

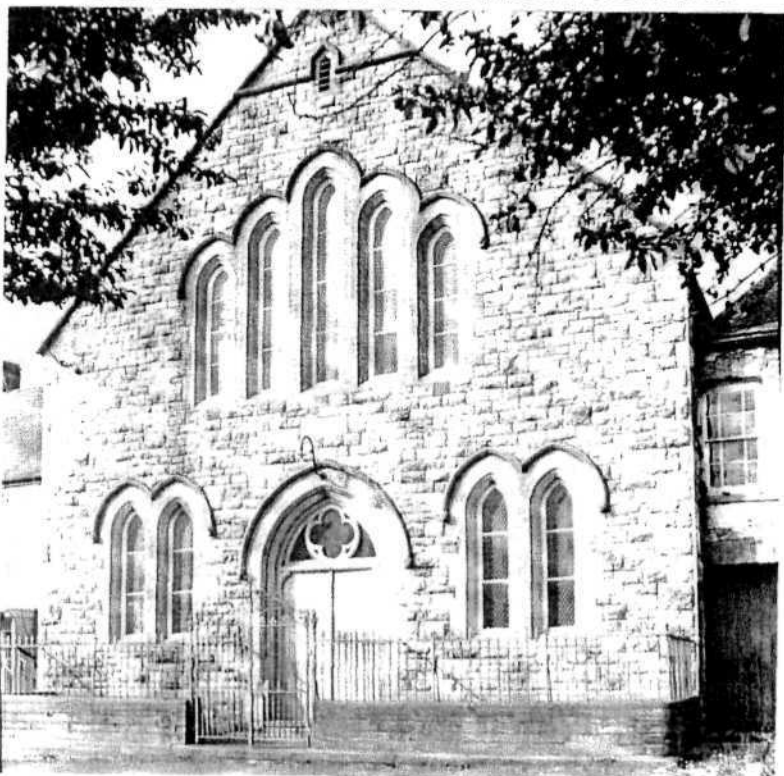
# Capel

CYMDEITHAS TREFTADAETH Y CAPEL  
*THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY*



**TAFLEN WYBODAETH LEOL 134 LOCAL INFORMATION SHEET**

## O GILGERRAN I HENLLAN AMGOED *FROM CILGERRAN TO HENLLAN AMGOED*

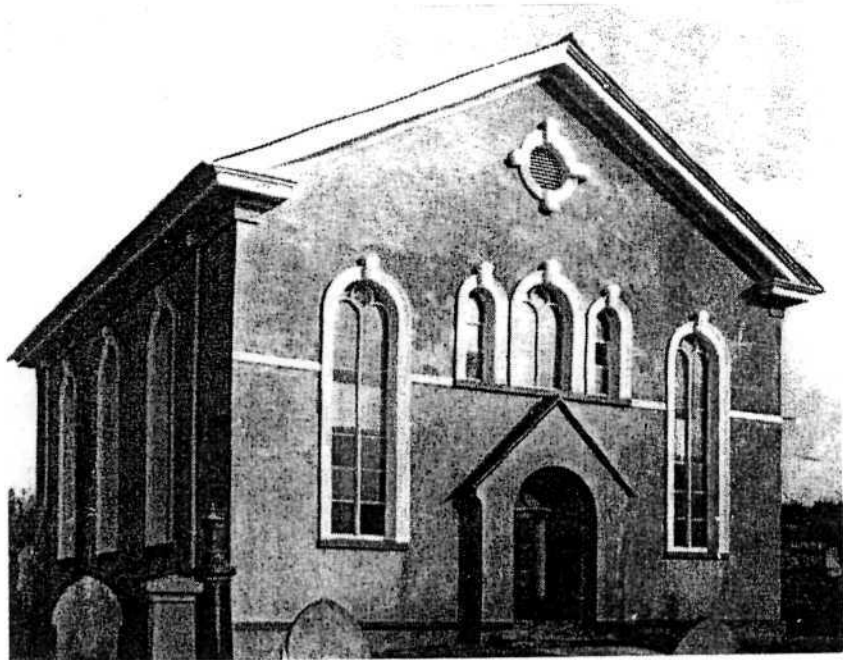


Y Babell, Cilgerran

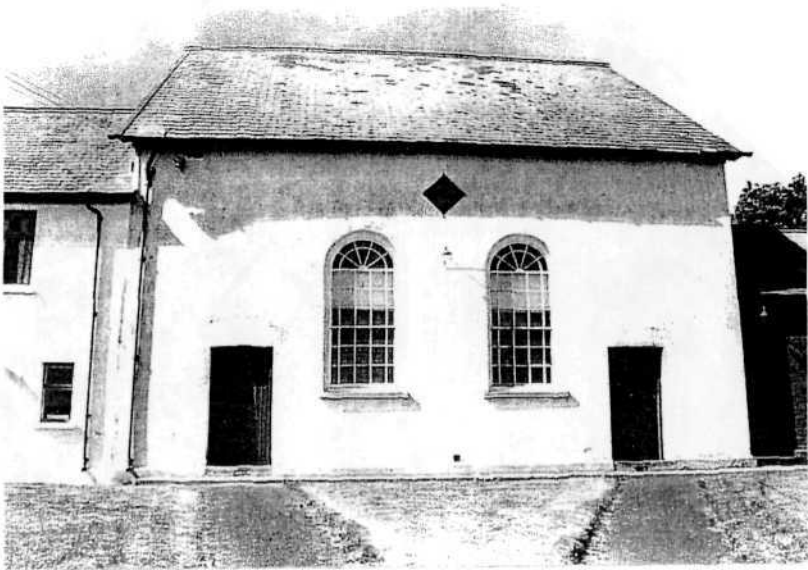
**Y Babell, Cilgerran**, initially known as Tabernacle Calvinistic Methodist chapel, traces its origins to the labours of Howel Harris and Howel Davies, having a separate identity from about 1770, with the first building dating from 1795. It had no settled ministry until about 1875, the leading features of its church life being itinerant preaching, *seiat* or fellowship meetings, Sunday school and government by elders. The building was re-erected in 1822 and *The Religious Census* of 1851 records substantial numbers attending three Sunday services. Several notable preachers have been associated with the cause. Now without a pastor, the church is in the Welsh Presbytery of North Pembrokeshire.

**Cilfowyr** The church at Cilfowyr had its origin in the visit made by Lettice Morgan of Cilfowyr with Margaret Nicholas to Rhydwlwym on 12 July 1668. She and her husband Edward Morgan and his recently baptised son Philip are named as members of the church at Rhydwlwym in 1689. A congregation was established in 1704 at Cilcam in the parish of Eglwys-wen-yng-Nghemais and it appears that it was agreed to hold meetings in the Morgans' house at Cilfowyr. In 1716 James Morgan leased a portion of his land for a meeting-house in which only Baptists might preach 'for as long as water should flow'. The church flourished and grew, establishing branches at Newport (Trefdraeth), Blaen-waun, Pen-y-parc, Blaen-ffos and Fronddeiniol (over the county border in Cardiganshire). By 1783 there were 387 members and in 1795 the chapel had to be enlarged. A vestry was built in 1896-97.

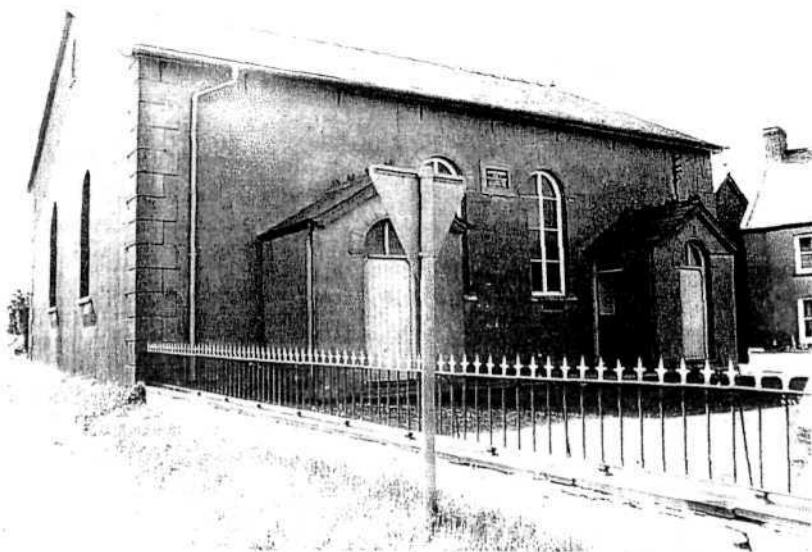
The early history of the church is told in the church book of Rhydwylym but in the early 1970s Cilfowyr's own church book, dated 1844 but evidently based on an earlier book, was presented to the National Library. (see articles by B.G.Owens in *Trafodion Cymdeithas Hanes Bedyddwyr Cymru*, 1872 and 1983)



**Capel Newydd, Boncath** C. M.chapel grew from the early labours of Howel Harris and regular ministry of Howel Davies. Built in 1763, it made a significant contribution to the growth of Methodism in North Pembrokeshire, Nathaniel Rowland, Thomas Charles of Bala and David Jones, Llan-gan and several memorable Methodist Associations being linked with the chapel. The chapel was rebuilt in 1848. One of the members claimed an average attendance of 200 plus 114 scholars for the 1851 *Census* - an indication of the typically Methodist emphasis on preaching and teaching activities. A regular succession of settled ministers began about 1880, but like Y Babell the church is now without a pastor and is in the care of the North Pembrokeshire Welsh Presbytery.



**Bwlch-y-groes** C.M.chapel also traces its origins to frequent visits in the period 1739-49 by Howel Harris. At a farmhouse called Dygoed, he established a Methodist 'society' for the district and the work grew through preaching and several periods of religious revival. A chapel was originally built here in 1797 but the present building, dating from 1832, was renewed in 1896. The 1851 *Census* reports congregations of 400 in the morning, with 300 plus 100 scholars in the afternoon and 200 in the evening. The first settled ministry dates from 1916, with the usual Calvinistic Methodist pattern of activity - preaching, *seidau*, and Sunday school as the regular means of maintaining a steady witness. Like Y Babell and Capel-Newydd, Bwlch-y-groes is at present under no pastoral charge and belongs to the North Pembrokeshire Welsh Presbytery.



**Henllan Amgoed.** This Independent Church, one of the oldest in West Wales, celebrated in 1997 the 300th anniversary of its foundation. Stephen Hughes (1622-688), '*Apostol Sir Gaerfyrddin*' ('The Apostle of Carmarthenshire') had encouraged and ministered to local adherents at a time of persecution and, following the Toleration Act of 1689, which allowed Nonconformists to worship in their own chapels, Henllan chapel was built in 1697 on the road leading northwards from Whitland towards Logyn in the extreme west of Carmarthenshire.

The chapel was rebuilt and extended in 1724 and then taken down and a larger chapel built in 1777. In 1830 an even larger chapel was erected and the 1851 Census recorded a congregation of 550 in the morning and 145 scholars in the afternoon, and the minister, the Rev Joshua Lewis, commented that 'the congregation is not very fluctuating and the difference will be very little next Sunday or the following'. The chapel was renovated in 1927 with an extensive modification of the interior.

The Henllan Church was served by a succession of ministers from 1697 until 1983, and a substantial number of Independent ministers were raised here. (*Capel Newsletter* No.30 refers to one of them, Matthias Maurice, Minister of Rothwell Chapel, Northamptonshire).

Henllan was responsible for the foundation of ten other churches in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire and some of these in turn established churches which could therefore claim descent from Henllan Amgoed.

