

Baptist Church Opening

Isle of Thanet Gazette - 6th June 1925

"The inaugural service for the opening of the newly built Baptist Chapel was conducted this week."

The congregation had first begun to worship in Birchington in a specially built chapel in Canterbury Road, now used by Mullany's Roofing. The roof of this building still contains the original wrought iron framework, very probably forged in the smithy across the road opposite the church. The building appears to have been erected in about 1850-60.

When this building became too small, the congregation moved into the Institute at the rear of the north side of the Square. This was not an ideal situation, as so many other people needed to make use of this building. In 1924, the group set up a fund-raising tent on the plot of land where the middle paper shop now stands. At that time, the land had recently been bought by Mr Barrow, with the idea of building a shoe repair and leather goods shop there. He was a staunch Baptist and offered to let them have the section of land at the rear of his piece for a new chapel.

They collected funds all through the year and during the early part of 1925 their new chapel was built.