

WORSHIP IN WELSH

When Hoole expanded in the latter part of the 19th Century many Welsh people came to live there. Chester of course, in spite of its love/hate relationship, was the home of many a Welsh person and the following list shows the provision made for them to worship.

WELSH CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.	
PENRI MEMORIAL WELSH BAPTIST CHURCH (Gorse Stacks)—Services: Sunday, 10-30 a.m. and 6-15 p.m. Sunday School, 2-30 p.m. Church Meeting, Thursday, 7-30 p.m., Thursday, 8-15, Young People's Meeting. Pastor: Rev. Thos. Morgan, 115, Ermine Road, Newton, Chester. Secretary: Mr. W. R. Jones, Cartreffe, 33, Brook Lane, Chester. Treasurer: Mr. Pryce Davies, Wynstay, Curzon Park, Chester.	
WELSH CALVINISTIC METHODIST (WELSH PRESBYTERIAN) CHURCH (St. John Street).—Pastor: Rev. Griffith Hughes, M.A. (Oxon.) West Holme, Liverpool Road. Services: Sunday, 10-30 a.m. and 6 p.m. School, 2-30 p.m. Tuesday, Meeting of Members at 7-15 p.m., followed by Literary Society during winter months. Wednesday, Band of Hope, 6 p.m. Thursday, Prayer Meeting at 7-15 p.m.; Choir Practice, 8-20 p.m. Friday, Welsh Classes, 6-30 and 7-30. Church Secretary: Mr. George Edwards, Celyn, Queen's Park. Superintendent of Sunday School: Mr. George Edwards, Celyn, Queen's Park. Secretary: Miss Nellie M. Thomas, 6, Vernon Road. Caretakers: Mr. and Mrs. John Davies, 2, Little St. John Street. Welsh Methodist Hymn Book.	
WELSH CALVINISTIC METHODIST SCHOOLEROOM (Branch of above) 6, Faulkner Street, Hoole. Superintendent: Mr. John E. Jones, 30, William Street. Secretary: Mr. Gwilym I. Jones, 5, Prescott Street. Sunday School, 2-30 p.m. Wednesday, Band of Hope, 7 p.m.	
WELSH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SALTNEY FERRY. —Minister: (Vacant). Services: Sunday 10-45 a.m. and 6 p.m. School 2-30 p.m. Week-nights, Wednesday and Friday, 7 p.m.	
WELSH CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL (Albion Park, Albion Street)—Minister: Rev. W. J. Evans, B.A., 32, Grange Road. Chapel Keeper: Mr. Jones, 39, Pepper Street. Services: Sunday, Sermon 10-45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Sunday School at 2-30 p.m.; Week-night, Tuesday, 7-30 p.m.; Literary Society (during winter months), Tuesday, 8-15 p.m.; Band of Hope, Monday, 6 p.m. Sunday School Superintendent: Mr. Jeremy James, Park Walk, Newton. Secretary: Miss Annie Williams, 11, Queen's Park View. Church Secretary: Mr. Evan Richards, 33, Grange Road.	
WELSH METHODIST CHAPEL, Queen Street (W). Registered for the solemnization of marriages under the Marriages Act, 1898. Minister: Rev. Charles Jones, 24, Halkyn Road. Trustees' Treasurer: Mr. T. Davies-Jones, Clovelly, Eversley Park. Trustees' Secretary: Mr. R. L. Lloyd, Bryn Issa, Raymond Street. Society Stewards: Mr. Charles Jones, Abbey Green and Mr. E. T. Evans, 61, Catherine Street. Organist and Choirmaster: Mr. T. Davies-Jones, Clovelly, Eversley Park. Poor Stewards: Mr. R. L. Lloyd and Mr. Llewelyn O. Lewis, 16, West Lorne Street. Chapel Keeper: Mrs. Davies, 12, Charlotte Street. Services: Sunday, 10-30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Class Meetings, Thursday, 7 p.m. Sunday School at 2-30 p.m.	
HOOLE MISSION ROOM (W). —Minister: Rev. Charles Jones, 24, Halkyn Road, Chester. Services: P.S.A. (English): First Sunday in every month at 2-45 p.m. Sunday School (Welsh): Other Sundays at 2-30 p.m. Tuesdays, 7-30 p.m.	

Phillipson & Golder's Directory

The Hoole Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Mission Room at the end of the list was built as a Sunday School on the West side of Peploe Street at the end of the terrace of houses erected in the gardens of Egerton Terrace in 1904. During the previous 4 years, meetings had been held over a baker's shop in Charles Street and then in a room at the back of Sumpter's Pathway. It was linked to the Welsh Methodist Chapel in Queen Street and its Minister Rev. Charles Jones lived at 24 Halkyn Road. Interestingly, there was a service in English. During World War II, All Saints Mission Room which was opposite, was used as a British Restaurant and arrangements were made for the Welsh Mission Room to be used by organisations (Boys Brigade, Guides and Brownies) which normally met at the former.



Welsh Chapel, Peploe Street

NEW WELSH SUNDAY SCHOOL
LAYING OF MEMORIAL STONES.

On Wednesday afternoon an interesting ceremony took place in Westminster-road, Hoole, where several memorial stones were laid in the building of the new Welsh Wesleyan Mission School, now in course of erection. The school, which is to cost £700, is intended only for religious teaching to the children of members of the Welsh Wesleyan body resident in Hoole, and it is not their intention to carry on a school for secular instruction. The project is the outcome of three or four years' work among Welsh children in Hoole, and now their number is so great that the present temporary accommodation is inadequate.

For Wednesday's ceremony, on the partially erected building, which was decorated with flags, a large congregation assembled, and the ceremony of stone-laying was incorporated in a short service conducted by the Rev. Owen Hughes (chairman of the committee). The attendance included the Rev. Edward Humphreys (chairman of the district), the Mayor of Chester (Alderman Robert Lamb), the chairman of the Hoole Urban Council (Mr. William Williams), Mr. J. H. Welford, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson, Mr. R. Cathcart Smith, the Revs. John Felix, A. Fennell, J. Wesley Hughes, D. Wayne Evans, W. J. Jones and Daniel Hughes, Mr. R. Cecil Davies, Mr. T. Wooliam, Mr. R. Westry Roberts, and the secretaries (Messrs. Thomas Williams, R. Westry Roberts and Joseph Benn).

Mr. Benn gave a history of the movement. He said it commenced about four years ago, when the Rev. J. Wesley Hughes, while minister in Chester, in conjunction with one or two friends in Hoole, thought it was necessary to establish a small Sunday school to meet the requirements of Welsh people resident in that neighbourhood. A school was commenced by a dozen or more friends from Queen-street Welsh Wesleyan Church. They met in a room over a baker's shop in Charles-street, and afterwards they removed to a room at the back of Sumpter's Pathway. In the early part of the present year they found the room was inadequate for the requirements of the school. They decided to get a permanent building, and since that idea had been accepted the numbers attending the school had gone up by leaps and bounds. In fact, over sixty were present every Sunday, and there were about 100 on the books. That alone justified the movement they represented that day. In order to obtain funds for the building, they organised a small concert, towards which the Duke of Westminster, the Mayor, the chairman of the Hoole Council, and others subscribed, and they realised £20. Special collections brought in another £30, making £50 in all towards the £700 required for the building. Mr. William Williams promised a subscription of ten guineas, and the owner of the land, Mr. James Williams, a donation of £5. The great 20th Century Fund of the church, through its committee, had also promised a donation of £150, and the North Wales Chapel Committee had promised £60. Thus they had £230 in grants, which, with the £265, made £495 practically secured. Mr. R. T. Richardson, who represented Hoole on the County Council, and who was unable to be present, had expressed his sympathy by sending £5, while Mr. James Frost, of Doughton Hall, who was also unable to be present, had also sent £5. Other small donations came to £32, leaving nearly £400 to be raised.

The Mayor of Chester then performed his first public duty after his re-election by laying a memorial stone. Mr. William Williams, Mr. J. H. Welford, Mr. Henry Thompson and Mr. R. Cathcart Smith each laid a similar stone. These gentlemen were presented with a handsome silver trowel each.

A vote of thanks was accorded them on the motion of the Rev. J. Wesley Hughes, seconded by Mr. R. Westry Roberts.

In the evening a concert was given in the Lecture Hall, Westminster-road, in aid of the school.

The total sum collected at the ceremony was £57 11s 5d.

Laying of Foundation Stones November 1904

When it closed in 1947, the Welsh Mission Room became (after a petition otherwise) a part of Bramhall's Garage which eventually became Bill Smith's motorcycle premises.

"CHURCHYARD WOULD BECOME GRAVEYARD FOR OLD CARS"

A disused Welsh Methodist Chapel in Westminster-road, Hoole, is being used as a garage, and objections were raised by local residents at an inquiry conducted by Mr. D. Senior for the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, at the Elms Pavilion, Hoole, on Wednesday. Mr. G. P. Bramall owns and operates the garage.

Mr. Henry Stretton objected that what was a churchyard was likely to become a graveyard for old cars. It was like something left behind by a V-bomb. Mr. H. C. Hughes said he had never seen a more ridiculous place for a garage. Miss E. H. Parry said she would prefer to see the old Sunday School again. Objections were raised by Mrs. K. M. Hughes, Mrs. M. A. Evans (both on religious grounds), Mrs. Bowley, Mrs. A. McDermott, Mr. J. Hetherington and All Saints Parochial Church Council (submitted by Mr. Clifton Jones). These members of Hoole Council, Messrs. W. Brown, A. H. Lomas and E. Hughes, also opposed the conversion.

Mr. G. Burkinshaw (Clerk, West Cheshire Regional Planning Committee) said the property was in an area zoned as residential in the proposed planning scheme. The Committee also disapproved of a garage at this point because of houses in close proximity and the narrowness of the road. Mr. A. H. P. Jiggins (Chief Assistant to the Planning Officer) said there was another garage within 300 yards, and referred to the danger of traffic congestion.

Mr. Francis Williams (instructed by Mr. C. H. Stockton, solicitor, on behalf of local residents) said the Highways Committee had twice disapproved the proposal and that Hoole Council had referred it back for further consideration. The Committee then approved and the Council confirmed its decision. The ratepayers would have to bear the cost of widening the road for the benefit of one man.

Ald. P. H. Lawson, architect, for Mr. Bramall, said that apart from the "bottle-neck" there was a greater width between the building lines in Westminster-road than in neighbouring streets; it therefore lent itself to development of a better type. During questioning by Mr. Burkinshaw he said that if Hoole Council had not already zoned an area for business development it was high time they did. Mr. G. P. Bramall, of 329 Hoole-lane, said he intended to confine the business to private car repairs and the sale of petrol. All repairs would be carried out in the new building when completed. Including the purchase price of the premises he had entered into contracts amounting to over £22,000. Mr. J. Kerton Roberts, solicitor for the applicant, contended that the objections had been purely personal and not concerned with the town planning aspect except the evidence given by Mr. Jiggins. There was no danger of a nuisance being committed.

Two members of Hoole Council (Mr. P. G. Wright and Mr. R. W. A. Oring), Mr. R. H. Bland, Mr. Joseph Benn, Mrs. L. M. Hurst and Mrs. Buehan supported Mr. Bramall. It was stated by Mr. E. Hornman (Clerk of Hoole Council) that 26 of the 52 original signatories to the petition had since withdrawn.

The findings of the Ministry will be made known.

Inquiry June 1947

Further up the list there is another location in Hoole, Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Schoolroom, at 6 Faulkner Street which was linked to the Church in St. John's Street. No. 6 was a doorway between the shops and the School met above (Sunday schools were for adults as well as children). This block of shops (now Boots etc.) was built by James Freeman Fletcher in the garden of his property, Upton View, now Costa Coffee. The Superintendent and Secretary lived in Hoole and were both named Jones. The School opened in January 1901 and annual concerts were held to help finance it at St. John Street Church.



Welsh Sunday School, Faulkner Street

THE WELSH SUNDAY SCHOOL, HOOLE.
 On the evening of Good Friday, a successful performance of Protheroe's dramatic cantata "St. Peter," was given by the choir of the Queen-street Congregational Church, conducted by Mr. J. H. Lloyd. This was the twenty-fifth of the annual concerts held in aid of the Welsh Sunday School, 4, Faulkner-st., Hoole, and the schoolroom was filled by an appreciative audience. The release of St. Peter from his prison cell by the angels, the consternation of the warders when the discovery of his escape is made, and his welcome at Mary's house, receive dramatic treatment in the cantata. Miss Gwen Lupton deserves praise for her excellent accompaniment. The costumes designed by Mrs. A. J. Dean were most pleasing. The chair was occupied by Mr. David Hughes, the senior member of the Welsh Sunday School. Mr. Hughes has attended the school since its opening in the beginning of January, 1901, and he referred to the excellent work done by the school.

25th Anniversary Concert in aid of Sunday School April 1931

The Chapel appears in the 1911 Census with a resident, and was still a place of worship in the 1950's.