

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFDY MORGANNWG

Title: BETHANY ENGLISH BAPTIST CHURCH, ST MARY STREET, CARDIFF

Dates : 1804-2006

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: [] cubic metres ([] boxes, rolls, items, etc)

Name of creator(s): Bethany English Baptist Church, St Mary Street, Cardiff

Administrative/biographical history

Bethany Baptist Church, St Mary Street, Cardiff, is the oldest English Baptist church in Cardiff. The church was formed on 7th September 1806 with 6 members who met in a room opened on 7th July 1806 in the King's Head, St. Mary Street. On 10th July 1807 a new meeting room was opened on land in St. Mary Street, acquired from John Wood, junior. By 1807 membership was 16. In 1809 Tho. Lewis, the first pastor was appointed. A Sunday School was founded in 1813. By 1820 the church had 59 members and a new chapel was built by subscription and opened 3rd October 1821. By 1827 membership had risen to 96 and new galleries were opened in November 1827 and an enlargement of the existing building was carried out in April 1840.

The first meeting of the Carmarthen and Glamorgan English Baptist Association took place at Bethany Baptist Church in 1857.

In 1861 membership was 465 and in 1857 there were 390 attending the Sunday school. A new building was opened in May 1865 with accommodation for 943 worshippers. A new Sunday school was built in 1878.

By 1916 membership had declined to 834 and the number of Sunday scholars to 225. Contributory factors in this decline were the movement of population from the centre of Cardiff and the proliferation of English Baptist churches, often under the auspices of Bethany itself in Cardiff and Penarth. By 1906 there were 14 churches.

Bethany Baptist church eventually followed the movement of population by transferring the chapel to Rhiwbina. The last service was held in the St. Mary Street building in November 1963 and the first service in the new building in September 1964.

[The former Bethany English Baptist church building in St. Mary Street had been incorporated into the premises of Jas. Howell and Co. Ltd, and it is possible to see the façade of the former chapel in Wharton Court in Wharton Street, where there is also a memorial to Rawlins White, who was martyred in 1555, during the Marian persecution.

Bethany English Baptist Church, St, Mary Street, Cardiff

Archival history

Immediate source of acquisition

Scope and content

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

Select:

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

Items which do not conform to the GRO collection policy have been returned to the depositor/transferred to.....

Samples: *record the sampling method used at the appropriate level*

Duplicates and ephemera destroyed/returned to depositor

Accruals

Accruals are not expected

Accruals are possible

Accruals are expected

Accruals are expected on [date]

System of arrangement

Conditions governing access

Select:

Open access

Items containing information on named individuals may be restricted in accordance with the Data Protection Act and Record Office policy

Written permission is required before the archives can be consulted.

Researchers should complete the relevant form on permission to access closed records, or apply for a staff member to undertake the search.

Closed until [] or Personal files were closed until []

Conditions governing reproduction

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language/scripts of material

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Select:

Good condition

Fair condition

Poor condition

Unusable

[See conservation guide in searchroom - **give more detail**]

Finding aids

Bethany English Baptist Church, St, Mary Street, Cardiff

Select:

Detailed list available.

Detailed list available at (other location, e.g. National Library of Wales, West Glamorgan Archive Service, etc)

[Give date of compilation of other versions of the list mentioned here and any revisions]

Existence and location of originals

If applicable

Existence and location of copies

If applicable

Related units of description

Publication note

Note

Archivist's note

Compiled by [*cataloguer's name*] for the Glamorgan Record Office, with reference to [*name any publications used*].

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

Bethany English Baptist Church, St, Mary Street, Cardiff

Registers

DBAP15/1	Copy register of births and deaths [Births, 1804-37: deaths, 1807-37] [Inscribed: 'This copy was taken previous to the Register being sent to the Registration Commissioners London'] [1 vol.] [Transcript available in the Copy Searchroom]	1804-1837
DBAP15/2 i, ii.	Registers of members [At beginning of DBAP 2/i: Articles of Faith, 7 th September 1806] [2 vols.] [Surname index available in the Copy Searchroom]	1806-1857 1858-1955

Histories of the Church

DBAP15/3	Histories of the church [The history constitutes a periodic journal of the progress of the church. The copy vols. Which follow, are in abridged version of the same material] [1 vol.]	1805-1849
DBAP15/4	Church record, being a history of the church, 1805-32, and register of members , 1806-58 [Copies of DBAP15/3 and 15/21] [1 vol.]	1805-1858
DBAP15/5	History of the church [copy of DBAP15/3 made c.1840] [1 vol.]	1805-1833
DBAP15/6	History of the church [Copy of DBAP15/3 made by Jas. T. Barry, c.1870]	1805-1821

Bethany English Baptist Church, St, Mary Street, Cardiff

Minute Books

DBAP15/7i-ix	Monthly church meeting minute books [9 vols.]	1833-1856 1856-1876 1876-1884 1884-1892 1892-1901 1901-1910 1911-1923 1923-1931 1931-1959
DBAP15/8i-vii	Deacon's minute books [7 vols.]	1868-1889 1890-1895 1896-1909 1909-1915 1916-1926 1926-1936 1937-1950
DBAP15/9i, ii	Sunday school teacher's meeting minute books [From 1963 the Sunday school was known as the junior church] [2 vols.]	1891-1902 1933-1968
DBAP15/10	Appeal Committee and Executive Committee minute book [These committees were drawn from all the Baptist Churches in Cardiff, Penarth and neighbourhood for the entertainment of the Baptist Union in Cardiff] 1 vol.]	1890-1891
DBAP15/11	Sunday School Centenary Fund Committee minute book [At end of vol.: 150 th Anniversary Committee minutes, 1955-56] [1 vol.]	1911-1914
DBAP15/12	Twentieth Century Fund Committee minute book [1 vol.]	1899-1902
DBAP15/13	Thanksgiving Fund Committee minute book [1 vol.]	Aug-Nov 1927
DBAP15/14	Baptist Missionary Society Committee of Management minute book [1 vol.]	1917-1955

Bethany English Baptist Church, St, Mary Street, Cardiff

Account Books

DBAP15/15i, ii	Deacon's account book [At end of DBAP15/15ii: Wharton Street property accounts [2 vols.]	1806-1833 1858-1894
DBAP15/16i, ii	Treasurer's account books [2 vols.]	1895-1920 1958-1960
DBAP15/17	Treasurer's account book of church debt [At end of vol.: Deposit account] [1 vol.]	1881-1887
DBAP15/18i, ii	Church account books [These volumes contain a record of members ' contributions] [2 vols.]	1869-1880 1929-1952
DBAP15/19	Wharton Street property account book [1 vol.]	1898-1929
DBAP15/20	Communion or table money account book [1 vol.]	1875-1894
DBAP15/21	Register of pew rents [1 vol.]	1917-1930
DBAP15/22	Pew rents account book [1 vol.]	1918-1923
DBAP15/23	List of subscriptions for the rebuilding of Bethany Baptist church, n.d. [1 vol.]	c. 1864
DBAP15/24	Singing Society account book [At end of vol.: receipts and notes for sermons] [1 vol.]	1821-1826
DBAP15/25	Soup kitchen accounts [1 vol.]	1895-1911
DBAP15/26	Account of tickets issued and sold for sale of work held for the extinction of the church debt [1 vol.]	June 1921

Bethany English Baptist Church, St, Mary Street, Cardiff

DBAP15/27i-iii	Baptist Missionary Society account books [At the beginning of DBAP15/27i: Quarterly card money (towards the church debt) accounts, 1846-47] [3 vols.]	1847-1888 1921-1930 1934-1963
<u>Reciepts and Balance Sheets</u>		
DBAP15/28	Receipts for the salary of the Rev. Thos. Lewis [pastor of Bethany Baptist church, 1809-14] [1 paper]	26 th Sept 1815
DBAP15/29i-xxviii	Receipts, charges for conveyance and valuations of the property in Wharton Street belonging to Bethany Baptist church [1 bundles]	1877-1914
DBAP15/30	Receipts for repairs to church, etc. [1 bundles]	1894-1895
DBAP15/31	Balance sheets [The papers were found loose in DBAP15/16i] [1 vol., 15 papers]	1866-1879 1911 1913-1915 1917-1920
DBAP15/32i-x	Balance sheets of Wharton Street property account [The papers were found loose in DBAP1516i] [10 people]	1911-1915 1917 1919-1920
DBAP15/33i-v	Balance sheet of Bethany Church Building Fund, 1867 and of Bethany Church Renovation Fund, 1894 [5 papers]	1867 1894
<u>Correspondence</u>		
DBAP15/34	Correspondence concerning church centenary celebrations [1 bundles]	Aug-Sept 1906

Bethany English Baptist Church, St, Mary Street, Cardiff

DBAP15/35	Correspondence concerning the administration of Bethany Baptist church including that of the property at 66 Cathedral Road and 5-8 Wharton Street, both in Cardiff, belonging to Bethany Baptist church [Including: Agreement with Messrs. James Howell and Co. Ltd., 22 nd June 1929] [1 bundles, in 3 envelopes]	1903-1954
-----------	---	-----------

Deeds and Certificates

DBAP15/37	Certification of Bethany church as a place of public worship registered for the solemnization of marriage [1 parchment]	8 th Sept 1837
DBAP15/38, 39	Orders concerning the use of Bethany burial ground [2 papers]	6 th May 1857 24 th Sept 1857
DBAP15/40	Declaration of use as a place of public worship of Bethany church [1 paper]	14 Dec 1860
DBAP15/41-43	Certificates of right of burial of burial in Cardiff burial ground [1 parchment; 3 papers]	1902-10
DBAP15/44,45	Bonds as collateral security for loans [2 papers]	17 June 1807 28 Nov 1864
DBAP15/46 i,ii	Contract and specification for erection of new Sunday schools [2 files]	24 May 1878
DBAP15/47	Copy of Title Deeds relating to Bethany Baptist church [Copy made, 8 March 1895] [1 vol.]	1807-79
DBAP15/48 i-iv	Schedules of Deeds relating to Bethany Baptist church [4 paper]	1864-1922

Bethany English Baptist Church, St, Mary Street, Cardiff

Scrapbooks of Anniversary Celebrations

DBAP15/49	Scrapbook recording the celebrations to mark the centenary of the founding of the church [This album consists of a notebook containing a manuscript narrative of the celebrations, newspaper cuttings, programmes and photographs] [1 vol.]	June-Sept 1906
DBAP15/50	Scrapbook recording the celebrations to mark the centenary of the founding of the Sunday school [1 vol.]	1913
DBAP15/51	Scrapbook recording the celebrations to mark the 150 th anniversary of the founding of the church [1 vol.]	Oct 1956

Miscellaneous

DBAP15/52	Report to Glamorganshire Baptist Association concerning Bethany Baptist church [1 paper]	29 May 1856
DBAP15/53	Circular concerning the reopening of Bethany church [1 paper]	1865
DBAP15/54 i,ii	Book of counterfoils giving details of visits made on behalf of Bethany Baptist church [1 vol.; 1 blank vol.]	1920-48
DBAP15/55	Order book for purchases [1 vol.]	1913-35
DBAP15/56 i-xvi	Orders of service and hymn sheets [14 papers; 2 booklets]	1880-1960
DBAP15/57, 58	Bethany Baptist church official handbooks [2 booklets]	1916 1934
DBAP15/59	Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland. Official hand book of the autumn assembly at Cardiff [1 booklet]	29 Sept-4 Oct 1912

Bethany English Baptist Church, St, Mary Street, Cardiff

- DBAP15/60 Report on Bethel chapel made to Bethany Baptist church 1854
[Bethel chapel was opened as a mission station, by Bethany Baptist church, in James Street, Cardiff, on 6th April 1849, to serve the population of Bute Town. It became a separate church in 1855 and a new building was erected in Mount Stuart Square in 1857]
[1 paper]
- DBAP15/61-65 Correspondence and accounts relating to Saltmead chapel 1897-1910
[Saltmead chapel in Cornwall Street, Saltmead, was opened by Wm. Jones, a deacon of Bethany Baptist church. The church, an offshoot of Bethany, was formed in 1898]
[3 small vols.; 2 bundles]

Photographs

- DBAP15/66-69 Photographs of the interior of Bethany Baptist church c.1950
[4 photographs]

Printed Material

- DBAP15/70 History of Bethany Baptist Church, Cardiff by W. E. Winks. Published: Cardiff 1906
[1 vol.]
- DBAP15/71 Programme of events for 150th anniversary of Cardiff's first Sunday School Nov 1963
[1 booklet, 1 paper; printed]
- DBAP15/72 a, 'Celebration! The first 200 years'. The continuing 2006
b history of Bethany Baptist Church to mark the 200th anniversary of the church
[1 volume, printed; also 1 duplicate]