

# Capel



CYMDEITHAS TREFTADAETH Y CAPEL  
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter 67 Spring 2016

Cylchlythyr 67 Gwanwyn 2016

## Llanwchllyn

Members of Capel assembled at Yr Ysgoldy, Llanuwchllyn, Merioneth on the morning of 10 October. Following a greatly-appreciated cup of coffee / tea we were welcomed by Dr. Lionel Madden who, in the absence of the Chairman, Meyrick Ll.Davies, then chaired the Annual General Meeting.

The location of the Autumn Meeting had been determined by the celebration in 2015 of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Welsh colony in Patagonia, in view of the association of the Rev. Michael D. Jones, the minister of Yr Hen Gapel, Llanuwchllyn with the organisation of the south American venture. It was therefore most appropriate that the subject of the morning talk, delivered by Gerallt Nash, the first secretary of the society, was 'Pererin wyf mewn anial dir': 'Welshmen in the Wilderness': The Chapels of Patagonia (1865 - 1925). By means of an illustrated talk we were provided with a fascinating visual tour of the chapels of Patagonia during the first 60



*Aion Baptist Chapel (NPRN 8532)*

years of its existence. We were then informed of the arrangements for the afternoon visits by the Rev. Carwyn Siddall, the local minister who had co-operated closely with Dr. Huw Owen in organising the day's programme.

Following an excellent lunch at the nearby Eagles Inn, we

set out for the first visit in the afternoon to Aion chapel, where the Rev. Siddall outlined the history of the Grade 2\* Baptist chapel which had been opened in 1840 and whose interior and exterior had been subject to only a minimum amount of change over the years. Having recently been closed it is now in the process of being transferred to the care of the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust. We then proceeded to Yr Hen Gapel, regarded as the mother church of Independent causes in Merioneth. Its history may be traced to the year 1739, with the first chapel on the site built in 1746, and then rebuilt in 1810. This chapel was demolished in 1871 and then rebuilt, with its design attributed to the Rev. Thomas Thomas, Swansea, one of the most prolific chapel architects of Wales. Prominent ministers include the Revs. Dr George Lewis, Michael Jones and the latter's son, Michael D. Jones, a leading figure in the movement to establish a Welsh colony in Patagonia: the tablet commemorating him located near to the pulpit, was presented by inhabitants of the colony.



*Hen Gapel Independent Chapel (NPRN 8558)*

The third visit of the day was made to Byd Mary Jones, the Mary Jones centre opened in 2014 at the redundant and renovated church of St. Beuno at Llanycil which had been purchased by the Bible Society in 2007, with an adjoining field acquired in 2009. Following a talk on the background and activities of the centre, we were able to appreciate the presentation, by means of exhibits and multi-media and interactive displays, the remarkable story of the 15-year old Mary Jones. Having saved enough money over a six year period, she had walked barefoot from her home in Llanfihangel-y-pennant, near the foot of Cader Idris to Bala to buy a Bible from the Rev. Thomas Charles. We were reminded that her efforts led to the foundation of the British and Foreign Bible Society, whose activities in publicising the Mary Jones story has inspired people throughout the world.

We then returned to the Eagles Inn where a splendid tea had been provided for us. Dr Madden thanked those who had contributed to ensuring that the visit would be such a pleasure for those members who had attended. The cries of despondency heard from an adjoining room where the World Cup rugby match between Wales and Australia was being shown on television failed to mar what had been a most successful Autumn Meeting.

*D. Huw Owen*

## Planning Applications & Closures

**Siloah Welsh Independent Chapel, Mornant Avenue, Ffynnongroyw, Holywell, Flintshire (NPRN 8055) SJ3558233:** Demolition and replacement with 2 dwellings. No objection subject to recording condition.

**Elim Parc Baptist Chapel, Capel Dewi, Myddfai, Carmarthenshire (NPRN 6317) SN48381895:** Conversion to dwelling (listed building). Concern raised as to proposed render and loss of all interior except pulpit. Recommend REFUSAL

**Sardis Independent Chapel, Ystradgynlais, Powys (NPRN 12280) SN78711045:** Pre-application advice on conversion to 4 dwellings. Concern raised at loss of interior (Grade II)

**Mission Hall, Bulmore Road, Caerleon, Newport:** Conversion to dwelling. SUPPORT. Exterior preserved and rear extension legible/subservient

**High Street Baptist Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil (NPRN 9878) SO04930600:** Repairs, new railings, reinstatement of pediment finial. SUPPORT (Grade II)

**Ty'n-y-Celyn Methodist Chapel, Glan Conwy, Conwy (NPRN 7791) SH80437576:** Conversion to residential use. Principle welcomed, but recommend REFUSAL due to loss of interior details and inconclusive information (Grade II)



*High Street Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil (NPRN 9878)*



*Bethel Chapel, Aberarth, (NPRN 7294)*

**Bethel Welsh CM Chapel, Aberarth, Ceredigion (NPRN 7294)**

**SN47886386:** Conversion to dwelling. Recommend REFUSAL due to complete loss of interior and removal of large section of front boundary (Grade II)

**Bethel Independent Chapel, Cwmtwrch, Powys (NPRN 10064)**

**SN77030992:** Conversion to dwelling. SUPPORT subject to retention of pulpit, set-fawr and a section of pews (Grade II)

**Capel-y-Pil CM Chapel, North Cornelly, Bridgend (NPRN 13693)**

**SS82368160:** Conversion to two dwellings. REFUSAL due to impact on character and lack of detail. Single dwelling considered more appropriate (Grade II\*)

**Eglwys Christ Independent Chapel, Dundonald Avenue, Abergele, Conwy (NPRN 7431) SH94557786:**

Conversion to dwelling. Principle welcomed. Initial recommendation of refusal due to loss of pulpit, set fawr and some pews. Amended scheme SUPPORTED subject to recording condition (Grade II)

**Trinity CM Chapel, Defynnog, Powys (NPRN 6140) SN92782765:**

Conversion to dwelling. SUPPORT subject to recording condition and retention of pulpit.

**Cana Welsh Independent Chapel, St Albans Road, Tanyfron, Wrexham (NPRN 7510) SJ29685226:**

Conversion to 5 dwellings. SUPPORT subject to recording condition.

**Horeb, Gelligaer, Caerphilly (NPRN 9578) ST13649698:** Conversion to dwelling. SUPPORT, subject to recording condition, retention of pulpit and one or two pews. Recommend War Memorial be moved to suitable local place of worship

*Closures/sales:-*

**Salem Welsh Independent Chapel, Salem, Penrhynoch, Ceredigion (NPRN 7403) SN66898440:** For sale November 2015 (Grade II)



*Salem Chapel, Salem, Penrhynoch, (NPRN 7403) Soar Chapel, Penderyn, (NPRN 6150)*

**Seilo Newydd Welsh congregational Chapel, Swansea (NPRN 8990) SS65709571:** For sale February 2016 (Grade II\*)

**Calfaria Welsh Baptist Chapel, Cwmpelin, Bridgend (NPRN 10043) SS8622689780:** *Closed*

**Tabernacl Welsh Baptist Chapel, Harlech, Gwynedd (NPRN 8436) SH58143101:** *Closed*

**Soar Independent Chapel, Penderyn, Merthyr (NPRN 6150) SN94820888:** *Closed*

**Tabor Baptist, Llysaen, Colwyn Bay (NPRN 7058) SH8931076793:** *closed*

**Capel Aberfan CM Chapel, Aberfan, RCT (NPRN 97077) SO07050011:** *Closed*

*Rob Scourfield (with thanks to Islwyn Hughes for the information in italics)*

## Muriel Bowen Evans (1928-2015)

Members of Capel will be saddened to learn of the sudden death of Miss Muriel Bowen Evans which occurred at her home on 1st December 2015. Muriel had been a member of the Executive Committee of Capel for many years, having been nominated as the denominational representative of Undeb yr Annibynwyr Cymraeg / The Union of Welsh Independents, a role for which she was well equipped, given her life-long interest in Welsh nonconformist history.

Daughter of the Reverend Thomas and Margaret Bowen Evans, Muriel spent most of her childhood in St Florence near Tenby, where her father, (originally from Hafodwenog, Trelech) was minister at the Congregational Chapel. Following his death in 1944, Muriel and her mother moved to Trelech, Carmarthenshire, from where she went to UCW Aberystwyth to study History. Teaching posts followed, and Muriel taught first at Tasker Milward School in Haverfordwest, and subsequently at Ysgol y Preseli, Crymych. During the mid 1960s she moved into teacher training, accepting a post as history lecturer at the College of Education in Barry, where she remained until 1981, when the College closed, and she moved on to become a history lecturer at the Polytechnic of Wales at Treforest near Pontypridd.

Throughout this period Muriel retained her home at Rock Villa, Trelech, where she was an active member of Capel y Graig, becoming a Deacon of the chapel in 1982. Following her retirement in 1983, she moved back to Trelech where she became involved in many local organisations, including serving as Secretary of Capel y Graig for over twenty years until the time of her death. She pursued extensive local history research, taking numerous series of local history classes at venues throughout Carmarthenshire, and served the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, first as Secretary, and subsequently as Editor of The Carmarthenshire Antiquary for approximately twenty years prior to her death. Muriel was the first President of the Friends of Carmarthenshire Archives, a group established during the 1990s to support the Carmarthenshire Archive Service. During the final weeks of her life, she wrote to Carmarthenshire County Council advocating the retention of the Archive Service within the County, emphasizing the benefits of this for local schools.

Her letter was well received, and the outlook for the service is now encouraging.

Muriel's activities with regard to the history of nonconformity in Wales were many and varied. She was a Trustee of Coffa Elfed, the trust established to manage Y Gangell, birthplace of the preacher and hymnwriter Dr Elfet Lewis (Elfed). She contributed the chapter on Nonconformity to the volume *Welsh Family History*; a guide to research, edited by John and Sheila Rowlands and first published by the Association of Family History Societies in Wales in 1993. To commemorate its tercentenary, she wrote a history of Capel y Graig, Trelech, 1703-2003. In May 1992, she organised the Capel Spring meeting in the parishes of Meidrim, Trelech a'r Betws, and Cynwyl Elfed. She was also actively involved in organising the annual Capel Eisteddfod lecture. When I was working in West Glamorgan, I have happy memories of accompanying her on Saturday afternoon visits to explore some of the remote chapels in the mountains to the north of Swansea at Baran Mountain, the Gwrhyd, and Gellionnen. And in 1990, when I was approached to become the Secretary of Capel, it was Muriel who persuaded me to accept, a role which I undertook for the next seven years!

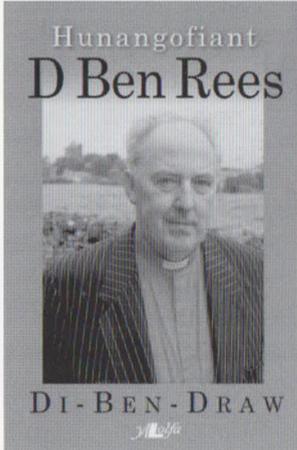
There can be no more fitting tribute to Muriel than the verse printed on the hymn sheet at her funeral service held at Capel y Graig on 9th December 2015.

*'Mi a ymdrechais ymdrech deg,  
Mi a orffennais fy ngyrfa,  
Mi a gedwais y ffydd.'*

*Susan Beckley*

## Books/Llyfrau

**D. Ben Rees, Di-Ben-Draw, Y Lolfa, Tal-y-bont, 2015, tt. 240, Pris 12.99.**



Rhoddir sylw i nifer fawr o gapeli Cymraeg yn y gyfrol Di-Ben-Draw, sef hunangofiant y Parchg. Ddr. D. Ben Rees, yr amryddawn weinidog, pregethwr, darlithydd, gwleidydd, awdur a chyhoeddwr. Magwyd ef yn Llanddewibrefi a mynegwyd ganddo droeon ei gariad at ei fro enedigol yng Ngheredigion a dylanwad capel Bethesda arno.

Yr oedd yr ardal wledig hon yn wahanol iawn i'r rhai hynny lle bu'n gweinidogaethu. Bu'n weinidog eithriadol ofalus dwy ofalaeth yn perthyn i Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru: Abercynon a Phenrhiw-ceibr, yng Nghwm Cyron, yn nwyrain Morgannwg, yn ystod y blynyddoedd 1962-1968; a Bethel Heathfield Road, Lerpwl, ynghyd ag eglwysi eraill ar Lannau Mersi, yn y cyfnod dilynol hyd at ei ymddeoliad yn 2007, er iddo barhau wedyn yn weinidog emeritws rhan-amser eglwysi Bethel a Bethania, Waterloo.

Bu ef yn lygad dyst i newidiadau aruthrol ym mhatrwm eglwysig y ddau leoliad. Yr oedd 21 o weinidogion Presbyteraidd â gofal bugeiliol yn nwyrain Morgannwg yn 1962, ond erbyn heddiw mae'r nifer wedi gostwng i ddau. Yn Abercynon gofalai gweinidog am bob un o'r pedwar capel Cymraeg, pedwar capel Saesneg, eglwys Anglicanaidd ac eglwys Gatholig; ac ym Mhenrhiw-ceibr yr oedd tri chapel Cymraeg. Trefi glofaol oedd Abercynon a Phenrhiw-ceibr gyda glowyr yn fwyafrif helaeth yr aelodau, a sylweddolodd yr awdur fod 'y dirywiad yn y maes glo yn hau hadau dirywiad y capeli'. Pwysleisiwyd y ddibyniaeth ar y diwydiant glo yn ei astudiaeth gymdeithasegol o Anghydfurfiaeth yn un o gymoedd de Cymru, a chyflwynodd ei ymchwil mewn cyfrol a gyhoeddwyd yn 1972 (gweler isod).

Symudodd i Lerpwl yn 1968 i fugeilio eglwys Bethel Heathfield Road, ac er fod ugain o weinidogion Cymraeg ar Lannau Mersi yr adeg hynny, erbyn heddiw

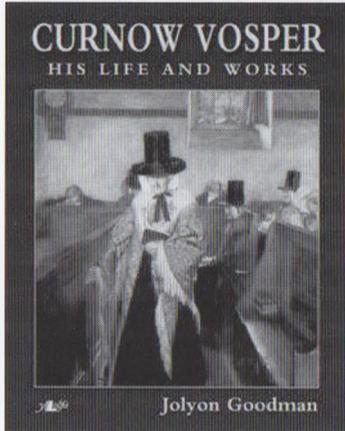
ef yn unig sydd, yn ei eiriau 'yn dal yn y tresi heb laesŷu dwylaw'. Ar gychwyn ei weinidogaeth pregethai yn gyson ym Bethel yn y bore a'r hwyr, ac yna yn aml yn y prynhawn yn un o'r capeli cenhadol lleol: y mae'r rhestr hir ohonynt yn cynnwys Runcorn, West Kirby, Blackburn, Ashton-in-Makerfield a Southport. Yn dilyn ad-drefnu eglwysi Cymraeg de Lerpwl cytunwyd i ddefnyddio capel Bethel ar gyfer yr eglwys newydd a ffurfiwyd yn 1976 gyda 456 o aelodau a 67 o blant. Mynegwyd siom gyda'r prisiau isel a dderbyniwyd am adeiladau eang y ddau gapel arall, sef Eglwys y Drindod, Princes Road, a ddisgrifiwyd yn Eglwys Gadeiriol y Cymry, ac Edge Lane: tynnwyd sylw at y rheidrwydd i dderbyn y cynnig a arweiniodd at droi capel Edge Lane yn deml Hindŵaidd. Yn 2003 gosodwyd plac i gofio am yr wyth capel Cymraeg a oedd wedi cau yn Bootle, ac yn 2008 cyhoeddwyd hanes Bethel yn ei gyfrol Codi Hwyl a Stêm yn Lerpwl (2008). Er gwaethaf llafur di-flino'r awdur, gwelwyd gostyngiad yn nifer aelodau Bethel a sylweddolwyd yr angen am gapel llai o faint. Profwyd anawsterau difrifol, gan gynnwys achos llys bygythiol tra'n ceisio i sicrhau capel newydd, ond er gwaethaf hynny llwyddwyd i addasu yn gysegr rhan o'r Ysgoldy Bach, a fu'n rhan o'r adeiladau gwreiddiol, ac adeiladwyd canolfan, cegin ac ystafelloedd cysylltiedig.

Cyfeiriwyd hefyd at nifer fawr o gapeli eraill o bob enwad y bu'n pregethu ynddynt, ac amcangyfrifodd ei fod erbyn dechrau 2015 wedi pregethu neu annerch mewn 1,012 o gapeli neu eglwysi. Cyflwynir lluniau allanol capel ac ysgoldy Bethesda, Llanddewibrefi, ac un mewnol o gapel Bethel, Heathfield Road, fel yr ymddangosai cyn 2007, mewn adran o ddarluniau sy'n gyfraniad pwysig i gynhyrchiad deniadol gan Wasg y Lolfa. Yn ogystal â'r sylw penodol a roddir i'r eglwysi hynny a oedd, ac sy'n parhau dan ofal y Parchg. Ddr. D. Ben Rees, cyflwynir llawer o wybodaeth gwerthfawr am gapeli amrywiol mewn cyfrol a fydd yn apelio'n fawr at aelodau cymdeithas Capel.

Valuable information is presented on numerous Welsh chapels in this volume, *Di-Ben-Draw*, the autobiography of the Rev. Dr. D. Ben Rees. He was brought up in Llanddewi Brefi, a rural village in Ceredigion which differed greatly from the two Presbyterian Church of Wales pastorates which he served faithfully: Abercynon and Penrhiw-ceibr in the Cynon valley and Bethel, Heathfield Road, Liverpool, together with other churches on Merseyside: in both localities he witnessed significant changes which were discussed in his volumes *Chapels in the Valley: A Study in the Sociology of Welsh Nonconformity* (1975) and *Labour of Love in Liverpool* (2008). He also preached in numerous chapels and churches belonging to various denominations, and this

volume, attractively-produced by Y Lolfa Press, will surely appeal to many members of Capel.

**Jolyon Goodman, Curnow Vosper, His Life and Works ; Tal-y-bont, Y Lolfa, 2015; pp. 142, price 17.95**



This volume presents what has been described as the first full biography of Curnow Vosper, (1866-1944), the artist responsible for the iconic Welsh image of the traditional Welsh chapel. This picture of the interior of Salem, near Llanbedr, Merioneth, continues to be instantly recognisable and the information presented on the artist will undoubtedly be generally welcomed and especially so by members of Capel.

Although born in Devon, Curnow Vosper regarded himself as a Cornishman as both his parents hailed from Cornwall. His Celtic connections were strengthened as a considerable amount of his work was influenced by several periods spent by him in Brittany, where he had first met his wife Constance James, the daughter of a Merthyr Tydfil solicitor, who was the member of a highly-regarded Unitarian family. His earliest surviving work, dated 1886, recorded a visit to St. Malo, and he is said to have 'discovered' Brittany whilst studying at the Académie Colarossi in Paris. Numerous examples are provided in this volume of reproductions of watercolours produced whilst staying at La Faouët, described as his second home, and these include his paintings and drawings of statues of Breton saints. 25 of these were bought by the celebrated sculptor, Sir William Goscombe John, whom he had first met whilst at Paris and with whom he maintained a life-long friendship. John later presented these to the National Museum of Wales, and his bronze bust of Vosper, together with the greater part of Vosper's studio archive are now housed at the Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Merthyr Tydfil.

Another significant Celtic association was with the Ardudwy area in Merioneth which Vosper regularly visited and which formed the location for nearly all his Welsh works. His first exhibited Welsh work, at the winter 1907 exhibition of

the Royal Watercolour Society, was *Grief*, set in a small farmhouse near Llanbedr. This was accompanied by two other Welsh pictures, and then in the following summer by *Market Day in Old Wales*, which was later presented to the National Museum of Wales. This painting featured the elderly widow, Siân Owen, who also appeared prominently in Vosper's best known work, his watercolour *Salem*. In this picture a strong impression of piety was conveyed by the portrayal of Sian Owen, holding her Bible and making her way to her pew, with the congregation, in the background, awaiting the commencement of the Sunday morning service.

The picture was sold at the RWS 1909 summer exhibition to William Hesketh Lever, M.P. for the Wirral and soap manufacturer who subsequently produced colour reproductions of *Salem* which were offered to customers buying 7lbs of Sunlight Soap bars. As a result the prints were widely distributed in several countries, including Wales, where its rapid availability ensured that for many it became 'an integral and powerful symbol of their Welsh national identity' with the picture having a continuing influence on poets, singers, television programmes and artistic interpretations. Lever built a model village for his workers on Merseyside at Port Sunlight, where his factory was sited and where in 1922, as Viscount Leverhulme, he opened in memory of his late wife an art gallery which henceforth housed his extensive art collection including *Salem*.

The author, Jolyon Goodman, whose great-aunt Janet Goodman cared for Curnow Vosper's two young sons following the death of Vosper's wife in 1910, supplemented the text with a series of appendices. These include maps which locate significant relevant places in Wales, England, Brittany and also the Mediterranean where a tour was undertaken by him in 1921-2; lists of his exhibited works and the known location of his works in 2014; and a series of endnotes for each section with those for 'Salem and after' including Tal Williams's successful bilingual study of Salem in 1991 and several subsequent publications. Numerous colour photographs of Vosper's works have been presented in a handsomely-produced volume which maintains the high standards of Y Lolfa Press, and which succeeds admirably in enhancing our knowledge of an artist who was responsible for one of the best-known pictures of a Welsh subject.

*D. Huw Owen*

# Events

## **CAPEL meetings**

Capel Spring meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Hen Golwyn/Old Colwyn, Denbighshire

Capel Autumn Meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016 St Davids, Pembrokeshire

## **Eisteddfod 2016**

EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU: SIR FYNWY A'R CYFFINIAU  
2016

CAPEL / ADDOLDAI CYMRU

Darlith gan Dr Elin Jones, Ystrad Mynach

“Cennad dyn yw bod yn frawd”: anghydfurfiaeth a radicaliaeth’

Dydd Llun, 1 Awst, 2016

Pabell Cymdeithasau 2 am 10.30 a.m.

Croeso cynnes i bawb

NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES: MONMOUTHSHIRE AND DISTRICT  
2016

CAPEL / WELSH RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS TRUST

Lecture by Dr Elin Jones, Ystrad Mynach

“Brotherhood is man’s mission”: nonconformity and radicalism’

Monday, 1 August 2016

Pabell y Cymdeithasau 2 at 10.30 a.m.

Warm welcome to all

Instantaneous translation available.

## **United Reformed Church History Society Study Day**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 will see the United Reformed Church History Society hold its Study Day at City URC, Cardiff. The Revd Dr Robert Pope, Reader in Theology at Trinity St David's, will give the Annual Lecture on 'Conscription, Conscience and Building God's Kingdom: Welsh Nonconformists and the Great War'.

The society is open to anyone interested in the history of the denominations which came together in 1972 (the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church in England and Wales), in 1981 (the Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain) and in 2000 (the Congregational Union of Scotland).

The Society Journal is published twice a year – subscription details may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Mrs Margaret Thompson, by email ([mt212@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mt212@cam.ac.uk)), or by writing to her at Westminster College, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0AA.

## **Chapel Society Conference 2016**

The Association of Denominational Historical Societies and Cognate Libraries and the Chapels Society will co-host a two-day conference on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

The theme is 'Nonconformist attitudes to war and peace in the long twentieth century' and includes a paper by Professor D. Densil Morgan, "*Responses to World War Two amongst Welsh Nonconformists*".

The conference will be held at the Friends' Meeting House, 173 – 177 Euston Road, London. The registration fee is £23 per day, to include a sandwich lunch and all refreshments during the conference. A full programme and further details can be found at [www.chapelssociety.org.uk/events/conference-2016](http://www.chapelssociety.org.uk/events/conference-2016)

# Chapel Updates

## **Siloh, Llandore closes its doors...**

Siloh Independent Chapel, Landore (NPRN 8990) held its final service on Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup> after an 18<sup>th</sup> month campaign to save the Grade II listed chapel failed.

The origins of the chapel lay in the copper community of Landore; the cause was established at Pwll y Cwm, and within three weeks had moved into the offices of the Gwaith Bach copper works. The first chapel was built in 1829, undergoing enlargement in 1840 and remodeling in 1862, but it continued to have strong links with the copper industry as many of its members and deacons were employed in the industry. In 1878 it was decided to rebuild the chapel and the architects Thomas Freeman of Brynhyfred and Thomas Thomas of Landore were commissioned to design the current building with its distinctive Lombardic elements. The chapel was renowned for being a focal point in the musical life of the area, with many concerts taking place and a large Conacher organ installed in 1926. The Royal Commission on the Church of England and Other Religious Buildings in Wales and Monmouthshire stated in 1905 that the seating capacity of the chapel was 1100, with 400 accommodated in the Sunday School, and estimated the value of the building at £7500.

In recent years however the congregation had fallen to just six, and while considerable attempts had been made to attract other community groups to develop the use of the building, a decision eventually had to be made to close the chapel on financial grounds.

## **While Trinity Chapel, Abertillery reopens...**

Trinity Methodist Chapel in Abertillery (NPRN 10439) is set to become the first social supermarket in Wales due to a partnership project between the Coalfields Regeneration Trust Wales and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.



Trinity, which was built in 1877 and rebuilt in 1905, had closed its doors by 1995 and was subsequently converted for retail use. After the business closed the chapel was left empty and boarded up for some years before being acquired by Blaenau Gwent Council. This innovative scheme, which will see £600,000 of EU grant used to restore the building fabric, will allow

shoppers (limited to those in receipt of welfare support) to buy goods rejected from mainstream supermarkets at up to 75% discount, as well as housing a Credit Union information point and offering welfare and benefit advice.

### **And restoration starts in Cathays Cemetery...**

After the success of a 'crowd-funding' event run by the Cathays Cemetery Bereavement services, restoration is underway on the Nonconformist Chapel at Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff. The Chapel for Nonconformist Protestants was built, along with the Chapel for the Church in England, in 1859 to the designs of R G Thomas of Newport at a combined cost of £5,200. The twin Gothic chapels (the CofE building being more elaborate in decoration), which share a central bell-tower, were originally joined by a Roman Catholic church which was subsequently demolished in 1986.

After renovation is complete the chapel will be used once more for burial services and other occasions, while the Conformist chapel will be developed as an information centre for the historic cemetery.

### **Hunt for chapel owners in Hay-on-Wye**

Hay Community Interest Company and Hay History Group have been searching for the owners of Salem Baptist Chapel, at Bell Bank, Hay-on-Wye after storms left the building with a hole in its roof.

Hay CIC, who successfully restored the Cheese Market in the town, have funds available for community projects and are keen to make available money for renovation and development of the building. However, the building is not part of the Baptist Union of Wales and the History Group have had difficulty tracing the private trustees of the chapel.

# Swyddogion / Officers

**Cadeirydd / Chairman:**

Mr. Meirick Lloyd Davies, Gwelfryn, 1 Ffordd Glascoed, Cefn Meiriadog, Abergele, Conwy, LL22 9DW

**Ysgrifennydd / Secretary:**

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Tel / Ffôn: 01492 860449      E-mail / E-bost: [odadiah1@btinternet.com](mailto:odadiah1@btinternet.com)

**Trysorydd / Treasurer:**

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*Ebeneser Welsh Independent Chapel, Old Colwyn (NPRN 7590)*