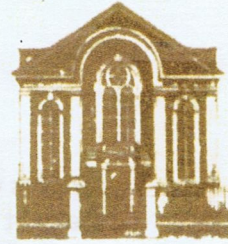


Capel

CYMDEITHAS TREFTADAETH Y CAPELI
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY



Croesoswallt – Oswestry
Hydref 12 October 2013



The Welsh Presbyterian Chapel (Calvinistic Methodist) goes back in time to the start of the 19th century, when a very poor but courageous lady by the name of Susanah Evans was instrumental in ensuring that Welsh services were conducted in the town, mainly to start with in her own home, for which she was turned out of her home on five occasions. In 1813 a small chapel was built in Castle Street, Oswestry, with a house adjoining, so that Auntie Susan, as she was known affectionately by her friends, could live in peace for the rest of her days. She died in 1832 aged 87 yers, having enjoyed

services were held in July 1878. The final cost was £2,400 and the debt was cleared within 5 years.

The chapel flourished in the following years with a successful Sunday School and regular prayer meetings. In 1883 the first ordained minister was appointed, the Rev Lewis Owen and in the following years Yr Wylfa, the manse was built nearby. The present organ was bought in 1903 at a cost of £300 and a famous organist Mr W H Jude from London came to give the first recital.

One notable minister who served Horeb twice was Cadvan who became the Archdruid of the National Eisteddfod of Wales, a plaque commemorates him on the wall of the chapel. It is said that he wrote his famous hymn –

*Mae llais efengyl fwyn
Yn galw arnaf fi*

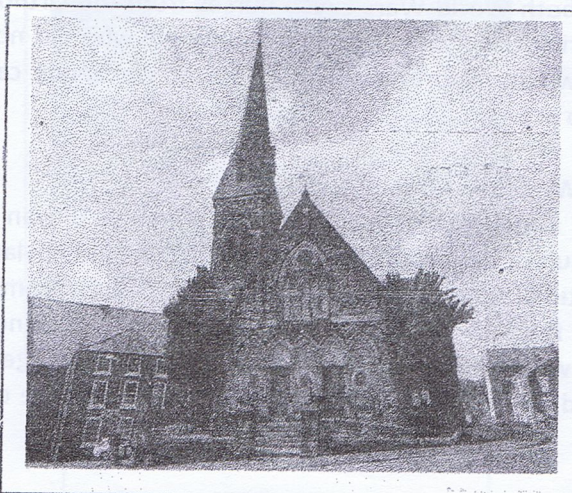
In the manse and it was first sung in Horeb, The building has been improved and maintained regularly, the organ repaired in 1966 and a new heating system in 1969. The large rose window at the back of the chapel is worthy of note.

Hermon Welsh Independent Chapel

Hermon was designed by the Rev Thomas Thomas of Llandor, Swansea, one of the leading and certainly the most prolific of the Welsh chapel architects of the Victorian . It was built in 1862 at a cost of £1,017 and it was an anniversary chapel to commemorate the ejection of non-conformist clergy in 1662. It had seating for 450. It's style is classical with a three bay Tuscan Pilastered facade under overall pediment.

The congregation gradually dwindled and the chapel closed in 1996 having being told that the building was structurally unsound. The present owner who is renovating the building occasionally opens the doors to exhibit art work.

The site on which the Church was built was that of the old prison, one of the highest points in Oswestry. It has a commanding position facing the small square at the foot of the castle motte and bailey and almost in the market place. The facade is impressive with traditional twin chapel doors and a wide entrance lobby behind them. The broad west gable contains a big five-light window with multi-foil tracery, and below it the doors are incorporated into a row of five blind arches with foliage capitals. The other three arches have small windows in a quartrefoil shape. The north west tower and the broach spire are in perfect proportion to the rest of the building. The tower has twin-light windows and an arrow slit, whilst the spire is embellished with elongated bell openings. In the transept wall is a pair of lancets set into arches with triangular heads, and above them a large rose window; a similar sized window is set into the opposite wall. The interior is spacious and well proportioned and at the west end is a big gallery seating 100 people whilst the main body of the church seats around 2350. The chancel is backed by a decorative script and on one side is a very Anglican stone and marble pulpit and on the other side a Conacher Organ



Christchurch

the generosity of one English lady in particular, who cared for her daily needs during the latter years

In 1836 one and a quarter acres of land was bought for the purpose of building a larger chapel and also to accommodate a cemetery, this chapel was opened in 1837. The total cost being £1,417 and such was the commitment of the early members that on the day of the opening only £300 remained for them to find.

The number of members then was 108. In 1869 the chapel was razed to the ground for what reason we are not sure but we assume that it was too small. The present chapel was then built for the sum of £1,400, the schoolrooms and caretaker's house were added on in 1893. The pipe organ was installed in 1902.

The position of the chapel was by some people considered to be too far from town, and so to provide a place of worship for those living on the other side of town a chapel was built in Albert Road in 1866 and another in Oswald Road in 1889(now the Antique Place before Iceland)

Seion was a spiritual home, and literally. 'a home from home' for many soldiers who were stationed at Park Hall Camp during both World Wars. Also nurses from the Orthopaedic and during the 1950's many young people who did not have their own transport to travel home at weekends came to worship at Seion.

Horeb Wesleyan Chapel

In 1877 a request was made to build a new Wesleyan Chapel as a result of the success of the previous one at Penylan Lane. The estimated cost was £1898 and £450 was promised to start a fund to finance the project. Numerous fundraising events were held including Concerts, Cyfarfodd Pregethu etc ,Richard Davies of Bangor was the architect and the opening



**Ebenezer Methodist
Church**



Dewi Sant



**Ebenezer Methodist
Church**



Dewi Sant

Oswestry Methodist Church

In years gone by there was a time when the Wesleyans were separate from the Primitive Methodist. Both had chapels previous structures and it is believed that John Wesley visited the town in the early days. The Wesleyan Chapel at Beatrice Street (by the old Beatrice Town Gate) was built on the outside of the Town Ditch and was opened about 1897 was part of the Severn Valley Mission including Welshpool and Newtown but before the war the big Circuit had split. and so Oswestry remained as part of a Circuit which included some village chapels. After previous buildings the one in Castle Street (then known as Ebenezer) was finished in 1899. In 1967 the Border Commission persuaded two circuits to join together and use the Castle Street site. Old schoolrooms were demolished and new premises were built with some alterations to the Church.

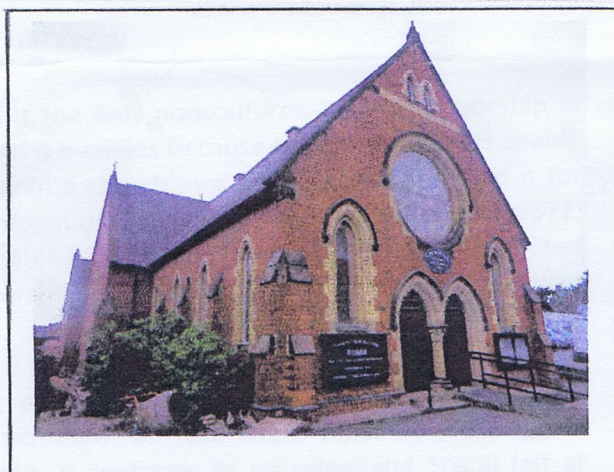
Christ Church URC/PCW

Christ Church is the only nonconformist place of worship in Shropshire, and it qualifies because the architect W H Spaul, intended to build a church, not a chapel. He designed it for the local Congregationalists and it was completed in 1872. After considerable refurbishment it is now used by the United Reformed Church coupled with the Presbyterian Church of Wales.

The building is an excellent example of the free style that followed the purism of the Gothic revival earlier in the century. Constructed in rock-faced masonry to suggest rugged strength. it conforms to no rules, and Spaul felt at liberty not only to mix Early English and Decorated styles but to use them without any inhibiting sense of accuracy.



Hermon



Horeb