

Bethel Chapel Sutton

The History of the Parish of Lambston



The Chapel was formed in 1837 although the building was opened in July 1839.

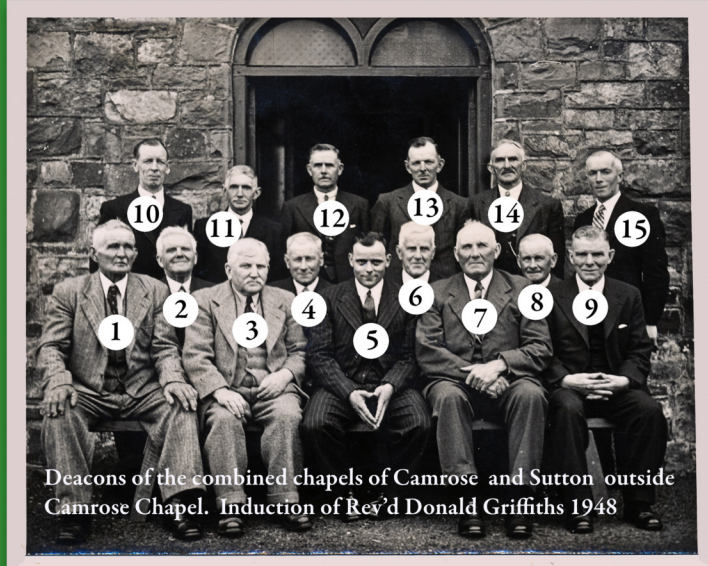
The land was acquired from John Hensleigh Allen Esq. of Creselly and Sir Richard Bulkeley Phillips Phillips of Picton Castle.

"The site selected for the building of a chapel at Sutton may not be one of the most attractive to the eye of the keen observer. It was simply a burgage, or a patch of almost waste land down in the little valley, and to the man of modern thought may probably be considered too remote, too inconvenient and out-of-the-way."

The Chapel depended in its early years on neighbouring ministers and students from Haverfordwest Baptist College for preachers. The first recorded baptism was of Thomas and Jane Davies of Portfield Gate in 1839. In 1845 Stephen and Mary Thomas from the "Rock of Gibraltar" (a short-lived farm in the extreme north west of the parish) were baptised.

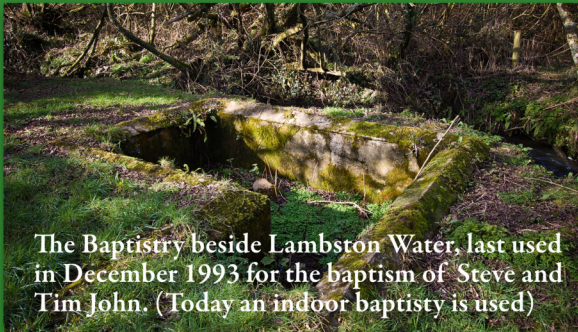
In 1870 the chapel united with Camrose. In 1889 Mr John Evans took over the pastorate, he was a considerable musician and organised a choir in Haverfordwest - on 1st January 1890 a successful Eisteddfod was held at Sutton Chapel. The congregations were extremely large: "scores of people failed to gain admission to the building". "Among the successful choirs were Dreen Hill United Choir and Sutton United Choir"

In February 1905 twenty-nine candidates were received by baptism and the largest recorded congregation attended the service. In 1925 the church was renovated and services were held in Lambston Council School.



Deacons of the combined chapels of Camrose and Sutton outside Camrose Chapel. Induction of Rev'd Donald Griffiths 1948

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Josiah George | 9 | Steve Davies |
| 2 | Phillip Hancock | 10 | Mr Williams, |
| 3 | William Hancock | | Headmaster Camrose North |
| 4 | Unknown | 11 | Jimmy Hancock |
| 5 | Rev'd Donald Griffiths | 12 | Dave Williams |
| 6 | Jimmy Thomas Sutton Hill Farm | 13 | Lewis Morris |
| 7 | William Ernest, John, Lambston Hall | 14 | Willie Davies |
| 8 | William George | 15 | Ifor Thomas |



The Baptistry beside Lambston Water, last used in December 1993 for the baptism of Steve and Tim John. (Today an indoor baptistry is used)



Interior of Bethel Chapel 2018

In the 1920s church members came from eleven different parishes, some walking 5 or 6 miles to attend at Sutton. In 1927 one of the church members, William Lewis of Berry Hill decided to become a preacher and the church gave him a considerable send-off to Rawdon College in West Yorkshire.

The "History of Sutton Chapel" from which the quotations above are drawn was written in 1930 by William Griffiths (then 73), the son of the first minister at Sutton. He had served the chapel for over 50 years, as preacher, deacon, secretary and choir master. He was a farmer from Nolton Cross who "frequently walked fourteen miles and preached three sermons on a Sunday to the scattered saints in the countryside, returning home on the Sunday evening with a song in his soul".

In 1952 the chapel still drew on 6 different parishes for Deacons and had 73 members. Today the chapel has a rather smaller membership and is still linked with Camrose Baptist Chapel. There is a meeting every Sunday at 11.30 at which all are welcome.



The triangular plot of land selected for the building of Sutton Baptist Chapel.

Plot No.	Area	Owner	Notes
282	1/2 Acre	John Griffiths	Plot selected for chapel
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Unveiling of a memorial to The Reverend Llewellyn Humphries, minister at Bethel Chapel until 1945

A record of the apportionment for plot 282