



Youth Holiday Fellowship, Aberystwyth 1952

Front Row includes: Jim Hawkins, Revd Stan Gunning, Revd Glan Morgan, B Tudor Lloyd, Keith Hawkins
 Second Row includes: Revd D O Calvin Thomas, Revd D Jones Davies, Mrs D O Calvin Thomas, Pam & Gloria (twins from Trinity, Wrexham).
 Fourth Row includes: Ann Stoboe, Ann Edwards, Mary Edwards
 Under the arch: Revd Stuart Price (Pontyclun) and Mervyn Phillips

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MID WALES & BORDER PRESBYTERY

Bethel CM Church, Bronllys, Brecon

On Sunday, 17th May at 6 pm the Chapel was almost full of people. Many had come to lend support from the Brecon church and from other churches in the Mid Wales & Borders Presbytery. The Chapel had not been this full for many years, but sadly this was a closing service. The Minister, Revd David Jenkins, commented that it was not so much a sad occasion on the day, as a sad situation over a number of years, which had led to the closing of the Chapel. The faithful members had struggled gamely to keep the witness of Bethel Chapel going in the village of Bronllys. It was the only Nonconformist church in Bronllys, but now it was closing.

The service was led by the Moderator of Presbytery, Mrs Lil Jarman-Harris, who led the opening prayer. Mrs Ceinwen Jenkins, a member of the chapel, read the reading, from Ephesians 1.

Mr Len Morgan gave the History of the Cause. The Methodist Revival influenced Bronllys village, being only a few miles away from Trefeca the home of Howel Harris. By the early 19th century a small group was meeting for worship in a cottage in the village. Later, as the congregation grew, they moved to a larger house in the village. The work continued to grow and in 1865 the first chapel building was opened. Local farmers and businesses contributed a great deal of materials and practical help for the building of the chapel which

stood in a walled garden with a low hedge at the top of the wall. "In those days it seemed to be a very pretty site for a chapel", wrote Mr. Jones in 1929. But eventually it became too small for the congregation and the present chapel was built, and opened in May 1929.

It was noted that Mrs. Esther Rowlands, who was present at the closing service, had also been present at the opening service at the age of five. Eighty years ago to the month she had carried a hymn book forward and presented it to the chapel as a gift from her family. It was quite remarkable to have someone present who had been at both the opening and closing service.

Mr Morgan concluded with these words: "It is good to remember that down through the years the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached in this place. We don't know how many people have been impacted and come to faith in Christ. Though the cause here is closing, our witness as Christians continues. Most crucially of all, God is still concerned about the people of Bronllys."

Revd David Jenkins underlined what Mr. Len Morgan had said as he reminded the congregation that the work of God's Kingdom is not restricted to any particular building and will continue after the Chapel building has been sold.

During the service both Revd David Jenkins and Revd Elaine Jenkins, a Baptist minister with family connections to Bronllys chapel prayed for the people of the village of Bronllys. The Parish Church is now the only place of Christian worship in



Bronllys and prayers were offered for the Vicar and the members of his Church as well as for the work of Christ in the area.

The service concluded with the Benediction and with the carrying of the Bible out of the church. Afterwards we were all invited to share in refreshments, which had been generously provided by the handful of members who remain. They will now be making their spiritual home in other churches.

St David's, Aberystwyth

Sight of a large number of young people from Hungary wearing specially created red T-shirts on the streets of Aberystwyth caused considerable interest and curiosity recently. Members and friends of the church, in conjunction with Gabonamag, the international branch of the

non-denominational charity, Christian Grain of Wheat Foundation, had invited them to Aberystwyth. They spent their days in the church hall learning English, playing games and developing friendships with local people. Their stay culminated in a Hungarian/Welsh Evening after which goulash was served. Their visit was so memorable that one member felt that it would be a long time before he could enter the Schoolroom without thinking of the vibrant young people and all that their visit had meant.

Any church who would like to sponsor a similar visit of young people from Budapest or neighbouring places should contact Mrs Eva Szilagyi, e-mail:

gabonamag@gabonamaghu
 Alternatively, the Secretary of St David's, Pamela Marsden can provide outline information: 01970 832322