



Barrow United Reformed Church was named Jollies Chapel after its founding father, Rev. Thomas Jolley. The children and families can see that there is a foundation stone at the front of school on the chapel.

Thomas Jolley was a minister in the nearby village of Altham. After the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, a new Common Prayer book was issued in 1662 to be used by all churches. Thomas Jolley was a dissenter and he refused. He was therefore not allowed to preach, so he took up preaching from the steps of a farmhouse at Wymmondhouses on the slopes of Pendle Hill. The farmhouse is still there today on the road between Pendleton and Wiswell and there is still a plaque at the rear of the farmhouse commemorating this.

Later, enough money was raised by the people of the church to build a congregational chapel (Congregational Churches joined with Presbyterian Church of England to form United Reformed church in 1972) in the tiny hamlet of Wiswell. Then in 1876 when more room was needed, Jollies Memorial Chapel and Barrow School were built on Old Row, Barrow. This was when school was founded and the Trust Deed was made. At this time Barrow and Wiswell shared the same parish council and it was for children of both villages.

There is a copy of the original trust deeds dated 1876 kept very safely by the United Reformed Church and Blackburn Diocese. As a school with a Church Trust Deed, we have to work hard to fulfil that role and be respectful of what was originally started in 1876.

