

Capel



CYMDEITHAS TREFTADAETH Y CAPELI
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY

Local Information Sheet 35: Cwmbran & Pontypool Taflen Wybodaeth Leol 35: Cwmbran & Pontypŵl

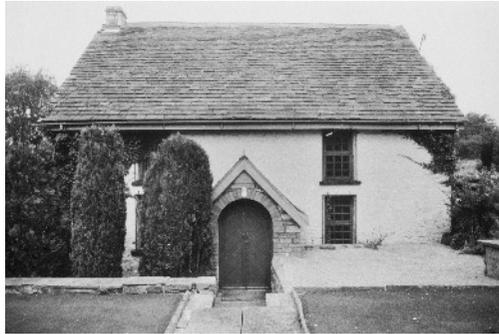
Ebenezer Evangelical Church



Ebenezer Congregational Hall, as the stonework on the façade testifies, was erected in 1889. Designed as part of a much larger scheme on a sizeable corner plot, the chapel which was to accompany it was never built and the hall itself became the place of worship for local Independents. For over a hundred years it continued to be registered with the local registrar as The Congregational Hall, Lower Pontnewydd much to the confusion in recent times of those wishing to marry who knew it as Ebenezer Congregational Church. The interior was extensively refurbished in the 1990s with the removal of the pulpit area, including the choir stalls and pipe organ, replacing them with a new pulpit incorporating a baptistry. At the same time the pews were also removed being replaced by linked chairs giving a more

comfortable and flexible worship space. A spacious hall was subsequently added offering new kitchen and toilet facilities and recently a new sound system was installed.

Penygarn (Tabernacle) Baptist Chapel, Pontypool



The chapel at Penygarn was founded by the Reverend Miles Harry and built in 1727. The date can be seen carved into the lintel of the fireplace on the west wall. The membership was made up of Welsh and English speakers. Its capacity of 50 was soon outgrown as Pontypool expanded and in 1835 services for Welsh speakers were moved to the new Tabernacle in Crane Street. On the demolition of the latter in 1970, its gates were re-erected at Penygarn. English speakers worshipped separately and erected their own chapel also in Crane Street in 1847 (see details below). Penygarn chapel has a large burial ground which falls within the remit of the Friends of Trevethin Church (the ancient parish church) and Penygarn Baptist Chapel, aided by the Gwent Living Churchyards Project. A health & safety survey of the ground has been undertaken and information boards about the chapel and burial ground have been erected.

Crane Street Baptist Church, Pontypool

The foundation of the 'English' Baptist Church in Crane Street had its origins in the desire to provide a local meeting place for the increasing number of English speaking Baptists coming to live



and work in the area. Prior to its establishment in 1836 at the former Friends Meeting House in Trosnant, many English speaking Baptists not connected with Penygarn had attended either Pontrhydyrun or Abersychan chapels some distance from the town. By 1839 it was decided to start a fund to build a chapel in the classical style (after a design by Mr. J H Langdon); this was built at a cost of £2,200 and opened in April 1847. Now a Grade II* listed building, a particular noted architectural feature is its glass roof which survived the bombings of WWII despite suffering some damage. Extensive restoration to the building as a whole was undertaken in the 1980s in consultation with CADW.

Pontrhydyrun Baptist Church



Origins of the cause here date back to 1802 when George Conway established his tinsplate works at Pontnewydd. A Sunday School was held, first at George Conway's home and later at the

works and from 1810 regular services took place at Pontrhydyrun House the home of John Conway, George's son. The Conway family was in formal membership at Abergavenny and the cause proper was established when eight members were formally dismissed from the Abergavenny church specifically to form the church at Pontrhydyrun. The foundation stone of the chapel was laid on 13 May 1816 on a plot of ground given by George Conway. It opened for worship on 25 November that year.

Siloam Baptist Chapel, Upper Cwmbran



Built in 1836 for worshippers who previously met in people's houses, its date of foundation is closely linked to the nearby Porthmawr Colliery and the expansion of the brickworks (now the site of the filter station for the local reservoir). This chapel too has a large burial ground with some interesting memorial stones in both Welsh and English, the oldest noted dating from 1849. The sudden death of Isaac Maynard a mason, who died in 1866, is recorded in the following verse:

*'Death to me no warning gave But took me sudden to my grave,
To meet my Lord without delay For sudden death took me away'*