



Oral History – Sunday School



John Trueman, born 1917, Gateshead

John Trueman went to the Sunday School attached to the Saltwell Methodist Church.

"The Sunday School there would be I think about 90 or 100 children, I would imagine. We sat in squares, we had no pews, they were chairs, we used to set the class into a square with one side open. The teacher sat there. That was to stop you getting out I think. And there was girls down one side and boys down the other and then there was some all in the middle as well. But I know the girls and boys were very much separated. And the lesson, I'll always remember the superintendent used to ring a bell, you know for order, you had to stop talking. Then you'd perhaps sing a hymn, have a prayer, take up the collection, then you'd have your lesson. And you sat in these classes and the teacher used to – well we all had Bibles, you know little, small with tiny print which you could hardly see and we used to read round the class. Always did that, I thought it was terrible because what we used to do was count how many verses till yours and just not listen till it got to yours. It was a waste of time but never mind that went on and we read round and then the teacher used to talk about the lesson and add one or two things. That was all we got. We always used to look forward to going because we had quite a bit of fun while we were there."