

Spiritualists' new £20,000 church

MEXBOROUGH'S new National Spiritualist Church headquarters is a bright £20,000 Bank Street Building. A distinguished Minister and officer of the National Spiritualist Church, Mr. Gordon Higginson opened it on Saturday in the presence of a large congregation, which included Mrs. R. Kennerley, president of the Sheffield Group of Spiritualist Churches.

Mr. Higginson said, "This magnificent and beautiful building is a great credit to all who have been associated with it.

"This is something to shout about.

We hope that Mexborough's new church can produce

mediums, speakers and healers. We want to hear of good works from this lovely church.

"We exist to comfort the

bereaved, heal the sick and tell the world about God. Death is but a doorway.

"Heaven is here on earth, and in death spirits simply move from one dimension to another. We believe firmly in the brotherhood of man and will have no part of racial prejudice.

"The only way to understand life is through the understanding of death."

Mrs. Kennerley said, "I am more than happy to be here as one who has worked in the West Street building.

"The church will be as successful as its members make it."

President of the church, Miss Eva Cliff, told the congregation that happiness was all important in the life of the church.

She was confident that the new Mexborough church would bring a lot of joy.

The new church, sprung up through the demolition of the old building for the Relief Road project, marks spiritualism's move into its second half-century in the town.

Around the turn of the century members met in the old arcade situated where Post Office Square now stands.

About 1930 the West Street church was opened by Dr. Bhalla.

Officials of the Mexborough church to-day are: President, Miss Cliff; secretary, Mrs. Blanche Goss; treasurer, Mrs. M. Dryden, vice-presidents, Mrs. E. Rigby and Mrs. Moulson; and area representative, Mr. Joe Stocks.

Mr. Stanley Webb, a trustee, one of the original West Street members, was present at the opening ceremony.

Drawing new members

Miss Cliff said afterwards, "We hope the new church will attract a lot more members.

"We are very fortunate in having this lovely building which should allow us to do a lot of good work."

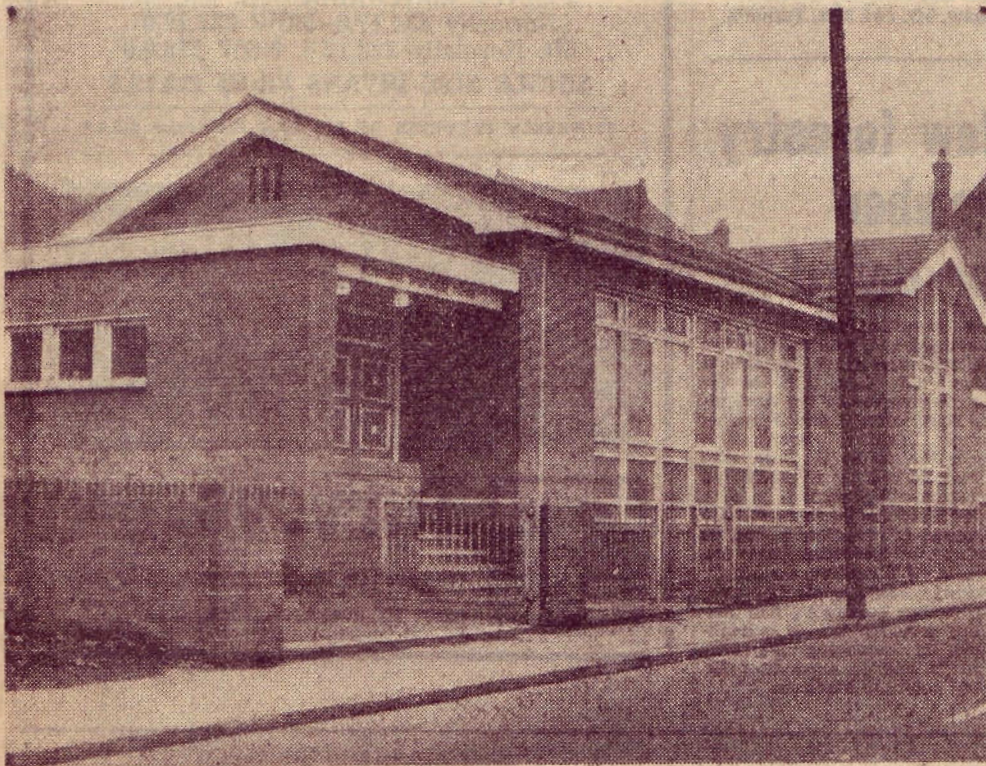
The first service and seance at the church was held on Sunday.

The church, fronting on to Bank Street, is a brick built construction faced with Matby Metallic Washington grey facing bricks and the pitched roof is finished with Redland grey slates.

Heated throughout with up-to-date gas heaters, the church comprises the main church hall, a schoolroom, an adjoining speaker's room, kitchen, entrance hall, toilets and a small store.

The building is very well finished inside and the hardwood floor in the church and schoolroom, the hardwood dais in the main hall and the veneered flushed doors are of particular note.

The attractive kitchen is equipped with stainless steel sink units and other storage units and the floor is finished with Vinyl tiles.



THE NEW MEXBOROUGH SPIRITUALIST CHURCH officially opened on Saturday. (W2160)



MR. GORDON HIGGINSON opens the new Mexborough Spiritualist Church on Saturday. Also pictured are Miss E. Cliff (left), the President, Mr. A. Wifugust, Mrs. R. Kennerley and Mr. R. Thorpe. (W2159)