

# THE LONDON INDIAN YMCA'S CENTENARY

I am more than pleased to pen a few words about the present celebrated centenary occasion of the London Indian YMCA.

My relationship with this important place is linked to India itself.

Let me tell you why in just a few words.

Mr great Uncle William Goudie and his brother my grandfather James were Methodist missionaries in India over a hundred years ago, and so I grew up with India as a background to my early life.

Their surname commemorates a Methodist Memorial Church in Madras which I hope to visit one day.

William died only three years after the London Indian YMCA was formed (and just before he became President of the British Methodist Conference).

The other reason I have felt close to the Indian YMCA is because the building is nearby to the Post Office Tower, both being in Fitzrovia. In those days the Tower had a revolving restaurant where on occasion I used to dine and the YMCA often caught my eye on my way there and back in the mid-1960s.

In the late 1960s the Worldwide Church of God started to rent the India YMCA main hall for its weekly services, relocating from Dennison House near Victoria Station.

Thus our own 50 year celebration with you!

By that time I had become a church member and I had the privilege of speaking in the hall for the first occasion on July 10<sup>th</sup> 1971.

Since then I have had dozens of preaching opportunities there and I always enjoy my visits - not least due to the courtesy of all those at reception.

So long live our Church's relationship with you all - and long live the Indian YMCA (and long live India!).

Tony Goudie.

293 words.