

## SAMPFORD COURTENAY METHODIST CHAPEL.

(Taken from "The Book of Sampford Courtenay with Honeychurch"

by Stephanie Pouya)

- The Sampford Courtenay Bible Christians initially met in the upstairs room of the small building, now a single storey garage, adjacent to Alberries Cottages in the square. An outside staircase gave access to the upper floor.



- In 1876 Robert Hawkins senior, of Beerhill, who had purchased the cottages from King's College, gave a small plot of land nearby for the construction of a chapel. The cornerstone was laid on 3 April 1876 and the chapel opened on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1877.



- At the opening celebration 160 visitors and friends sat down to tea and at the evening meeting the chapel was so crowded that many could not get in.
- When the new chapel was opened, the old meeting room was used as a Sunday School.
- In about 1900 Bible Christian Services were also held in the waiting room of Sampford Courtenay Railway Station. A congregation of about 20 people assembled each Sunday afternoon at 3pm. William Brock, who farmed Restland, drove his daughter Katie by pony and trap to the station where she played the harmonium.
- When the chapel in the Square re-opened in 1958 following re-furbishment to the roof there was a celebration in the Village Hall.



Left to right, standing Winnie Wooldridge, Renee Piper, Amy Seaward, Audrey Reddaway, Shirley Reddaway, Phyllis Piper, Emily Cockram, Daisy Westlake, Betty Robertson, Barbara Johnson, Emily Arscott, Clarice Shead, Seated – Mary Cleverdon, Mrs Sherwood, Becky Horn, Sarah Sherwood, Beatrice Reddaway, Valerie and Rose Hawking, Lena Sanders.

- 2014 – Falling congregations and death of several stalwart members of the congregation led to the closure of the chapel and its sale for development into dwellings.
- 2021 – Following pictures show work in progress in turning the Sunday School and Chapel into two dwellings.

