

Capel



CYMDEITHAS TREI'TADAETH Y CAPELI
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter 64 Autumn 2014

Cylchlythyr 64 Hydref 2014

Spring in North Pembrokeshire...

The day began with a cup of tea at the Old School in Little Newcastle, which is now a useful community facility, followed by the AGM and then the days talk by Richard Davies on the nonconformist heritage of Little Newcastle and Puncteston. During his detailed talk our speaker drew attention to the arrival of Quakers, Moravians, Mormons, the Baptists in 1697 and the revival of 1795 in the area. He also gave details of notable residents of the village and the arrival as well as the larger Baptist and Methodist denominations and discussed several interesting individuals from the area, including William Gambold a correspondent of the Edward Lhuyd, the Welsh antiquary, the great grandfather of the American outlaw Jesse James and Black Bart the Pirate, who had attended Baptist services in the village! The talk concluded with an overview of more recent activity and was delivered with authority and a sense of humor.

Following the talk we made the short trip to the church to admire the stunning stained glass, before driving down to Beulah, a Baptist chapel near Afon Anghof. A long wall chapel was first built on



Beulah Baptist Chapel (NPRN 10974) © RCAHMW

the site in 1808 and rebuilt as a gable entry twice in 1874 and 1887 and finally restored in 1910. The impressive Arts and Crafts façade surrounded by trees makes for an atmospheric site. The interior consists of a gallery around three sides with a pulpit in the same wood and oil lamps from the 1910 restoration. The last service took place at Christmas 2012 and the building is now empty. We then returned to the Old School in Little Newcastle for a cawl lunch, before moving on to Puncteston.

We arrived at the Baptist chapel of Smyrna where we looked around the interior and then had a talk from members of the congregation about their history. The first chapel on the site was built in 1827 after the Puncteston Baptists, led by Benjamin Davies and John George, pushed to create a daughter chapel here from Beulah. A fracture came in 1870 when differences of opinion caused Smyrna to split from the mother chapel, something that came at a difficult time as the chapel was in the middle of being rebuilt. The new chapel opened in 1871 despite still needing decoration and a lighting system, and was officially reopened May 1872. The chapel was restored in 1928 when the current heavy concrete render was applied.



Bethania Welsh CM Chapel (NPRN 11759) ©RCAHMMW
The chapel was rebuilt in 1891/2 by Griffith Jones and Son of Penffordd who were also the designers. It is built in the Simple Round-Headed style with stone walls, a slate roof and a gable entry plan. The external walls are concrete rendered with inscribed lines to mimic ashlar stonework. The central door has a fanlight with marginal glazing. The interior is unusual, with a low plain plaster

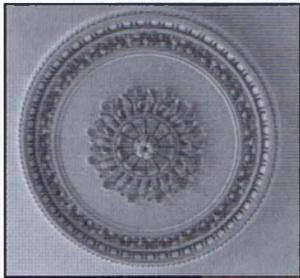
We then walked around to Bethel Welsh Calvinistic Methodist chapel. Bethel Chapel was built in 1827 thanks to Shem Evans, son of the Rev. Arthur Evans, as members of the cause in Puncteston had to travel to Woodstock or Castlebythe for services. The cause soon flourished and by 1851 it was recorded as able to seat 100, with standing room for another 200. The

ceiling and the internal walls similarly concrete render with inscribed 'ashlar' as the exterior and devoid of any memorials, plaques or other embellishment. A monthly service is still held here. Before leaving Puncheston we also paid a visit to St Mary's church and its many memorials.



Llangloffan Welsh Baptist Chapel (NPRN 11204) ©RCAHMW

We then drove over to Llangloffan Welsh Baptist Chapel which was built in 1706, only the third Baptist chapel to be built in Wales, and was incorporated from Rhydwylym in 1745. It was restored in 1749, again in 1791 and rebuilt in 1862, opening in August 1863 at a cost of £1,000 and some 2500 people attended the opening service! The clerk of works was Thomas Mathias of Llangloffan Uchaf, the designer recorded as William Davies of Trefelin, but it is likely that Joshua Morris of Newport was also involved as the large gable façade has a central door with a tracery fanlight incorporating the Morris motif of the 'dove ascending'.



Ceiling Rose, Llangloffan Chapel
©RCAHMW

The three sided gallery is relatively plain with long panels to the front, and supported in timber columns decorated with marbled paintwork and there is a particularly fine large, central ceiling rose incorporating concentric circles of geometric patterns, floral designs, foliate patterns and an inner hanging pendant of curled leaves. The platform pulpit has been altered and moved forward, probably when the organ was inserted behind it in 1962. The impressive organ cost £16,070 in 1962 and we were treated to a short recital by Mrs. Elsie Owen, a member of the small congregation that holds a service in the chapel once a month.

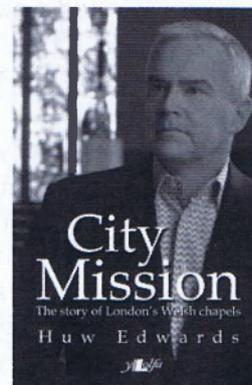
The day ended with a visit to Woifscastie Congregational church. The chapel was built as Pen y bont in 1807 and rebuilt in its current form in 1907. The minister of the last 37 years Rev. Geoffrey Eynon gave a short talk about the history of the chapel and the healthy state of the present congregation and the successful Sunday school with over 30 children attending on a regular basis. The interior of the chapel is very striking with two murals either side of the pulpit dating from a flower festival in 2007. Christmas 2013 saw an outdoor nativity and proved very popular. We were treated to an excellent chapel tea in the schoolroom which formed a fitting end to a successful and interesting Chapel day in rural Pembrokeshire.



Woifscastie Congregational Church (NPRN 10969) ©RCAHMW

Books/Llyfrau

Journalist and broadcaster Huw Edwards, who's lived in London for 30 years, traces an intriguing story which spans several centuries. No city in the world can rival London for its cultural diversity. But one of its oldest ethnic communities, Cymry Llundain – the London Welsh – is one of the least prominent and least understood. Religion provides a vital key to unlock the mystery. This richly-illustrated book, which includes many images published for the first time, uncovers fresh facts about the religious tradition of the Welsh in London. It sheds new light on the elusive tale of Cymry Llundain.



CCB/AGM

Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol Capel, 2014

Cofnodion y Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol, Casnewydd-bach, 10 Mai 2014.

1 Croeso'r Llywydd:

Y Llywydd, sef y Dr Lionel Madden oedd yn cadeirio ac fe groesawodd yr aelodau i'r Cyfarfod.

2 Ymddiheuriadau:

Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau gan y Cadeirydd, y Cynghorydd Meirick Lloyd Davies, Mrs Marlies Cope, Mrs Rosemary Ann Davies, Miss Muriel Bowen Evans a Mr Andrew Mathieson. Roedd Mr Richard Jones a Mrs Olwen Passmore hefyd wedi anfon ymddiheuriadau.

3 Cofnodion y Cyfarfod Diwethaf:

Derbyniwyd a chadarnhawyd cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yn Rhydaman ar 11 Mai 2013.

4 Materion yn Codi:

Nid oedd materion yn codi.

5 Adroddiad yr Ysgrifennydd:

Crybwyllodd yr Ysgrifennydd yr ymholiadau arferol ynghylch cofnodion capeli a theuluoedd. Roedd y Comisiwn Brenhinol wedi bod yn gymwynasgar iawn gan ddefnyddio eu sgil i olrhain, allan o 73 yng Ngogledd Cymru yn unig, Gapel Salem, gan ddyfalu'n gywir mai'r capel yn narlun Vosper ydoedd. Nododd yr Ysgrifennydd ei ddiolch arbennig i ymgynghorwyr y Gymdeithas, Norman Chang a Jonathan Jones, i staff y Comisiwn Brenhinol ac i Rob Scourfield a roddodd gyngor ar geisiadau cynilunio.

6 Adroddiad y Trysorydd:

Cyflwynodd y Trysorydd gyfrifon interim. Roedd y balans presennol bron yn £14,000 gyda £10,000 wedi'i ad-dalu o'r Bond Buddsoddi ac yn barod i'w ail-fuddsoddi a £3000+ yn y cyfrif cyfredol. Cafwyd gwariant ychwanegol ar gyfer cyfieithu Dariithiau'r Eisteddfod, 2012 a 2013, ac argraffu Darlith Eisteddfod 2012. Byddai darlith 2013 yn cael ei hargraffu i'w dosbarthu yn 2015. Llwyddodd i arbed peth ar gostau argraffu drwy ddefnyddio Mudiad Cymunedol Lleol i argraffu llai o gopiau.

7 Adroddiad y Cadeirydd:

Yn absenoldeb anorfod y Cadeirydd, diolchodd y Llywydd, Dr Lionel Madden, i'r Swyddogion ac aelodau'r Pwyllgor Gwaith am eu gwaith caled a'u hymroddiad drwy gydol y flwyddyn. Soniodd yn arbennig am Mr David Puleston Williams, cyn-Swyddog Cyhoeddusrwydd y Gymdeithas, a oedd wedi ymddiswyddo o'r Pwyllgor Gwaith a diolchodd i Miss Muriel Bowen Evans a'r Dr Huw Owen am wneud y trefniadau blynyddol ar gyfer Darlith CAPEL yn yr Eisteddfod. Dywedodd mor falch ydoedd fod Dr Huw Owen am roi Darlith 2014 ar "Gapeli Sir Gaerfyrddin". Roedd y Gymdeithas wedi bod ar ymweliad llwyddiannus gan groesi'r ffin i Loegr, i Groesoswallt.

8 Ethol Swyddogion ac Aelodau'r Pwyllgor:

Roedd y Swyddogion wedi cytuno i barhau yn eu swyddi am flwyddyn arall ac fe'u hail-etholwyd. Cafodd aelodau'r Pwyllgor Gwaith eu haillethol, sef Mrs Marlies Cope, Mrs Rosemary Davies, Miss Muriel Bowen Evans, Dr Lionel Madden, Mr Andrew Mathieson, Dr Huw Owen a Ms Susan Fielding, Golygydd y Gymdeithas. Diolchwyd iddynt am eu gwasanaeth yn ystod y flwyddyn a aeth heibio a chroesawyd y Parchedig Peter Thomas fel arbenigwr enwadol o Undeb Bedyddwyr Cymru.

9 Unrhyw Fater Arall:

Gan nad oedd unrhyw fater arall, diolchodd y Llywydd i'r aelodau am ddod a chaeodd y cyfarfod. Mae'n debyg y bydd y cyfarfod nesaf yn y Gogledd neu'r Canolbarth – yn 2015.

Capel Annual General Meeting 2014

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Little Newcastle, 10 May 2014.

1 President's Welcome:

In the chair, The President, Dr Lionel Madden, welcomed members to the Meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from the Chairman, Cllr Meirick Lloyd Davies, Mrs. Marlies Cope, Mrs. Rosemary Ann Davies, Miss Muriel Bowen Evans and Mr. Andrew Mathieson. Mr. Richard Jones and Mrs. Olwen Passmore had also sent apologies.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held in Ammanford on 11 May 2013 were accepted and confirmed.

4 Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

5 Secretary's Report:

The Secretary reported the usual enquiries about chapel and family records. The Royal Commission had been most helpful in their skill of tracing, out of 73 in North Wales alone, Capel Salem, which, they rightly guessed was the Chapel in the Vosper Picture. The Secretary recorded his special thanks to the Society's advisers, Norman Chang and Jonathan Jones, to the staff of the Royal Commission, and to Rob Scourfield who advised on planning applications.

6 Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer presented interim accounts. The current balance was almost £14,000 with £10,000 repaid from the Investment Bond and ready to be re-invested and £3000+ in the Current account. There had been an additional expense for the translation of 2012 and 2013 and the printing of the 2012 Eisteddfod Lecture. The 2013 lecture would be printed for circulation in 2015. He had been able to save on some printing costs by using a local Community Organisation to do smaller print runs.

7 Chairman's Report:

In the Chairman's unavoidable absence, the President, Dr. Lionel Madden, thanked the Officers and members of the Executive Committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. He made special mention of Mr. David Puleston Williams, the Society's former Publicity Officer, who had stepped down from the Executive Committee, and thanked Miss Muriel Bowen Evans and Dr. Huw Owen for their annual arrangements for the CAPEL Eisteddfod Lecture, and recorded his pleasure that Dr Huw Owen would be undertaking the 2014 Lecture on "The Chapels of Carmarthenshire". The Society had had a successful visit, over the English border, to Oswestry.

8 Election of Officers and Committee Members:

The Officers had agreed to continue in office for a further year and were re-elected. Members of the Executive Committee, Mrs. Marlies Cope, Mrs. Rosemary Davies, Miss Muriel Bowen Evans, Dr Lionel Madden, Mr. Andrew Mathieson, Dr Huw Owen, the Society's Editor, Ms. Susan Fielding, were re-elected with thanks for their service during the past year and the new appointment of the Revd. Peter Thomas was welcomed as Denominational Adviser from the Baptist Union of Wales.

9 Any Other Business:

There being no other business, the President thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting. The next gathering would be, probably, in North or Mid Wales – in 2015.

Newyddion/News

Digital Dissent: The Story of Welsh Nonconformist Chapels

In an update on the article in the Spring edition of the newsletter, it can be announced that the new Addoldai Cymru (Welsh Religious Buildings Trust) website will be launched in Chapel 1877 in Cardiff on the 23rd October. The new website will include a range of digital and academic resources developed by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales in conjunction with Addoldai Cymru, such as gigapixel tours of the six Trust-held chapels, interactive and reconstructive animations and the online search and mapping facilities of the Commissions database of 6427 Nonconformist chapels in Wales.

Apology by The Union of Welsh Independent Churches over World War One recruitment

A motion proposed at the Union's AGM asking members to apologise for chapels' role in the supporting the recruitment during World War One by shaming men into fighting in the 'travesty' of the war was passed unanimously.

Reverend Aled Jones, who put forward the proposal, told BBC Radio Wales "At the time the Christians were often the greatest proponents of the war. The recruitment campaign was very strong within the chapels."

"There are contemporary accounts in newspapers of full chapels being addressed by politicians and by ministers encouraging people to go out and fight." Mr. Jones said he wanted his members to "acknowledge our own guilt, as Christians, for the participation of the churches at that time". He added "Of course, we shouldn't forget the people who fell in World War One, but acknowledge from the great travesty of that period that we have now an opportunity to build for peace.

"What we want to see happen is an alternative be established - that peaceful means of resolving international conflict be put to the fore today as we remember that terrible conflict 100 years ago."

My Methodist History

As part of the commemorations for World War One, the online community archive network set up by Methodist Heritage, 'My Methodist History', is running a project to record war memorials in Methodist chapels. Volunteers are being asked to upload photographs and details of war memorials in their area at www.mvmethodisthistory.org.uk.

Grant success for Ebenezer Chapel, Cardiff

Ebenezer Chapel, Charles Street, Cardiff has been successful in obtaining two substantial grants that will contribute to the repair and sustained reuse of one of the most historic chapels in Wales. The Grade II listed chapel was bought by the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff in 2012 after falling into disrepair subsequent to closure.

The Cornerstone at St David's Project, led by the diocese, has been awarded £80,000 by Heritage Lottery Funding to draw up plans for a café, conference centre and spaces for community groups. Jennifer Stewart, head of the HLF in Wales, said: "This is an excellent project that will breathe life into one of Cardiff's oldest buildings, bringing it into the 21st century and opening its doors to the local community. We look forward to seeing how it will develop over the coming months."

This phase I HLF grant has been further supplemented by a £150,000 charitable donation from The Jane Hodge Foundation, with Jonathan Hodge, head of the foundation's board stating "We are very excited to be able to support this very important project. Cornerstone commended itself to our trustees because it combines the essential refurbishment of a building that is important to the history, architecture and culture of Wales, together with the provision of beneficial facilities to a cross-section of the local community."

In addition to refurbishment of the historic fabric, the project aims to ensure the heritage of the building is preserved through a bilingual oral history project

that will capture the memories of former chapel goers and others associated with Ebenezer.

The phase I development work will lead to a second phase HLF application for a further £1.2m for the main renovation project, with a view to opening in Autumn 2016.

Rejuvenation for Talgarth Chapel

Meanwhile in Talgarth, Tabernacle Baptist Chapel has been transformed into a venue for pop-up restaurants, concerts, private parties, christening, wedding receptions and wakes by the one-time music mogul Alan McGee.

The former head of Creation Records now lives in Glasbury-on-Wye and said of himself and his wife "We both have this thing about regenerating rural areas" while his wife added "We used to drive past the chapel and remark what a beautiful old building it was...When it came up for sale we put a bid in at the auction and bought it... We will be holding the first of many acoustic nights soon but we want it to be used by the villagers - it is for them not us."

Other

As well as the Spring 2015 Newsletter our next posting will include a bilingual copy of the 2013 lecture at the National Eisteddfod at Denbigh. The lecturer was the Rev John Owen, Rhuthun and the title is 'Emrys ap Iwan - Y Dyn/ The Man. The lecture will not be published on our website.

Newsletter contributions

The Editor is always grateful to receive article contributions for the Capel newsletter. Please send copy to the address/email below by 1st March 2015 for inclusion in the Spring 2015 newsletter.

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