

Friday evening November 7<sup>th</sup> 1904 saw the beginning of the Methodist Society at Bordeaux.

A meeting was held by members of the Mission Band at St Sampson's for the purpose of "reforming the Mission Band" at one of two possible places. One was at Bordeaux and the other was at the Salt Pans in St Sampson's, Bordeaux was the choice arrived at, and it was decided to find premises in the area to use as a mission room.

Some of those present at the meeting were :

Rev C F Braithwaite, Messrs A A Upham, J Ozanne, W Aslett, H Bougourd, Rowe, Le Page, Domaille, T Robin, P F Dorey, E W Saunders, F W Johns, and T Ozanne.

Mr W Sebire's carpenter's workshop (now the Church clubroom) was rented for £5 per annum and made good to serve as a Mission Room.

At a further meeting on Tuesday January 31<sup>st</sup> 1905 it was decided to open the Mission Room at Bordeaux on Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm. It was also decided to hold services on Sunday evenings at 6.30 pm and to start a Sunday school which would be on at 10 am and 2.30 pm. A handbill was drawn up to advertise the opening of the Mission hall inviting all to the opening and announcing that all services were to be in English.

On the back of the handbill a message declared that,

**"Religion is not a thing of forms and ceremonies, but a heart-love for, and personal devotion to, the Lord Jesus Christ".**

The Mission Room was full for the opening meeting.

*Copy of Handbill announcing the Opening Ceremony.*

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## *Bordeaux Mission*

MR. W. SEBIRE'S LATE CARPENTER'S SHOP.

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You are heartily invited to the

# OPENING SERVICE

on

THURSDAY EVENING NEXT, AT 7.30 O'CLOCK

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**REV. C. F. BRAITHWAITE will preside**

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Addresses will be given by

**Mr. A. UPHAM, Mr. T. ROBIN,  
and Mr. T. OZANNE.**

**Mr. E. Johns and Miss Amy Ozanne will sing.**

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Services will be continued every Sunday Evening, commencing at 6-30 o'clock. Also Sunday School at 10 a.m. and 2-30 p.m., to which parents are kindly asked to send their children.

ALL THE SERVICES WILL BE ENGLISH

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**COME.**

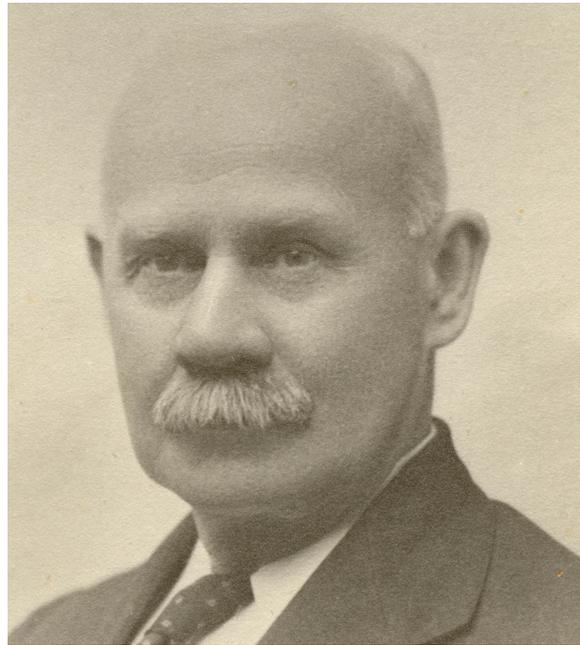
**COME.**

**COME.**

The Sunday school was opened the following Sunday with Fred Johns conducting the service and twenty one scholars attending.

Copies of the Sankey hymn book were borrowed from the St Sampson's P.S.A. for the first services and the larger edition was the hymn book of the Bordeaux Methodists for many years.

In these early years the work at Bordeaux was led by Mr T Ozanne who also acted as secretary and Superintendent of the Mission. A Thursday evening meeting was started and also a Band of Hope.



Superintendent of the Mission.

Mr Tom Ozanne

Very soon a committee was formed to undertake the direction of the work and make arrangements for the Sunday services.

Early members of that committee were W Dowington, G Forsey, C Henwood, T Robin, W Aslett, C Johns, W Webber, F Green, J Corbet, J Quesnel, W Roberts, G Davey and T Mahy.

At the first Anniversary meeting in February 1906 Mr T Ozanne reported that, with few exceptions, the Mission Room had been full on Sunday evenings. The services during the year had been taken by him and local brethren.

The school numbered seventy three and the Band of Hope which had started on October 10<sup>th</sup> 1905 with forty eight members, had increased to one hundred and two by February 1906.

The Thursday evening meeting had continued and a Society Class had been formed which met on Mondays. It started with nine members and at the time of the Anniversary numbered twenty. The income for the year was £34 4s 6d and when all expenses had been met a balance of £2 4s 1d remained.

During the second year the Mission appeared on the Circuit Plan. Preachers were appointed as for the other places on the Circuit, two or three appointments only being left for the local committee to supply. The Sunday school had grown to ninety scholars and ten teachers. The Band of Hope had one hundred and forty names on the roll. The number in Mr Ozanne's class was now thirty.

A prayer meeting was being held each week.

To these normal weekly activities were added the Band of Hope monthly meetings, the Anniversaries – Sunday school and Mission, the Annual Sunday school outing the Harvest festival and sale of produce and the Christmas parties together with the Carol singing. The Annual Sunday school outing, of course, included the visit to Pleinmont or L'Ancrese in horse drawn vans. All these formed the pattern of activities in the worship and fellowship of the Mission for a number of years.



An early Church outing using horse and wagonette

At a meeting of the Mission Committee on October 10<sup>th</sup> 1906, the members agreed unanimously that due to the number of members using the Mission, the time had come, that better accommodation was required for the carrying on of the work at Bordeaux. They also decided to send their resolution to the Leaders' Meeting at St Sampson's.

In Mr Ozanne's report to the Anniversary Meeting in February 1907 he ended his address with the following "The last item, but not the least, is that I am very glad to be able to report that a plot of land has been secured from Mr Peter Le Maitre, on which we hope soon to build a more commodious Mission Hall, in which I trust we shall be able to carry on the work of God more successfully than ever."

At a meeting of St Sampson's Trustees on June 12<sup>th</sup> 1907 a resolution was passed that a start be made on a building scheme at Bordeaux with an estimated cost of £400. The plot of land that had been secured would allow a Mission Hall of 45 ft x 26 ft and a vestry 16 ft x 13 ft.

A body of Trustees was formed, with Mr John Leale being the first Treasurer and A E A Carrington the Secretary, to consider plans and approve the proposed new building.

The Trustees promised £100 to enable the project to start.

A later Trustees' meeting held on November 28<sup>th</sup> 1907 at St Sampson's the following tender from Mr H J Bougourd was read as follows.

"I am prepared to undertake the building of a Mission Hall at Bordeaux, according to the plan submitted, and approved by the District Chapel and Manchester Committee, for the sum of £500. The above price includes the Hall, Vestry, Toilet and Boiler house as shown, also 325 ft run of seating as sample and a ventilator in the roof. All the best materials to be used. The laying of the Foundation stone would take place in January 1908 and be completed for the opening of the Mission Hall in July 1908"

After the scheme had been presented to the Bordeaux friends a further £50 was promised.

The Stone laying Ceremony was carried out by Mr T Ozanne, in his shirt sleeves, under the direction of the foreman mason. The large crowd that gathered for the event later sat down to tea together in Mr Peter Le Maitre's coach house which was packed with people for the evening meeting.

A collection resulted in a further £56 10s 0d being collected, it brought to a close a day that would be long remembered in connection with the work of God at Bordeaux.

The new Mission Hall was opened on Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup> 1908 by Mr John Leale.

During the early part of the day it was stormy and wet, and the prospects of serving tea in a tent, in a field nearby, looked very gloomy indeed. However shortly after noon the weather cleared and a very happy function marked the opening of the new premises.

It would seem that the final cost of the building was in the region of £650. A final effort towards raising the funds was carried out in association with St Sampson's Church, by holding a bazaar. Bordeaux friends equipped and manned a stall and were guaranteed £100 from the proceeds.



*Crammed into the tent for the official opening of the Mission Church in 1908.*



The team who helped prepare refreshments for the opening  
of the hall in 1908

The Sunday school soon numbered one hundred and ten, with fourteen teachers. The Band of Hope had one hundred and forty-three with sixteen adult workers. The members of the Society class numbered thirty eight.

A Choir was formed under the leadership of Mr G Forsey, who would have been delighted if he had known that the efforts that were made by him in these early years, would result in the choir being a feature of the Church for the next century.



The pattern of services and meetings, of fellowship and activities, which were developed in the early years continued to evolve although membership changed through the years.

Members of the Young People's class formed in early 1910 provided a team of young workers who were keen in their service and, as the years passed, became pillars of the work in the Church.

The First World War resulted in a number of the young men being taken away from the Church, some of them never to return.

The older members kept the flag flying at home and the Church maintained a good heart and strength, until the war ended and they were joined once more by the returning soldiers.

With the end of the war new hope was born. The organisation and administration of the work by committee gave way to the more orthodox procedure of a Methodist constitution for a local society. The committee changed from time to time, and in addition to those names mentioned earlier were E Baker, H Marriette, A Le Maitre, T Dobson and J Sauvay. Many others were associated with the work of the church in those first 20 years, in fact too many to mention in this book.

In 1926, the twentieth anniversary, a special tea and meeting were held. The Trustees were invited as guests of the Leaders. Jurat John Roussel took the chair and Rev E Jones was the speaker.

That year also saw the Hall licensed for the solemnization of marriage. The first couple to be married were Mr and Mrs A C Heaume (Lena Duquemin), the Rev Sam Magor leading the service. Also in that year it was decided that rather than sell the fruit and vegetables given at the Harvest Festival services they would be distributed to the Hospitals.

By 1930 some felt that the Church was in need of a Revival as the Prayer meetings and Class meetings had lost some of their fervour.

A young student from Cliff College came to Bordeaux in 1931. His name was Billy Atkins and he had been holding a series of services at St Martin's Mission Hall. He held a week of special services at Bordeaux and a number of young people decided to accept Christ as their Saviour. As a result the

Young People's class meetings again flourished, Mr Alf Nicolle was the leader, and later Mr Henry Bowles took over the office. The Sunday school numbered a hundred with a good staff of teachers.

In 1937 a Children's Gift Service on the Sunday afternoon of Harvest was held and continued for many years, indeed a similar theme continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Late summer 1939 saw the start of the Second World War.

Mr Bert Ingrouille made a suggestion that perhaps the women folk would like an afternoon meeting during the week. This was supported by the Leaders and the Sisterhood was born.

The first meeting took place on October 18<sup>th</sup> led by Rev Romeril who, at the meeting, suggested that a working party be formed to make anything which might be useful to the men of the Church who would be called up. Little did they know what was to happen in the not too distant future.

June 21<sup>st</sup> 1940 saw the evacuation, only ten scholars were left in the Sunday school, a huge drop from the one hundred that normally attended.

A few days after the evacuation, the German Forces arrived in the Island, on a Sunday evening. The few who were left at Bordeaux had gathered for the evening service. Rumour was rife about what was to happen and some were full of fear at the possible outcome. After an hour together in God's House they found strength and comfort, ready to face whatever the future was to hold for them.

Sunday School was kept going with a children's service in the morning, the teachers taking it in turn to give talks and lead services for the children.

Evening services were held during the summer months. However in the winter, services were held in the afternoons due to problems with lighting and curfews.

On Sunday evenings during the winter months quite a number of the Church members gathered together at a member's home for evenings of community singing, curfew at this time was set at 10 pm.

The minutes of the Leaders Meeting held on March 10<sup>th</sup> 1942 contained this note. "A general conversation then took place on the Spiritual side of the Mission, and it was felt that there was very much to be thankful to Almighty God for, that we had been kept together and His blessing had rested upon us, and our efforts in connection with the work carried on." This was the last entry signed by T Ozanne, Secretary.

Sometime during this period a message from the German Occupying Forces was received by the Trustees saying that an officer would call to see the Mission Hall. The letter gave the time for the meeting. This caused concern amongst the people at Bordeaux as several places of worship had already been taken over by the Germans, most of the buildings being used as stores.

Chapel steward Mr Martin Renouf met the Officer and showed him around the Church. He was asked questions about the Mission and the congregation attending, which he answered, adding that "Well sir, if you take it we will have to find somewhere else, but we hope you won't take it". The Officer nodded but made no comment, shook hands and left.

No more was heard. The Occupying Forces could have taken over the building, but didn't.

