

The result was that Mr. Harding was appointed Lay Reader and St. George's Church was formally opened on the 12th day of January, 1875 by the Rev. Dr. Smithett. Mr. Golborne had spent considerable time and labour during the preceding weeks in putting the church in order as far as possible for the event. Mr. Harding's reference to the ceremony is contained in his diary in these words:-- "Attended at the formal opening of the church at Apsley. Dr. Smithett preached an interesting and effective sermon and announced that I am appointed Lay Reader by the Bishop, until a clergyman can be appointed after the next ordination in August". A collection realized \$6.51. Mr. Harding commenced his duties on the following Sunday, January 17, starting on his 20-mile journey the day before accompanied by his daughter, an account of which is described in his own words taken from his diary as follows:--

"Jan. 16. Set off to Apsley. Bessie with me. The road through Barnes' place was quite drifted up, and turning a stump the cutter upset and threw us into the deep snow. The horse ran away and smashed the cutter, and we had to turn back and get a jumper, a heavy clumsy thing which fagged the horse and made us very late at Mr. Golborne's where we were kindly received.

Sunday. Fine. Held my first service as Lay Reader in the Church at Apsley. Few there, only about 25. Hoped that such a service every Sunday will be the means of holding the church congregation together until a clergyman can be appointed, and believed such an event followed up in the fear of God will add more to the prosperity of Apsley even in temporal things than anything that has yet been done. May our Gracious God count