

# Manx Notes 696 (2024)

## “ROSE TO THE OCCASION AND LED THE CONGREGATIONAL SINGING” \*

(1952)

When the electricity supply failed on Sunday morning and the lights went out in the Waterloo Road Church the organ, dependent on an electric blower, also faded out. The officiating minister (Rev. W.S. Baker) rose to the occasion and led the congregational singing and thereafter raised the tunes of all the remaining hymns, one of which included the words:

Let your lamps be bright  
And trim the golden flame.

Basing his sermon on the single-word text “Preaching,” the occasion being Local Preachers’ Sunday, the reverend gentleman said there were 4,650 ministers in the Methodist Church, and 22,500 lay preachers. In that circuit of 25 places of worship he was grateful for the services given willingly and sacrificially by the local preachers though he was often at his wits’ end to find 25 preachers on Sunday. There were only two whole-time ministers who could not be everywhere. They stood in need of the services of more local preachers in the circuit and, indeed, throughout Methodism.

“Often at His Wits’ End. Supt. Minister’s Problem—Filling Pulpits.”  
*Ramsey Courier* 8 February 1952: 4g.

It was the Rev. W.S. Baker who “rose to the occasion and led the congregational singing” by raising the tunes of the hymns to be sung due to the failure of the organ. This was a return to the common practice in church and chapel before the advent of the harmonium and the organ.

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\* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “‘Rose to the Occasion and Led the Congregational Singing’ (1952),” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* September (2024), [23].