

A BRIEF HISTORY

Memories of Pant Chapel

At the final service the Congregation was joined by friends from the local Anglican and Methodist Churches as well as from Christ Church, Oswestry and from many other parts of the country. The service was a mix of sadness and joy, as expressed in the 2 solos that were sung: *There is a green hill far away* and *Now the green blade rises*.



Several Chapel elders, members and fellow worshippers shared their recollections of the Chapel, revealing the various activities of Pant's hey-day as a Chapel.

"In the 1930s there were 30 to 40 in the Sunday School. We sang from large hymn sheets - Sankey hymns. We also sang at the weekly Fellowship meetings - very enjoyable!"

"My earliest memories of chapel are of singing 'Beulah Land' and 'Down in the valley' from a large song sheet on the stage ... conducted by Jonathan Griffiths."

"I sat in the evening with my Granny Evans, and Mrs Lloyd, of the Well House sat behind us and gave me 'Fisherman's Friend' lozenges to keep me quiet during the long sermons!"

"The Church Anniversary Sunday was on the third Sunday in June. All the children sat on a raised platform with the eldest on the top row and a mixed choir at the side. The children took part with recitations, solos and duets ... there was standing room only for the congregation. We all wore our new clothes; my mother made the dresses for me and my sisters. Winnie taught us to recite our poems properly. Alan played the piano and Ossie Jones trained us in the singing. ... Winnie Griffiths was very elegant and one of the treats for the girls was seeing what outfit she would wear for the Anniversary! ... I climbed on the wall in my new suit and caught my coat on the railings and tore it."

"The chapel picnics were held on Radcliffe's Flat on Llanymynech Hill where we had races."..." Jim Pugh threw pennies for the children to scramble for. There were canal trips, and journeys by charabang or rail to places like Rhyl and Barry Island.... travelling on Danny Griffin's bus, when children sat three to a seat or sat on stools in the aisle. Danny would not allow us to eat our chips on the bus on the way home and buckets and spades had to go in the boot to keep the bus clean.... We all went in the train to the seaside usually with our parents as well and with sandwiches and pop. It was the topic of conversation for weeks after."

"The Sunday School Christmas Party was anticipated with relish. We all took food and played party games: musical chairs, pass the parcel, spinning the plate and postman's knock. We ate sandwiches, jelly and blancmange ... Mr Pugh gave us a big bar of chocolate and a large orange to take home. At Christmas we also did nativity plays and there were some very dubious 'angels'."

"The Harvest Festival was always a joyful occasion; with the children making the gifts in the morning. We always had great fun at the auction afterwards, running the lots with friendly rivalry.... My children were christened in the chapel and also attended Sunday School for many years. Five generations of my family have worshipped in the chapel: my Granny Evans, my father, me, my children and my four-year-old granddaughter on holiday from Plymouth.... At the Anniversary, Mr Pugh, who adored children, commandeered her at the door and she sat with him and sang "Twinkle, twinkle little star".

Memories from: Brenda Driscoll, Winnie Griffiths, Annie Hughes Sylvia Kynaston, Maureen Matthews, Jennifer Parker, and Alan Pugh,

There was a special surprise within the service when all current regular worshippers at Pant were provided with a Certificate of Commemoration for their many years of loving commitment.