

18th October
2001

OASTFIELD
12 ST. LAWRENCE FORSTAL
CANTERBURY
KENT CT1 3PA
Telephone: 01227 462503

Dear Dr. Raraby,

May I seek your help
and advice?

You may know that the Methodist
Chapel on Pettibourne Road is this
year celebrating its 107th year. At
the Chapel Council meeting on Monday,
it was decided that members would
like to compile a book of information and
data they would about the origins
and development of the chapel and
its relationship to the community
since its founding. Who in fact were
the founders?

Could you advise me of
any sources or records that contain

such information?

I myself first came to live in
Buxton in 1964 when Mr. Purssord
the sexton was the sexton in
charge. I wonder if there are any
records available before that time?
My wife is at present treasurer for
the chapel.

We would be most
grateful to you for any guidance
you can give us in attempting
to get the information.

Yours sincerely,
J. H. Higginson

25th October

OASTFIELD
12 ST. LAWRENCE FORSTAL
CANTERBURY
KENT CT1 3PA
Telephone: 01227 462503

Dear Dr. Rerick,

Thank you very much
for your prompt reply.

I will certainly keep
you informed of anything I
come across with reference to
the origins of the Bridge
Crestle.

I look forward to seeing
the piece you have written as
I've not seen it previously.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. Higginbotham

26th October

OASTFIELD
12 ST. LAWRENCE FORSTAL
CANTERBURY
KENT CT1 3PA
Telephone: 01227 462503

Dear Dr. Paraty,

What a splendid piece of
reference!

Thank you very much for this
informative groundwork on Bridge and
its response to the every evolution
of Methodism.

I don't know how far you
are acquainted with the recent
developments which have led to the
pleading of the Bridge chapel
in the new North Eastern Kent
Circuit, but it is a curious
repetition of earlier squabbles
that you record. Alas! human

nature doesn't change much!

I've a few further
threads to follow up and if
I come across anything more
likely to be of interest to you
I will certainly send it on
to you.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. H. H. H. H.

41 Bridge Down
Bridge
Canterbury CT4 5BA
23 October 2001
01227 830508
<mmraraty@btinternet.com>

Dear Dr Higginson,

Thank you for your enquiry about the Methodist Chapel in Bridge. It so happens that I wrote a little piece last year to add to the Exhibition we put on in the Village Hall for the Millennium (which you may have seen?), and your enquiry has prompted me to look at it again and revise it a little. I am sending it to you under separate cover. It includes virtually all I know on the subject.

The exhibition contained photocopies of various documents whose whereabouts are unknown to me: these include the original authority to build from Manchester and the detailed invoice of costs. Most of the rest of the information comes from the Conyngham family papers which are stored at Whitfield. I don't know of anything else: I might have hoped that you could tell me!

-Presumably the site of the Chapel was bought from Bifrons, rather than rented: it may even have been donated. I don't know, as there is no record. There is a discrepancy between the estimated and actual costs of some £37, which may account for the site. The Chapel structure itself cost £99.

Treasurer at the time was William Perry (b 1856) a grocer- could well have continued until 1908.

Secretary was Edwin Lansdell (b 1846)

Minister was William Rodwell Jones - I haven't traced him yet.

The Trust Treasurer from 1908 until his death in July 1936 was Mr HG Price, (also the village grocer, whose shop is now Skippers Restaurant.

I shall be very glad to know of anything more that you can assemble or uncover.

Yours sincerely,

Chapel closed and sold 2013 - only 4[?] parishioners left.

Methodist Chapel - Bridge

The first record of Methodism in the Village is a minute dated 1823 authorising one William Fordred to rent a house for Methodist Meetings 'at no more than 2/6 per week'. He was obviously successful as a Methodist Society was formed with 14 members in 1892(sic). The March Preaching Plan of 1827 shows that services were held on Sundays at 10.30am and 6.30pm, and 10.30am and 2.30pm on alternate weeks. Thus began the gradual build up to 1984. However the first non-conformist Chapel in Bridge was built by the Primitive Methodists in 1868 (The original Treasurers Book is still available) This was situated in Dering Road almost opposite Filmer Road and was built of wood [in use as a dwelling when demolished in 1951].

The Wesleyans meanwhile continued to meet in the rented house until the 'Iron Chapel' was built in 1894. There was some controversy with the Chapel Committee in Manchester, who preferred a brick built structure as more economical in maintenance, and if this choice were made, were prepared to advance a loan to assist finances. However should the Trustees persist in their choice of an 'Iron Chapel' then no loan would be forthcoming, furthermore they decreed that all the money for the Chapel must be raised before permission would be given for the opening. It must be 'debtless'. The Wesleyans of Bridge were stirred to greater fund raising efforts, and by dint of [a] lot of hard work raised the money.

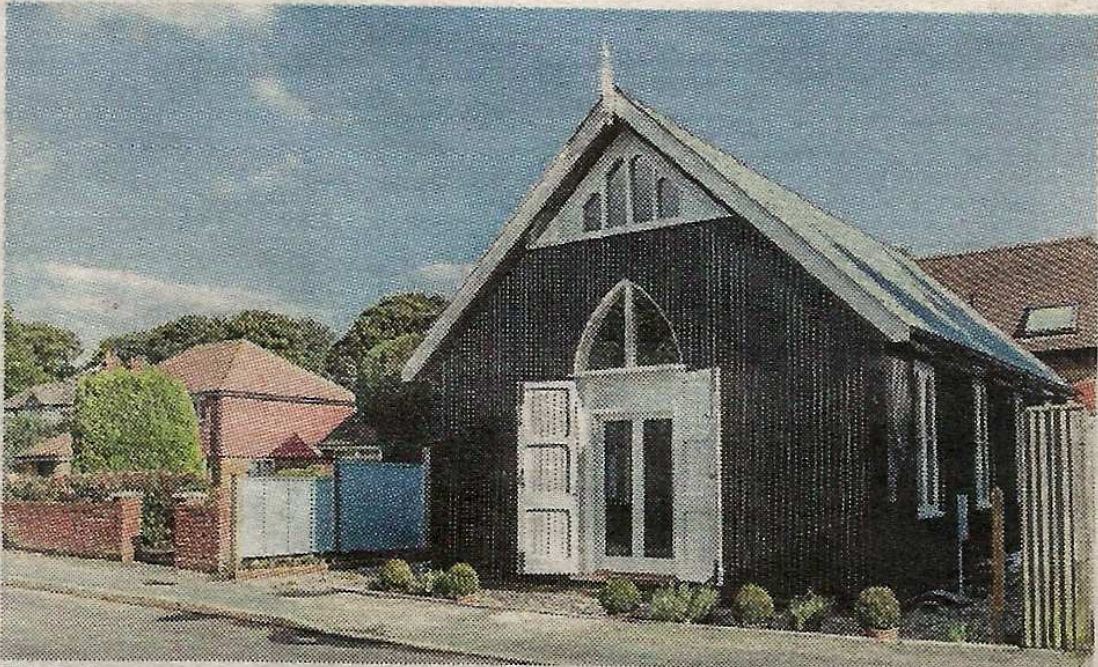
The cost of the building, seating, hymn books, mats and oil lamps amounted to £139-17-0¼ (The farthing showing in the costing for matting, carpets etc £1-4-9¼)

ONE HUNDRED YEARS from that momentous occasions for those humble men and women, the church is used for worship regularly, and many village organisations have made good use of the premises. During the Second World War the baby clinic operated from the Chapel and continued until 1987. From oil lamps and coal burning stoves, to gas lamps and fires, to electric lighting and power, gas fired convector heaters and double glazed windows, the church has moved with the times, and plays its part in the community.

Pat Grant

Transcribed from the text of the 'Methodist Chapel' board from the 1994 Bridge Parish Centenary Exhibition

FOR
A wonderful former house in a glorious rural position
4 Reception rooms | Kitchen/breakfast room | Garden room | Cellar
4 Bedrooms (1 en-suite) | 2 Bathrooms | Swimming pool | Garage
Gardens | 4 Stables | Manege and paddocks | About 9 acres
Region of £1,325,000



Bridge

A2/M2 1 mile, Canterbury 3 miles, Central London 63 miles

A rare opportunity to purchase a unique former chapel which has been a local landmark for many years

Open plan kitchen/sitting/dining room | 2 Bedrooms (1 en-suite)
Mezzanine office/double bedroom | Bathroom | Parking | Garden

Region of £395,000



Edward Church
Kent



Jane Layfield
Canterbury



Michelle Mannering
Canterbury



Philip James
Sevenoaks

 OnTheMarket.com

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