

Capel

CYMDEITHAS TREFTADAETHY CAPELI
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER/CYLCHLYTHYR 18

GAEAF / WINTER 1992

VISIT TO RHOSLLANERCHRUGOG

The Annual General Meeting this year was held on Saturday, 17 October at Rhosllanerchrugog in Clwyd.



Mount Pleasant (*English Baptist*) Ponciau

Rhos is a large industrial settlement in the ancient parish of Ruabon whose population grew with the development of local coal mines and brickworks. Its boast is that it is the largest village in Wales - never achieving urban status. Describing Rhosllanerchrugog, Edward Hubbard in his *Buildings of Clwyd* notes its 'great concentration of chapels'. In the 1905 Royal Commission on places of worship there were twenty one: Welsh Wesleyan; English and Welsh Calvinistic Methodist; Primitive Methodist; English and Welsh Congregationalist; and English, Welsh and Scots Baptists.

The annual meeting was held in the schoolroom (built in 1902) of Bethlehem Welsh Independent chapel. The chapel's familiar name of Capel Bychan probably derives from the small size of the original chapel built in 1812 on the same site. A new chapel followed in 1839 with a further refurbishment and extension to provide an additional two hundred seating places sixty years later. The annual meeting was followed by a well-received illustrated lecture on Rhos chapels by Jon James, a native of Rhos, and conservation officer of Clwyd County Council. After an excellent lunch, the party led by Jon James visited ten chapels in Rhos, six of which were open for members to examine the interiors. Among the chapels were the now closed Bethel, Church of Christ or Disgyblion Crist in Campbell Street, and Soar, a Scots Baptist chapel in Johnson Street which has retained its graveyard.

Penuel, the Welsh Baptist chapel in Market Street, the first on the tour, has 'an exuberant brick and terracotta facade'. The mouldings are as good a catalogue as any of the products available at the local brick and tile making company of J C Edwards and Sons. Inside the furnishings of the 1890 refurbishment are intact, with the gallery fronts still varnished rather than painted as often seen today.

Ruabon brick was also the material used for Moriah, a former Welsh Presbyterian chapel built in 1877 but now used as a Salvation Army citadel. This chapel stands between Rhos and Ponciau, a populous area not easily defined geographically but whose houses, mostly also of Ruabon brick, were the homes of miners from the now closed local collieries.

In Ponciau, the party visited Seion, the Welsh Baptist chapel in Bank Street. This chapel by J G Owen was opened in 1901 at a cost of £2,500. It then had 166 members many of whom had assembled in July 1890 with picks and crowbars to demolish the previous chapel on the site and to clean the bricks for the rebuilding.

Across the road stands Bethel, a Welsh Presbyterian chapel, a daughter chapel of Rhos's Capel Mawr, half a mile away. The building is now in need of refurbishment which it is hoped will be achieved by means of grants and which will enable it to be used for many functions not possible in the 'slightly arts and crafts' chapel built next door in 1903. Mount Pleasant, the English Baptist chapel in Chapel Street was built in 1891 also by J G Owen of Liverpool. It is also of Ruabon brick with lancets, and incorporates on either side a minister's and a caretaker's house. The group was impressed inside by a display of photographs of about thirty members of the chapel who had died in the First World War, including three nurses.

The party when turned back up the steep hill to Rhosllanerchrugog passing Ponciau Banks, an area extensively mined but levelled in the early 1930s by a scheme to relieve unemployment, passing Calfaria, otherwise known as Concky chapel, a Scots Baptist chapel, and Hill Street English Presbyterian chapel. The tour concluded at Jerusalem or Capel Mawr, the Welsh Presbyterian chapel in Brook Street with its impressive gallery and organ. This cause formed a church in 1770 with local members of the well-known cause at Adwy'r Clawdd, Coedpoeth. Their first chapel had an earth floor and heather-thatched roof. Soon after, a larger

chapel was built and by 1837 it was extended to its present size, although the present gallery was not added until 1863.

The group had a welcome cup of tea in the 1894 vestry/schoolroom before departing after a very successful meeting and tour of one of the centres of nonconformist life in Wales. Copies of the local information sheet prepared for the day by Kevin Matthias of the Clwyd Record Office can be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Susan Beckley, West Glamorgan Record Office, County Hall, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, SA1 3SN.

COFNODION CYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL BLYNYDDOL 1992

Cynhaliwyd 7fed Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol y Gymdeithas yng Nghapel Bethlehem, Rosllanerchrugog, dydd Sadwrn 19 Hydref 1992.

1. Croesawyd yr aelodau i'r Rhos gan y Cadeirydd.
2. Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau am eu habsenoldeb oddi wrth: Mr David Barton, Dr Rhidian Griffiths, Y Parch W J Griffiths, Mr Jeff Harrison, Mrs K Hughes, Dr Lionel Madden, Mr Donald Moore, Y Parch Dafydd Owen, Dr Dilys Quick, Mr G B Williams, Miss L M Williams a Mr a Mrs V H Williams.
3. Cadarnhawyd cofnodion y 6ed Cyfarfod Blynyddol, agynhaliwyd yn Nolgellau 12 Hydref 1992.
4. *Adroddiad y Cadeirydd*
 - 4.1 Adroddodd y Cadeirydd y treuliwyd llawer o'r flwyddyn yn paratoi i greu rhestr o gapeli Cymru. Ffurfiwyd gweithgor dan gadeiryddiaeth Ms Elizabeth Evans agwnaed arolwgar brofol argapeli Meirionnydd. A fonwyd holiaduron i 140 o gapeli yn yr hen sir a dychwelwyd nifer sylweddol ohonynt. Cyfarfu cynrychiolwyr Capel â chynrychiolwyr Comisiwn Brenhinol yr Henebion a Cadw a rhannwyd gwybodaeth ynglŷn â'r amryw arolygon a wnaed gan wahanol gyrff yng Nghymru.
 - 4.2 Yn ystod y flwyddyn fe baratowyd taflen wybodaeth ar gofnodi arysgrifau mewn mynwentydd. Cafwyd cyngor gan Gymdeithas y Cymdeithasau Hanes Teuluol Cymreig wrth baratoi'r daflen hon.
 - 4.3 Cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod Gwanwyn 1992 yn ardal Meidrim a Thre-lech yn yr hen Sir Gaerfyrddin. Trefnwyd y diwrnod gan Miss Muriel Bowen Evans, Tre-lech a bu hi a Mr Thomas Lloyd yn annerch y gymdeithas yng Nghapel y Graig, Tre-lech. Clywodd yr aelodau ddarlith hefyd gan y Cynrol W Kemmis Buckley ar Wesleaeth yn yr ardal, ac fe aethpwyd i weld y Gangell, cartref yr emynydd Elfed.

4.4 Terfynodd y Cadeirydd ei hadroddiad trwy ddiolch i'r Ysgrifennydd, y Trysorydd, Golygydd y Cylchlythyr a Chadeirydd Gweithgor y Rhestr Capeli am eu gwaith dros y Gymdeithas yn ystod y flwyddyn.

5. *Adroddiad yr Ysgrifennydd*

5.1 Cyfarfu Cangen De Ddwyrain Cymru bedair gwaith yn ystod y flwyddyn. Cynhaliwyd tri chyfarfod yng Nghanolfan Hanesyddol a Diwylliannol Pontypridd ac un yn eglwys Fethodistaidd Wesleiaidd y Drindod, Caerdydd. Ymhlith y siaradwyr yr oedd Mr Brian James ar hanes Wesleiaeth yng Nghaerdydd a Mr Michael Davies ar addasu adeiladau ar gyfer defnydd newydd.

Yn ystod y flwyddyn penderfynodd y gangen ffurfio cangen ar wahân o fewn Cangen y De-Ddwyrain ar gyfer aelodau Capel sy'n byw yng Ngwent.

5.2 Cynhaliodd Cangen Gorllewin Morgannwg gyfarfod yn Bethesda, Capel y Bedyddwyr, Abertawe, i glywed darlith gan Mr Colin Williams ar Anghydfurfiaeth yn Abertawe yn y ganrif ddiwethaf.

5.3 Cyfarfu Cangen Gogledd-Ddwyrain Cymru yn Bethesda, capel y Presbyteriaid Cymraeg yn yr Wyddgrug i glywed darlith gan Dr Malcolm Seaborne ar gapeli cynnar yn Sir Fflint.

5.4 Mae'r Gymdeithas yn dal i derbyn ceisiadau am gyngor ar faterion megis newid defnydd adeiladau capeli a'r perygl i adeiladau capeli. Yn ystod y flwyddyn ymgynghorwyd ynglŷn â chapeli Bethesda, Llansantffraid, a St John, Llandrindod, a phedwar capel yn Abertawe - Argyle, Bethesda (B), St Andrew's (URC), a Chapel Coffa'r Bedyddwyr.

5.5 Ymgynghori gydag awdurdodau lleol.

Anfonwyd llythyr at yr holl gynghorau sir a dosbarth yng Nghymru yn gofyn am wybodaeth am unrhyw ymddiriedolaethau ar gyfer adeiladau hanesyddol. Derbyniwyd nifer calonogol o atebion yn cyflwyno yn gyffredinol llawer o wybodaeth buddiol.

5.6 Cyfarfodydd i ddod.

Yn 1993 cynhelir Cyfarfod y Gwanwyn yn Woodstock, Sir Benfro, ar 15 Mai, a gobeithir cynnal y Cyfarfod Blynyddol yn Sir Faesyfed.

5.7 Mynegodd yr Ysgrifennydd ei gwerthawrogiad o'r gefnogaeth a'r cymorth gweinyddol a roddwyd i Capel gan y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol ac yn arbennig y gwaith a wnaethpwyd gan Dr D Huw Owen a Mr Alun Jones.

6. *Adroddiad y Trysorydd*

Cyflwynodd y Trysorydd ei gyfrifon am y flwyddyn hyd 31 Awst 1992.

Mynegodd ei bryder ynglŷn â'r nifer o aelodau sydd heb dalu eu haelodaeth

am y flwyddyn ond mynegodd hefyd ei werthfawrogiad o'r help a roddwyd i'r Gymdeithas gan yr Archwiliwr Mygedol.

7. *Ethol Swyddogion*

Ailetholwyd y swyddogion fel a ganlyn:-

Cadeirydd: Ms Ann Rhydderch
Ysgrifennydd: Miss Susan Beckley
Trysorydd: Cdr A F Mortimer

Dywedodd y Cadeirydd y byddai'n ymdeol o'i swydd yng Nghyfarfod Blynnyddol 1993 ac felly dylai'r aelodau fynd ati i chwilio am bersonau addas i'w henwebu i'r swydd.

8. *Ethol Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Gwaith*

Nibu ymdeoliadau o'r pwyllgor a chytunwyd y byddai'r pwyllgor presennol yn dal ymlaen am flwyddyn arall.

9. *Unrhyw Fater Arall*

Cyhoeddodd y Cadeirydd y byddai pecynnau o gardiau yn darlunio Capel Mawr y Rhos ar werth yn ystod y dydd.

Dilynwyd y Cyfarfod busnes gan ddarlith ar Gapeli'r Rhos a draddodwyd gan Mr Jon James, Swyddog Cadwraeth Cyngor Sir Clwyd.

Susan Beckley

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1992

The 7th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Bethlehem Chapel, Rhosllanerchrugog on Saturday 17 October 1992.

1. The Chairman welcomed members to Rhos.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Mr David Barton, Dr Rhidian Griffiths, Reverend W J Griffiths, Mr Jeff Harrison, Mrs K Hughes, Dr Lionel Madden, Mr Donald Moore, Reverend Dafydd Owen, Dr Dilys Quick, Mr G B Williams, Miss LM Williams and Mr and Mrs V H Williams.
3. The minutes of the 6th AGM held at Dolgellau on 12 October 1991 were accepted.
4. *Chairman's Report*
 - 4.1 The Chairman reported that much of the year had been occupied with preliminary work on setting up a register of chapels. A Register sub-

Committee had been formed, chaired by Elizabeth Evans and a pilot survey had been carried on chapels in Merioneth. Questionnaires had been sent to 140 chapels in the former county and an encouraging number had been returned. Representatives of Capel had met with representatives of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments and of Cadw, where information had been exchanged on the various surveys of chapels which had been undertaken by different organisations within Wales.

- 4.2 An additional information leaflet had been prepared during the year on graveyard recording. The Association of Family History Societies in Wales had advised on the preparation of this leaflet.
- 4.3 The 1992 Spring meeting had been held in the area of Meidrim and Trelech in Carmarthenshire. The day had been organised by Miss Muriel Bowen Evans, Trelech, who, together with Mr Thomas Lloyd, had addressed the Society, in Capel-y-Graig, Trelech. Members also heard a lecture on Wesleyan Methodism by Col W Kemmis Buckley, and visited Y Gangell, home of the hymnwriter, Elfed.
- 4.4 The Chairman concluded her report by thanking the Hon Secretary, the Hon Treasurer, the Newsletter Editor, and the Chairman of the Register Subcommittee for their work on behalf of Capel during the year.

5. *Secretary' Report*

- 5.1 The South East Wales branch of Capel had met four times during the year. Three meetings had been held at the Pontypridd Historical and Cultural Centre, and one at Trinity Wesleyan Methodist Church, Cardiff. Speakers had included Mr Brian James on Wesleyan Methodism in Cardiff, and Mr Michael Davies of Caerphilly on adapting buildings to new uses.

During the year this branch had agreed to form a separate branch for Gwent members of Capel within the South East Wales Group.

- 5.2 The West Glamorgan branch of Capel had held a meeting at Bethesda Baptist chapel, Swansea, where Mr Colin Williams had given a lecture on 19th Century nonconformity in Swansea.
- 5.3 The North East Wales branch of Capel had met at Bethesda Welsh Presbyterian Chapel, Mold where Dr Malcolm Seaborne had given a lecture on early Flintshire chapels.
- 5.4 Capel continues to be consulted with regard to changes of use of chapel buildings, and chapel buildings at risk. Consultations during the year had included Bethesda Chapel, Llansantffraid, St Johns Chapel, Llandrindod Wells, and four Swansea chapels, namely Bethesda Baptist Chapel, Argyle Chapel, St Andrews URC, and Memorial Baptist Chapel.

- 5.5 Consultations with local authorities.
Letters had been sent to all County and District Councils in Wales requesting information regarding the existence of historic buildings trusts. An encouraging number of generally informative replies had been received.
- 5.6 Future meetings.
The 1993 Spring meeting would be held in Woodstock, Pembrokeshire on 15 May, and it was hoped that the 1993 AGM would be held in Radnorshire.
- 5.7 The Secretary expressed her appreciation of the support and administrative assistance provided to Capel by the staff of the National Library of Wales, and particularly of the work done by Dr D Huw Owen and Mr Alun Jones.

6. *Treasurer's Report*

The Treasurer presented a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 August 1992. He expressed concern about the number of members whose subscriptions were in arrears. The Treasurer further expressed his appreciation of the assistance given to the Society by the Hon. Auditor.

7. *Election of Officers*

The following officers were re-elected:-

Chairman: Ms Ann Rhydderch
Secretary: Miss Susan Beckley
Treasurer: Cdr A F Mortimer

The Chairman indicated that she would wish to resign from office at the 1993 AGM, and therefore nominations for a new Chairman should be sought.

8. *Election of Members of the Executive Committee*

There were no resignations from the committee, and it was agreed that the present committee should continue unchanged for a further year.

9. *Any other business*

The Chairman announced that packs of notelets depicting Capel Mawr, Rhos, were on sale for the day.

The business meeting was followed by a lecture on the chapels of Rhos by Mr Jon James, conservation Officer, Clwyd County Council.

Susan Beckley

REGISTER OF CHAPELS IN WALES

The pilot study in Merioneth (see Newsletter, 16) is now well under way and there has been an encouraging response from the chapel authorities in returning the questionnaires. It is understood that approximately two thirds of the questionnaires sent out have been returned.

Commander Mortimer has made a considerable effort to follow up unanswered questionnaires and personally surveyed and prepared measured drawings of a large number of chapels in the pilot area.

The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales recently invited representatives of Capel to attend a meeting at their offices together with representatives of the National Library and the senior Historic Buildings Inspector for Cadw - Welsh Historic Monuments to discuss the work being covered by Capel in preparing the Register of Chapels and the way forward to our mutual advantage.

The Commission are about to embark on a survey of religious buildings including non-christian buildings and whilst they have no brief to *protect* buildings (this is Cadw's function) they have to 'record, enhance and inform'. Capel are interested in recording and have a responsibility to protect and identify those buildings of particular interest that are at risk. In view of this it was agreed that an integrated approach would be helpful to all concerned.

The Commission considered that the information collected so far by Capel in the pilot study on Merioneth to be extremely valuable, but they highlighted the need for photographs in order to speed matters up. They have a preference for black and white photographic records because they are archively stable.

Arrangements are being made for the Commission to provide at no cost film and processing facilities for individuals prepared to carry out this work. It is hoped that details of the scheme will be finalised in time for the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

A lengthy discussion took place on the Extended National DataBase and the need for Capel to work with this in mind is essential with the continuing survey work.

The Commission are particularly keen to obtain information on past and present survey work being carried out on chapels, and help on this by Capel members would be most welcome.

It was generally accepted that Capel could:-

1. Make a valuable contribution to the work to be carried out by the Royal Commission by a grass roots survey of chapels including completion of the basic questionnaire and provision of photographic records.
2. Following on from this, identify buildings of special architectural/historic interest to be notified to Cadw.
3. Collect information through the regional groups of survey work being carried out by organisations or individuals on chapels within their areas.

THE Welsh Congregational chapel at Ferndale in which 800 voices once sang in unison is falling apart — the victim of vandalism, secularism and an ageing and dwindling local population.

Now only between 20 and 50 of the faithful — all aged over 70 — gather each Sunday at Trerhondda, in the South Wales Valley, for services, meeting not in the main chapel but the vestry.

Among them are 83-year old Miss Sarah Williams, chapel secretary, and Mrs Ceinwen Godfrey, aged 80.

Together with their life-long friend Miss Elrwen Lewis, the 81-

By DAVID VICKERMAN
Environment Correspondent

year-old chapel organist, they form the mainstay of the congregation.

Miss Williams, a former headmistress and a school teacher for 43 years, even stands in to conduct services when no visiting minister is available.

But now as the costs of running the building rise and as vandals and the elements threaten the building's fabric they are growing increasingly worried about Trerhondda's future.

"We are finding heating, lighting, cleaning of this large building a little more than we can face in the years to come," Miss Williams said.

Trerhondda, built in 1867, is typical of thousands of chapels and churches in Wales which are in peril.

Within the next few weeks the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, based at Aberystwyth, is planning to begin

O hear us when we cry to Thee!

focussing on this threat to Welsh ecclesiastical history.

Tony Parkinson, the commission's head of architectural history, intends putting together a feasibility study on ways of embarking on a full-scale research project.

"There are about a hundred churches and perhaps 1,000 chapels where there is a recognisable threat to the integrity of the building," he said.

Many are slowly decaying with, in some cases, demolition the only realistic solution.

The commission hopes to compile a data base using existing records, and other documentary

For chapels in peril from demolition

and pictorial sources, of church and chapel buildings in Wales which are at risk.

"It would record where records were already stored, such as in libraries and local archives, and serve both as a central index for researchers and historians and as a reference base for local authorities and organisations such as Cadw, the Welsh historic monuments agency, when considering which buildings are in

need of protection.

"There is also a strong need to put Welsh ecclesiastical buildings on to an academic map," Mr Parkinson said.

The situation at Trerhondda was an example of what was happening up and down the country — "churches and chapels alike", he added.

Declining congregations, the diminishing strength of the

church in many parts of Wales and the lack of incentive for young people to join were all contributing to the crisis.

In some areas this is compounded by migration, weakening what was always the great strength of congregations — the strong local community.

Mr Parkinson added, "As migration has accelerated, the social coherence, particularly of the chapels, has declined."

Records from 1906 show there were about 5,000 non-conformist chapel sites in Wales.

Now, in some areas, as many as half the chapels are demonstrably at risk.

Time and money is running out

AN old wooden pew leans against the inside of the front doors of Trerhondda Welsh Congregational Church.

Wedge firmly in place to keep out vandals, it is an ignominious use for a piece of fine ecclesiastical furniture.

In its heyday a capacity congregation of 800 sang heartily at Trerhondda, accompanied by the chapel's own orchestra.

Now there is only the sound of

the wind rustling torn polythene sheeting in the broken windows — and the steady drip of rain water leaking through the once-ornate ceiling.

The polished pitch pine pews and gallery panels and the elegant suspended light fittings help to preserve a sense of character and simple beauty in the cavernous chapel.

Ivor Holloway, 54, one of the church trustees and the man with the unenviable task of

maintaining the huge building, is about to start replacing smashed panes of glass in the main chapel. There are 32 of them, half the number broken at the same time last year.

"The centre of the ceiling fell through three years ago and now the rain is getting in," he said.

With just 50 members, all aged over 70, there is a limit to what can be done. Time and money are running out, says Mr Holloway.



IVOR HOLLOWAY: Trustee

EARLY FLINTSHIRE CHAPEL PLANS

Anthony Jones in *Welsh Chapels* (1984, pp. 10-11) suggested a number of 'successive periods and styles' of chapel-building. The first phase, the conversion of existing structures, is a subject in itself and these notes discuss the chronology and relative popularity of his second and third phases in one county (Flints.), in the hope that they will stimulate further regional studies. The following abbreviations are used below: B. Baptist, C.M. Calvinistic Methodist, I. Independent, M.N.C. Methodist New Connexion, P.M. Primitive Methodist, and W.M. Wesleyan Methodist. Dates with asterisks indicate the presence of original date-stones.

Early purpose-built chapels with side-wall façades or square plans.

Although domestic and agricultural buildings clearly influenced the design and methods of construction used for the first purpose-built chapels, it is more helpful to consider the layout of chapels as an expression of new religious and social needs. Three variations of side-wall façades may be noted:

(a) *Chapels with a single-door entry at one end of the long side of the chapel.* Probably the first purpose-built. I. chapel in Flints. was established at Trelawnyd in 1701; this was rebuilt in 1908* and may have retained the original layout, with one lateral entrance. The first purpose-built C.M. chapel in Flints. (1775) survives as a ruin at Y Berthen near Ysgeifiog (see Fig. 1 (a)). This chapel was planned with a cottage on each side and each cottage had a fireplace served by a massive chimney. The association of chapels with residential accommodation continued to be a marked feature of early chapel-planning. Again, there is a lateral door, and it is likely that the pulpit was located below the principal window. It is interesting to note that the C.M. chapel at Licswm, which replaced the chapel at Y Berthen, also followed the lateral plan in its rebuilding of 1823/96*, though it adopted the by then universal practice of placing the pulpit on the gable wall. A lateral entry was also used on the first W.M. chapel at Daisy Hill, Buckley (c.1800) and on the W.M. chapel in Gwindy Street, Rhuddlan (1832*, provided with a new gable entry in 1910). This was clearly an early plan type which had a very long life.

(b) *Chapels with one, centrally-placed, side entry.* Many, but by no means all, of this type are square in plan and often have hipped roofs, and the pulpit position seems usually to have been on the wall directly opposite the entrance. The I. chapel built in Holywell in 1788 (now demolished) was a large, two-storey building with a regular, classical façade and a central door. This plan and elevation were exactly replicated in the C.M. chapel built in Gemig Street, St Asaph, in 1843*, which still survives, though later given a gable entry and now disused. Single-storey versions of this plan were widely adopted for early rural chapels. One of the earliest examples in Flints. is the now much-altered former I. chapel at Rhes-y-cae (1808*), shown in Fig. 1 (b). Another example is the now abandoned B. chapel at Penyfron (1825*), in this case without an

attached cottage. Other examples noted are the chapels or former chapels at Gwernaffield (I. 1839/82*), Ebenezer, Dolphin (B. 1841*) and Salem, Bodfari (B. 1848*). Although this type of plan appears to have been used mainly by the older denominations, its use by the Wesleyan Methodists, as at Trelawnyd (1832*), Meliden (1840) and Pantymwyn (1842*), shows that it soon became universalized.

(c) *Chapels with two-door side entries.*

Much the commonest type of side-entry plan in the period c.1810-1840 in Flints. provided two entry doors, often separated by two windows. The pulpit seems usually to have been located between the two windows immediately inside. These chapels could be either oblong or square in plan, though the frequent addition of residential accommodation physically attached to the chapel often makes the frontage longer than the depth of the building. There must have been good reasons for having two doors into the chapel: possibly they were intended as separate entrances for men and women, or were provided to create a more symmetrical façade. The earliest Flints. chapel of this type which is still in use as a place of worship is at Llyn-y-pandy (C.M. 1819*), where one of the two doors was later blocked up and the pulpit moved to the inside gable wall (see Fig. 1 (c)). The former B. chapel at Licswm (1813*) had both of its side doors blocked up when a new gable-entry was made in 1902. Other examples of chapels or former chapels originally with this type of plan are Waendymarch (I. 1816*), Llanfynydd (I. 1828*), Penyselin (C.M. 1830*), Rhuddlan (Goshen, I. 1835*), Babel (C.M. 1836*), Pentre Halkyn (C.M. 1839*), and Rhosesmor (Jerusalem, I. 1841*). This arrangement seems to have been largely confined to the older denominations and the Calvinistic Methodists, but at least one example survives of a Wesleyan chapel with this layout (Ebenezer, Treuddyn, 1833*). This type of plan lived on, as is suggested below, in the later, two-door gable-entry form.

Early purpose-built chapels with gable entries.

It is generally agreed that gable entries appeared later than the side-wall entries mentioned above and were particularly associated with the urban areas, where narrow sites were often the only ones available. They also seem initially to have been associated with the 'newer' denominations, though they were soon adopted by them all. Three main types may be distinguished:

(a) *Single-storey chapels with a central door in the gable.*

The earliest dated example in Flints. appears to be at Buckley (The Square, W.M. 1834*) shown in Fig. 2 (a). A similar plan was adopted nearby at Alltami (P.M. 1838*), but was altered when a new gable-entry chapel was built alongside it in 1866. Another chapel in the same anglicized area and with the same plan survives at Bryn-y-baal (W.M., later P.M., 1844*), and was also followed in the Welsh Presbyterian chapel at Coed Talon (1862*) and the English C.M. chapel at Connah's Quay (Golftyn, 1864). Many other later examples could be given for all the denominations.

(b) *Two-storey chapels with a central door in the gable.*

Although the smaller, rural congregations sometimes inserted galleries, they seem usually to have preferred to build another, larger chapel nearby. The more restricted sites in the towns resulted in the planning of chapels with galleries included from the start. One of the first examples in Flints. is the fine W.M. chapel in the High Street in Mold (Pendref, 1828, though extensive alterations, including a new gallery, were made in 1875). A less-altered early example survives (though disused) at Greenfield (M.N.C. 1830) shown in Fig. 2 (b). The former W.M. chapel at Northop (1841*) originally had a gable-entry similar to that at Pendref, Mold, but the Calvinistic Methodists seem to have approached the adoption of the gable-entry by way of the well-defined category described below.

(c) *Two-door gable entries.*

The growing popularity of the gable entry, and the opportunities it provided for concentrating the external decoration of the chapel into one relatively small area, resulted in the alteration of many of the earlier side-entry chapels. A large number of gable-entry chapels were built during the 1860s and 70s with two doors separated by windows, which were often narrowed in width to fit the smaller area available in the gable. A typical example is shown in Fig. 2 (c), that of the C.M. chapel at Caerwys, which was founded in 1790 and rebuilt in 1862*. In some cases, as at Meliden (Mynydd Sion, C.M. c.1860, now disused), the pulpit continued to be placed between the entry doors. Other early examples of two-door gable entries (usually rebuilds) may be seen at Aberwheeler (C.M. 1822/62*), Cwm Marian (C.M. 1826/63*), Treuddyn (Jerusalem, C.M. 1820/67*), and Pantygof (B. 1827/72*).

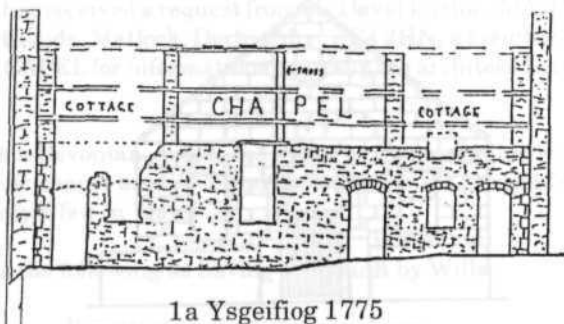
A parallel development of the two-door gable-entry plan occurred when some of the larger urban chapels included two-storey aisles on each side of the gable to house the gallery, as at Rhyl, Clwyd Street (C.M. 1855) and Mold, Bethesda (C.M. 1863). Other large chapels continued with a central door but found other ways of elaborating the façade. In many cases the opposing end wall inside, with its *sêt fawr*, pulpit and organ, matched the increasing elaboration of the façade. As with religious buildings of many other cultures, attention came to be focused on the 'west' front and the 'east' end.

Pantymwyn, Mold

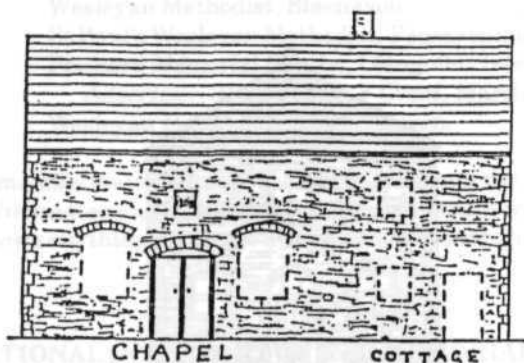
Malcolm Seaborne

JOHN WILLY Fig.1 SIDE-ENTRY CHAPELS

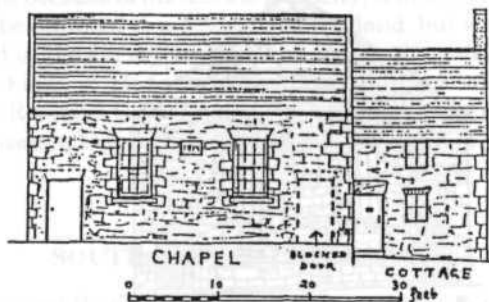
Our Secretary
Lane, Darby
Society, and
1906)
Wills, although
He was a prof
England) but
Mr Barton in



1a Ysgeifiog 1775

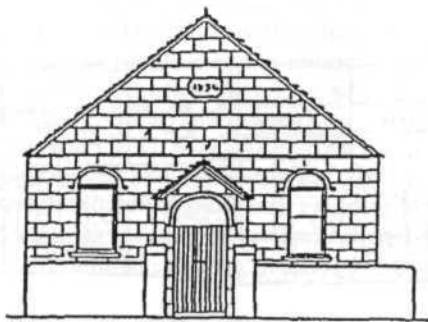


1b Rhes-y-cae, 1808



1c Llyn-y-pandy, 1819

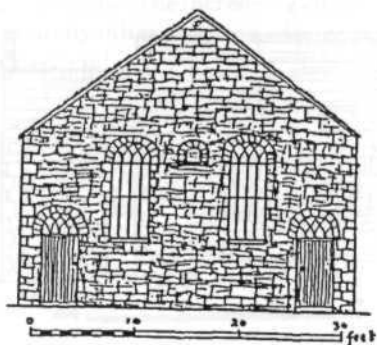
Fig 2 GABLE-ENTRY CHAPELS



2a Buckley, 1834



2b Greenfield, 1830



2c Caerwys, 1862

JOHN WILLS, ARCHITECT: a request for information

Our Secretary has received a request from Mr David Barton, MA, Hillcrest, Bent Lane, Darley Hillside, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 2HN, a member of the Chapel Society, and of CAPEL for information regarding the architect John Wills (1845-1906).

Wills, although a Devonian, was based in Derby for most of his working career. He was a prolific chapel architect and must have built around 500 chapels in England but only a few in Wales.

Mr Barton lists the following as having been built by Wills:

1879	Primitive Methodist, Cross Keys.
1883	Unitarian, Llandysul.
1886	Wesleyan Methodist, Blaenavon.
1891	St Paul's Wesleyan Methodist, Penmaenmawr.
1895	Prichard Memorial Baptist, Llangollen (see <i>Llangollen Advertiser</i> , 31 Jan 1896, <i>Y Greal</i> , March 1896).
1900	Wesleyan Methodist, Milford Haven.

While he has some information on the last two chapels and the Haverfordwest R.O. has some Wills material, Mr Barton would be glad to hear from any CAPEL member who knows anything about the others and he would gladly refund any postage.

NATIONAL INVENTORY OF WAR MEMORIALS

At the December meeting of the Executive Committee, the attention of members was drawn to the inventory of war memorials which is being compiled by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and the Imperial War Museum. Perhaps because of inaccurate publicity, it had been thought that the inventory would be confined to memorials in England, but we understand that Wales is included in the survey and the inventory will contain information on memorials of all kinds in all types of location. Further information may be obtained from the Research Co-ordinator, National Inventory of War Memorials, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ (Tel 071 416 5353).

SOUTH-EAST WALES BRANCH

It has been announced that Mr Graham Rosser and Mrs Patricia Moore have resigned as Chairman and Secretary of the South-East Wales Branch and have been succeeded by Mr Allan Mayne and Miss Susan Edwards.

Pontypridd

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How to get there: The Centre is about 500 yards from the A470 -
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At the "Gateway to the Valleys"

Canolfan Hanesyddol a Diwylliannol Pontypridd

Argraffwyd gan Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
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