

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFDY MORGANNWG

Reference code: GB 214 D205

Title: Carmel Congregational / United Reformed Chapel, Bonvilston Records

Dates : 1862-2005

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: 0.02 cubic metres (1 box)

Name of creator(s): Carmel Congregational / United Reformed Chapel, Bonvilston

Administrative/biographical history

The congregational cause at Carmel, Bonvilston was established in 1834 under the ministry of the Revd. Benjamin Morgan of Taihirion. Carmel Chapel opened in 1835, at a cost of £400. The membership increased under the ministry of Mr John Davies, who served the chapel jointly with the cause at Llantrisant, although debt owed on the building of the chapel remained a problem.

In 1837, Mr John Jones was ordained minister, followed in 1841 by Mr Rees Evans, who resigned after 6 years to emigrate to America. Debt continued to be a burden, and it was decided to sell the chapel to the Baptist cause. On the eve of the sale, the key could not be found and the sale could not go ahead. The key was held by members Mary and Benjamin John, who sold their two pigs in order to reduce the debt and save the building.

In 1850, Mr James Thomas began conducting regular services at Carmel. He was inducted as minister in 1853, and went on to organise a variety of activities in an effort to clear the debt. As a result, the debt was paid and extra money was made available to renovate the chapel. In 1860, the burial ground was extended and a stable built nearby. In 1877, the chapel was rebuilt and the entire cost paid in full before the opening services in November that year.

Mr James Thomas died in 1879 aged 63. He was buried in the chapel burial ground with members paying for his tombstone. Mr Thomas was followed by William Edgar Evans, who was ordained in 1880. Mr Evans was known as the 'Bishop of the Vale' due to his work as pastor in the community. A number of ministers followed, including A. J. Evans and H. Oswald Evans. Carmel was also served by many excellent deacons, including Hopkin Smith, John Smith and James Price.

The chapel closed in 1999 and the building is now derelict.

Immediate source of acquisition

Deposited at Glamorgan Record Office by a private individual on 7 July 2003 and 5 July 2005.

Scope and content

The records comprise financial papers, minutes, ministers' papers, histories and reminiscences, papers relating to special occasions, and papers concerning the regulation of the chapel.

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records which meet the collection policy of the Glamorgan Record Office have been retained.

Accruals

Accruals are possible

Conditions governing access

No restrictions

Conditions governing reproduction

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language/scripts of material

English and Welsh

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Fair condition

Finding aids

Detailed list available.

Archivist's note

Compiled by Rhian Phillips for the Glamorgan Record Office, with reference to: Thomas Rees, *Hanes Eglwysi Annibynol Cymru*, (Dolgellau: William Hughes, 1891).

Rules or conventions

This description follows Glamorgan Record Office guidelines based on ISAD(G) compatible cataloguing guidelines for fonds level descriptions used by the Archives Network Wales.

Date of description

July 2003, revised July 2005.

D205/1	Financial Papers	1862-2005
D205/1/1	Daily receipts and payments kept by John Smith. Includes 'englyn' in memory of Mr Hopkin Smith, Cwrt y Celyn, Eglwysilan. [1 volume]	1862-1889
D205/1/2	Account book, including members' contributions, payments made in relation to 'great meetings' and payments to visiting ministers. [1 volume]	1867-1879
D205/1/3	Account book [1 volume]	1918-1924
D205/1/4	Account book [1 volume]	1939-1944
D205/1/5	Accounts of sitting places [1 volume]	1883-1900
D205/1/6	Members contributions [1 volume]	1929
D205/1/7	List of contributions to a fund to purchase a communion service [1 envelope]	1885
D205/1/8	Transcript of above [1 paper]	2005
D205/1/9	Subscriptions to the stove fund [1 paper]	1893-1894
D205/1/10	Receipts for building work undertaken on chapel, and various purchases [10 papers]	1885-1941
D205/1/11	Balance sheet [1 paper]	1925
D205/1/12	Balance sheet [1 booklet]	1929
D205/1/13	Balance sheet [1 paper]	1934

D205/1/14	Balance sheets [4 papers]	1952-1953
D205/1/15	Balance sheet [1 paper]	1958
D205/2	Minutes	1906-1999
D205/2/1	Minute book with accounts and membership lists [1 volume]	1906-1922
D205/2/2	Minute book [1 volume]	1988-1999
D205/3	Ministers' papers	1879-1952
D205/3/1	Mourning card for Rev. James Thomas [1 card]	1879
D205/3/2	Notebook of W. E. Evans, including anecdotes, notes for sermons and notes relating to Coleg Bala. [1 volume]	1879
D205/3/3	Letter calling Mr W. E. Evans to serve as minister at Carmel and Nurston Chapels [1 paper]	1880
D205/3/4	Notebook recording members contributions and texts for sermons [1 volume]	1939
D205/3/5	Essays by A. J. Evans of Penyrheol, St. Mary Church. [1 volume]	[20th century]
D205/3/6	Diary of A. J. Evans, including names of visiting ministers and members contributions [1 volume]	1941
D205/3/7	Letter from H. Oswald Evans regarding his call to Carmel and Maendy chapels [2 papers]	1948
D205/3/8	Diary, including members contributions [1 volume]	1951
D205/3/9	Diary, including members contributions [1 volume]	1952

D205/4	Histories and reminiscences	[19th century]- 2005
D205/4/1	'Hanes fy Mywyd yn y Byd Hwn o'r Pryd Cefais fy Ngeni hyd y bresennol' (A History of My Life in This World from the Time I was Born until the Present), by John Smith (incomplete) [8 papers]	[19th century]
D205/4/2	Translation of opening pages of above [1 paper]	[circa 2005]
D205/4/3	Reminiscences of Carmel by James Price, Secretary [1 volume]	1918
D205/4/4	Transcript of above [1 envelope]	2005
D205/4/5	Notes on the history of Carmel [3 papers]	[20th century]
D205/4/6	Notes on the history of Carmel [6 papers]	[20th century]
D205/4/7	Notes on Carmel taken from 'History of Welsh Independent Churches' by Rees and Thomas, with copy of 1834 lease [5 papers]	[20th century]
D205/4/8	Transcript of above [3 papers]	2005
D205/4/9	Transcript of article from 'Cenad Hedd' in remembrance of Benjamin and Mary John, Bryncoch, Bonvilston, 1905. [5 papers]	[?1990s]
D205/4/10	Notes on the history of Carmel taken from various printed sources [5 papers]	[circa 2000]
D205/5	Papers relating to special occasions	1880-1984
D205/5/1	Newspaper cutting regarding the induction of W. E. Evans as minister to Carmel [1 paper]	1880

D205/5/2	'A Short History of Llantrithyd Parish and on the Old Place' submitted to the Carmel Christmas Day Eisteddfod by James Price [1 typescript]	1885
D205/5/3	Address given on the presentation of an illuminated address and oil painting to John Smith [1 paper]	[20th century]
D205/5/4	Order of services and newsletter [1 paper]	1959
D205/5/5	Correspondence relating to service commemorating the centenary of W. E. Evans becoming minister of Carmel [1 bundle]	1980
D205/5/6	Order of service for 150th anniversary of Carmel, with copy of lease taken in 1834 and of the United Reformed Church Confession of Faith [1 booklet]	1984
D205/6	Papers relating to the regulation of the chapel	1907-1952
D205/6/1	Rules and regulations in connection with the burial ground [1 paper]	1907
D205/6/2	Worship certificate [1 paper]	1919
D205/6/3	Letter from the Welsh Church Commission regarding the burial ground at Carmel [4 papers]	1924
D205/6/4	Church Statements of Case returned by Carmel to the Congregational Union of England and Wales [5 papers]	1947-1952
D205/6/5	Particulars as to the terms and conditions of the joint pastorate of Maendy and Carmel churches [2 papers]	1948