



Parkwood Herald

SAD News Flash 2

February 2021

St. Mark's Parish Centre
53 Thornhill Road
Longwood HD3 4UL

www.parkwoodmethodistchurch.org.uk

It is with the greatest sadness that we must inform you of the death, on February 11th 2021, of Mr. Ken Rothery.

For many decades Ken Rothery was the backbone, the very heartbeat of our Church.

He was born into the church as his parents, Ivy and Wilfred were both "Parkwooders".

He was married here to Mary Beaumont and they went on to have two sons, Paul and Nigel.

Ken, or Mr Music as he was known by many, worked tirelessly for Parkwood. He was a Sunday School teacher, Sunday School Superintendent and loved to share his knowledge as speaker at the PWA, but making music was always his first love. He was our organist and choirmaster for many years. He organised well attended events; Gilbert and Sullivan productions, the annual Sounding Brass and Voices concerts, Come and Sing performances, The Sunday School Anniversaries and of course the annual Messiah which attracted

singers and audience from far and wide. Parkwood became known as "The musical church" and that was all down to Ken.

We hadn't seen Ken at church for a while as he had become housebound but he was so pleased to be asked to choose the hymns for our final service in the old church building and we were equally pleased to see him at that service. His last service at Parkwood.

Rest in Peace Ken. We will miss you.

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Huddersfield Choral Society Youth Choir

Whilst Ken served with distinction as conductor with several local musical organisations, he was one of three members of the Huddersfield Choral Society who actually formed and, with the help of other members of the Society, ran the HCS Youth Choir, commencing in the Society's 150th Anniversary

year. The other two members were David Crowther and Elizabeth (Beth) Sharp. Neither Ken nor Beth (whose skill as an accomplished accompanist was well known in the town) needed any encouragement to join David who was a skilled organiser.

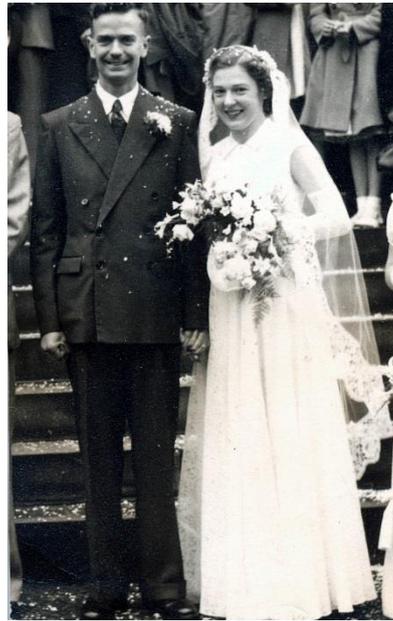
Here is an extract from the 1989 programme –

Kenneth Rothery (Conductor)

Kenneth Rothery was born in Golcar, showing an early interest in music by singing and learning to play the piano. He taught music at Kirkburton Secondary Modern School and then transferred to the new Middle School when reorganisation took place.

He has been Choirmaster at Parkwood Methodist Church for 30 years and also plays the organ there. It is now about 40 years since he became a singing member of the Huddersfield Choral Society. Since retiring from teaching, Ken has devoted a great deal of his spare time to conducting. His choirs include Honley Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Holmfirth Choral Society and the Huddersfield Choral Society Youth Choir.

In addition to all this, he still finds time to take a weekly class for the University of the Third Age on “Enjoying Music” and a Music Appreciation Group at Storthes Hall Hospital. He is also much in demand giving talks on musical subjects to various local organisations.



STAY SAFE FOLKS!