

In early 1945 the Christian Endeavour came into being. Meetings were to be held in the evenings and as there was no electricity or gas available an alternative source of lighting had to be found to light the Hall. The only fuel available for the paraffin lamps was diesel oil which it seems produced almost as much smoke as flame, many members felt that this added to the comradeship of the meetings. During this period numbers grew and some evenings saw as many as ninety people gathered together.

May 1945 saw the liberation from the German forces. On the morning of May 10<sup>th</sup> the Thanksgiving Service that had previously been planned was held with the three remaining Local Preachers taking part. These were Harry Bowles, Alf Nicolle and Wilf Ingrouille, all three were Tom Ozanne's pupils.

By the end of 1945 the school welcomed back some of their scholars, but they were no longer the little children that had departed for England five years previously. However the school soon started to thrive again and by the end of the year numbers were around seventy. This level continued well into the mid sixties.

Towards the end of the year the Sankey Hymnal was replaced with the Methodist Hymn Book.

The following year it was decided that a lasting memorial should be erected to the one and only Superintendent of Bordeaux Mission. To this end it was decided to purchase an organ. A second hand organ was found at Morley Chapel and this was purchased and a plaque attached with the following. "This organ is dedicated to the memory of T Ozanne – 1870 – 1944 Founder of the Methodist Society at Bordeaux, and Leader until his Death. All the trumpets sounded for him on the other side".

In 1946 it was felt that if the Church was to keep its young people some sort of youth work was needed, however to do this a meeting room would be required. Several attempts were made to procure a hut or small building without success. The old mission hall at that time was again in use as a carpenter's workshop and as such was not available. It would not be until 1953 that the hope that a youth club could be formed was again brought up after Mr and Mrs Lewis Le Maitre offered the old carpenter's workshop.

The letter which was sent to A E Carrington, Secretary, is reproduced as follows.

A.E. Carrington Esq.,  
Secretary,  
Bordeaux Mission Hall,  
Lulworth,  
Lowlands,  
Vale,  
GUERNSEY.

Belle Vue,  
Bordeaux,  
Vale,  
Guernsey.

19th December 1953.

Dear Sir,

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Le Maitre of "Belle Vue", Bordeaux, Vale have, from the 1st January 1954, granted permission to the Trustees of Bordeaux Mission Hall the use of Carpenter's Workshop situate at Grippios de Haut, Bordeaux as a Recreation Room.

The Building will be free of rent during the joint lifetime of Mr. and Mrs. Le Maitre and during the lifetime of the survivor of them.

Yours sincerely,

*Dena Louise Le Maitre  
Lewis Le Maitre*

The conversion of the workshop into a schoolroom needed funding and it was suggested that a bazaar be held.

During the middle years the layout of the Church was such that plays and pantomimes could be held on the platform in front of the organ. A heavy curtain was run on wires stretched from wall to wall across the front of the Church.

Rev Flint often took part in social evenings of informal fun held on the floor of the Church after the forms had been moved to one side. These evenings were very popular and the Church was quite often full of people enjoying themselves.



*Socials - fun evenings were often held in the Mission Church before the 1965 renovation. This one was in 1952.*

The forms were moved about frequently for these events and also they were turned around on Sundays for the Sunday school classes. Morning school was Church style with speakers, afternoons were classes, best suits and dresses were worn.

In the summer of 1954 Bordeaux entered a float in the Battle of Flowers and the efforts of the Church were recognised when the entry was awarded the Prix d'OHonneur. The proceeds were put towards the new schoolroom and the Shield hung on the wall when the room was finished.

The opening and dedication of the schoolroom was held on Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup> 1954. Mrs Sally Ozanne, widow of the founder of the Mission, declared the building open. A short service of thanksgiving and dedication was held by superintendent minister Rev MacAulay W Powell and Rev Deryck U Adams, who was the minister at Bordeaux at the time.

A bazaar was held at St Sampson's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of December 1954 with the kind permission of the Trustees.

Hailed as a financial success beyond everyone's highest hopes it raised £534 and once again joined the members of both societies together in fellowship and co-operation.

Life in the Church in the middle years saw the young people of the Church meeting together regularly on Sunday evenings at eight. A joint newsletter "The St Sampson's and Bordeaux Messenger" was set up and this helped to foster interest between the two Churches.

Another change saw the members deciding that the Christian Endeavour had finally ceased to meet the needs of the young people and was discontinued. But the essential work of the Church went on.

At a Leaders meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1960 a report from the Trustees stated that the building had been examined inside and out and that there was a substantial amount of work to be done in order to repair and redecorate the building. A rough estimate of £1500 or more would be needed to carry out the work.

The Trustees asked the Leaders to form a small work committee to oversee the work to be done. The Committee members were John Bichard, Wilf Ingrouille and Ron Willcocks.

The work that was to be carried out and the estimated amount required for each section of the project was:

Outside toilets £200, outside decoration £150, inside decoration £400, heating £400, organ overhaul £263, organ screen £50, and floor covering £100. This totalled £1313 but would finish closer to £2000 with unforeseen expenses.

Fund raising for the work was discussed at a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1961 and a way of raising the money was devised. A "Renovation Direct Give" envelope was introduced in the first week of May 1961 and continued until August 1964. A total of £1450 was raised over a period of three years. It was a tribute to the members of the Church that the weekly collections did not suffer over the period.

On January 20<sup>th</sup> 1964 the renovation plans and drawings were presented to the Church Council. Work started on the renovations in May, with many of the members taking part.

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The Church just prior to renovation 1964

It was found that the ceiling needed a lot of work particularly behind the wooden cladding. The window above the vestibule was rotten and the glass loose, the wall around the area was stained from dampness.

The wall where the organ stood needed to be re-designed around the organ, choir stalls and doorway.

To achieve this, the choir stalls were removed, the organ lowered by two feet and a new doorway opened to the right hand side of the organ. The two doorways would be gothic in style to add a feature to the area. The right hand door leading out into a newly constructed hall leading into the vestry and outside to a new toilet.

The Organ up to this date had been pumped by hand and it was decided to update this to an electrically operated air pump.

All the forms were sanded and re-varnished by Church members, the work was carried out at Don Ingrouille's vinery.

Wiring was renewed in the vestry and under the raised floor, and the organ connected up. The cross at the front of the Church was also lit up from behind.

A rededication service was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> 1964. Rev Evans led the service and Rev Adams assisted and gave the address. Rev Sir John Leale was also invited to the service.



Renovation completed

Shortly after this service the Trustees of the Church put forward the idea that the name of the Church be changed from

“Bordeaux Wesleyan Mission Hall” to “Bordeaux Methodist Church”. It was proposed by Mr Wilf Ingrouille and seconded by Mr John Bichard and agreed by all present.

At this time morning services were introduced and the Sunday school was to be held only once per day.

During the sixties a number of the Church members decided to set up a drama club and to put on plays, both religious and light hearted. The first plays were put on in the Church and also in the rooms at St Sampson's.

Later the carpenter's workshop, now the Sunday school and clubroom, was used and was often packed with people enjoying the plays put on by the group. Over a period of a few years the activities of the drama group became well known and the Guernsey Press often reported on the activities going on.



*Plays and Concerts - a regular feature of post-war years.*



*One of the last religious Easter plays to be held either in the Church or the Schoolroom.*

Sometime in the early seventies work was carried out on the roof of the Church when the whole of the west side of the roof was stripped off and re-slatted. This was quite an expensive exercise but one that was part of the ever continuing maintenance that was necessary to keep the fabric of the Church in good order.

In 1977 the Church was on a low. Money was short and expenses were high with increasing assessments and maintenance costs. As always the members looked for a way to keep their little Church going, even though the prospects did not look good. Some members, at a meeting to discuss the situation, even suggested that maybe it was time to consider closing down, but this was looked on as a very last resort.

Instead it was suggested that a means of raising the money should be looked into. The outcome was that the £1977 fund was set up.

A committee was formed to draw up events to generate funds, and a number of jumble sales, gift days, an outdoor summer fete, auction, a flower festival and pantomimes were held.

Of all the events the one that stood out was the outdoor summer fete held on the headland to the northeast of Bordeaux harbour. All sorts of events were held, sideshows, stalls selling all sorts of goods and food, fun events which included some members of the Church being chained into the stocks and being pelted with wet sponges. This took the Church out to the people and was hailed by all that it was well worth doing.

The target was reached, indeed was beaten, but more importantly during the year the hard work once again brought the Church family closer together.

October 1979 saw a great step forward when Mr and Mrs Le Page, who now owned the clubroom, offered it to the Church for a very reasonable price of £2750. This offer was taken up and the building added to the Church assets. Access to the building had to be changed and steps were added to the front of the building.

This ensured the events of the Church would be able to continue far into the future and the Sunday school would have an area of its own, Monday group, young wives and the Sisterhood, which was still going strong, would also always have somewhere to gather.



*The Sisterhood all lined up for a photograph outside the Schoolroom.*

This period in time also saw the formation of the Junior Choir. The young people filled the Church on many occasions, with people coming in to hear them sing. The Junior Choir won the “Sunday Schools Choir Trophy” at the Eisteddfod a number of times during the seventies and eighties.

Fund raising had become part of the Bordeaux Church lifestyle as this was the only way that the Church could keep its head above water. However as on many occasions before, these events generated a bond between the members and strengthened them to be able to continue with the work of God at Bordeaux.

Removal of the old benches took place in early 1998. The benches were replaced with chairs which made it easier to move about and more comfortable for the congregation.

The chairs were financed by some money from the current account, however the majority of the cost was met by running the autumn fayre, a gift day and members buying a chair at £51 each.

At about this time the stewards realised that the electrical wiring was in a poor state and required updating at a cost of around £5000. This ensured that the Church and clubroom came up to modern standards. The work was completed towards the end of 1999

During all the years that the Bordeaux Church had been open the scene had been much the same, although numbers varied from decade to decade the Church was still alive and working. The choir was now at a low ebb and needed members, the hope was that they would come again. The Junior Church numbers were low but still operating, some of the other Churches had to close their Sunday schools for lack of young people. Bible study and prayer meetings still operated together with various Christian meetings chaired by the Minister and sometimes other Churches. Monday group, and women’s fellowship still had a good following. The Sisterhood no longer existed but the heart of the Church was still there.