

Chris Topp audio file (recording made February 25th 2022 by Nathalie Hetherington) with contributions from nephew Andy Topp

Running Order (approximate minutes and seconds)

Start - Sturminster Newton and the Primitive Methodist Church

Minutes

1.00 – Move to Milborne Wick and Milborne Port and work at Dyke's.

2.00 – The Methodist Church, the Dykes, the Boys' Brigade and Sunday School

3.30 – The Life Boys and the ToCH¹ and the Methodist Women's Institute

5.30 – Nurse Marshall

6.26 – Reverend Chamberlain and the Youth Club, early 1960s, musical talents and events

9.45 – Reverend Price, holidays, the Sherborne Circuit Youth Fellowship

14.00 – Fundraising by recycling!

16.28 – Miss Chamberlain and the pantomime 'Aladdin'

18.55 – Youth Club social life, Seymour's soft drinks and opening a bank account for the first time at the age of 15!

22.38 – The Scottish holiday and the lettuces!

24.25 – Adventures in Bath and Bill Dewey's Bedford bus²

¹ ToCH was (and still is) a Christian organisation with a long history of promoting social welfare and building the common good. Its mission is: to build the common good in local communities through mutually supportive friendship, neighbourly service and reconciliation with a commitment to social justice and a sustainable environment. The name is an abbreviation for Talbot House, 'Toc' signifying the letter T in the signals spelling alphabet used by the British Army in the World War One; Talbot House was the name of the soldiers' rest and recreation centre named founded in December 1915 at Poperinghe, Belgium.

² Chris is pictured below – fourth young man from the right!

26.07 – The activities of the Boys' Brigade in Milborne Port, the precursor to the Star Wars light sabre! Methodist Church activities, membership and influence

38.00 – Marriage and move to Yeovil in 1967

39.38 – Reflections on the final service and the closure of the Methodist Church in 1988

43.44 – School memories – not the best of times...

47.34 – 'Tuning in' to an apprenticeship and working life with radios – happier times!

55.00 – Mother's work for Dykes, 'heated hands' and a new invention

58.00 – Some place names pronunciation



