertain.

**Kelly's 1914**

Brethren Meeting Room 10.45am & 6.30pm

**Kelly's 1919**

Brethren Meeting Room 10.45am & 6.30pm