Capel

CYMDEITHAS TREFTADAETH Y CAPELI
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER/CYLCHLYTHYR 9 HYDREF / AUTUMN 1989

Cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod Blynyddol llwyddiannus iawn ym Merthyr Tudful ar 14 Hydref a chyflwynir manylion am ddigwyddiadau'r dydd yn y rhifyn hwn.

Paratowyd y rhifyn yn ystod absenoldeb y Golygydd, sydd ar hyn o bryd yn yr Unol Daleithiau. Bydd ef yn casglu deunydd yn y Flwyddyn Newydd ar gyfer y rhifyn nesaf, ac mi fydd yn croesawu cyfraniadau (i'w danfon iddo ef neu'r Ysgrifennydd cyn 15 Chwefror 1990).

A very successful Annual General Meeting was held in Merthyr Tudful on 14 October and details of the day's events are presented in this issue.

The issue was prepared during the absence of the Editor, who is at present in the United States. He will be collecting material in the New Year for the next issue and contributions should be sent to him, or to the Secretary, before 15 February, 1990.

SIR WILLIAM BEDDOE REES (1877-1931)

The reference in Newsletter 7 to the closure and uncertain future of Tabor, Maesteg, brings to mind the remarkable career of its architect, W. Beddoe Rees. The son of a Maesteg businessman who was secretary of Bethel English Baptist Church in the town, Beddoe Rees was trained as an architect, qualified as A.R.I.B.A. and settled in Cardiff about 1900 He did not design terraced houses and business premises - the bread-and-butter of most young Cardiff architects of the time - but seems to have specialised in chapels. In fact, he published one of the few manuals on chapel architecture: Chapel building: hints and suggestions. It was meant for the guidance of ministers and deacons, and it included illustrations of several of the author's own

designs (not all of which had actually been executed). Beddoe Rees's practice extended into many parts of Wales, as the list below shows, although clearly he found most of his work in the South Wales coalfield and ports. He was well placed to take advantage of the last surge of chapel building, following the 1904-5 Revival.

About the beginning of the First World War he gave up private practice to become managing director of Welsh Garden Cities Ltd., the organisation which built "garden villages" in several of the industrial valleys of South Wales, e.g. Gilfach Goch. But during the War he became responsible for canteens and social welfare schemes under the Ministry of Munitions, for which he was knighted in 1917. He nevertheless retained an interest in nonconformist affairs, serving as joint treasurer and president of the National Free Church Council. After the War, Beddoe Rees's business interests expanded into shipping and collieries, and by the early 1920s he had become a wealthy man, living in style at Ty-mynydd, Radyr. He sat in the House of Commons as Liberal M.P. for Bristol South, 1922-29, but in 1930 was adjudged bankrupt. Altogether an extraordinary career for a chapel architect; it deserves a fuller study.

The following is a list of the chapels that Beddoe Rees is known to have designed; there must be many others.

Abertillery:	Ebenezer Baptist - schoolroom only (1905).
Blaengarw:	Mount Zion English Baptist (1904).
Caerphilly:	Van Road Congregational (1903).
Cardiff:	Plasnewydd English Calvinistic Methodist (1900-1). Windsor Place English Congregational (1900-1). Pentyrch Street English Baptist (1905).
Glyncorrwg:	Nebo Welsh Independent (1904).
Llandrindod Wells:	St. John's Wesleyan Methodist (1907).
Llandudno:	Ebeneser Welsh Wesleyan Methodist (1909).
Llanhilleth:	Glandwr Baptist (1905).

Maesteg:	Wesleyan chapel (1903?). Hope English Baptist, Caerau (1905). Tabor Welsh Calvinistic Methodist (1908). Bethania Welsh Baptist (1908). Bethel English Baptist - vestry and hall only.
Penclawdd:	Bethel Welsh Independent (1910).
Pontypool:	Pen-y-garn Baptist - schoolroom and extension to chapel (1905).
Resolven:	Tabernacl Welsh Calvinistic Methodist (1904).
Swansea:	Mount Calvary English Baptist, Manselton (1909).
Whitchurch (Glam.):	Ararat English Baptist (1914-15).

Sources: Who's who in Wales (Cardiff, 1921); Who's who of British members of Parliament, vol. III, 1919-45 (Brighton, 1979); Brinley Richards, History of the Llynfi Valley (Cowbridge, 1982); W.B. Rees, Chapel building (Cardiff, 1903); Baptist handbooks.

Brian Ll. James,
Cardiff.

'SAINT YNTEU SATANWYR'?

Dyma oedd y ddadl fawr ynghylch y Mormoniaid (neu 'Eglwys Iesu Grist o Saint y Dyddiau Diwethaf' yn swyddogol) yng Nghymru ar ganol y 19G.

Sefydlwyd yr Eglwys hon gan Joseph Smith, ieu., a'i ddilynwyr cyntaf yn nhalaith Efrog Newydd, U.D.A., rhwng 1827-30. Erbyn 1837 roedd rhai o'i chenhadon eisioes ar waith yn swydd Caerhirfryn, Lloegr. Gwelir, felly, mai eglwys egnïol, genhadol fu hi erioed; ac nad peth newydd yw'r golwg a gawn o dro i dro ar lanciau glanwedd y ffydd yn troedio'r strydoedd a'r ystadau - tai heddiw.

UDGORN SEION,

NEU

Seren y Saint.

RHIF. 28.] GORPHENAF 29, 1854. [CYF. VII.

CYMMANFA DDWYREINIOL MORGANWG.

[Parhad o dud 433.]

SYLWADAU Y LLYWYDD JONES.

Hanner awr wedi dau.—Y Llywydd a lawenhäai wrth weled cynnifer wedi dyfod ynghyd. Gobeithiaf na siomir neb (meddai), ond y mwynheir Ysbryd Duw y prydnawn hwn etto, fel yn y boreu. Yr Arglwydd a'n harweinio i siarad o dan ddylanlanwad Ei Ysbryd Glân er gogoniant i'w enw.

Y mae cymmaint o bethau i'w dweyd, a chymmaint o awydd i chwithau i glywed yr oll, fel y mae yn gryn anhawsdra i ddewis y pethau goreu, a mwyaf anghenrheidiol i'w dweyd.

Dyben y dyn gonest wrth ymgrefydda yw cael gafael mewn nefoedd, a'i brif amcan yw mwynhau holl wrthrychau ei serch. Canol-bwynt sugndyniad holl grefyddau ein gwlad, yw y nefoedd. Mae gan y Saint amcan i fwynhau llawer nefoedd, ac ni chredant, fel rhai, mai un nefoedd yn unig sydd i'w chael, a honó yn un ysbrydol, heb un mwynhad o bethau sylweddol ynddi, ond i fath o nefoedd tu draw i'r môr yna y mae sugndynfa y Saint yn gyntaf. Mawr fel yr hoffa rhai glywed am Seion, lle y preswyliant mewn heddwch, wrth ben eu digon. Llawer o ddysgwyliad sydd mewn Cymmanfa fel hon, i glywed am y mwyniant sydd yno, a'r ddysgeidiaeth werthfawr a geir yno, er eu cymhwyso i oddef presennoldeb Iesu Grist pan ddaw yn ei ogoniant, a pha fodd y deuant allan yn yr adgyf-

Erbyn 1840 roedd cenhadon "Y Saint" ar gyrrion Cymru: ym Mynwy a Sir Y Fflint, gan weithio o swyddi Caer a Henffordd. Ym 1843 cyfeiriodd William Henshaw, gŵr o Gernyw, ei hun i ardal Penydarren, Merthyr Tudful; a dyma ddechrau ar genhadu'r Saint ym mherfeddwlad Cymru.

Ond nid tan gyrhaeddiad y Capten Dan Jones ym Merthyr y dechreuodd yr Eglwys brofi llwyddiant cenhadol sylweddol. Un o Halkyn, Sir Y Fflint, o deulu Methodistaidd, oedd Dan Jones yn wreiddiol, ond fe droes yn Formon wedi iddo ymfudo i America. Efe, yn ôl dysgeidiaeth ei Eglwys, a gafodd neges olaf proffwyd yr Eglwys, Joseph Smith, cyn i Smith gael ei lofruddio ym 1844. Cyhoeddodd y proffwyd y byddai Dan Jones yn dychwelyd i'w famwlad er mwyn "ail-blannu'r efengyl yno".

Erbyn 1845 roedd Dan Jones wrthi'n brysur bregethu, cyhoeddi, dadlau, darbwyllo a bedyddio ym Merthyr; ac efe yn anad neb arall oedd yn gyfrifol am godi'r Saint i'r fath nerth fel y daethant i fod, yn ddi-os, yn gryn boen a 'bygythiad' i ddylanwad a sefyllfa'r enwadau anghydffurfiol mewn amryw ardal. Dyna sy wrth wraidd y casineb rhyfeddol a wynebodd y Mormoniaid gan eu gelynion. Dyna sy'n egluro'r Parchg. W.R. Davies, gweinidog y Bedyddwyr yn Nowlais, yn arallenwi'r eglwys yn un o "Sataniaid", nid "Saint"!

Thâl hi ddim i geisio cywasgu i ychydig baragraffau yma holl weithgaredd, brwydro, llwyddiant ac aflwydd y Mormaniaid yng Nghymru rhwng 1845-1865 yn neillduol. Er nad hyd yma yn hysbys iawn, erys yr hanes yn rhy fawr o dipyn. Gellir ond crybwyll ambell i gyfeiriad.

Dyna i chi lwyddiant Dan Jones a'i gyfeillion yn ennill oeddeutu saith mil o bobl i'w hachos rhwng tua 1845 a 1860. Dyna sefydlu dau gylchgrawn (Prophwyd y Jubili, 1846-1848; ac Udgorn Seion, 1849-1862) o ryw 8,372 tudalen rhyngddynt! Dyna i chi'r wasg yn nwylo Dan Jones a John Sylvanus Davies yn arbennig yn cynhyrchu dros gant o deitlau o fewn rhyw ddeuddeng mlynedd (1845-1857), yn bennaf yn Llanybydder, Merthyr ac Abertawe - gan gynnwys y daflen Formonaidd gyntaf yn Ffrangeg ("L'Etangile"), a gyhoeddwyd ym Merthyr ym 1849. Dyna i chi yrfa John Parry o Ddyffryn Clwyd, arweinydd cyntaf y côr a dyfodd i fod yn fyd-enwog fel Côr Tabernacl y Mormoniaid; a gyrfáu William Howells, Aberdâr, eu cenhadwr arloesol i Lydaw; John Jones, Llangollen, (brawd Dan Jones) eu hargraffydd cyntaf a llu o gymeriadau diddorol eraill.

Yn fwy na dim arall, dyna i chi'r perswâd a'r arwraeth ysgogodd miloedd o'r Saint Cymreig hyn i ymadael â 'Seion y gwledydd' er ceisio ail-godi Seion yn

anialwch 'Desert' (neu Utah fel y'i gelwir heddiw). Pwy sydd nad yw'n rhyfeddu at ymroddiad y Saint hyn o darllen am eu hantur (a'u helynt) yn croesi'r cefnfor o Lerpwl i New Orleans neu Efrog Newydd, gan wynebu oddi yno pob dim rhwng lluwchfeydd eira a gwres y tir cras, rhwng y geri marwol ac Indiaid Cochion, nes cyrraedd tir eu haddewid yn Utah?

Cafwyd cyfrol arloesol "Y Mormoniaid Yng Nghymru" gan T.H. Lewis ym 1956. Ond ni wnaeth neb mwy na'r Athro Ronald D. Dennis, o Brifysgol Brigham Young, Provo, Utah, i ledaenu gwybodaeth am y Mormoniaid a'u hanes anrhydeddus yng Nghymru.

Eisoes, cafwyd ganddo dwy gyfrol ar agweddau arbennig ar yr hanes hwn: "The Call of Zion: the Story of the First Welsh Mormon Emigration" (1987), a "Welsh Mormon Writings 1844-62: a Historical Bibliography" (1988). Lluniodd nifer o erthyglau annibynnol yn ogystal.

Y flwyddyn nesaf, fe fydd yr Athro Dennis (sydd ei hun yn or-gor-ŵyr i Dan Jones) yn arwain ymweliad â Chymru gan fintai o ddisgynyddion yr ymfudwyr Cymreig a ymadawodd ar ganol yr 19G. Byddant yma ar ddiwedd Mehefin / dechrau Gorffennaf; a byddant yn talu ymweliad â rhai o hen winllanau eu ffydd yng Nghymru er dathlu penblwydd eu heglwys yn 150 oed yn ein plith.

Hyderaf y cânt hwy gymaint o gyfaredd yma ag y ces i fel hanesydd yn ymweld ag Utah am y tro cyntaf ym mis Awst eleni. Yno y gwelais (ymhlith llu o bethau eraill) tabernaclau (eglwysi) cynnar y Mormoniaid yn Box Elder / Brigham City (1865) ac yn Logan (tua 1860) a godwyd gan sefydlwyr Cymreig yn drawiadol debyg i'r capeli anghydffurfiol a adwaenent yn yr hen wlad. Yno hefyd y gwelais rai o dai cerrig y sefydlwyr Cymreig a'u cyfoedion, a rhai o'r treflannau a gychwynasant yng ngogledd Utah a de Idaho, megis Malad City, Samaria a St. John.

A chyffesaf mai tipyn o ysgytwad ynghanol y paith a'r llwch yn Idaho, gyda'r Rockies yn codi yn y pellder nes rhwygo'r nen lwydlas ar hyd eu copäon llym, oedd canfod hen fynwentydd y Saint Cymreig: hwn o Bendeulwyn, hon o'r Alltwen.

Yno, ym mynwent fechan Gymreig yn Idaho, gorweddai David Stephens. Fe'i ganed ym Mhencader ym 1809 a bu farw yn nhreflan St. John ym 1882, yn 73 oed. Beth a'i ysgogodd i "fyned draw", ond grym y ffydd a'i cyffyrddodd ac a'i troes yn 'Sant' yng Nghymru Dan Jones? Ar waelod ei garreg - fedd, yn iaith ei grud, fe gerfiwyd "Nac wyliwch, nid marw ef, eithr cysgu y mae".

Oblegid gwaith Ron Dennis ac eraill, tebyg yw y daw hynny'n fwyfwy wir amdanynt oll pan ddaw ei lyfrau pellach i olau dydd.

Ydy, wir. Mae'r hanes yn fawr.

D.L. Davies
Aberdâr

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Providence United Reformed Church, Mountain Ash

The Glamorgan Record Office has recently received on deposit the surviving documents from Providence, Mountain Ash. The collection was gathered together for us by Alan Vernon Jones, the author of a history of Providence, published in 1987.

Minute books in the collection date from 1912, the year of the re-building of the chapel. Earlier minutes should take the story of Providence back to its foundation in 1869, but Mr Jones has not been able to to discover their whereabouts. Can any reader of the Newsletter help? Perhaps the books were taken home for safe-keeping by a former minister or member of the chapel, and they may still be in the possession of a descendant.

Any information on the missing books, or on other chapel collections awaiting deposit from the area of the three counties of Glamorgan, would be gratefully received by the Glamorgan Record Office, County Hall, Cathays Park, Cardiff, or by our West Glamorgan Area Record Office, County Hall, Oystermouth Road, Swansea.

Early Sunday School Buildings

The important part played by Sunday schools in the early history of Nonconformity in Wales is well-known. Often, it seems, no clear-cut distinction can be made between the earliest chapels and the Sunday schools using the same premises (whether in secular buildings or purpose-built chapels) and it would appear that separate purpose built Sunday schools only became usual late in the 19th century, frequently as part of re-building schemes. If any member of *Capel* knows of any surviving pre-1870 buildings specifically provided for Sunday schools (as proved by documentary evidence or, better

still, by an inscribed and dated stone), I should be interested to hear of them. They could be rooms above or below the chapel itself, or separate structures. Day schools teaching secular as well as religious subjects (often called British schools) also met at first in chapels and were sometimes accommodated in separate buildings during the period 1810-70; no doubt they, too, were used as Sunday schools. However, rooms devoted entirely to Sunday schools appear to be very rare before 1870 and I should be grateful for details of any which survive. I should also be interested to hear of any early British school buildings now used for other purposes or under threat of demolition.

M.V.J. Seaborne
Pen-y-lan, Cilcain Road, Pantymwyn, Mold, Clwyd, CH7 5NJ.

CYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL BLYNYDDOL / ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Cymdeithas Treftadaeth y Capeli - CAPEL - The Chapels Heritage Society

4ydd Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol a gynhaliwyd yng Nghapel Seion Twyn'rodyn, Merthyr Tudful ar Ddydd Sadwrn 14 Hydref 1989 /

4th Annual General Meeting held at Seion Chapel, Twyn'rodyn, Merthyr Tudful on Saturday 14th October 1989.

41 o aelodau yn bresennol / 41 members present.

Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies:

Mrs V. Bird, Rev. Roger L. Brown, Mr Richard Francis, Mr & Mrs Alun Jones, Mrs N. Macheti, Mr Donald Moore, Mr & Mrs P. Mason, Messrs Merfyn H. Roberts, John Rowlands, Dr. M. Seaborne, Messrs C.F. Stell, G.B. Williams, Professor I.M. Williams.

1. Cofnodion Cyfarfod Blynyddol Cyffredinol 1988

Cadarnhawyd cofnodion y Cyfarfod Blynyddol Cyffredinol a gynhaliwyd yn Llandrindod ar 15 Hydref 1988.

2. Adroddiad y Cadeirydd

Cyfeiriodd y Cadeirydd at nifer o ddatblygiadau pwysig:-

1) Cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod y Gwanwyn llwyddiannus iawn yn Ninbych ar 13 Mai a thalwyd teyrnged i gyfraniadau pwysig Mri Geoffrey Veysey a Kevin Matthias gyda'r trefniadau ar gyfer yr achlysur hwn.

2) Trefnwyd nifer o weithgareddau gan y grwpiau rhanbarthol, yn cynnwys y canlynol:-

a) Gwynedd

Yr oedd Gwasanaeth Archifau Gwynedd yn bwriadu cyhoeddi pac-dysgu ar y thema 'Capel a Chapeli'.

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod llwyddiannus ar y cyd gyda Chymdeithas Hanes Sir Gaernarfon yn ystod yr haf, ac ymwelwyd â chapeli Nanhoron, Ty'n ddonen a Botwnnog.

b) De-Ddwyrain Cymru

Cynhelir cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol yn chwarterol yng Nghanolfan Hanesyddol a Diwylliannol Pontypridd.

Cynhelir cyfarfodydd ar y cyd gyda Chymdeithas Hanes yr Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig ar 21 Tachwedd, yn Nhabernacl, Llanfaches, Gwent i ddathlu penblwydd y gynulleidfa yno yn 350 mlwydd oed.

c) Gorllewin Morgannwg

Diolchwyd i'r grwp am gynhyrchu'r rhestr o gapeli sydd mewn perygl a ymddangosodd yn y Cylchlythyr Rhif 8.

3) Cyhoeddwyd tri rhifyn o'r Cylchlythyr yn ystod y flwyddyn, y cyntaf wedi ei baratoi gan Mr Gerallt Nash, a'r ddau arall gan Mr Alun Jones. Y mae Mr Jones i ffwrdd ar hyn o bryd yn yr Unol Daleithiau ac mi fydd yr Ysgrifennydd yn gyfrifol am gyhoeddi'r rhifyn nesaf. Bwriedir cynhyrchu cardiau cyfarch a dwy daflen gwybodaeth: un ar lunio

cofnod ffotograffig o gapeli a'r llall ar baratoi adysgrifau cyflawn o gofebau mynwentydd.

4) Gwahoddwyd cynrychiolydd o 'The Chapels Society', a sefydlwyd yn ddiweddar yn Lloegr, i gyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Gwaith, a chafwyd trafodaeth gynhwysfawr a buddiol ar bwrpas ac amcanion y ddwy gymdeithas, a'u perthynas a'i gilydd. Bwriedir cyd-weithredu gyda 'The Chapels Society' pan fydd hyn yn ymarferol, a dymunwyd yn dda i'r gymdeithas newydd.

5) Llwyddwyd i berswadio CADW i newid y penderfyniad gwreiddiol i wrthod rhoddi cymorth ariannol ar gyfer atgyweirio Hen Gapel John Hughes, Pontrobert. Yr oedd aelodau'r Pwyllgor lleol wedi mynegi eu diolch i CAPEL am gefnogaeth werthfawr i'r ymdrech i ddiogelu'r capel hanesyddol hwn.

6) Yr oedd y Pwyllgor Gwaith wedi trafod cynigion yn ymwneud â chategoriau newydd o swyddogion. Cytunwyd i:-

   a) beidio a dewis swyddogion anrhydeddus i'r Gymdeithas,

   b) penodi Swyddog i'r Wasg (cytunodd Dr. Dilys Quick, Abertawe, i ymgymryd â'r gwaith hwn).

7) Cytunwyd i gynnig telerau aelodaeth am oes am swm o £50 (a'r swm i'w adolygu yn rheolaidd).

8) Derbyniodd y gymdeithas unwaith eto gefnogaeth nifer o sefydliadau yng Nghymru, yn cynnwys Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, Amgueddfa Werin Cymru, Canolfan Hanesyddol a Diwylliannol Pontypridd, ac archifdai a llyfrgelloedd lleol.

3. Adroddiad yr Ysgrifennydd

Cyfeiriodd yr Ysgrifennydd at y ffaith fod Cyfarwyddwr Swyddfa Rhanbarthol Gogledd Cymru, Banc y National Westminster wedi cytuno i ddosbarthu i ganghennau yng Ngogledd Cymru daflen y gymdeithas, ynghyd â llythyr yn holi am wybodaeth am ddatblygiadau yn ymwneud â chapeli.

Cesglir gwybodaeth ar hyn o bryd ynglyn â sefydlu trefniadau aelodaeth perthnasol gyda chymdeithasau hanes enwadol.

Cynhelir Cyfarfod y Gwanwyn 1990 yn Hwlffordd a chysylltir gyda Mr G.B. Williams, un o aelodau CAPEL, ynglyn â'r trefniadau.

4. Adroddiad y Trysorydd

Cyflwynodd y Trysorydd, Mr Richard Carter, Adroddiad o'r Cyfrifon am y flwyddyn yn gorffen ar 30 Medi 1989. 'Roedd yr adroddiad wedi ei archwilio a'i gael yn gywir gan Mrs Valerie Bird, Penarth a'r Parchg. Roger L. Brown, Tongwynlais. Dangosodd yr adroddiad fod swm y Cyfrif Cyffredinol yn £177.17 a swm y Cyfrif Aelodaeth yn £724.16. Derbyniwyd a chymeradwywyd adroddiad y Trysorydd.

Cyflwynodd Mr Carter ei ymddiswyddiad o'r swydd a diolchwyd iddo am ei lafur ers sefydlu'r Gymdeithas ym 1985 ac yn y gwaith a arweiniodd at hynny.

5. Ethol Swyddogion

Etholwyd y swyddogion canlynol:

Cadeirydd: Miss Ann Rhydderch
Ysgrifennydd: Dr. D. Huw Owen
Trysorydd: Commander A.F. Mortimer

Nodwyd dymuniad yr Ysgrifenydd i'w ryddhau o'i swydd yn 1990 a gwahoddwyd yr aelodau i gyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor Gwaith enwebiadau am olynydd iddo.

6. Ethol Aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Gwaith

Etholwyd Mrs Elizabeth Hall a Mr Graham Rosser i wasanaethu ar y Pwyllgor Gwaith.

7. Cysylltiadau gyda CADW ac Adran Gymreig y CBA

Awgrymwyd y dylid sefydlu cysylltiadau agosach (ac efallai ffurfiol) gyda CADW ac Adran Gymreig y CBA. Dywedodd yr Ysgrifennydd ei fod eisoes yn ceisio trefnu cyfarfod gyda CADW er mwyn

sicrhau cyfathrebu cyson a rheolaidd gyda'r corff hwnnw. Hefyd, yr oedd y Pwyllgor Gwaith wedi cynnig cynghori, yn rheolaidd, mewn trafodaethau ar bwysigrwydd pensaerniol a hanesyddol ynglyn â rhaglenni-rhestri a oedd yn ymwneud â chapeli.

8. Cysylltiadau ag Awdurdodau Cynllunio

Awgrymwyd y dylid ysgrifennu at yr Awdurdodau Cynllunio yng Nghymru i egluro amcanion CAPEL ac i gynnig cynghori ar geisiadau sy'n ymwneud â chapeli a Restrwyd.

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 1988

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held at Llandrindod Wells on 15 October 1988, were confirmed.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman referred to several important developments:

1) A very successful Spring Meeting was held at Denbigh on 13 May and tribute was paid to the important contributions of Messrs Geoffrey Veysey and Kevin Matthias with regard to the arrangements for the event.

2) A number of activities were arranged by regional groups, including the following:

a) Gwynedd

Gwynedd Archive Service intended to publish a teaching-pack on the theme of 'Capel a Chapeli'. A successful joint meeting has been held during the summer with the Caernarfonshire Historical Society with visits made to the chapels of Nanhoron, Ty'nddonen and Botwnnog.

b) South-East Wales

In future meetings would be held on a quarterly basis at the Pontypridd Historical and Cultural Centre.

A joint meeting would be held with the Historical Society of the

United Reformed Church on 21 November at Tabernacle Chapel, Llanvaches, Gwent to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the congregation.

c) West Glamorgan

The group was thanked for producing the list of threatened chapels which appeared in the Newsletter, No. 8.

3) Three issues of the Newsletter were produced during the year, the first of which was prepared by Mr Gerallt Nash and the other two by Mr Alun Jones. Mr Jones is at present in the United States and the Secretary would be responsible for editing the next issue.

It is expected that greeting cards and two information sheets: one on compiling a photographic record and the other on preparing a transcript of memorial inscriptions: will be published.

4) A representative of the Chapels Society, recently established in England, was invited to meet the Executive Committee. This resulted in a comprehensive and profitable discussion on the purpose and objectives of the two societies, and their relationship with each other. It is hoped to co-operate with The Chapels Society when this is possible and our good wishes were extended to the new society.

5) CADW has been persuaded to reverse the original decision to reject the application for financial assistance towards the restoration of Hen Gapel John Hughes, Pontrobert. Members of the local committee had expressed their gratitude to CAPEL for valuable support to the compaign to preserve this historic chapel.

6) The Executive Committee had discussed proposals concerning new categories of officials. It was agreed to:-

a) not nominate honorary officials for the Society,

b) appoint a Press Officer (Dr. Dilys Quick, Swansea, agreed to undertake this work).

7) It was agreed to offer life-membership terms for a sum of £50 (and this sum would be periodically reviewed).

8) The society once again had received the support of several institutions in Wales, including the National Library of Wales, the Welsh Folk Museum, the Pontypridd Historical and Cultural Centre, and local record offices and libraries.

3. The Secretary's Report

The Secretary referred to the fact that the Director of the North Wales Regional Office of the National Westminster Bank had agreed to distribute to branches in North Wales the society leaflet, together with a letter requesting information on possible developments affecting chapels.

At present information is being collected concerning reciprocal membership arrangements with denominational history societies.

The Spring Meeting 1990 will be held in Haverfordwest and Mr G.B. Williams, a CAPEL member, will be contacted concerning the arrangements.

4. The Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30 September 1989. The statement had been audited and found correct by Mrs Valerie Bird and the Rev. Roger L. Brown, Tongwynlais. The statement showed that the General Account contained £177.17 and the Membership Account stood at £724.16. The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.

Mr Carter presented his resignation from the office and he was thanked for his work since the foundation of the society in 1985, and in helping to prepare for that event.

5. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Miss Ann Rhydderch
Secretary: Dr. D. Huw Owen
Treasurer: Commander A.F. Mortimer

The Secretary's wish to be relieved of this post in 1990 was noted, and members were invited to present to the Executive Committee nominations for his successor.

6. Election of Members of Executive Committee

Mrs Elizabeth Hall and Mr Graham Rosser were elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

7. Contacts with CADW and the Welsh Section of the CBA

It was proposed that closer (and possiby formal) contacts be established with CADW and the Welsh Section of the CBA.

The Secretary stated that he had already sought to arrange a meeting with CADW which would ensure regular and systematic liaison with that body. Also the Executive Committee had offered to advise, on a systematic basis, in discussions on the architectural and historical importance of chapels. CAPEL had also been asked to supply information concerning listing-programmes which might involve chapels.

8. Contacts with Planning Authorities

It was suggested that letters should be sent to the Planning Authorities in Wales to explain the objectives of CAPEL and to offer advice on applications involving Listed chapels.

VISIT TO
NONCONFORMIST CHAPELS IN LLŶN

The Caernarvonshire Historical Society's Spring Meeting was held jointly with the Gwynedd Branch of 'Capel'. A large number of members of both societies visited three chapels which played an important part in the development of nonconformity in Llŷn. Members first visited Capel Newydd, Nanhoron, of the Independent cause, where they were addressed by Dr. Trefor Owen. This chapel, built in 1769, is particularly interesting as an example of 'Chapel restoration', as it was restored by the Caernarvonshire Historical Society and officially re-opened on 26 July 1958. It also provides an indication of the problem of maintaining such buildings once they have been restored!

A motor cavalcade then proceeded along the highways and byways of the Llŷn Peninsula to Ty Mawr, Bryncroes where the history of the Calvinistic Methodist cause and chapel was outlined by Mr Gruffudd Parry. A most pleasant and instructive afternoon culminated at the Baptist chapel of Ty'nddonen, Botwnnog, under the guidance and instruction of Mr T.M. Bassett. This proved to be an unforgettable conclusion to a most successful outing.

B.R. Parry,

Caernarfon.

CYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL BLYNYDDOL / ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SYLWADAU YCHWANEGOL / ADDITIONAL COMMENTS*

Daeth aelodau'r Gymdeithas ynghyd yng nghapel Seion, Twyn'rodyn, Merthyr Tudful, ar gyfer y pedwerydd cyfarfod cyffredinol blynyddol, ar ddydd Sadwrn, 14eg Hydref. Sefydlwyd capel Seion ym 1788 allan o gapel cychwynnol y Bedyddwyr yn Nwyrain Morgannwg yn Hengoed. Erbyn heddiw, Seion yw ail gapel hynaf yr ardal. Ers dymchwel capel Ynysgau (A) ar ddechrau'r chwedegau dim ond yr Hen Dŷ Cwrdd (U), Cefn Coed, a sefydlwyd ym 1747, sy'n hŷn. Mawr yw ein diolch i aelodau Seion, ac yn arbennig i'w ysgrifennydd, Mr Josh Powell, am eu cymwynas â ni.

Pleser i bawb oedd clywed am ran allweddol CAPEL mewn darbwyllo CADW i wyrdroi eu penderfyniad cyntaf i beidio â rhoi cymorth ariannol tuag at adfer Hen Gapel John Hughes, Pontrobert. Dyma gartref ysbrydol y sawl fu agosaf at yr "anfarwol Ann"; a da yw deall y bydd y bobl leol a gododd amryw fil o lafur eu calon yn cael cymorth swyddogol o hyn allan.

Yn dilyn busnes y cyfarfod, cafwyd darlith ddarluniol gan Mr Martin Snead, Merthyr, ar wreiddiau, pensaernïaeth a gweithgaredd Ymneilltuaeth y fro bwysig hon. Hyderwn y bydd cyfle i gynnwys sylwadau Mr Snead yn y Cylchlythyr dydd a ddaw. Wedi cinio, aed ar daith gerdded o gwmpas rhai o gapeli'r ardal oedd oddeutu canol y dre, a chafwyd prynhawn difyr iawn gan bawb.

The fourth AGM of CAPEL was held at Seion Baptist Chapel, Twyn'rodyn, Merthyr Tydfil, on Saturday, 14th October. The congregation of Seion was formally established in 1788 out of the Baptists' pioneer cause in east Glamorgan at Hengoed. By today, Seion is the second oldest cause in the Merthyr district. Since the demolition of Ynysgau Independent Chapel in the early sixties only the Unitarian Hen Dŷ Cwrdd at Cefn Coed, founded in 1747, is older. We are most grateful to the members of Seion, and in particular to its Secretary, Mr Josh Powell, for their welcome.

It was a satisfaction for all to learn of the central role played by CAPEL in persuading CADW to reverse its earlier decision not to give financial support towards restoring Hen Gapel John Hughes at Pontrobert, Powys. This was

the spiritual home of those most closely connected with the intensely-inspired hymnist, Ann Griffiths; and it is good to know that those local people, who have already raised several thousand pounds by their labour of love, will henceforth receive official support.

After completing the business of the meeting, Mr Martin Snead, Merthyr, gave an illustrated lecture on the origin, architecture and impact of Nonconformity in the Merthyr district. We hope the opportunity of including Mr Snead's comments in this Newsletter will arise sometime in the future. In the afternoon Mr Snead led a walking visit to several chapels in the vicinity of the town centre, and a most agreeable experience it proved to be.

D.L. Davies

* Dymuna'r Ysgrifennydd ddiolch i Mr D.L. Davies am baratoi adroddiad llawn a manwl o'r Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol /

The Secretary wishes to thank Mr D.L. Davies for preparing a full and detailed report of the Annual General Meeting.

DATHLIADAU / CELEBRATIONS

Yn ddiweddar, dathlwyd penblwydd nifer o eglwysi. Cynhaliwyd gwasanaethau arbennig yn Yr Hen Gapel, Llanbrynmair i ddathlu'r cyfnod o 250 mlynedd ers sefydlu'r eglwys hanesyddol hon a chwareuodd ran amlwg yn hanes Anghydffurfiaeth yng Nghymru. Cyhoeddwyd cyfrol i ddathlu'r achlysur.

Dathlwyd dau canmlwyddiant Eglwys Annibynnol Penarth, Llanfair Caereinion mewn gwasanaeth arbennig a gynhaliwyd ar 8 Medi.

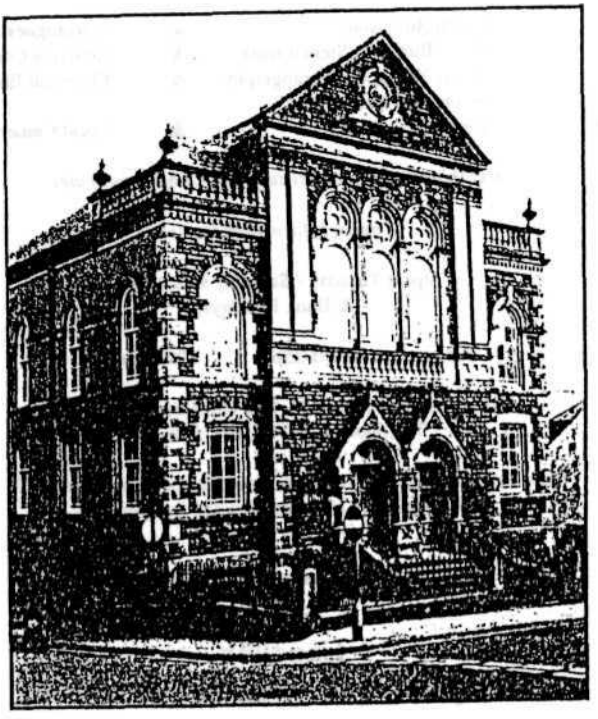
Cyhoeddwyd y gyfrol Bethel Aberystwyth 1788-1989 i ddathlu canmlwyddiant y capel presennol. Olrheinia'r awdur, Mr B.G. Owens, ddechreuadau'r achos Fedyddiedig yn Aberystwyth, a chyflwynir braslun o hanes rhai o'r prif gymeriadau a fu'n flaenllaw gyda'r enwad yn y dref yn ystod y ganrif ddiwethaf.

A number of chapels have recently held anniversary celebrations. Special services were held in Yr Hen Gapel, Llanbrynmair to celebrate the 250th

anniversary of this historical church which played an important role in the history of Nonconformity in Wales. A volume was published to celebrate the event.

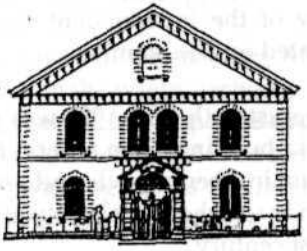
The 200th anniversary of the Independent Chapel of Penarth, Llanfair Caereinion was celebrated on 8 September.

The volume Bethel Aberystwyth 1788-1989 was published to celebrate the centenary of the present building. The author, Mr B.G. Owens traces the origin of the Baptist cause in Aberystwyth, and presents an historical outline of the prominent individuals who were involved with the denomination in the town during the last century.



Pontypridd

Historical and Cultural Centre



A beautifully restored Welsh Valleys chapel beside the River Taff
and next to Pontypridd's famous Old Bridge

VISITING EXHIBITIONS 1989

Aug	Heath Robinson	&	Synagogues in Wales
Sept	Jurdy Burford - Stencil work	&	Rhondda Community Arts
Oct	Wally Waygood (Photography)	&	Electrical Energy
Nov	Winter Art Exhibition		
Dec--Jan 1990	Heraldry in Wales	&	Local Camera Clubs

Exhibitions on Local history and Chapels in Wales

Tourist Information Centre

Open: Tuesday - Saturday 9am - 5pm
(& Bank Holidays)

Admission: Adults 25p Children 15p

Bridge Street, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 4PE
Telephone (0443) 402077/480786

How to get there: The Centre is about 500 yards from the A470 - Ynysybwl exit (6 miles from M4 junction 32)

At the "Gateway to the Valleys"

Canolfan
Hanesyddol a Diwylliannol Pontypridd

Argraffwyd gan wasg Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
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