

## GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFYDY MORGANNWG

**Reference code:** GB 214 DWESCR656

**Title:** RHONDDA VALLEY ENGLISH METHODIST  
CIRCUIT

**Date(s)** 1893-1994

**Level of description:** Fonds (level 2)

**Extent:** 3 boxes; 0.06 cubic metres

**Name of creator(s)** Rhondda Valley English Methodist Circuit

### **Administrative/Biographical history**

Wesleyan Methodists began making in-roads in to south Wales during the mid-eighteenth century, and a Glamorganshire Circuit was established in 1765. In 1796 the circuit was divided into two smaller units, Swansea serving the west, and Cardiff the east. In 1817 Cardiff was divided into English and Welsh circuits, and in 1848 Bridgend split from Cardiff, forming its own circuit. This division was the catalyst for missionary work in the south Wales valleys. A Mr Charles Bassett was sent to Pontypridd, where he provided a room for the Methodists of the town and of Treforest, who were at the time worshipping in a farmhouse. The congregation quickly built their own chapel, and others followed, at Porth; Pandy; Pentre; Heolfach; Ferndale; Williamstown; Treorchy; Llantrisant and Hafod. In 1862 a Pontypridd Circuit emerged as a separate entity from the Cardiff Circuit, and in 1886 it split once more, producing two daughter circuits, Ferndale and Rhondda. The Rhondda Valley Circuit met with great success, with chapels built at Clydach Vale and Blaenycwm immediately following its establishment. Others also followed over the years.

In 1932, the Primitive Methodists and the Wesleyan Methodists joined together to form what is today's Methodist Church. It is thought that Primitive Methodism began making inroads into the Rhondda during the 1860s. Zion, Llwynypia was the first Primitive church, built in 1873. This was followed by several others, at Cwmclydach; Tonypandy; Trealaw; Dinas; Ystrad and Pentre. These churches were part of the Rhondda Primitive Methodist Circuit. A Primitive Methodist Church was also built at Porth, and became part of the Porth and Pontypridd Circuit.

Since 1978, all Methodist circuits in the Rhondda have been overseen by the Mid-Glamorgan Mission, which covers the geographical area of five and a half valleys.

### **Scope and content**

The records include registers of baptisms; a register of marriages; financial records and Sunday school records relating to the Circuit and its constituent chapels.

### **Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information**

All records offered have been accepted and listed

**Conditions governing access**

Records are closed for 30 years from the date of the last entry in the relevant document

**Conditions governing reproduction**

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

**Language/Scripts of material**

English

**Physical characteristics and technical requirements**

Good condition

**Finding aids**

Item level list available, 06/11/02

**Related units of description**

Papers of the Rev. R. J. Barker, D119

Rhondda Valley English Methodist Circuit, DWESCR629-646

**Date(s) of descriptions**

November 2002

DWESCR656/1	Register of baptisms Contains information on persons baptised at each of the chapels forming the Rhondda Valley English Methodist Circuit  [1 vol.]	1893-1908
DWESCR656/2	Register of baptisms As above  [1 vol.]	1908-1928
DWESCR656/3	Register of baptisms As above  [1 vol.]	1909-1933
DWESCR656/4	Register of baptisms Contains information on persons baptised at Williamstown Methodist Church  [1 vol.]	1920-1924
DWESCR656/5	Register of marriages Contains information on marriage ceremonies held at Ynyswen Methodist Church  [1 vol.]	1958-1971
DWESCR656/6	Collection journal An account of collection money received at Ynyswen Methodist Church  [1 vol.]	1948-1959
DWESCR656/7	Register of baptisms Contains information on persons baptised at Ynyswen Methodist Church  [1 vol.]	1961-1991
DWESCR656/8	Minute book Minutes of meetings held at Ynyswen Methodist Church  [1 vol.]	1913-1960

DWESCR656/9	Trustees' treasurer's account book Accounts of Ynyswen Methodist Church  [1 vol.]	1920-1948
DWESCR 656/10	Trustees' treasurer's account book Accounts of Ynyswen Methodist Church  [1 vol.]	1962-1994
DWESCR 656/11	Sunday School account book Accounts of Zion Methodist Church Sunday School, Llwynypia  [1 vol.]	1903-1987
DWESCR 656/12	Sunday School collections book An account of collection money received at Zion Methodist Church Sunday School, Llwynypia  [1 vol.]	1909-1969
DWESCR 656/13	Sunday School departmental records and attendance register Attendance register for Zion Methodist Church Sunday School, Llwynypia  [1 vol.]	1969-1974
DWESCR 656/14	Sunday School departmental records and attendance register Attendance register for Zion Methodist Church Sunday School, Llwynypia  [1 vol.]	1974-1979
DWESCR 656/15	Sunday School departmental records and attendance register Attendance register for Zion Methodist Church Sunday School, Llwynypia  [1 vol.]	1979-1986
DWESCR 656/16	Sunday School minute book Minutes of meetings of Zion Methodist Church Sunday School, Llwynypia  [1 vol.]	1922-1937

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DWESCR 656/17	Sunday School minute book Minutes of meetings of Zion Methodist Church Sunday School, Llwynypia  [1 vol.]	1953-1982
DWESCR 656/18	Sunday School minute book Minutes of meetings of Zion Methodist Church Sunday School, Llwynypia  [1 vol.]	1982-1986