

In May 2001 a Quinquennial inspection was carried out and a number of defects found that needed work which looked as if it was going to cost a lot of money. It appeared that the main problem was with the Club room /Sunday school . Some thoughts were that it may cost several thousands of pounds to bring up to scratch and that sort of money was not readily available, so it was suggested that it may be better to sell off the building and consolidate into the main Church, perhaps with a small extension to the rear (where the toilet was) so that the vestry could be extended and the various activities that were held could be moved to that area.

The main thing in favour of the idea was that the access would be easier as there would be no stairs to the premises. There was a number of discussions held over the next few months until it was finally decided that the School room should be retained and investigation carried out to see what could be done to repair it, (little did the members realise at that time that the Sunday School room was to be the least of their worries in the next few years).

Heating was to be the first problem that had to be overcome. The gas heating had reached the end of its life. All the heaters were removed and replaced with electric heaters.

Next the Stewards and members decided that the Building was in need of redecoration and remedial work. On further investigation it was found that the organ had reached the end of its useful life at Bordeaux, and if a new home could be found for it then it would be dismantled and shipped. Contact was made with various people to see if anyone was interested, unfortunately there was no interest. As the Church was to be redecorated it was decided to remove the organ and replace it with an electronic keyboard.

Prior to the redecoration, and also acting on the recommendations of the inspection earlier, new windows and doors were fitted to the vestry and toilet areas.

The organ was to be removed early in 2003, however just prior to the removal it was noticed that the floor in the vestry was dropping.

On investigation it was found that all of the beams were rotten and also full of woodworm. This was to be the start of a huge amount of work that if it had been planned would never have taken place. Sometimes the Lord moves in ways that we cannot understand, but if we follow his guidance what seems to be the impossible can be achieved.

The vestry area was closed down until work could be carried out after the organ removal and redecoration of the main Church.

From that start a long list of work was to be carried out.

Removal of the Organ

Replace the floor/ stage area and Vestry floor as rot and worm was found in the wood.

Prior to re-plastering the inside of North and South gables, repairs were made to both outside copings to

stop water ingress.

Removal of a large area of the wooden panelling on the walls around the stage area, again to remove woodworm and rot.

Redecorate the main Church.

Strip ceiling lath and plaster in the vestry due to fear that it was in danger of falling down.

Renew the vestry floor and Re-slate the roof.

Repair the west wall of the vestry due to severe damp damage.

Redecorate the Vestry.

All of the work was completed before Christmas 2004, the majority of the work having been carried out by members of the Church, saving many thousands of pounds. It had only been necessary to call in plasterers and roofers for the specialist jobs.



The Church as it is now in 2008

Once again the Church family gathered around and the funds necessary for the work to be carried out soon came in.

With the Church now in a good state of repair and decoration, the members looked forward to the future with a more positive outlook. The membership remained the same, possibly a slight increase, but there was more of a family feeling in the Church once more.

Fund raising was the next item on the agenda, as an extension to the vestry was necessary. This extension was to include a disabled toilet and easier access for some of the older members. Having to

climb the stairs to the clubroom was proving to be too difficult for some and they were no longer taking part in some of the activities available to them.

By October 2005 the plans had been drawn up and fund raising started. It was necessary for the Church to raise half of the amount required before the work could start, the remainder of the money would be provided by grants available from various sources.

At a meeting in February 2006 the Treasurer reported that funds were available and that we were in a position to be able to start.

Work on the extension started in March 2006 and was completed by the end of September. A thanksgiving/dedication service was held on October the 8<sup>th</sup> with a good number of people attending the service.



The new extension in use

During all the changes that were taking place to the fabric of the Church, the ministry carried on as normal. Fund raising was still a good way of bringing the members together and at the same time ensuring that there were funds enough to keep the Church viable and to meet the donations that were made to a number of charities and overseas aid organisations.

By the middle of 2007 the Church was back to normal. Congregation numbers were averaging around twenty eight attending services regularly, a few new members were starting to trickle in and the Sunday school was still seeing a fair number of young people attending.

However it was felt that an outreach programme might be started in the near future to help bring in some of the people who were on the edge of the Church and may be encouraged to join the congregation at Bordeaux. A suggestion was made that this could be carried out during the Centenary year in 2008 as part of the celebrations that were being planned.

This brings the life of the Church at Bordeaux into the twenty first century. Many things have changed over the last century, but again many things remain the same. One of the most important things is that the members have continued to be the Church at Bordeaux. The struggle to maintain the buildings in which to carry out worship will no doubt continue into the future, however with the strength, belief and love of God that holds them together the members will no doubt fight on as they have for the last hundred years.

**Members of the Church were invited to write about what Bordeaux Church means to them or what memories of Church activities they carried over the years. Here are some of the letters that were received.**

### **What my Church means to me**

My childhood was spent at St Sampson's Methodist Chapel but my mother had been brought up at Bordeaux Mission.

On my return from the evacuation I had great difficulty settling in and attended several Churches till I was invited to go to Bordeaux, which was one of the Churches allowed to stay open by the Germans.

Wilf Ingrouille visited me and invited me and I felt very much at home as he made me feel very welcome and that was the reason that Bordeaux is at the centre of my worship.

Since then I have felt so much love and friendship in the Church worship and I have felt that I was surrounded by God's love when I have needed help. It is such a blessing to know that God is there all the time.

Maud Ingrouille

### **Young Wives Group**

A meeting was called in May 1962 by Mrs Maud Ingrouille with a view to establishing a group catering for young married ladies. This would entail fortnightly meetings consisting of speakers on various social organisations and issues, as well as a devotional element. It was agreed that an effort would be made to have outside visitors such as the Police and Firemen. The upper age limit was set at forty, and the fortnightly subscription would be 1/- or 5p! The intention was that as members reached the upper age limit they would transfer to the Sisterhood. This group met on a weekday afternoon and was more of a devotional meeting. As the financial climate progressed the majority of ladies returned to work when family commitments allowed, and it was therefore not possible to attend afternoon meetings. This has resulted in many of the original members staying on and the title of Young Wives Group was diplomatically changed to Wives Fellowship.

The fact that this group has been running for forty five years demonstrates that it is fulfilling a need, although only a nucleus of members attend Church regularly. Incidentally we have members who belong to other Churches which do not cater for them in the way that Bordeaux does.

### **Fellowship Group**

During the nineteen fifties a Fellowship Group for young people was started by Wilf Ingrouille. Wilf was a staunch Methodist, a local Preacher, Sunday school teacher and Steward at Bordeaux. He had also served as a Circuit steward.

Although he and his wife Ada never had a family of their own, they were both extremely fond of children and young people. Wilf was a person who you could turn to for advice on anything.

The Fellowship Group met once a fortnight and Wilf started the evening with a talk which led to many lively discussions. Being young people we all had different ideas and sometimes the meetings grew to be quite heated, sometimes serious and sometimes something would be said and we would all end up having a good laugh. Whatever was discussed Wilf would be there at the end to put the correct perspective on it.

Every summer Wilf and Ada, who knew the island very well, would take us on a cliff walk, finishing up for supper at a restaurant, a treat for many of us, as we didn't eat out very often in those days. At Christmas there was the great Christmas party to look forward to! Wilf had a great store of party games and after a couple of hilarious hours playing them, we would all troop into Ada's dining room where a marvellous supper awaited us.

Unfortunately Wilf died very suddenly shortly after retiring. He was greatly missed not only by his family, but by everyone at Bordeaux and many others all over the Island.

Mary Drake

### **Memories of Bordeaux**

I first started going to Bordeaux Mission when I met Janet in 1969. My first memories of the Church were the friendly welcome and the relaxed atmosphere, even with the loud voice of Reverend Reuben Bell, who unknown to me at the time, was later to be the Minister at our wedding.

At that time there was a youth club, drama group and choir, all of which were well supported.

Many happy hours were spent with the all the groups. (Yes I was even in the choir for a while.)

Over the years we have had a number of Ministers at the Church all with different ideas and ways of preaching the word, and all of them seem to have enjoyed the fellowship of the Mission at Bordeaux.

I pray that we, the membership at Bordeaux, can continue to follow the way of fellowship that was started by our predecessors.

Graham

## **My earliest memories of Bordeaux Mission by Janet De Jersey**

As a child I was sent to Sunday School twice each Sunday and taken to evening service every week. Sunday School was fun as we were in small groups or classes with a young teacher - who seemed quite old to me then - who taught us seated in areas made by turning one form around to face another. It was fascinating to see the men rearranging the forms exactly the same distance (one large man's shoe) apart.

For two or three years we learnt our catechism, and it was a point of honour to be able to recite the one for the week without needing any prompting. Sometimes, besides the bible stories, we did a bible search. A competition to find a certain book then chapter then verse in the bible. This was perhaps my favourite activity.

In the evening my grandfather collected my mum, brother and myself in his car, along with a really elderly great aunt, and we attended chapel. Granddad was a sides man and greeted people as well as taking the collection during the service, so we always sat at the back of the church. I have a lasting memory of being surrounded by tall people, in dark, heavy overcoats, and just being able to see the hymn board. On the wet winter days the coats smelled of wet wool, gradually drying in the heat supplied by the iron radiators in the hall. The Mission was usually three quarters full, and I can remember Granddad telling us how many people were there that evening, anything between sixty and eighty was normal. (In the middle of winter he would say "There were only forty tonight!"). On the way home he always sang his favourite hymn of the evening and it often was 'Stay master stay upon this heavenly hill'.

I can just recall going to a weekday meeting called Junior Endeavour, but what we actually did there is quite hazy! Soon afterwards we went to Junior Club. That was great fun, where, instead of sitting around fairly quietly as in Sunday School, we could really let our hair down and play darts, table tennis or bar billiards as well as other organised games. It was important to see both sides of Christian living, the fun as well as the learning of the Bible stories.

When I was about nine I was asked to join the choir and that meant going to choir practice each Friday evening at 7.30. I used to ride there on my bike and at first the dark worried me but I learnt that it did not seem so bad if I was singing some of the hymns that I knew, the journey seemed much shorter - unfortunate for anybody I met though! If I arrived there early then I would have to wait quietly as the weekly prayer meeting was taking place in the vestry and all the older members of the choir were in the meeting.

Good Friday was special. We met in the Mission for a lovely tea then went up to the Clubroom where some of the men, I can clearly remember Rev Flint as one of them,

played bar billiards while the rest of us messed around, not too noisily as we were soon put in our places by the men! When the tea things had been cleared away, and the hall seating put back correctly, we returned to the Mission for the Passion Play. It was a powerful way of bringing the Easter story to life. Each year was a different play but it never failed to move me and invariably I ended in tears, particularly during the singing of 'When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died' - I find it just as moving now as I did then.

### **Earliest Memories of Bordeaux Church**

Three times on a Sunday - that's what I remember; and happy to go.

Living at Le Passeur, I'd cut "across land" to La Haute Lande to call for the Ingrouilles: Dennis, Janet, Rod, Terry and Ken. We'd walk to "Uncle" Bert Ingrouille's house (what is now Offington), pile into his car (what luxury) and arrive at the Mission for Sunday School, both morning and afternoon. The Church was re-arranged into classes and we had to learn a catechism each week (Roy was very strict). In winter we'd huddle around the old iron radiators, wet our handkerchiefs with spit and listen to them singing! It didn't take much to amuse us in those days. Sunday School Anniversaries were big events, spread over 2 Sundays because everyone wanted to take part - and it meant a new dress!

I liked to attend evening services with my grandparents and I sat on the back row on the left facing the organ with my Grandpa, who always took the collection. My Gran was in the choir. For me it was a late night and I'm not sure what I got from the services but I always enjoyed when Rev Flint preached, as no matter what his theme, he always included the text "Behold I stand at the door and knock" together with a loud knock on the pulpit.

Sunday was a full day of worship - what is it now?

Shirley Banyard

### **Early Memories**

Imagine going to church three times every Sunday. Well that's just what we did in 1945 - through to the 50s.

My brother and I cycled from the Bridge to Bordeaux Mission, as it was called then, dressed in our Sunday Best Suits to attend Sunday School in the morning and afternoon and Church in the evening.

At lunchtime we were allowed to keep our best clothes on but had to wear an apron to avoid spillage! But, between afternoon school and 6 pm church it was off with the suit and on with casual clothes.

Morning Sunday School was held in the church like a mini church service with a talk given by senior members of the church like Bert or Wilf Ingrouille, Harry Bowles or Cliff Gale and sometimes visiting speakers - like temperance or mission speakers.

But for the afternoon, we turned some of the wooden benches around to create face to face classes, and as we matured we became teachers.

In the evening a full choir of trebles, altos, bass and tenors - well-rehearsed on Friday evenings, - sang to the newly installed pipe organ which had to be pumped by a long wooden handle until electrical power was eventually installed.

Sermons were 25 minutes and very fundamental - often scaring us with graphic description of Hell-fire and the devil's determination to lead us astray.

Other memories include:

Good Fridays - going to the 'track' to watch a football match then off to Bordeaux for a sit down tea, followed by the Good Friday play based on the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Not always totally religious in the portrayal by some of the younger cast!

Sunday School Treats - all climbing on to the back of lorries, sitting on unsecured wooden benches - a very precarious journey - but I don't recall actually losing anybody on the way.

'Socials' in the church, most of the seats removed outside to make room for games, races and a buffet, with Rev Freddie Flint as the MC.

Scrubbing the Church - All the women on hands and knees with scrubbing brushes and hot water carried in by the men who also had to remove and reinstate all the furniture.

Wednesday Evenings - Christian Endeavour meetings - a kind of more relaxed service singing songs from the 'Sankey' hymnbook.

Roy Bougourd

