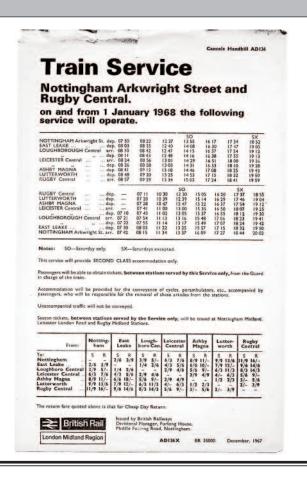
A Handbill for the old Great Central



This handbill from 1968 advertises the few remaining **I** passenger trains along the old Great Central London Extension line from Nottingham, through Leicester Central station, to Rugby. The main line route south of Rugby had already been severed in September 1966, following the withdrawal of the through services to London Marylebone and Banbury. This limited local service offered no direct connections at either end of the route. Tickets were purchased from the guard on the train and could only be booked to the few stations on the line. Season tickets were still available for the declining number of commuters, but their purchase required a visit to a different (staffed) station in Nottingham, Leicester, or Rugby. The handbill also states that cycles and perambulators are carried, but that passengers are responsible for their removal from stations. The point was well-made: most of the stations had been characteristically built with island platforms, where access from the road level could now only be gained by negotiating a lengthy staircase. Since all of the stations were now unstaffed, no assistance or lift would be available. Not surprisingly, the service was sparsely patronised. It survived only until May 1969 when the former Great Central route was totally closed.

Jon Dean

continued from page 24.

esteem which had grown between us'. ²⁰ Even so, he decided that he did not like the label of 'Unitarian' any more than he would have liked being called a 'Trinitarian'; he was 'simply going from one free church to another'. ²¹ The *Leicester Chronicle* commented that:

The town will lose a very powerful religious, social and political influence, which was all the more powerful because it acted mainly below the surface, as it were, and many of us will miss a real friend.²²

What is certain is that Leicester lost a very remarkable man.

Notes and references:

- 1. Leicester Daily Post, 17 June 1884.
- O. Chadwick, The Victorian Church, I (1829-1859), (London, 1966), 547-549.
- 3. The author is indebted to Dr. Geoffrey F. Nuttall for this information.
- 4. Leicester Chronicle, 1 May 1869.
- 5. Ibid., 16 January 1869.
- 6. *Ibid.*, 5 June 1869.
- 7. G. T. Rimmington & A. McWhirr, Gallowtree Gate Congregational Chapel 1823-1921(Leicester, 1999), 13; A Peel, These Hundred Years: A History of the Congregational

- Union of England and Wales (London, 1931), 267; F. B. Lott, Centenary Book of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society (Leicester, 1935), 75-76.
- Leicester Daily Mercury, 18 July 1921. Address by the Revd. Seaward Beddow, B.A., at a memorial service for the Revd. J. Wood held at Wycliffe Congregational Church.
- Wycliffe Church Records (held at Wycliffe United Reformed Church).
- 10. Ibid., n.d.
- 11. *Ibid*.
- 12. Ibid., 31 October 1877.
- The Revd. Seaward Beddow, 'Historical Account of Wycliffe Congregational Church' (unpublished).
- 14. G. T. Rimmington, *Education, Politics and Society in Leicester* 1833-1903 (Hantsport, N.S. Canada, 1978), chapters 4 & 10.
- 15. Leicester Chronicle, 14 June 1884.
- 16. F. B. Lott. Centenary Book of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, 75.
- 17. *Ibid.*, 76.
- Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland9hereafter LLRRO): N/C/MB/3 (Executive Committee Minutes, Congregational Union of Leicestershire & Rutland), 27 April 1874.
- 19. LLRRO: N/C/215/69, 12 October 1658.
- Wood's letter of resignation in Wycliffe Church records, 11 June 1884.
- 21. Leicester Chronicle, 5 July 1884.
- 22. Ibid., 14 June 1884.