

William Gadsby (1773-1844)



William Gadsby was born at Attleborough in Warwickshire on 3 January 1773. When about twenty years of age he was baptised and joined a Baptist Church at Coventry that was pastored by Mr John Butterworth.

In 1796 after marriage to Elizabeth Marvin he moved to Hinckley and joined a few people there that met in a barn. His first sermon was preached on Whit-Sunday 1798 at Bedworth and soon after a chapel was erected for him at Desford in Leicestershire. In the year 1805 he moved to Manchester where he remained until his death

While Pastor over the church in Manchester, Gadsby travelled over 60,000 miles and preached nearly 12,000 sermons. His manner of life was consistent with his profession of Christ; kindness and friendship were conspicuous. Being benevolent and hospitable he was constantly engaged in acts of mercy and he gave food to the hungry. It is said that he was a 'good man' and was made a blessing to thousands.

He died on January 27th 1844 aged 71.