



Left, the interior of Heol Dwr (Water Street) chapel in Carmarthen; below, How Edwards with Martha Thomas and Molly Thomas, the two remaining elders of Heol Dwr chapel.

book holders, are tightly ranked on two floors, giving a clear view of the high pulpit, itself a work of great craftsmanship. It is a superb example of an early 19th-century Welsh chapel. There is an extensive schoolroom and a suite of other rooms in adjoining buildings. There are very few chapels of its size and quality left in Wales.

Are the people of Carmarthen really prepared to see a cultural asset of this character and status disappear? For my part, I don't even accept that the end of the cause is inevitable. There are thousands of Welsh speakers in the Carmarthen area. It would take just a few dozen to join, offer their help and skills to Martha and Molly, and revive the chapel. It could be a vibrant family cause once again, and a beacon to other parts of Wales.

Paham lai, gyfeillion? Meddyllwch am y peth - a (then) a Carmarthen policeman) and his family in

My visit to Heol Dwr chapel in the late 1960s was one of countless visits to the town as a boy. I spent many hours at County Hall when my father served as a dyed councillor. I had my first 'posh' meal at the Ivy Bush. Our annual visit to Tenby always involved a long traffic jam on the approach to Carmarthen, and we would come to visit my uncle Ken (then a Carmarthen policeman) and his family in

Heol y Delyn. It is unusual for a son of Llanelli to sing the praises of Carmarthen, such are the age-old rivalries which persist in our part of Wales. But sing them I must, given the reality of Carmarthen's economic and civic revival over the past three decades. There are plenty of challenges, as we all know, but the overall narrative is one of success and rejuvenation. Why not make Heol Dwr part of that success, too?



Bethania Chapel in Priory Street has been sold subject to contract.

William's bibles found their ways into Welsh homes between 1767 and 1770. He leased a house in Water Street to be near a publisher in Llanmas Street and it 1771 build the first Water Street Chapel in his garden. The present chapel was built for £2,000 in 1813. The Sunday school was founded in 1803 and in 1810 around 1,000 children attended. A blue plaque commemorates Williams outside the chapel, placed there by the Carmarthen Civic Society. In addition to Heol Dwr's struggles, others have already closed with Zion Chapel in Mansel Street and Bethania Chapel in Priory Street sold subject to contract. Union Street's chapel is also up for sale.