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Catalogue of records of Trostant/Crane St. English
Baptist Church, Pontypool and Zion
(Lower Trostant) Baptist Church,
Pontypool.

Records of Trosnant/Crane Street (English) Baptist Church and Zion (Lower Trosnant) Baptist Church,
Pontypool 1836-1991.

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Introduction

The first attempts to establish English Baptist church services in Pontypool were c.1815. In 1836 the Pontypool English Baptist Association acquired its first chapel in the old Quaker Meeting House at Lower Trostant, Pontypool, rented from the Society of Friends. The Crane Street Baptist Chapel was opened in April 1847, under the leadership of Revd. Dr. Thomas, formerly a minister of some prominence at Henrietta Street church in London.

Erected at a cost of over £2,000 Crane Street was an expensive building designed with classical style portico and an elaborate glass panelled roof. Despite problems of debt as a result of such building, by 1870 the congregation had gathered sufficient resources to expand further with the addition of side galleries and other improvements to the chapel.

A number of records and documents in this collection relate to the Zion Particular Baptist chapel at Lower Trostant, Pontypool. This church, as is recorded in the account book preserved here, was formed in May 1844 as a result of the secession of 110 members from the Welsh Particular Baptist chapel at Upper Trostant due to 'disputed matters within the church'. The church at Zion Trostant became amalgamated into fellowship with Crane St. in July 1878.

The collection also contains printed booklets and newsletters for Zion Hill and Merchant Hill Baptist churches in Pontnewynydd and High St. and Noddfa chapels, Abersychan and general reports of the Monmouthshire English Baptist Association and the Baptist Missionary Society.

Records of Trosnant/Crane Street/English Baptist Church Pontypool and Zion (Lower Trosnant) Baptist Church, Pontypool.

Minute books.

Trosnant/Crane Street Baptist Church, Pontypool.

D3598. 1. 1 - 12 Church minute books, 1836 - 1987 (inc. list of members 1836-43).

1. 1836 - 1881
2. 1882 - 1901
3. 1901 - 1912
4. 1912 - 1919
5. 1919 - 1929
6. 1929 - 1938
7. 1938 - 1949
8. 1949 - 1955
9. 1955 - 1958
10. 1959 - 1962
11. 1962 - 1977
12. 1977 - 1987

D3598. 2. 1 - 5 Deacons minute books, 1908 - 1980.

1. 1908 - 1920
2. 1920 - 1936
3. 1936 - 1948
4. 1950 - 1960
5. 1960 - 1980

D3598. 3. 1 Sunday School minute book, 1929 - 1949.

D3598. 4. 1 Baptist Women's League minute book, 1951-1977.

D3598. 5. 1 Building Sub-Committee minute book, 1949-1957, for minutes of the church building fund meetings 1863-70 see below - D3598. 8.1.

D3598. 6. 1 Choir minute book 1899-1900 (including income and expenditure 1899).

Register books

- D3598. 7.** 1-2 Church membership registers, 1836-1956.
1. 1836-1922
 2. 1923-1956
- D3598. 8.** 1 Church Building Fund subscriptions register 1863-1873, includes minutes of meeting held to consider ways to reduce church debt and minutes of quarterly Social Tea Meetings to raise money for debts/building funds, minutes of committee for chapel building alterations, 1869-1870.
- D3598. 9.** 1-4 Sunday School attendance registers and summary attendance registers, 1935-1967.
1. 1935-1947 (inc. summary register 1944-46)
 2. 1948-1951 (inc. summary register 1948-50)
 3. 1952-1957 (inc. summary register 1952-55)
 4. Summary attendance register, 1963-67

Legal

- D3598.10.** 1-8
- Zion Chapel Lower Trosnant, Pontypool
1. 26 March 1844 Copy Lease and Release

All that dwelling house two outhouses and one garden with one small green plot ... in par. Trevethin ... abutting to lands now or late of Ann dau. of Wm Charles hat[?t]jer, lands of Wm Jones, mason, abutting to footway now closed and highway leading from Pontypool to Trosnant.

 1. Honor Beadles of Mitchell Dean, Glos., spinster.
 2. Joseph Daniel of Trevethin, Mon., coal merchant.
 3. Rich. Williams of Trevethin, carpenter.
 4. Wm. Jones of par. Panteague, Mon., agent.

£225

13 Sept. 1911 Copy Conveyance in fee simple

Zion Chapel (not including burial ground) to Tho. Bryan Pearson.
 2. 29 Jan. 1847 Copy Release

All that chapel or Meeting House lately erected and built on the site of one dwelling house and two outhouses now pulled down and on the garden formerly belonging ... in par. Trevethin, Mon., to be used as a place of public worship by the society of Pretestant Dissenters called Particular or Calvinistic Baptists

1. Honor Beadles
2. Joseph Daniel, Rich. Wms., Wm. Jones.
3. Wm Hen. Watson of city of London, gent.

reciting conveyance in fee simple to Tho. Bryan Pearson, 13 Sept. 1911.

3. Crane Street, English Baptist Chapel

29 June 1847

Surrender/Admittance

All that piece or parcel of ground called the BLUE BOAR FIELD or MARKET FIELD situate in the town of Pontypool ... bounded on the N. side of Crane Street.

1. Charles Davies
2. Trustees of the Church of Protestant Dissenters called Particular or Calvinistic Baptist.

Memorandum of appointment of new trustees 1891, 1934; correspondence re extinguishment of copyhold; transfer of title and appointment of new trustees, 1950-90.

4. Agreement to let a gable wall, James Ray to Rich. Jones, 1875; Agreement as to Easement of light between the trustees of Zion Baptist church and Charles Minor, 1876.
 5. Agreements for letting Zion Baptist Chapel situate in Trosnant Street, Pontypool between Richard Jones and others and Gen. Wm. Booth of the Salvation Army, 27 Jan. 1881, 28 Nov. 1887, 12 Jan. 1898 .[3]
 6. Agreement between chapel trustees and Pontypool U.D.C. re boundary wall with council premises due to be erected, 24 Feb. 1897.
 7. 14 Sept. 1909 Lease for 5 years
- All that land, messuage and premises known as JESMOND DENE situate at Wainfelin, Pontypool.
1. Cornelius Job. Rich. of Pontypool Co. Mon., confectioner.
 2. Wm. Hobbs of West Mon. School Lodge, Pontypool and others from 25 Aug. 1909 paying £30. p.a.
8. Crane Street Baptist Chapel insurance policies 1888-1961. [12]

9. Certificates of Registration for Worship, 1847, 1851, 1898; notice of inclusion of Crane Street, Chapel as a building of Special Architectural and Historic interest, 1962.
10. Correspondence and Agreement permitting access through 'old Baptist Graveyard'; letters re laying of drain through Zion burial ground 1937-38.
11. Agreement between Wm Henry Haskins of Pontypool, music seller and Wm Lea Pratt & others to provide and erect an organ in Crane St. Baptist chapel, 1881.
12. Probate of Will of John Parry detailing bequest of his estate to Crane St Chapel, 26 May 1888; correspondence of executors/solicitors re bequests to Crane St Chapel by H.H. Pratt, Edmund Price, Eliz. Jenkins and Minnie Rogers, 1953-62.
13. Notice to attend a Special Church Meeting to consider the termination of the pastorate of Mr Hughes, 9 Dec. 1912; judgement of the High Court in the case of Walters V Hughes; depositions of John Walters, James Knapp and Benjamin Nicholas concerning the above case; 2 copies of the Free Press of Monmouthshire 30 May 1913 containing a report of the Crane Street Chapel court action.
14. Correspondence and plans re resiting of seven gravestones at Zion churchyard including transcript of monumental inscriptions, 1989-1991.
15. Agreement re purchase of Bell & Howell Gaumont 16 mm film projector, 1963.
16. List of deeds sent by W.J. Everett, solicitor, Pontypool, March 1912, Dec. 1913 [2].
17. Note re Deed of Trust of Freemasons Hall, Trosnant, 18 June 1923 conveying Zion chapel to Lodge Trustees.
18. Letter from the Baptist War Damage Committee settling claim of Crane St; church under the 'Private Chattels Scheme', 12 Aug. 1946.

Financial records

- D3598.11.** 1-19
1. Zion Baptist Chapel (Lower Trosnant), account book - income and expenditure 1844-47, 1853-88 (inc. chapel building account 1844).
 2. Crane St. Baptist Chapel audited account book - income and expenditure 1952-57.
 3. Crane St. Baptist Chapel audited account book - income and expenditure 1968-85.
 4. Crane St. Baptist Chapel Sunday School account book - income and expenditure 1929-55.

5. a Crane St. Baptist Chapel balance sheets 1910, 1913, 1922, 1925-31 [13].
5. b Crane St. Baptist Chapel balance sheets 1943, 1945-47, 1949-56, 1959, 1963-69, 1972-83 [59].
6. Crane St. Baptist Chapel, book of offerings 1928-34.
7. Crane St. Baptist Chapel, book of offerings 1948-58.
8. Crane St. Baptist Chapel bank statements 1980-83.
9. Crane St. Baptist Chapel bank deposit account pass books 1930-78 [3].
10. Receipt for drafting leasing agreements for Zion Chapel, 1881.
11. Watson & Sons, Bouverie St. to Wm Jones Iron Works, Pontypool, receipt for payment of £13. 19. 8 stating deeds enclosed.

Correspondence

Church building

D3598.12. 1-6

1. Correspondence of Crane St. Chapel with Pontypool U.D.C. regarding boundary wall, 1895-97.
2. Copy letters to Pontypool U.D.C. re alteration and replacement of the pillars and railings in front of the chapel; dampness to chapel interior wall caused by disrepair of guttering in adjoining council property 1898-99.

Letters from Pontypool U.D.C. undertaking to replace pillars and railings at front of chapel, 1898.
3. Plans and estimates for renovation of Crane St. Church, 1951-53.
4. Letter re improvement to street lighting 1955 and schedule and installation plan for electrical rewiring at Crane St. Chapel, 1966.
5. Letters from Welsh Office and Historic Buildings Council for Wales replying to requests for grant and for building repair, 1964.
6. Letters re roof construction faults, timber infestation 1981; notices re launch of the BBC Building Fund Appeal.

General correspondence

D3598.13. 1-15

1. Letters regarding the omission of Revd. Daniel Hughes from the official list of Baptist ministers, 1913.
2. Letter to the pastor and officers of Crane St. Baptist Church from the Chairman and Secretary of the Baptist Union of Gt. Britain and Ireland Spiritual Welfare Committee, 30 Dec. 1912.
3. Letter from W.M. Llewellyn to Mr Nicholas concerning the case of Revd. Hughes and non-attendance at Sunday School and Church Services as a consequence.
4. Copy letter to Revd. Watts re Resolution concerning Revd. Daniel Hughes, 1913.
5. List of trustees. n.d.
6. Letters of resignation of church ministers, 1918-1987. Revd. W.H. Jones, Revd. E.W. Price Evans, Revd. L.G. Harding, Revd. G.A. Talbot, Revd. James A. Hall.
7. Letters, telegrams concerning appointment of minister and officers, Oct - Dec. 1919.
8. Correspondence, notes re vacant post and appointment of new minister, January 1985; copy of GEBA newsletter, Nov. 1985.
9. Correspondence re title deeds and amendments to rules for appointment of trustees to include female church members, 1951.
10. Letter/copy letter to and from Registrar General recording change of name to 'Crane St. Baptist Church, Pontypool; Aug. 1954.
11. Letters and minutes of joint officers meeting with Crane St., concerning unity with Tabercale Baptist Church, Pontypool, 1964-70.
12. Statement of terms and conditions of Sir David J. James proposal for unifying the Free Church bodies in Wales (Presbyterian; Congregational, Welsh Methodist and Baptist), offering a gift of £250,000 to establish a United Free Church Fund. n.d.
13. Letters of response to Crane St. Church Building Fund Appeal, 1980-82; letters in reply to invitation to Thanksgiving Service, 1982.
14. Correspondence re shared ministry with High St. Abersychan, Siloam, Pandy and Cwmmra, 1969-75.

15. Correspondence re Induction Services of Revd. Lloyd G. Harding; Revd. G.A. Talbot, Revd. James A. Hall, 1959-1985.

Printed literature

Centenary booklets, histories

D3598.14. 1-6

1. Crane St. Baptist Church, Pontypool centenary souvenir, 1836-1936.
2. Crane St. Baptist Church, Pontypool 150th anniversary booklet, 1836-1986.
3. Pontypool and District Sunday School. A jubilee memorial, 1881-1931.
4. Zion Hill Baptist Church, Pontnewynydd centenary celebrations, 1881-1981.
5. Merchant's Hill Baptist Church, Pontnewynydd: an account of its origins and early history (written for the church centenary celebration by R.L. Vincent, 1978).
6. High Street English Baptist Church, Abersychan ter-jubilee booklet/programme of services 1827-1977.

Annual reports, newsletters

D3598.15. 1-14

1. Manchester Evangelical Free Churches report of the United House to House Parochial Visitation Scheme, 1913.
2. Noddfa Baptist Church, Abersychan. List of church officers' and members, 1918.
3. Monmouthshire English Baptist Association Circular Letter and Presidential Address with reports and statistics, 1939.
4. Baptist Association Presidential Address by Revd. D.J. Thomas M.A. , 1952.
5. Monmouthshire English Baptist Association Circular Letter and Presidential Address with reports and statistics, 1953.
6. Monmouthshire Baptist Association Circular Letter and Annual Report, 1962-63.
7. Baptist Association Discipleship Campaign, newsletter, 1932.
8. Crane Street Baptist Church, Pontypool, newsletter 'The Messenger' Nov. 1964.
9. Pontrhydryn Baptist Church newsletter, Feb. 1959.
10. GEBA newsletter, Oct. 1981.
11. Report of Tea and Public Meeting held in Crane St. Baptist Chapel, November 1867 to celebrate 'complete liquidation of the chapel debt'.
12. Crane St. Baptist Church Pontypool, handbook, 1890.
13. Crane St. Church Manual, 1916.
14. Presentation to the Principal of Pontypool College (reprinted from the South Wales Daily News, n.d. [1877]).

D3598.16. 1

1. Crane St. Baptist Church, Baptist Missionary Society, Easter Valley Baptist

Sunday School Union: various Programmes for Services, Festivals, Exhibitions and other events, 1937-1989. [28 items]

D3598.17. 1

1. Crane St. Baptist Church. Programmes of Church Memorial Services, obituary notices; Blanche Evans d. 1945, Thomas Griffiths d. 1967, Gertrude Mary Griffiths d. 1969, Margaret Powell Davies d. 1969, Islwyn Hodges William d. 1970, Edward William Price Evans d. 1972, Cynthia Jose Roper d. 1980.

Newspaper cuttings

D3598.18. 1-2

1. Various newspaper cuttings relating to Crane St. Church from the Pontypool Free Press, Monmouthshire Beacon, South Wales Argus, 1869-1990.
2. Extract from Ninnau the North American Welsh newspaper re making of Richard Llewellyns 'How green was my valley' (and letter of support to Crane St. Church Fund from the Welsh Presbyterian Church, California).

Pictorial

D3598.19. 1-7

1. Photographs of Crane St. Baptist Church before restoration (photographed by Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments, 1979-80).
2. Photograph of Crane St. and chapel, 1870.
3. Print of Crane St. chapel, n.d. (including ? Free Press notice 1909).
4. Photograph of Revd. W. Mortimer Lewis M.A. Principal of Pontypool College, n.d. ? c. 1880.
5. Two photographs of inscription and presentation gift tray to Revd. John Williams in 1882.
6. Postcard of Capel Cymraeg Los Angeles, California from an original water colour by Emlyn W. Jones, 1987.
7. Five photographically engraved copper plates/wood mounted.
 - i) Mr Henry Thomas [2] n.d.
 - ii) Revd. E.W. Price Evans n.d.

- iii) Ministers & deacons of Crane St. Church by Hood engravers, Middlesborough 1936, Sanbride Bevel patent.
- iv) Crane St. Baptist Church, Pontypool n.d.

Miscellaneous

D3598.20. 1-6

- 1. Crane Street Baptist Church, Ministers' reports, Secretary's reports and Treasurers reports to Annual General Meeting, including financial statements, projected income and expenditure account, bank reconciliations, 1985-1992.
- 2. Crane Street Baptist Church Sunday School report, 1986-87.
- 3. Torfaen Music Society annual report to Crane Street Baptist Church, 1989-90.
- 4. Baptist Missionary Society Leprosy Mission report and income and expenditure account and B.M.S. birthday scheme account, 1985-86.
- 5. Little Mill Baptist Church and Crane Street Baptist Church minutes of Annual Church Meeting, 1961.
- 6. The Baptist Ministers Fraternal Union membership card; Crane Street Baptist Church 'Young Life Week' mission card, n.d., Pontypool and District Literary Society membership card, 1928-29, the Pontypool and District Council of Evangelical Churches, rules and constitution; Crane Street Baptist Church 'Form of Dedication'. [5]

D3598.21. 1-2

- 1. Engraved copper plate 1909. Crane St. Baptist Church.
- 2. Brass key presented to Mrs John Evans, 15 Sept. 1932.