

### THE THREE JOHNS

There are two plaques in Paul Church commemorating three brave Cornish fishermen from Mousehole who perished in Tierra del Fuego, South America in 1851 whilst members of a small party of missionaries from the South American Mission Society lead by Captain Allen Francis Gardner, late Royal Navy. Their names are John Badcock, John Bryant and John Pearce otherwise known to us as the Three Johns.

The external plaque, located to the right of the main entrance, was erected by the widow of Captain Gardner – Elizabeth Lydia Gardner. She was his second wife, whom he married in 1836, and was the daughter of the Reverend Edward Garrard Marsh, vicar of Aylesford, Kent.

IN MEMORY OF  
JOHN BADCOCK, JOHN BRYANT &  
JOHN PEARCE  
THREE YOUNG FISHERMEN  
A PORTION OF A LITTLE BAND  
WHO, WITH CAPT. A.F. GARDNER R.N.  
LEFT THEIR NATIVE LAND THE 7<sup>th</sup> SEPT, 1850  
ON THE PERILOUS ENTERPRISE OF SOWING THE SEEDS  
OF CHRISTIANITY ON THE BARBAROUS SHORES OF  
TIERRA-DEL-FUEGO. AND WHO, WITH  
THEIR COMPANIONS THERE UNHAPPILY PERISHED  
AFTER A SERIES OF UNPARALLELED SUFFERINGS  
ENDURED WITH EXEMPLARY FORTITUDE A.D. 1851

THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS, AND  
LET EVERY ONE THAT NAMETH THE NAME OF CHRIST  
DEPART FROM INIQUITY 2 TIM .2. 19

E.L.G.

The internal plaque is the first memorial on the right on entering the church.

THIS TABLET  
IS ERECTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN THE HONOURED MEMORY OF  
JOHN BADCOCK, JOHN BRYANT & JOHN PEARCE  
YOUNG FISHERMEN OF THIS PARISH; WHO NOBLY  
JOINED THE MISSIONARY BAND WHICH ACCOMPANIED  
THE LATE CAPTn. A. GARDNER, R.N. IN HIS ENDEAVOUR  
TO TAKE THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST TO THE INHABITANTS OF  
TIERRA-DEL-FUEGO, IN THE YEAR A.D. 1850. ONE BY ONE THEY ALL  
PERISHED FROM WANT AND EXPOSURE. THEIR JOURNAL, ENDED BY  
THE DYING HAND OF THE LATEST SURVIVOR, BEARS TESTIMONY TO THE  
UNFLINCHING CONSTANCY WITH WHICH THEY “ALL DIED IN FAITH”.

S.Matt, XIX. V. 29  
Hebws. XI. V. 15.16  
“God is not ashamed  
to be called  
their God”.

Captain Gardner’s party consisted of himself, Richard Williams, a surgeon, John Maidment, commended by the Young Men’s Christian Association, the three Johns and a carpenter called Joseph Erwin. They sailed from Liverpool in the square rigger Ocean Queen on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1850 and

arrived at Banner Cove, Picton Island on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. The party landed, set up camp and two weeks later the Ocean Queen departed. They had two twenty six foot boats in which they stowed provisions to last for six months. However, fierce weather, extreme climate, native hostility and a series of errors and logistical problems hampered them from the start. Scurvy, disease and finally starvation took their toll and one by one they died. A ship with relief supplies arrived in October some six weeks after the last member of the party, Captain Gardner himself, had died. Later the remains of the party were buried and Captain Gardner's journal was recovered by Captain Morshead of HMS Dido.

There is also a brass plaque in Mousehole Methodist Church, formerly St. Clement's. This plaque was originally in Mount Zion Methodist Chapel, Mousehole but was moved to St Clement's Church in 1987 when the former building was closed and a union was formed with St Clement. It was placed in Mount Zion by the members of St. Clement Wesley Guild in February 1946 and unveiled by the Rev Pritchard, Chairman of the Cornwall Methodist District with Mr Pentreath Johns, a relative of John Pearce, giving a Bible reading. In 1852 a Mr Edwin Davies commented in the Wesleyan Methodist Association Magazine " ... it will be, unquestionably, interesting to readers of our magazine that two of the young men were members of our church at Mousehole; John Pearce and John Bryant."

KEEP IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE  
JOHN BADCOCK, JOHN BRYANT AND JOHN PEARCE  
COURAGEOUS YOUNG METHODISTS OF MOUSEHOLE  
WHO WITH CAPTAIN ALLEN F. GARDNER R.N.  
IN 1850 AS SERVANTS OF GOD, SAILED TO  
TIERRA DEL FUEGO, AND THERE, SORELY TRIED  
WITH CHRIST-LIKE FORTITUDE PROVED THEMSELVES  
**FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH**

Romans, Ch.8 v. 35-39

Source documents are:-

Cornishman Newspaper.

Two Hundred Years of Methodism in Cornwall by John Joseph Beckerlegge.

Mount Zion: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Alternative Methodism in Mousehole by Percy Harvey.

Hope Deferred, Not Lost: The Journal of Captain Allen Gardner RN.