

“Merthyr Express” 5 January 1924

Watch Night Service A very impressive Watch Night Service was held at St. Mary's. The address was given by the vicar, Rev. S. Evans.

Nazareth The pulpit was occupied by the new pastor Rev. Richard Rees on Sunday last. He preached a very powerful sermon which was much appreciated.

Personal Wm. Griffiths, Glyn-terrace, is again in hospital. His numerous friends wish him a speedy recovery. Master Gwyn Williams is also in hospital, and we are pleased to hear he is recovering as well as can be expected. The young son of Mr. H. C. Seaborne is also in hospital. An operation has been performed. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

I.O.G.T. Star of Fochriw A meeting was held at Carmel Vestry, Sister S. Lewis taking the chair. The following took part in the programme: S. Lewis, T. Lawrence, L. Evans, C. Davies, Sisters C. Thomas, M. Jones and Lewis.

“Merthyr Express” 12 January 1924

Personal The numerous friends of Mrs. B. Ballard Davies, Ael-y-Bryn, will be pleased to know that she has been successful at winning a Glamorgan County Midwifery Scholarship at Cardiff College of Medicine. She came second on the list, just one point behind the first. She will receive her training at the Queen's Nursing Home and King Edward's Maternity Home.

Golden Wedding Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Davies, Guest-street, Fochriw, have just celebrated their golden wedding anniversary amongst the good wishes of a host of friends. The marriage took place at the Registry Office, Merthyr, on December 22, 1873. Mr. Davies was born in Gellifaelog, Dowlais, and Mrs. Davies in Hirwaun. Both came to Fochriw when young and have lived at Fochriw for 64 years. Mr. Davies worked at the collieries for nearly 60 years, the last 28 years as an official. Both are faithful members at Noddfa Baptist Chapel, Mr. Davies being a deacon. They have had 14 children. Both are still enjoying fairly good health, and we wish them well in the eventide of their lives.

Fochriw Operetta: 'Feast of St. Hans' The Noddfa Welsh Baptist Church recently transformed the two vestries under the chapel into a convenient and comfortable hall for the purpose of holding entertainments, etc.. Much credit is due to ex-Sergeant Williams, Mr. Thomas Evans, Secretary, together with the other officers and young men of the church, for the time and labour spent in bringing about the improvement. Last week the hall was opened by the young people of the church. Five evening were occupied with the performance of the operetta 'The Feast of St. Hans,' by Smyth Cooper. The chief characters were: Kristin - Miss E. Phillips; Kaja - Mrs. Annie Evans; Fur Skomager - Miss Hilda Evans; Little Ika - Miss G. Thomas; Ordfoler - Mr. Thomas John Jones; Konstabel - Mr. Joshua Thomas; Skomager - Mr. T. Evans (jun); Jacob - Mr. J. Williams; Giacome - Mr. Tom Walters; Deen - Mr. D. G. Parry; Naomi - Mrs. Lydia Williams; Anna - Miss P. Williams; Elsa - Miss R. Gregory; Hans - Mr. J. R. Walters; Karl - Mr. Emlyn Evans; Holanta - Miss M. Lewis; Bruro - Master Emlyn Evans; First Brownie - Master K. Phillips; Second Brownie - Master W. Howells; Third Brownie - Master J. I. Morgan; Crier - Mr. L. Williams. The pianist was Miss H. Phillips who has been organist at Noddfa for many years, and as such is most faithful and efficient. Miss Phillips and Mr. Thomas Evans, the conductor, trained the choir and characters to attain their excellent standard. Invaluable assistance was also given by the Fochriw orchestra under the conductorship of Cllr. Dd. John Thomas. The duties of stage manager were carried out by Mr. William John, Pontlottyn. The Hall was packed, many being turned away on two occasions.

Temperance Veteran Honoured by Fellow Workers: Mr. Henry Charles Payne On Thursday evening last, a representative gathering assembled at Carmel Vestry to do honour to a faithful stalwart of the cause of temperance, in the person of Mr. Henry Charles Payne. For the last 36 years, he has been faithfully associated with the cause of temperance, having held all the offices in the Rhumney Valley District of the I.O.G.T., and also offices in the Grand Lodge of Wales, positions he has filled with distinction. Mr. Payne recently celebrated his golden wedding and is still hale and hearty. He is also active in other spheres of life being vicar's warden of the parish. The presentation took the form of a beautifully illuminated address and a handsome inscribed clock. Bro. Williams, D.C.T., Bargoed, presented the address and Bro. Thomas Lewis the clock. A short musical programme was then given as

follows: pianoforte solo - Bro. T. Walters; solo - Bro. Latimer Evans; recitation - Bro. T. Walters, followed by a number of short addresses.

“Merthyr Express” 19 January 1924

R.O.A.B. An emergency lodge was held on Saturday at the Mount Pleasant Inn, Pentwyn, when six brothers were raised to the Second Degree.

Obituary It is our painful duty to record the death of Miss Gladys Shankland, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. Shankland, Aelybryn, Fochriw, who passed away on Monday last after a painful illness at the aerly age of 16 years.

I.O.G.T. On Thursday last, a pleasant evening was spent at Carmel Vestry for the noble work of Good Templary. Sister Lewis opened the meeting. The programme for the evening was a reading by Bro. S. Lewis entitled “God in common life.” The reading was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Bro. Lewis was heartily thanked, and the meeting was closed in prayer by the Chaplain.

“The Village Outcast” at St. Mary’s Hall on January 24th, 1924. “Muzzle won’t ‘muzzle’ your smiles.” American papers please copy!

“Merthyr Express” 26 January 1924

The Railway Strike: Restricted Service of Trains Every Day: How the Mining Districts are Affected Merthyr, in common with other districts throughout the country, has felt the inconvenience of the railway strike, and everyday evidence is forthcoming that this will be maintained. Through an excellent bus and charabanc service, travellers are able to get into contact with the ward, which up to the present has enjoyed a very fair share of communications with the outside districts. The Rhymney Valley was more fortunate than many other districts. Up to Thursday, the service on the local line, both as regards travellers and traffic trains, was practically normal. The collieries were, however, affected, and on Tuesday, 3,000 men employed at the Groesfaen, Deri, Mardy, Rhymney and Britannia Collieries, Deri, were rendered idle, whilst on Wednesday, about 5,000 men employed at the Bargoed Steam Coal, East and West Eliot’s Collieries, were unable to work. The reason for the favoured position of the Rhymney section is evidently due to the fact that the majority of the men belong to the N.U.R. and not to the locomotive men’s Union.

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge A meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister Lewis took the chair. The programme for the evening was in the hands of Bros. T. Lawrence and E. Lewis. Bro. Lawrence read a paper on ‘The Life of John Hampden,’ and Bro. Lewis a paper on ‘Alcohol.’ The Bros. were heartily thanked by Bros. T. Lewis, S. Lewis, C. Payne, L. Evans and Sisters M. Lewis, M. Jones, C. Jones and M. Ballard. The meeting was closed in prayer.

Honour for Old Fochriw Boy The numerous friends of Mr. Gerald West McArthur of the Liverpool and Victoria (late of Fochriw, and now of Newport), will be delighted to hear that he has been appointed to a high position in the insurance world, namely, the position of treasurer of the Association. He was born in Scotland, and after coming to Wales, worked as a collier in the Fochriw Pits. He left the colliery to become an insurance agent with the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow, commencing his career under Mr. W. R. Beddoe, Pontlottyn. He married Miss Eleanor Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Lewis. He has had considerable insurance experience, having been appointed assistant superintendent as far back as July 1900 for the L.E. & G. at Brynmawr, and in 1903, superintendent for the same company at Llanelly. He left the L.E. & G. in 1907 to start with the Liverpool Victoria at Bargoed, and in 1912 took over the management of the Newport district, where he has remained.

Obituary A gloom was cast over the village when it became known that Gladys, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shankland, Ael-y-bryn, had passed away after a sharp and painful illness at the early age of 16 years. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard last Saturday, after a short service in the house, and was largely attended. All blinds were drawn en route to the Churchyard. At the graveside, Rev. D. Jenkin Jones and Rev. T. Evans officiated. The chief mourners were: Mr. & Mrs. Shankland; Messrs. Thomas James & David John (brothers); Mr. & Mrs. Ben Shankland, Mr. & Mrs. Crad Shankland (brothers and sisters-in-law); as well as uncles, aunts and cousins. Great sympathy is extended to the

bereaved in their hour of trial.

“Merthyr Express” 2 February 1924

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge A meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday, Bro. T. Lewis in the chair. Sister Mary Jones was responsible for a programme of gramophone entertainment.

“Merthyr Express” 9 February 1924

Outing About 50 members of the Fochriw Touring Club journeyed to Scotland on Friday last to witness the rugby match and had quite a rare time. They looked well in their caps, and it was not their fault Wales lost, because they cheered them to an echo.

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge A meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. The programme was given by Bro. T. Lewis.

St. Mary’s Hall A pleasant evening was spent last Monday at St. Mary’s Hall when members of the St. Mary’s Drama Society sat down to an excellent tea given by the lady members of the Society. A musical programme followed.

“Merthyr Express” 16 February 1924

Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. Welcomed in his New Role of Parliamentary Secretary of Education On Sunday afternoon, the Castle Cinema, Caerphilly was the setting for a crowded and enthusiastic meeting held under the auspices of the local branch of the Independent Labour Party, as a public greeting and expression of appreciation to Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. on his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary of Education. The hall was filled to the utmost. Mr. Jones gave details of what to expect from the Labour Government.

“Merthyr Express” 23 February 1924

Personal The numerous friends of Mr. Thomas John Hopkins, who was injured at Ogilvie Colliery, will be pleased to know he is making satisfactory progress at Merthyr General Hospital. Mrs. Frank Strain, who had undergone a serious operation at the Merthyr General Hospital, is making a splendid recovery.

I.O.G.T. The weekly meeting of the “Star of Fochriw” Lodge was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday last. Sister Lewis presided. The programme for the evening was a paper by Bro. Griff Thomas, Rhymney, entitled “Immortality.” It was a very deep subject to speak upon, but it was well done and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Bros. T. Lewis, C. Payne, D. Jones and S. Lewis commented upon the paper, and Bro. Thomas was heartily thanked for the entertaining evening he had provided. The meeting was closed by singing.

Prize Day On Monday morning, a pleasant function was held at the Fochriw Infants’ School, when certificates, books, medals and prizes were given to a number of pupils for the excellent attendances which had been made. Mr. Isaac, headmaster of the Mixed Department, and Miss Davies, Infants’ Department, introduced the Rev. Gilbert Williams, vicar of Pontlottyn, and chairman of the Gellygaer School Managers, who presented the prizes. The reverend gentleman addressed the children on “Perseverance,” after which the prizes were distributed. The following received prizes: Cassie Shankland, four years, a work needlework basket lined with blue silk; John Gwyn Lewis, Spencer Lewis, Margaret Ellen Thomas, Dorothy Everett (three years) silver medals suitably inscribed; Leslie Jones (two years), book; Bedford Edwards, Grace Everett, Beryl Ballard, Elwyn Lewis, Nesta Jenkins, Gwladys Lewis, Phoebe Jones, Nehemiah Thomas, John Cole Jenkins, Islwyn Jones, Iorwerth Morgan, Edward Gittings, Ronald Jones, William Shankland, Glyn Thomas, Robert Gwilym Jones, Idwal Walters, John Alwyn Edwards. The headmaster, headmistress and staff are to be complimented for arranging such a pleasant morning, which was enjoyed by all.

Drama The Noddfa Chapel was comfortably full on Thursday evening last, when Noddfa (Bargoed) Dramatic Society produced Mr. D.J. Davies’ composition “Maesymeillion.” The chairman, the Rev. Ieuan Evans, gave an appropriate address. The plot of the drama was well worked out, and great tact had been adopted in the presentation of the various characters. The Rev. W.J. Williams, Noddfa, Bargoed, thanked all, especially Noddfa Church, Fochriw, for their kindness to them, and he hoped to repay them some day. A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the singing of a hymn.

“Merthyr Express” 1 March 1924

Personal We are glad to report that Mr. David Lawrence, Martin-street, is making good progress after an operation in Merthyr General Hospital. Also, Mr. Percy Edwards is again in hospital at Merthyr.

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge A meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister Lewis presided. The programme was 'A Musical Evening,' the following taking part: Bro. G. Lewis - solo; Sister L. Ballard - solo; Sister B. Ballard - pianoforte solo; a chorus by the members.

Social On Monday night at St. Mary's Hall a most enjoyable time was spent when the Dramatics Society organised a social evening, which also included a laughable sketch, entitled 'The New Wireless.' The characters were: The Professor – Mr. W. J. Payne; Custard – Mr. Harold Harris; Archibald – Mr. J. Lloyd; Mr. Solomon - Mr Willie Harris; Uncle Sam – Mr. Tom Angell; Gertie Miller - Miss Nan Prosser. The other part of the evening was taken up with dancing.

Drama At St. Mary's Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday last, the Ambulance Dramatics Society delighted large audiences with the well-known drama 'East Lynne.' The whole production was given in fine style and speaks well of the dramatic talent of the village. The staging, scenery and dresses were greatly admired, and nothing but praise could be heard for the way the drama was played out. Parts were played by Mr. Harry Hughes, Mr. Willie Hughes, Mr. Crad Ballard, Mr. D. James, Mr. Tom Evans, Master Emlyn Evans, Miss Annie Maud James, Miss Maria Jones, Miss Hannah Evans, Miss Mary Hughes and Miss Sarah Jones. The stage managers were Messrs. Thomas Jones, Howell Thomas and W. J. Ballard.

"Merthyr Express" 8 March 1924

Fochriw Mixed School Friday morning was devoted entirely to Gwyl Dewi celebrations. The classes were separated into two divisions, the seniors under Miss E. M. Thomas and Mr. T. J. Jones, and the juniors under Miss Evans, Miss Phillips and Miss Jones. One notable feature of this year's demonstration was the general participation of the children. Every child had his part to play. Mr. Isaac and his staff deserve every credit for their patient and successful work.

Penybank School St. David's Day was celebrated by the pupils of Penybank Council School on Friday last at Siloh Chapel. There were a large number of parents present for the programme in which all classes participated.

Infants' School The usual timetable was suspended. The programme was entirely Welsh and consisted of folk-songs, nursery rhymes, games, dances, recitations, solos, duets and tales bearing on the life of St. David. The children brought an abundance of leeks and daffodils, and the school was suitably decorated

Obituary We have to record the death of the young son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Cook, Brynteg-terrace, who passed away on Tuesday evening

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge A meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Bro. S. Lewis presided. The programme for the evening was 'Temperance Topical Talks.'

Temperance Meeting A meeting of the St. Mary's Branch of the Church in Wales Temperance Society was held on Wednesday when Mr. Charles Payne gave a very eloquent address on 'Temperance.' Mr. J. Lloyd Jones also commented from the society's text book, 'The Formation of Character,' and was ably assisted by Mr. Harold Harris.

Obituary We have to record the sad death of Gordon, the young son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Harris, who passed peacefully away on Wednesday last, and was reverently laid to rest at Pentwyn Churchyard on Saturday. The funeral was for gentlemen only and was largely attended. The Vicar officiated. The chief mourners were: Mr. Gilbert Harris (father); Messrs. John Jones, E.M. Davies, W.M. Davies, G. Davies, M. Davies, H. Harris, B. Davies, Gomer Davies, T. Davies, W. Lewis and B. Davies.

St. Dunstan's A first class whist drive was held in the Library Hut in aid of St. Dunstan's on Thursday last. There was a large attendance and a goodly sum was raised. The M.C. was Cllr. D. J. Thomas.

St. Mary's Hall A fine social evening was held at St. Mary's on Shrove Tuesday, and being Pancake Day, pancakes were very much in evidence at the refreshments tables, which were

attended by the ladies of the church. The younger ones enjoyed themselves with games etc. Dancing was also enjoyed, the duties of M.C. being carried out by Mr. Willie Hughes, with Mr. Octavius Richards at the piano. The social concluded with a laughable sketch, the following taking part: W. J. Payne, W. N. Hughes, Harold Harris, J. Lloyd Jones, Tom Angell, R. Wilton, Miss Nan Prosser and Miss W. Hughes.

Bachelor's Tea At Nazareth Chapel last Thursday, a very enjoyable evening was spent when the tray-holders were the bachelors of the chapel. There was a prize for the best-dressed table, and so keen was the competition that the adjudicators had to divide the prize between Mr. W. A. Davies and Mr. C. J. Lawrence. A sketch, 'The Bakestone,' was finely portrayed by the following members of the chapel: Miss A. M. Jones, Mrs. Edith Lewis, Mrs. Mattie Lewis, Misses Doris Davies, Katie Davies, Sophia Lee, Elenid Lawrence and Aseneth Davies. Rev. Richard Evans then gave an encouraging address after which the programme was as follows: solos – Mr. William Morris, John Adams-Jones and Phyllis Evans; recitations - Bessie and Esther Pugh; a gramophone selection chosen by Miss Mary Jones. The evening closed with singing of "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau."

Social On Saturday night at Carmel Chapel a fine social and entertainment was held and largely attended. The tables had been gaily decorated and were laden with good things, to which a good number sat down and were well attended to by the ladies of the chapel, assisted by the gentlemen. After tea a first class musical programme was given, the chairman being Mr. Moses Williams. Solos were rendered in fine style by Mr. James John Lewis, Mr. Leyshon Rowlands, Latimer Evans; duets - Misses A. Lewis and M. A. Thomas; recitations - Miss Nesta Evans and Nesta Jenkins; gramophone selections – Mr. D. J. Price. One of the highlights of the evening were two splendid dramatic selections. The accompanist was Mr. Thomas Walters: the secretarial duties were carried out by Miss Maude Jones and the treasurer was Miss E. M. Sibley.

"Merthyr Express" 15 March 1924

Whist Drive A first-class whist drive was held under the auspices of the Library at the Library Hut on Thursday last and was very largely attended.

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge An excellent evening was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday in commemoration of St. David's Day. It was a Welsh night throughout. The following took part: Bro. T. Walters; Bro. S. Lewis; Bro. L. Evan; Miss Lewis; Bro. L. Rowlands; Sister B. Ballard; Bro. D. Jones.

Noddfa On Friday last, a social tea was held. An excellent repast was prepared by the young ladies of the church. After food, an interesting programme was gone through which included two sketches which were much enjoyed by all present.

"Merthyr Express" 22 March 1924

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Bro. S. Lewis presided. The following members took part in the programme: Bros. C. Payne, S. Lewis, L. Evans, T. Lawrence, E. Lewis, and Sisters E. Lewis, Jones and B. Ballard.

Whist Drive This was held on Thursday at the Library Hut, and was largely attended. The M.C. was Mr. H. Williams.

Mass Meeting A largely attended meeting was held at the Co-operative Rooms on Monday evening, when Mr. S. O. Davies, miners' agent, explained the new offer of the owners. He also dealt with the question of non-unionists.

Obituary Mr. William Powell of Guest-street, has passed away peacefully at the age of 86 years. He had lived in the village for 50 years. The private funeral was held at Pennorth, Tallylyn, with the Rev. Rhys Jenkins officiating. The chief mourners were: Messrs. William and Thomas Powell (sons); E. Lewis and W. Hutchings (sons-in-law); W. L. Woodruff, J. Gilbert, Albert Lewis, Vivian Powell (grandsons).

Victory Tea A first-class victory tea was held at the Library Hut on Saturday to celebrate the election of Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., to Parliament. A large number sat down to tea, followed by a fine entertainment. Mr. Aneurin Thomas was accompanist. Soloists were: Mrs. H. C. Davies; Misses Margery Lewis and Agnes Cook; Miraim Thomas and Mary Morgan (violin solos); Mr. David Price (gramophone selection); Nest Jenkins and Nesta Evans (recitations).

“Merthyr Express” 29 March 1924

St. Mary's Special Lenten services were held on Thursday evening when the Rev. D. Morgan of Pontlottyn gave a sermon on “God is Spirit.”

British Legion A well-attended meeting was held at the White Horse, Pentwyn on Saturday evening last, with a view to forming a branch of the Legion at Fochriw.

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Bro. S. Lewis presided. The programme was entitled ‘Curiosity,’ and the following members took part: Sisters Lewis, B. Ballard, M. Ballard, Bros. Lewis, T. Lawrence, S. Lewis and C. Payne.

Whist Drive and Dance This took place at the Library Hut on Friday, organised in aid of Mr. Percy Edwards who has been ill for a long period, and is at present at the Merthyr General Hospital. A substantial sum was realised. M.C. for whist was Cllr. D. J. Thomas and for dancing Mr. T. Howell Jones. The orchestra was present under Cllr. Thomas.

Obituary The funeral of Mrs. Martha Rees, 6 Railway-terrace, took place on Thursday. Mrs. Rees, who was 38 years of age, passed away suddenly on Sunday morning, but had been ailing for a long while. She had lived in the village all her life. The funeral, which was for men only, was largely attended. There was a short service in the house, and then at St. Mary's, where Mrs. Rees was a member. The interment was at Pentwyn Churchyard. The chief mourners were: Mr. Thomas Rees (husband); Bryngwyn and (sons); Messrs. James M. and William Davies (brothers).

“Merthyr Express” 5 April 1924

Mass Meeting On Saturday evening at the Library Hut, Mr. S. O. Davies, miners' agent, spoke once again on many important issues.

Election Meeting A meeting in support of the candidature of Mr. D. J. Thomas, who is seeking re-election to the Gellygaer District Council, was held last Monday at the Library Hut.

British Legion Meeting A meeting of the Fochriw Branch was held at the White Horse on Saturday last. It was decided to ask Capt. Edwards, organising secretary of the Welsh British Legion, to address the meeting on Saturday next. Several local artists has also agreed to attend, All servicemen in Fochriw and district were to be asked to rally round on Saturday and join the last line of defence.

Death of Old Inhabitant Another link with the past has been severed with the death of Mrs. Martha Bevan, wife of the late Mr. Thomas Bevan, M.E., who was for many years manager of the Fochriw Collieries, and mother of the present manager, Mr. John Bevan, M.E.. Mrs. Bevan passed away peacefully in her 82nd year at the Dowlais home of her daughter, Mrs. E. Roberts.

Other Deaths It is our painful duty to record the death of Mr. David W. Lewis, Dynevor-street, of Mr. William Thomas, Plantation-street, of Mrs. E. A. Lewis, now of Pengam, late of Fochriw, and of Mrs. Emily Davies, wife of Mr. David Davies, 29 Guest-street, at the age of just 25 years. At the funeral of Mrs. Davies, Rev. Ieuan Evans officiated at the house and at Pentwyn Churchyard. Chief mourners were: Messrs. David Davies (husband); Charles Collins (father); Fred Collins (uncle).

Also, Miss Olive Wellings, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wellings, has also passed away after a short and painful illness. The family had moved to Brecon just three weeks ago. Olive was a bright, intelligent girl, a devoted worshipper at St. Mary's Church and a faithful member of the Sunday School and Band of Hope, where she will be so sadly missed. Rev. S. Evans officiated at the house, St. Mary's Church and at Pentwyn Churchyard.

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. The young members of the lodge were responsible for the programme, the following contributing: Sisters B. Ballard, M. Ballard and L. Ballard; Bros. L. Rowlands and L. Evans.

“Merthyr Express” 12 April, 1924

Lenten Services The special preacher at St. Mary the Virgin on Thursday evening was Rev. D. Morgan, Pontlottyn who gave an inspiring address, after which ‘The Story of the Cross’ was sung.

Whist Drive Held at the Library Hut on Friday last under the auspices of the Fochriw Cricket Club. There was a large attendance. The M.C. was Mr. Caradoc Thomas.

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister Lewis took the chair. The programme for the evening - 'Young Members to Entertain' - was excellently carried out, the following taking part: Bros. Leyshon Rowlands, S. Lewis and Latimer Evans.

Obituary The funeral of the late William Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rees Thomas, Plantation-terrace, took place on Thursday. William was only 16 years of age, but had suffered much for a long period. The funeral was a very large one. The Fochriw Cadets, of which the deceased was a member, led the procession. Rev. Ieuan Evans conducted the short service in the house, and the interment at Pentwyn Churchyard. The chief mourners were: Mr. Rees Thomas (father); Messrs. David, Matthew, Thomas John Thomas (brothers); Charles Lynch (brother-in-law); David Thomas, J. M. Roberts, Ed. Parry, Robert Jones (uncles).

Funeral The funeral of Mrs. E. A. Lewis, wife of Mr. William Lewis, Pengam (late of Fochriw), took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Friday last. Revs. D. J. Jones and Ieuan Evans officiated. Rev. S. Evans was also present. The chief mourners were: Mr. William Lewis (husband); Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Lewis (son and daughter-in-law); Messrs. Lodwick and Clifford Evans (sons); Mrs. Evan Davies (mother); Mr. Lodwick Davies (brother); also, cousins, uncles and relatives by marriage.

Welsh Drama Fochriw and district were entertained to a fine treat last week, when members of the Nazareth Dramatic Society performed in excellent style, the drama 'Dic Shon Dafydd,' to crowded audiences. So great was the crowd the first three nights that a repeat performance had to be given on Saturday evening. The staging, scenery and stage effects were all that could be desired. The character selection was also excellent, and many of the players were performing for the first time on stage. Parts were played by Mr. Willie A. Jones, Mr. Jack Lawrence, Mr. Willie A. Davies, Mrs. Edith Lewis, Mr. Berkley Davies, Mr. Griffith Morris, Mr. William Morris, Mrs. T. Pugh, Miss Katie Davies, Miss Annie M. Jones, Mrs. Sophie Lee, Mrs. Mattie Lewis, Mrs. Catherine Roberts, Mr. Harry Roberts, Mr. Griffith Jones, Mr. C. J. Lawrence, Mr. Alf Simmons, Mr. J. Edgar and Master John Adams. Stage workers were Messrs. P. Isaac, Idris Jones, E. Parry, Dd. Lewis, D. Davies and J. Lewis.

The Late Mr. D. W. Lewis The funeral of Mr. David William Lewis, husband of Mrs. M. J. Lewis, was held on Wednesday last. Rev. D. J. Jones officiated. The funeral procession was headed by the Fochriw Brass Band under the conductorship of Mr. Albert Mantle. The deceased was a faithful member of the band. Among the chief mourners were Messrs. Willie, Elwyn and Clifford Lewis (sons), and Messrs. Evan H. Lewis and D. R. Lewis (brothers).

"Merthyr Express" 19 April 1924

St. Mary's Church The usual services in keeping with Palm Sunday were held, the Vicar officiating.

Omission We regret that the name of Coun. John Edwards was omitted from the list of mourners last week at the funeral of Mrs. E.A. Lewis. Also, the floral tributes at the funeral of Master William Thomas, whose coffin was covered with floral gifts from family and friends.

"Belshazzar's Feast" On Friday and Saturday evenings last, Carmel Choir, under the able conductorship of Mr. Tom Walters, A.L.C.M., gave two brilliant performances at Carmel of the oratorio "Balshazzar's Feast" (Dr. G.F. Root). It was freely commented on that Fochriw and district had enjoyed a rich musical treat. The choir was beautifully balanced and showed a fine conception of every movement, whilst all the solosists received a rousing reception, namely: soprano, Madam H.C. Davies; contralto, Madam C.T. Walters; tenor, Mr. James J. Lewis; bass, Mr. Jas. Jones. The accompanists - Mr. Willie Angell and Mr. Aneurin Thomas - did their parts well. On Friday, the president was the Rev. D. Jenkin Jones, and on Saturday, Mr. George Sibley.

"Merthyr Express" 26 April 1924

Good Friday Services were held at St. Mary's. The special preacher for the three hour

service was Rev. D. Morgan.

Cricket A Cricket Club has been started once again in the village. Mr. S. Jenkins has been appointed honorary secretary and a selection committee has been formed. It is hoped that the club will be represented in at least two divisions of the Rhymney Valley League during the season.

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. The programme for the evening was a debate: 'Should the Egyptian Mummies be Disturbed?' Sister B. Ballard led the debate in the affirmative, and Sister B. Thomas the negative.

St. Mary's Easter Day was celebrated at St. Mary's with morning, afternoon and evening services.

Summer Fashions Special Exhibits start Friday, May 2nd. B.T. Jones and Co. Merthyr.

"Merthyr Express" 3 May 1924

Blow For Fochriw - Three Collieries Closed On Wednesday - Efforts To Find Work In Other Pits

On Wednesday last, three of Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds' Collieries in the Dowlais area were closed down. They are the Fochriw Nos. 1 and 2, and the South Tunnel Pits, where approximately 2,300 workmen have found employment, this number representing, roughly, half the membership of the Dowlais District of the South Wales Miners' Federation.

Since notices for the termination of all contracts of employment were served on the workmen a fortnight ago, the local Federation leaders have sought to prevail on the employers to reverse their decision to shut down the three collieries. During the past few days, a deputation from the miners, headed by Mr. S.O. Davies (their agent), was received by Mr. Howell R. Jones. J.P., general manager Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds' steel and coal undertakings in Dowlais, and a director of the firm. The interview has had no material bearing on the situation, as the notices to cease work, which affects the officials at the collieries as well as the miners, have been allowed to take their course.

Arrangements are being made to absorb some of the labour thus dispensed with from the two Fochriw and the South Tunnel Pits into other collieries owned by Messrs. G.K.N. in the neighbourhood of Dowlais, and in the Merthyr area, while it is thought that a considerable number of Fochriw miners may discover a new avenue to employment in the Powell Duffryn Company's undertakings near Deri. Meanwhile, many men are reported successfully to have gone as far as the Vale of Neath in search of employment.

No official statement has been issued as to whether the abandonment of the three collieries is in the nature of a permanent or temporary measure, but it is understood that the step taken by the Dowlais Company is due to economic reasons.

When the decision of the directors of Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds' became known, the Dowlais miners' agent, in conjunction with Mr. R.C. Wallhead, Labour M.P. for the Merthyr Borough, approached the Ministry of Mines with an application for an inquiry into the position, on the grounds that the coal resources of the Fochriw district were such as did not justify the closure of these collieries.

I.O.G.T. The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday last. During the evening a very edifying paper entitled "What is Freedom?" was read by Sister Bessie Ballard. Brothers S. & T. Lewis spoke on the paper. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Sister Ballard, proposed by Sister C. Walters, and seconded by Bro. C. Payne. A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close in the usual way.

St. Mary's The Easter Vestry was held on Wednesday at the Church Hall. Rev. Samuel Evans, vicar, presided. The people's warden, Mr. W. J. Payne, presented a statement of account which was very satisfactory. Marked progress had been made during the year, the number of communicants on Easter Day being very encouraging. The vicar thanked individuals and organisations for the work that they had done during the past year. Mr. W. J. Payne was unanimously re-elected as people's warden and Mr. Charles Payne was once again chosen as vicar's warden. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar for presiding, and the meeting ended in prayer.

Obituary We have to record the sad passing of Mrs. Thomas Evans, wife of Mr. Evans of

Dynevor-street. Mrs. Evans died on Sunday afternoon after a long illness.

Medical Committee A meeting was held at the Co-operative Rooms on Monday. It was decided to allow Nurse Jones to resign to take up an appointment in Barry.

Merthyr Police Court: Cigarette in the Mine George Griffiths (21), of Dowlais, was summoned for having a cigarette in his possession in No.2 Pit, fochriw. William Price, manager, said he instituted a search, and found a portion of a "cig" in the defendant's waistcoat pocket. Griffiths' mother attended the court, and made the excuse that her son had by mistake put on his brother-in-law's waistcoat that morning. The Stipendiary: If your son had come to court, we might have bound him over as a first offender. He is fined 10s.

Fochriw Vestry Scenes: Vicar and Parochial Council Secretary Unusual scenes were witnessed at the vestry meeting at St. Mary's Church Hall, Fochriw, on Wednesday. The Vicar, The Rev. S. Evans, B.A., who presided, objected to Mr. J. Lloyd Jones, the parochial secretary, taking the minutes of the meeting, and an argument ensued during which, it is alleged, the vicar pushed the secretary off the platform. The secretary persisted in reading out that portion of the constitution of the Church in Wales which clearly defines the duties of the parochial secretary. However, the chairman still objected, declaring that "he did not care twopence for the constitution" and further saying "he was in control of the meeting." He also threatened to send for the police to eject the secretary. The business of the meeting then continued, the chairman taking the minutes. Mr. W.J. Payne was re-elected people's warden and the vicar re-elected Mr. Charles Payne as his warden. The appointment of sidesmen was deferred, and when the election of Parochial Church Councillors was in progress, and the name of Mr. J. Lloyd Jones proposed, the chairman said that he would take full responsibility in absolutely refusing to submit this proposition, and he did refuse. After the churchwarden had presented his accounts, the vicar closed the meeting by thanking all those who had assisted him during the year.

"Merthyr Express" 10 May 1924

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. The new Chief Templar, Miss Ballard, was welcomed to the chair by the members. A splendid paper 'The Beauty of Nature,' was then read by Bro. T. J. Jones.

Funeral The funeral of Mrs. Thos. Evans took place on Thursday last. She was 56 years of age. Rev. Ieuan Evans officiated at the house and Pentwyn Churchyard. Along the route to Pentwyn, all blinds were drawn as a mark of respect. The chief mourners were: Mr. Thomas Evans (husband); Jenkin Pugh (brother); J. Haydn Jones (son-in-law); James Griffiths, John Griffiths (step-brothers); S. Phillips, T. Mathews, D. Pugh Williams, R. Jones, Jenkin Thomas (cousins); T., M., B. & W. Evans, G. Phillips (uncles); J., W., & D. Evans (brothers-in-law); J. Evans, Tom, D. J., and B. Thomas, P. Evans (nephews).

Italy Signor Mussolini, the Italian Premier, has laid the first stone of the new town in Italy which is to be called Mussolinia.

"Merthyr Express" 24 May 1924

Easter Vestry The annual Easter Vestry was held at St. David's Pentwyn on Friday last.

St. Marys The preacher on Sunday was the Rev. W. J. Brown, vicar designate, Rishton, Blackburn. The vicar took the service, and the lessons were read by Mr. W. J. Payne.

Nazareth Rev. Joseph Jenkins, Llandovery, preached on Sunday. The singing was conducted by Mr. W. Morris, with Mr. W. Angell Davies at the organ.

I.O.G.T. "Star of Fochriw" Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday.

"Merthyr Express" 31 May 1924

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. A large number of juveniles also attended to celebrate the birthday of Bro. Charles Payne, lodge deputy at Fochriw, and treasurer of the National Juvenile Council of Grand Lodges. Bro. Payne is now in his 73rd year and has travelled all over the country in the cause of temperance. A full programme of entertainment was given by both adult and juvenile members.

"Merthyr Express" 7 June 1924

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on

Thursday. Sister B. Ballard presided and gave a paper.

Noddfa: Flower Sunday and Young People's Anniversary Scholars were presented with Certificates of the Welsh Baptist Union. Flowers which were divided between the Merthyr General Hospital and Pontsarn Sanatorium were given by Mrs. Tom Evans, Miss Walters and Miss Maggie Rees.

“Merthyr Express” 14 June 1924

Anniversary The annual preaching services in connection with Carmel Congregational Chapel took place on Saturday and Sunday, when the Rev. Howells, Bridgend (late of Rhymney) delivered stirring sermons to large congregations. Mr. David Davies conducted the singing, and Mr. T. Walters presided at the organ.

I.O.G.T. The weekly meeting of the “Star of Fochriw” lodge was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister B. Ballard presided. The programme for the evening was a “Welcome Home to Sister C. Ballard,” the following taking part: pianoforte solo, Bro. T. Walters; solos, Bro. L. Evans and L. Rowlands, Bro. S. Lewis; readings, Sisters Lewis and Jones. Bro. Payne and Bro. T. Lewis thanked all who had taken part.

“Merthyr Express” 21 June 1924

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. The programme was given by Bro. and Sister Walters.

From Australia The numerous friends of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Evans, now of Australia, late of Fochriw, were delighted to see them looking so well after an absence of 38 years. While in Fochriw, they will stay with Mr. James Evans, Moore's-row.

“Merthyr Express” 28 June 1924

Home From South Africa The numerous friends of Mr. & Mrs. William Adams were pleased to see them home on a short visit to the old country this week, looking in the best of health. All join in wishing them a happy holiday.

St. Mary's Church Tuesday being St. John the Baptist Day, services were held at St. Mary's Church at 11a.m. and 7.30p.m. The services were conducted by the Vicar, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. R. Evans, B.A., the new curate of the parish, whose address was greatly appreciated.

Carmel: Pastor's Farewell Sermon The Rev. D. Jenkin Jones preached his farewell sermon on Sunday last to large congregations, previous to his departure to take charge of Cilecennyn and Dihewyd, Cariganshire. For the last four years he has laboured faithfully at Fochriw, where his presence will be greatly missed. His many friends wish him well in his new sphere of work. An account of the presentation will appear next week.

I.O.G.T. The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday last. Sister Ballard took the chair. The programme for the evening was a paper by Bro. L. Evans entitled, “The Way of Life.” this was an excellent paper, simple and very instructive. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and he was heartily thanked for his pains in preparing it. After the reading of the paper, the members enjoyed themselves in the translating of English to Welsh and vice versa. Bro. Payne and Bro. Lewis proposed and seconded a hearty vote of thanks to all who had taken part.

Our Great Summer Sale commences Friday, July 4th - R.T. Jones & Co., Merthyr.

“Merthyr Express” 5 July 1924

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. The programme for the evening was a Welsh reading by Bro. Wm. Jones of Deri.

Death It is our painful duty to record the death of Miss Elizabeth Gwen Jones, daughter of the late Mr. Issac Jones and Mrs. Jones of Brynteg.

Collieries Stopped Feelings of sadness could be observed throughout the village on Monday last when it became known that the Cornish pumps and fan engines of both Fochriw and South Tunnel pits had been stopped, and practically all the remaining men who had been kept on for the past two months were stopped. The collieries have been working for over 60 years and have been the source of employment for local inhabitants and large numbers from Dowlais, Pontlottyn, etc.. Needless to say, it is a severe blow to Fochriw which is one of the most industrious villages to be found. About 70 to 80 per cent of the people own their own houses. The majority were purchased from Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd., a few

years ago, when they were disposing of their property. Let us hope that the clouds of darkness will soon disappear and that Fochriw will become, once again, what it has been in the past, a happy, prosperous village.

Double Honour Ex-Police Sergt Henry Williams, a deacon of Noddfa Baptist Chapel, has been appointed president of the Rhymney Valley Baptists for the coming year. Also, he has been appointed treasurer of the East Glamorgan Baptist Association.

Fire An alarming fire broke out at the home of Mr. T. J. Jenkins, 29, Aelybryn, on Tuesday night. Mr. Jenkins was awakened between 4 and 5 a.m. by the sound of things falling downstairs. On going downstairs, he was met by clouds of smoke and fire. He carried his wife and children through the smoke into the street. They were taken into the homes of neighbours. A large number of willing friends then gathered to assist in extinguishing the fire. Police and fire brigade were quickly on the scene and the fire was soon under control, but not before considerable damage was done. We extend great sympathy to Mr. Jenkins and his family in their loss. Mr. Jenkins wishes to thank all for their kind assistance.

Presentation A large and representative gathering assembled at Carmel Chapel on Monday evening to show appreciation of the services of Rev. D. Jenkin Jones, who is leaving Fochriw for Cilcennyn, Cardigan, after four years working in the village.

Funeral The funeral of Mr. Alfred Evans, husband of Mrs. E. Evans, Guest-street, has taken place. Mr. Evans died suddenly after a short and painful illness. He was 42 years of age. He had lived all his life in Fochriw. He was an electrician in the colliery and was also the ambulance car driver. He was on the Management Committee of the Dowlais Co-operative Society. He leaves a wife and son, Cyril, who is a pupil at Bargoed Grammar School, and was sitting exams at Cardiff the week his father died. He also leaves an aged father, a brother and a sister. The funeral was on Tuesday.

“Merthyr Express” 12 July 1924

Sunday School Treats The treat for Carmel Congregational and Nazareth C. M. Chapels was held on Monday. The treat for Noddfa Sunday School was on Wednesday. The weather at Barry was ideal for the treat.

British Legion A meeting was held on Saturday evening at the White Horse. The vicar, Rev. S. Evans was present for an address given by Capt. H. Glyn Edwards. Musical contributions were given by G. Bartlett, W. Davies, Charles Tyler and J. Allen.

Funeral The funeral of Elizabeth G. Jones, daughter of Issac Jones of Brynteg, was held on Wednesday last. She was 26 years old. Rev. Ieuan Evans presided at the house and at Pentwyn Churchyard. The chief mourners were Master Islwyn Jones (brother) and Messrs. R. Jones, Trevor Williams, Rees Thomas (uncles). We extend our sympathy to the widowed mother and family.

“Merthyr Express” 19 July 1924

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. The Bedlinog lodge provided the programme for the evening.

Drowning At Fochriw Junction on Saturday, Harold King was drowned in a pool by the house.

Work for Unemployed A meeting was held at the Co-operative Rooms on Monday evening last, under the chairmanship of Mr. Evan M. Davies. It was decided to send a deputation to the Public Works Committee of the Council to appeal for work on the Fochriw to Deri road.

Hospital Mr. W. J. Payne reported on his stewardship as Fochriw representative on the Merthyr General Hospital Committee.

“Merthyr Express” 26 July 1924

Carmel On Friday, Miss S.J. Ellis, B.A., Bangor College, conducted a service and preached a very edifying sermon, which was much appreciated by the number present. The pulpit was occupied on Sunday by the Rev, David Davies, Merthyr, who gave a very inspiring discourse. The singing was conducted by Mr. David Davies, and Mr. T. Walters presided at the organ.

Mothers’ Union About 30 members of the St. Mary’s Branch journeyed to Llandaff on Monday to join in the special service at the Cathedral. Mrs. S. Evans, the enrolling member, led the party. The party was entertained to an excellent tea at the home of Nurse Thomas, Brynmorlais, Cardiff, one of the late members of the branch, where an excellent spread had

been prepared, to which all did justice.

Obituary The funeral of Harold Kings, son of Mr. & Mrs. D.J. Kings, Fochriw Junction, took place on Thursday at Pentwyn Churchyard. A short service was held at the house, conducted by the Vicar, after which the solemn cortege wended its way to St. Mary's Church, where the Vicar conducted a service. The Vicar officiated at the graveside. The coffin was covered with floral tributes. To the bereaved family sympathy is extended, their only other child being in hospital.

Wedding A very pretty wedding was solemnised at St. Mary's Church on Saturday. The contracting parties were Miss Avonwy Price, only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W. Price, Glenview, Pentwyn, and grand-daughter of the late Rev. J.G. Mathias, Pontlottyn, and Mr. Stanley Jones, son of Mr. & Mrs. Albert Jones, Gelli, Rhondda. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar. The bride was given away by her father and was attended by Misses Myfanwy Davies (cousin) and Gladys Jones (sister of the bridegroom). Miss Hylda Williams was the flower girl. Mr. Ivor Jones, brother of the bridegroom, was best man. Mr. Bryn Price, the bride's brother was also present. The bride was attired in white crepe-de-chene, embroidered with crystal beads, with hat to match. A reception was held at the bride's home. The bridal pair left for London, where the honeymoon is being spent. The bride wore a grey costume for travelling. The presents were numerous.

"Merthyr Express" 2 August 1924

Congratulations Congratulations to John Walters, Vincent Wood and Dd. Lewis who won 1st prize for wire-rope splicing at the Bridgend Royal Show on Friday last.

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister Ballard presided. The programme was a debate on capital punishment. The main speakers were from Rhymney and Pontlottyn.

Torrentail Rain Torrential rain resulted in the choking of the culvert behind the Co-op Stores. The build-up of water caused the collapse of a wall.

"Merthyr Express" 9 August 1924

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister Ballard took the chair, and gave two readings from works by Carlyle and Ruskin. The readings were thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Bros. Payne, Lewis, Jones and Sister Jones commented upon the readings, and Sister Ballard was heartily thanked.

St. Mary's Hall: Sale of Work A sale of work was held on Friday last in aid of work on the churchyard. The Hall had been gaily decorated, and presented a very pleasing appearance. The ladies of the Church have been very busy at the Vicarage, sewing and getting ready for the event, under the untiring leadership of Mrs. Evans. The Vicar presided at the opening ceremony which was performed by Col. Lindsay of Ystrad Mynach. The accompanist was the Rev. R.C. Evans, B.A., curate. The chairman gave an encouraging address, after which Mr. W.J. Payne, people's warden, proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Colonel for so kindly coming amongst them to open their sale of work. Mr. Charles Payne, vicar's warden, seconded, and the vote was carried with acclamation. The several stalls included Mothers' Union stall, parochial stall, fancy stall, sweet stall, Deri stall, jumble stall, refreshment stall, hoop-la and bran tub. Thanks are due to all who worked so hard to make the event such a great success.

"Merthyr Express" 16 August 1924

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting of the Lodge was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister B. Ballard presided. The programme for the evening was "A Night with Ella Wheeler Wilcox," Sister S. Lewis being responsible. The paper was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and poems were read by Bros. T. & S. Lewis, and also by Sister C. Thomas

Carmel The pulpit at Carmel was occupied on Sunday by their old pastor, the Rev. D. Huws Jones, now of Llanelly, who preached very edifying sermons to large congregations. Mr. T. Walters presided at the organ, whilst Mr. David Davies conducted the singing

"Merthyr Express" 30 August 1924

Obituary Mrs. Bibby, 2 Pleasant View, passed away on Tuesday, aged 73 years.

Exam Success Doris Davies, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lodwig Davies, 8 Aelybryn, has

gained first place in the training school exam held at Swansea General Hospital.

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. A musical programme was presented by the following contributors: Bros. Walters, Thomas, S. Lewis, D. Jones, and Sisters C. and L. Ballard.

"Merthyr Express" 6 September 1924

Congratulations Dr. J. Stenner Evans has been appointed to the medical staff of Merthyr General Hospital.

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister Ballard presided over a programme entitled 'Questions.'

Obituary Mrs. Bibby, 2, Pleasant View, was buried at Brecon on Saturday last. Rev. S. Evans officiated. A motor hearse took the body and mourners to Brecon. The chief mourners were: J. and W. Bibby (sons); Mr. & Mrs. S. Jones, Mr. & Mrs. F. Edwards (daughters and sons-in-law); Miss Elsie and Libby Jones (grand-daughters).

"Merthyr Express" 20 September 1924

Pulpit The pulpit at Nazareth C.M. Chapel was occupied on Sunday last by the Rev. B. Evans, who preached very powerful sermons, which were appreciated by the congregations. The singing was conducted by Mr. W. Morris, with Mr. Wyndham Lawrence presiding at the organ.

Congratulations The numerous friends of Masters Lewis Haydn Angell, son of Mr. W.J. Angell, and Aneurin Thomas, son of Mr. & Mrs. D.J. Thomas will be delighted to hear of their recent success at the Central Welsh Board examination. Lewis Haydn Angell passed with distinction in English, Latin, Welsh, mathematics, chemistry, and Aneurin Thomas in English & Welsh (with distinction), and arithmetic, drawing, mechanics.

Scholastic The numerous friends of Mr. Lewis H. Jones, son of Mr. & Mrs. Aneurin Jones, Post Office, will be pleased to hear of his transfer from Ogmere Vale to the staff of Trelewis Mixed School. Apart from his abilities in the scholastic profession, he is well known in the world of sport, being three-quarter back in the Rugby game, as well as a skilful Soccer player. His friends wish him well in his new sphere of work.

I.O.G.T. A very pleasant evening was spent at the "Star of Fochriw" on Thursday evening. Sister Ballard presided. The programme for the evening was a humorous one, Bro. Lewis being responsible. Bro. Lewis with Sister Mrs. Lewis, gave an excellent entertainment. There were several visitors present who expressed their appreciation of the programme. The D.C.T. was called to address the meeting. Bro. Payne, Bro. Jones, and some of the visitors, thanked Bro. & Sister Lewis for their excellent programme.

Sunday School Treat The annual Sunday School tea party in connection with St. Mary's Church took place on Thursday last, and proved a great success. The weather was very favourable, and the little ones enjoyed themselves to their hearts content. They assembled at the Hall at 2 o'clock, where prayers and a short address were given by the Vicar, Rev. S. Evans. Afterwards, the children were marshalled up outside the Hall, and looked a pleasing sight in their dresses of various colours. Headed by the Vicar, the curate, Rev. R.C. Evans, and the churchwardens, the children paraded the streets of the village with their banners proudly floating in the breezes. After the parade, they returned to the Hall where the tables were laden with all good things that go to gladden the hearts of the little ones. After tea, sports and games were indulged in, and a happy time was spent. Great credit is due to all who worked so hard to make the treat such a success.

Do You Know John Grouch? He's a wearisome fellow. His face is full of woe and his temper is unbearable. He hates himself, and nobody loves him. Don't be a John Grouch yourself - it's probably your liver that blackens your outlook on life. You can get rid of biliousness, constipation, sick headache, and that depressed feeling by taking Bilax.

"Merthyr Express" 27 September 1924

I.O.G.T. The weekly meeting of the "Star of Fochriw" Lodge was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister B. Ballard presided. The programme was "Tableaux," Sisters S. Thomas and Ballard being responsible. Bros. Lewis & Payne addressed the meeting. Sister Lewis proposed and Bro. Jones seconded a hearty vote of thanks to all who assisted.

The Crisis Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education,

addressed a well attended meeting at the Library Hut on Monday. Mr. T. Jenkins occupied the chair. Mr. Jones said he wished he was meeting them under more pleasant circumstances. He regretted very much the closure of the collieries and the unemployment amongst them. He would do all in his power to get some relief work started. He then gave an account of his stewardship.

Flower Day Quite a number of ladies were busy on Friday and Saturday last in the village selling flowers in aid of the Blind Institute.

Prizes Half a sheep and a live pig formed one of the prizes in an Ealing charity competition.

“Merthyr Express” 4 October 1924

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister B. Ballard presided over a programme given by Bro. Payne.

Harvest Festival Services were held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at St. Mary’s. The Rev. James of Fleur de Lis was the special preacher. The choir was conducted by Mr. J. Wood on account of the family bereavement of Mr. Angell.

Obituary David Jenkins of Martin-street has died aged 56. The funeral took place on Tuesday last. Mr. Jenkins was an overman at the Colliery, a member of the Band and a primo of the R.A.O.B. The chief mourners were: T., S. & R. Jenkins (sons); J. C. Jenkins, Frank Jenkins, Bertie G. Jenkins (grandsons); T. I. Evans, Dd. Davies (sons-in-law); Daniel Jenkins, Rev. Rhys D. Jenkins (brothers); B. Angel, D. J. James, Jo Shankland, Howell Adams (brothers-in-law); Tom & Dan Jenkins, Willie, Berkley and Tom Angel, T. J., D. J., and Crad Shankland, Henry and Tom Jenkins, Dan and Stanley James, Tudor and Dewi Adams, J. Griffiths, E. Hiscocks, Richard Thomas and Sid Way (nephews).

Sudden Death Jane Shankland, daughter of Aneurin Jenkins and the late Mrs. S. A. Shankland, died on a walk near the Council Houses. She was 26 years of age.

“Merthyr Express” 11 October 1924

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister Ballard presided over a programme given by members of the Troedrhifwuwch lodge.

Congratulations Mr. E. B. Sibley, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Sibley, has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Aberystwyth University College. He metriculated at Pengam, where he also won numerous athletic prizes. He was in the University soccer team and also played for Aberystwyth Town A.F.C.

Sudden Death An inquest was opened at the Rising Sun Inn into the sudden death of Jane Shankland. A post mortem was conducted by Dr. Stenner Evans.

“Merthyr Express” 18 October 1924

Nazareth Harvest Festival services were held on Monday and Tuesday last.

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. The programme was entitled ‘Short Tales by Sisters,’ the Sisters of the lodge contributing.

Election An election meeting was held in the Library Hut on behalf of Mr. Morgan Jones.

Trades and Labour Council At a meeting on Monday in the Library Hut, Mr. Morgan Jones was adopted as the Labour candidate. Mr. Walters was elected as a delegate to the Ystrad Mynach conference. Mr. J. McGhie reported on the last conference at Caerphilly. Mr. Dunscombe was adopted as election agent.

Motor Accident Between Hill Row and Mount Pleasant Row, the Council has purchased houses for demolition. On Saturday, Mr. L. H. Jones of Fochriw was en route to Deri, and Mr. Cook was journeying to Fochriw. The handles of the motor bikes touched. Mr. Jones was unconscious but recovered.

“Merthyr Express” 25 October 1924

Nazareth Calvinistic Methodist Special yearly meetings were held on Sunday and Monday.

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. The programme was ‘Impromptu Speeches.’ First prize went to Sister S. Lewis, second prize to Bro. Jones.

Election The Conservative candidate, Gwilym Rowlands, held an election meeting at the Council School. Rev. S. Evans was in the chair.

Whist Drive A whist drive was held at St. Mary's Hall. Among the players were Mr. and Mrs. Evan Evans of Australia, who had left the village 38 years ago. They presented the prizes to the winners. The Conservative candidate called to apologise for the clash with his election meeting. The duties of M.C. were shared between Rev. S. Evans and Mr. W. J. Payne.

"Merthyr Express" 1 November 1924

Election Both parties have held further meetings.

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. The juvenile section entertained the meeting.

St. Mary's A special meeting in connection with the Mothers' Union was held.

Children's Social A children's social was held at the Church Hall. Taking part in the entertainment were W. J. Payne, Harold Harris, Sid Way, Nan Prosser and Rowena Harris, who performed a laughable sketch. The accompanist was Harry Hughes.

"Merthyr Express" 8 November 1924

Election Mr. Morgan Jones held a meeting of thanks at the Library Hut on Friday.

Mothers' Union Special services were held on Tuesday at Bargoed.

All Hallows Eve Childrens' Fair Held at the Church Hall and organised by the Vicar and Mrs. Evans.

Send Off On Tuesday morning at Fochriw Station, villagers said goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Evan Evans who were returning to Australia.

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sisters C. Ballard and C. Thomas presented the programme.

"Merthyr Express" 15 November 1924

Whist Drive A very successful whist drive was held under the auspices of the Library Committee at the Library Hut on Thursday. The duties of M.G. were ably carried out by Mr. D. J. Thomas. The prize-winners were: Ladies: Miss Hilda Phillips; gents: Mr. Gomer Evans.

I.O.G.T. 'Star of Fochriw' Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister B. Ballar presided. Bros. C. Payne, Jones and Lewis took part. There were three visitors present from Troedrhifwuch, each taking part in the programme. Bro. t. Lewis gave a short address.

Poppy Day On Friday, ladies were busily engaged throughout the day disposing of Flanders' Poppies. They were well received and a goodly sum was realised. The effort was successfully organised by Mrs. J. Bevan, Hill House, assisted by Mrs. W.J. Payne, Mrs. J. Lawrence, Misses Elsie Griffiths, Mary Jones, Jessie Thomas, Margery Lewis, Elizabeth A. Jenkins, Rachel Gregory, Phoebe Cole, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. T. Jones and Mr. C. Ballard.

St. Mary's Profound reverence marked the observation of the "two minutes' silence" at St. Mary's Church. The service was conducted by the Vicar, Rev. S. Evans. The hymn, "Jesu, Lover of My Soul," was very feelingly sung, and as the appointed hour drew near, the bell sounded its solemn toll, and there reigned supreme silence. At the close, the hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." was sung.

"Merthyr Express" 6 December 1924

Personal Bryn Sibley was made captain of the Aberystwyth University Soccer team. He is the top scorer for the season.

Protestant Laity Association A meeting of this organisation was held on Monday at the Hall. Mr. C. Vincent Jones was appointed chairman, Mr. O. L. J. Rees, vice-chairman and Mr. P. V. Warner, secretary. Mr. O. J. Morgan read a paper to the gathering.

"Merthyr Express" 13 December 1924

I.O.G.T. A meeting was held on Thursday of the executive members of the Rhymney and District Lodge. The chairman was Bro. Williams. Three members - Bros. Payne & S. & T. Lewis received the district degree.

Carmel Half-yearly meetings were held led by Rev. J. Charles Jones of Dowlais.

Wedding: Ballard-Thomas At Zoar Chapel, Merthyr, on Saturday last, Miss Lydia Ballard, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ballard, Aelybryn, married Mr. Griff Thomas. The bride wore a brown costume with matching hat, and was attended by Misses Ceinwen and Maggie

Ballard, who were also dressed in brown with matching hats. The best man was David J. Thomas, brother of the bridegroom. Rev. Rhys Jenkins, Gosen, Rhymney, officiated.

Funeral The funeral of Mrs. Nellie Thomas, wife of Mr. David H. Thomas, Aelybryn, took place on Saturday. The deceased was 49 years of age. She leaves a husband and five children. The chief mourners were: Mr. D. H. Thomas (husband); J. R. Thomas, D. Thomas, C. Thomas, B. Thomas (sons); Rees Jones (brother); J. Thomas (father-in-law); D. Davies, E. T. Jenkins, T. Powell (brothers-in-law).

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Whist Drive Held at the Library Hut on Tuesday. The M.C. was Mr. D. J. Thomas.

Billiards At the annual tournament, the finalists were Thomas J. Morgan and E. Thomas. The latter was the winner.

Obituary Mr. Thomas Atkins of Guest-street, has passed away. The funeral was on Tuesday. Rev. S. Evans officiated at the house and at Pentwyn Churchyard. Mr. Watkins four sons were the chief mourners.

“King of Kandy” Carmel Juvenile Operatic Society under their conductor W. J. Angell presented this operetta. The following took part: Annie Jones - Princess; Harry Hughes - King of Kandy; Mr. Idris Griffiths - Prince Zaria; Tommy Howell Jones - Prince Karaya; Haydn Davies - Chancellor of the Exchequer; Leyshon Rowlands - Lord High Executioner; Tom Lewis - Court Physician; Miss M. J. Cole - Mistress of the Nautch; C. Davies - Court Jester; L. Slimmons - Court Magician. Other parts were taken by Mr. E. Davies, Mr. D. J. Davies, Mr. I. Davies, Mr. C. Davies, Mr. Evan Davies, Mr. Gwynfor Davies, Miss R. Griffiths. The accompanists were Miss Hannah Evans and Mr. W. Lawrence. Members of the orchestra were Miss Agnes Cook, Messrs. Bob Rees, W. Barry, H. Morgan, J. Price and D. Morgan. Stage managers were Messrs. J. J. Lewis, E. M. Davies, W. Griffiths and W. R. Lewis.

“Merthyr Express” 27 December 1924

Library Hut Mr. Evan Jones was successful at the ballot for the post of caretaker etc. to the Fochriw Library and Hut. Mr. Tom Jenkins was elected to the post of Secretary.

Congratulations Congratulations to Mrs. B. Ballard Davies, Aelybryn, who has passed the Central Midwifery Board Examination. She trained at the Queen Victoria Institute of Jubilee Nurses and the Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

I.O.G.T. ‘Star of Fochriw’ Lodge The weekly meeting was held at Carmel Vestry on Thursday. Sister Ballard presided. The programme for the evening was entitled ‘Peace and Goodwill,’ with the following taking part: Bros. C. Payne, Sam Lewis, D. Jones and Sisters Ballard.

Wedding: Davies-Jones At Merthyr on Saturday, Mr. Dan Davies, son of Mr. & Mrs. David Davies, Aelybryn, married Miss May Jones of Rhymney. The bride was dressed in a cinnamon brown costume with matching hat.

Wedding Bells: Edwards-Sullivan At Rhymney Church on Saturday, Miss Esther Edwards, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Edwards, Aelybryn, married Mr. Thomas Sullivan of Pontlottyn. The bride wore a brown garbadine costume with hat to match. She was attended by the sister of the bridegroom who wore a slate dress with hat to match. The breakfast was at the bride’s home.

Don’t Forget Please send your news as early as possible to our Fochriw correspondent, Mr. W. J. Payne, 1, Glyn-terrace, Fochriw, or tell him about it. Others want to know, and your best way is through the “Merthyr Express.” Our sales agent is Mr. David Lewis.