

Capel

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THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY



Taflen Wybodaeth Leol

Y Fenni

Local Information Sheet **29** *Abergavenny*

Non-conformity was established early in Abergavenny, and the Baptists appear to have been the first to make headway, when John Abbot was placed by the Puritans in the living of the Church of St Mary in 1652, in place of the vicar Charles Herbert. Three years later the connection moved to Llanwenarth and built a meeting house there.

Methodist Chapel, Castle Street



John Wesley visited Abergavenny in 1739 and once or twice afterwards with the result that a Wesleyan communion was established. In 1805 a house was purchased in Tudor Street and used until 1829 when the present chapel was erected in Castle Street. The main building is largely unaltered, but the interior was changed in the late C19 and some alterations were done in 1997.

It is listed grade II for its special interest as a handsome well preserved Methodist Chapel of 1829.

Bethany English Baptist Church

The Baptist cause was revived in Abergavenny in 1769 and a chapel was built in Tudor Street. This was the Welsh speaking institution, but because of the decline in the Welsh language the chapel was closed in 1889 and the building used by the Salvation Army.



Bethany English Baptist Church was built in Market Street in 1882, designed by the local architect E A Johnson and built by local contractors J G Thomas for £1240. Built of red brick with bath stone dressings it was only listed as a building of special architectural and historic interest in 1998. It had become redundant as a chapel some years before when the congregation joined the Welsh Baptists in the Frogmore Street Chapel. It was then used for several years to house a Museum of Childhood. This was followed by several uses, but unfortunately it is now on the market for sale.

Frogmore Street Chapel

This formerly was the Welsh Baptist Chapel and was designed by the well known Welsh architect George Morgan of Carmarthen. Built in 1877 at a cost of £4,200, the exterior is as originally designed, but the interior has been altered in that in 1977 a floor was introduced at balcony level. This provided considerable space at ground floor level for school rooms, various meeting rooms and toilets etc. It has meant that the chapel is in constant use whilst still retaining its



main function as a chapel. It was listed by Cadw in 1991 for its special interest as a fine example of George Morgan's Romanesque chapel style and also for major townscape importance.

Whitefield Presbyterian Chapel

This was designed by the local architect E A Johnson and built 1907-10. Arts and Crafts perpendicular style with - to quote John Newman - many witty touches. Certainly an interesting building architecturally with good detailing and therefore listed grade II by Cadw. There are contemporary schoolrooms and Hall at the rear.



The Whitefield Presbyterian Chapel was built in 1907-10 and is a fine example of the Arts and Crafts style. It was designed by the local architect E A Johnson and built by the Whitefield Building Co. The chapel was built on the site of the old Whitefield Wesleyan Chapel. It was then used for 12 years to house a Museum of Oldfield. This was followed by several years but unfortunately it is now on the market for sale.

The Salvation Army Citadel

The Salvation Army Citadel in Victoria Street was formerly the Assemblies of God Chapel. It was built in 1830 as a Primitive Methodist Chapel and listed grade II as a building of special architectural and historic interest in 1974. It has retained its external appearance although the interior has been modernised.



Salvation Army Chapel



The former Salvation Army Chapel in Merthyr Road became redundant when they moved to Victoria Street, but it was then acquired by the Christadelphians, who use it as their local church.

United Reformed Chapel, Castle Street



This was originally the Congregational Chapel and said by some to be the oldest cause in Abergavenny. It was first established about the year 1688 at premises in Cross Street, at the corner of Monk Street.

A chapel was built in Castle Street in 1692 and this continued in use till 1792, when the present building was constructed, the old one being converted into the Minister's residence. In 1697 an academy for the education of students in the Independent Ministry was established in connection with this chapel, having been removed from Bryn-llywarch in Glamorgan, but following the death of the President Roger Griffiths in 1708 it was removed to Bridgend. Another academy was founded here, however, in 1755 by the then Minister, David Jardine, but in 1782 it was transferred to Oswestry.

This chapel was remodelled in 1839, and in the early 1990's the schoolroom was sold to provide funds for repairing and restoring the main chapel. The Schoolroom was converted for use as an architects' office on the first floor and a children's nursery on the ground floor. It is listed grade II for its special interest as a handsome and well preserved Congregational Chapel.

References: Cadw listing schedules.

Pevsner - The Buildings of Wales Gwent / Monmouthshire.

Bradney - The Hundred of Monmouthshire

C.J.O. Evans - Monmouthshire, Its History & Topography