

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

Inscribed in Stone

by Miriam Silver

This stone laid 1907 by
George Brown sure of Union
At Easter for Sunday School
Arthur Boots remembered also
In stone, Superintendent of
Defunct school once assured
Good works and teaching
Sunday School children believing.
Mr. Harland young Mens devoted
To Bible class, revered in stone
Mr. Smith promotion of Temperance
Central Wesleyan Hall alcohol free
Where school, good people serve
“Brethren ‘neath western sky”
The day Thou gravest Lord
Gone, all good and duty
With the passing of
Henry, Hubert, Arthur and all
By their stones all lessons
Acknowledged forever assured
Their places in heaven.
Mrs Heaton permitted one
On behalf of Mrs Beaumont
With the angels up there
Everlasting the children

Regular attendance obedient
Clasp hands eyes closed
At Sunday School with
Mr Harland superintendent
His assurance and faith
Saw heaven and all is good therein
Long ago 1907 regular church
Kept them on straight paths
Firmly away from evil and Drink
Made sure by Mr.R.W.Smith
Who Temperance preached
Chief executive supporting
Duty, respect, obedience
Saved from demons no longer
Tempted, firmly on the road
To everlasting life
To join the angels
And all that is good therein
Come, the church cures
Good men, now in stone
Never without hat, tie, eyes up
Heaven their business
Piety, holiness, godliness
In 1907, their path was clear
Their faith so sure to them.
God was good they never saw
Twenty first century
Surround their stones with
Tattoos, joggers, trainers, pizzas, innit
Screens, kebabs, tattoos, sex, drugs
Excess, McD's, emails, social media
Ethnic cleansing, church empty,
What's temperance? Open all day.
Heads down, ears shut, no tribute
Pass by, ignore 1907, won't look.
Their stuff, Wi-fi, never
Inscribed in stone, now
Lost, up there to The Cloud.