



The first chapel on the present site was opened on 5 January 1807.

Mr David Simon Davies from Carmarthen College was ordained as the first Minister on 8 August 1811. He was very popular with the members and remained in the Borough until his death on 18 July 1826. He was buried in Bunhill Fields Cemetery. On 19 July 1831 Mr David Davies (again from Carmarthen College) was ordained and remained for many years as a well-loved and popular Minister. In 1866 the Lease on the Chapel expired and the congregation had to move out. After a great deal of fund raising and donations it became possible to buy the Freehold of the site and a new Chapel was built, which is the present Borough Chapel.

The foundation stone was laid on 31 July 1872 by Mr Samuel Morley, MP. In October 1875 the Rev Lewys Thomas was ordained as the first Minister of the new chapel. He had previously been Minister of Bethania, Llanon, and Llwynteg, Carmarthen. He was popular with both the English and Welsh. He remained as Minister for ten years but then became ill. He went to Madeira to try to regain his health but sadly died there on 4 January 1888.

On the first Sunday in August 1890, Rev D C Jones from Bethesda, Merthyr, commenced his ministry and remained in the Borough for over 46 years until his death on 1 September 1936. During his ministry the Chapel thrived. The famous Borough Welsh Choir was formed under the baton of D C James. They won in the National Eisteddfod and were successful in many eisteddfodau in London. They also made gramophone recordings. The Rev D C Jones was very involved with the Choir and he often advised D C James on choice of music. He continued as Minister and died aged 84 on 1 September 1936. He was buried in Dinas, Pembrokeshire in the grave of his wife and only son Campbell. As long as the Borough Chapel remains the memory of Rev D C Jones will be important and valuable in the history of the Chapel.

During the year 1939 Gwilym Bowyer accepted the invitation to become Minister of the Chapel. When he commenced his Ministry on 22 October 1939, the Second World War had started and because of all the uncertainty during this period his ordination was delayed until March 1940. His wife and son returned to Wales, but he remained in London and lived with Mr & Mrs Evan George, who were members of the Chapel. In August 1943 he was invited by Ebeneser Chapel in Bangor to become their Minister, which he accepted, and remained there until 1946. In October 1946 he commenced as the Head of Bala-Bangor College, and remained in the post until his death on 5 October 1965.

The Rev Dr Ifor M Edwards came to the Borough Chapel in 1946. He had previously served Dyfnant Chapel, Swansea. He had left Aberhonddu College in 1944 with a BA and BD. During his time in London he gained two further degrees MTh and PhD from the University of London. He was a keen supporter of the Borough Drama Group and appeared in several of their productions. He was also a keen soccer player and played for Tooting and Mitcham. On Borough Chapel summer outings you would see him playing cricket. He had a good singing voice and sang with the Borough Choir. It was a very sad day when he retired in September 1978 having served the Chapel for 32 years.

After Rev Dr Ifor M Edwards retired the Chapel continued for many years without a permanent Minister. During this time we were fortunate in having the services of many ministers - Erasmus Jones, Roderick Lloyd, D M Thomas, Arfon Jones, and occasionally the Chapel members put together a service themselves. At this time Rev Gwylfa Evans was Minister of Harrow Chapel. He was ordained there in September 1978. In 1983 he became Minister of Radnor Walk Chapel and then the Borough Chapel and Kings Cross Chapel in 1998.