

Capel

CYMDEITHAS TREFTADAETH Y CAPELI

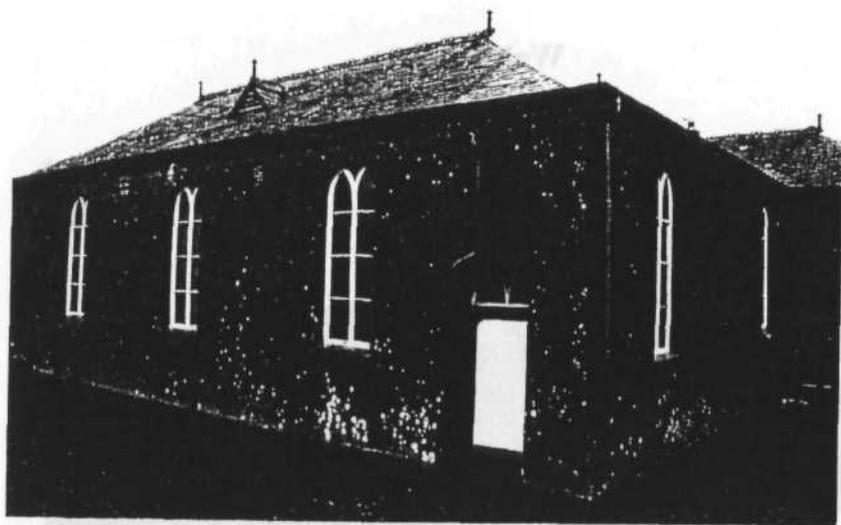
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY

TAFLEN WYBODAETH LEOL WYSTOG A'R ARDÄL

6

LOCAL INFORMATION SHEET WOODSTOCK AND DISTRICT

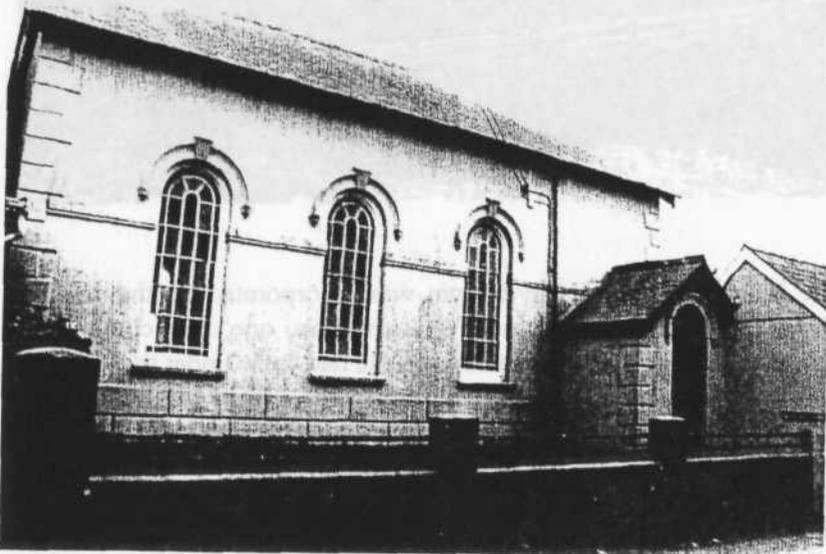
The chapels at Woodstock and Rhydwylym have played a vital part in the history of their respective denominations - both locally and on a wider stage.



Woodstock was founded in 1754 in the middle of the county of Pembroke and to this meeting-house the crowds came from far and near to hear the Reverend Howell Davies and other great preachers of the Methodist movement. George Whitfield preached here and it was at Woodstock that Communion was first given to Methodists in a

Llys-y-frân.

At the foot of Llys-y-frân dam is a recently unveiled memorial to William Rowlands, author of the hymn tune *Blaenwern*, who was born in nearby Dan-y-coed. He was christened in Gwastad Chapel on 3 July, 1861, by the Reverend David Charles, Carmarthen and received into membership in March 1877. William (Penfro) Rowlands was to become a teacher at Morrision and eventually organist and chorister in Tabernacle Chapel in that town.



Llys-y-frân Chapel

Rhydwllym



The Baptist church at Rhydwllym was incorporated on the 5th July 1668. The founding father was William Jones, one time, curate at the neighbouring parish of Cilmaenllwyd. He had come under the influence of the Baptist faith as it spread westwards from England and he himself had travelled to Olchon for instruction and baptism.

The first chapel was built in 1701 at the expense of John Evans, a local landowner. This building was refurbished and extended in 1763. The third was built in 1841 and the building of the present chapel was started in 1875, the cost being £1300. From 1701 baptisms were carried out in the river outside the chapel.

A minute book started in 1689 still exists and records that there were 33 members in 1668. By 1689 the number had grown to 113 and these came from 40 parishes in Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire. The minute book also lists an extensive Confession of Faith.