

Siloh Cottage / Chapel



Siloh Cottage/Chapel in 2023.

The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales 2009 report on the building said that “Siloh Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was built in 1816, rebuilt in 1844 with a long-wall entry plan and enlarged in 1865”.

The reference for both the 1816 built date and 1844 rebuilt date is the Pritchard database, which for both dates refers to the Foulkes family of Penclawdd, the family who sold the land to the cause in 1844 for £5. The most likely interpretation is that the Foulkes family had originally leased the land for the establishment of the original chapel but then sold it to them when the chapel was rebuilt.



*The plaque on the wall reads
Siloh
A Wesleyan related house of worship built here
in 1844
I.H.S.*

A memorandum from 1924 for the appointment of new trustees for the Chapel listed the names of the nineteen trustees from the previous appointment twenty years earlier, in 1897, of whom eight were marked as deceased and one had requested to be discharged from his duties as a trustee. The memorandum also gave the date of the original deeds describing the property as October 11th 1844.

Memorandum
of the
Choice and Appointment of New Trustees of the
Wesleyan Methodist Chapel
situate at Pentreduw
in the Parish _____ of Llantysilio
in the County of Denbigh
including the property comprised in Deeds of the following dates:
October 11th 1844

at a Meeting of the Trustees duly convened and constituted and held for that purpose
in the said Chapel
on the ~~fourteenth~~ ^{eleventh} day of ~~February~~ ^{March} 1924.

R.N.O.

The Reverend Richard Vaughan Owens of Topworth Villa
Llangollen Superintendent Preacher of the Circuit, Chairman,
Names and Descriptions of all the Trustees on the Constitution or last
Appointment of Trustees made the 2nd day of April 1897.

Name	Residence and Occupation at time of last appointment.	Cause of ceasing to be a trustee.
Jonathan Roberts	Pentreduw	Rockman Deceased
Robert Edwards	Egwysegle	Rockman Deceased
George Roberts	Pentreduw	Rockman Deceased
John Roberts	London	Factor Deceased
Edward Roberts Parry	Llangollen	Draper
George Hughes	Pentreduw	Quarryman Deceased
Edward Roberts	Pentreduw	Grocer
John Griffiths	Bendre	Farmer
Edward Jones	Pentreduw	Quarryman
Edw Jones	Pentreduw	Quarryman
Wm Jones	Pentrefach	Quarryman Deceased
Edw R. Hughes	Glyn Eglwysoc	Farmer
Wm Henry Bond	Pentreduw	Quarryman
Edw Jones	Pencyclawdd	Farmer Desires to be discharged
John Davies	Pentreduw	Quarryman Deceased
John Roberts	Pentreduw	Quarryman
Jones	Pentreduw	Quarryman
Roberts	Pentreduw	Labourer Deceased
Edwards	Bryngroddyn	Quarryman

The 1924 Memorandum for appointing new trustees.

The life of the chapel, which played an integral role in the life of the village for over 150 years, was punctuated by two revivals which changed the lives of people throughout Wales. The 1859 revival, which swept throughout Wales, brought some 36,000 into membership of the churches. The revival in Pentredwr was newsworthy enough to be reported in the Welsh press:-

PENTREDWR, GER LLANGOLLEN.—Y mae adfywiad crefyddol pwysig iawn wedi cymeryd lle yn y lle hwn, ynmysg y Wesleyaid a'r Methodistiaid Calfaidd. Lle bychan ydyw y lle hwn, a gwanaidd iawn oedd achos crefydd yma; prin 50 oedd nifer yr aelodau yn y ddau gapel. Erbyn hyn, y mae tua 80 wedi ymuno a hwynt o'r newydd, a hyn yn benaf mewu cysylltiad a'u gwaith yn cynnal cyfarfodydd gweddio gyda'u gilydd.

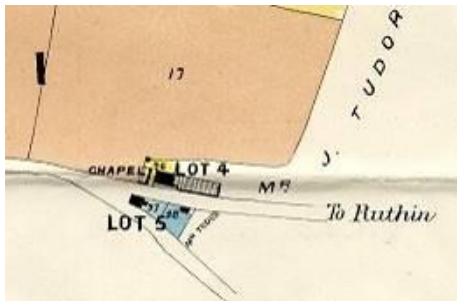
PENTREDWR, NEAR LLANGOLLEN - A very important religious revival has taken place in this place, among the Wesleyan and the Calvinistic Methodists. This place is a small place, and the cause of religion here was very weak; the number of members in both chapels was barely 50. By now, around 80 have joined them anew, mainly in connection with their work holding prayer meetings together.

Y Gwladgarwr 19th February 1859.

In 1860, in "The Welsh Revival", Thomas Phillips recorded the revival for Pentre'r dŵr, Llangollen, in slightly more graphic terms.— "This is a small neighbourhood, but proverbial for its drunkenness and immorality. It is now thoroughly changed. The drunkards are made sober, and the majority of the inhabitants have become followers of Jesus Christ... If this revival should continue, all the people will subscribe with their own hands that they are the Lord's. It is delightful to reflect on the blessed change in the life and general conduct of the people, and especially the young converts. The glory and excellency of the revival is, that old things are passed away, and behold all things are new. Instead of indecent language, oaths, and profanation of the Divine name, while employed in the quarries, the Bible and religion are the chief topics of conversation; instead of frequenting public houses, to spend their money on that which is not bread, they resort to the house of God almost every evening in the week, and are seen on their knees imploring pardoning mercy through Jesus Christ; instead of resembling the beasts that perish, on pay-days and fair-days, they return from Llangollen in good order and in their right minds."

Siloh Chapel was part of the Bathafarn Chapel (in Ruthin) circuit of chapels. The circuit system was established in the early days of Methodism, when ordained Methodist ministers were scarce. A minister would be appointed to a group or circuit of local churches. He would administer the sacraments and have pastoral oversight, but most of the services would be led by the local lay preachers, or sometimes by visiting preachers.

A second Revival in 1904 spread, and within six months it is estimated that over 100,000 people were converted. Not only were individual lives changed by the power of the Holy Spirit, but entire communities were renewed. Drunkards, thieves, gamblers were transformed. Miners prayed together before commencing their shifts in the pits. Football and rugby teams were converted and fixtures abandoned. Pubs were empty and dance halls were deserted.



Siloh Chapel is marked on an 1874 plan of properties for auction by the Foulkes family, although the Chapel itself was not up for sale.

Magistrates had very few cases before them. This Revival was remarkable as it continued in some parts for up to two years, and would enable Siloh Chapel to continue to serve the local community for another sixty five years.



Siloh Chapel congregation around 1960 outside the Chapel. L-R:- Probably the minister, Miss Upson, ?? (at back), Sarah Parry Roberts, Other Miss Upson (think), ? (at back), Doll Davies, ? (black coat), Alwenna Hughes, ? (front), Mrs Olwen Hughes, Elza Edwards (it is a z not as in records), Eluned Evans, ?, ?, May Edwards (school cook), Lilian Pickett, John Bond, Miss Jones (Penyclawdd Cottage), John Frances Davies.

However, the move away from religion, the dwindling population of Pentredŵr and the improvements in transport, allowing easy access to chapels in Llangollen, spelt the end for Siloh. The chapel closed in 1971 and fell derelict.



The ruined Siloh Chapel at the end of the 1970s.

Offered for sale at the end of the 1970s, Siloh Chapel was converted in 1983 to a family home and renamed as Siloh Cottage.

WANTED. Conwy Valley: small Cottage, on the level; one bedroom; £6,000 Cash.-St. Helens 51062.
SILOH CHAPEL (ruin) Pentredwr, (Bathafarn Methodist Circuit), approximately 1,300 sq ft, small rural Chapel with no surrounding grounds. For Sale by Tender with limit propose use. Offers should be forwarded to the Circuit Stewards to arrive by June 19, 1979, c/o Ysgubor Isa, Llanfair, D. C.

Liverpool Daily Post (Welsh Edition) - Saturday 26 May 1979.

By Linda and Ken White