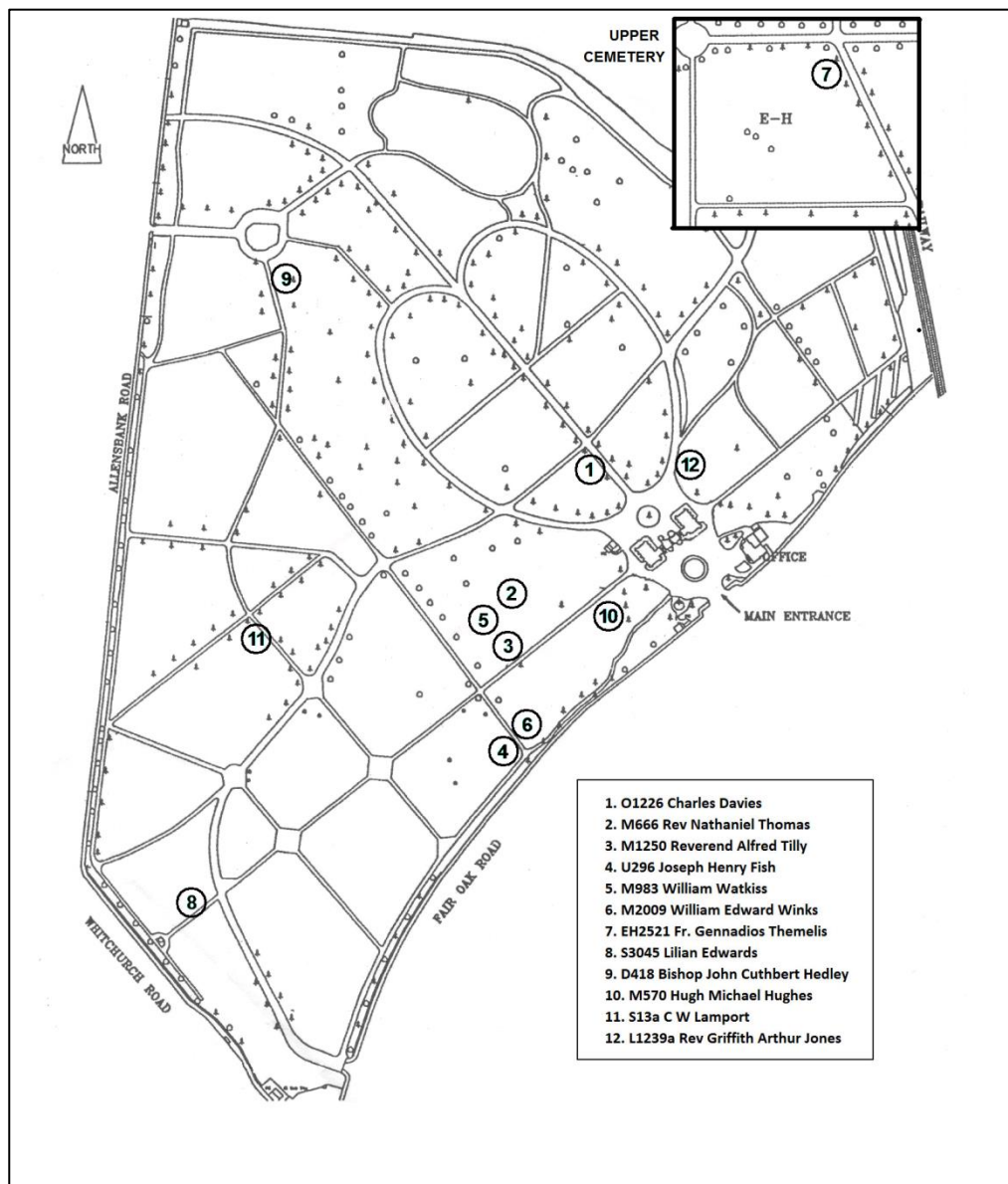


MEN & WOMEN OF THE CHURCH in CATHAYS CEMETERY



The Friends of Cathays Cemetery



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1 Charles Davies (1849-1927)

PLOT 01226

Charles was born in Llwynhendy on 3rd November 1849, the son of Daniel and Margaret Davies. He attended Graig Academy grammar school in Swansea and went on to the Baptist College in Llangollen. Being ordained in 1870 he was appointed to Penuel, Bangor, and moved to the Everton Village Baptist church, Liverpool in 1877. He was appointed as minister in the Tabernacle in Cardiff in 1888. He published Cyfrol o Bregethau in 1910 and was elected chairman of the Baptist Union of Wales and Monmouthshire. Charles died on 11th January 1927 and is buried in Cathay Cemetery.

Being an outstanding preacher of his time his tombstone has the following composition written by Charles:

Pwy sydd dennyf yn y nefoedd
Ond tydi waredwr un?
A phwy hefyd ar y ddaear
Ond tydi'r anwylaf un?
Pwy am tywys yn yr anian?
Pwy yn angeu ddeil fy mhen?
Pwy am cymer I ddoniant?
Ond tydi, dywysog nen?

The translation is as follows:

Who do I have in heaven
Apart from thou my only saviour?
And who is also upon earth
Apart from you, dearest one?
Who will guide me in the wilderness?
Who will support my head in the throes of death?
Who will take me to glory?
Only thou, Prince of heaven



2 Rev Nathaniel Thomas (1818-1888)

PLOT M666

Baptist minister at the Tabernacle, Cardiff

Born on 13 April 1818 at Clydach, near Swansea. At 7 years of age he went to work in a colliery for a short time; later he assisted boatmen on the canal near his home. The family moved to Nant-y-glo in 1830, he was baptized there, at Hermon, where he began to preach in 1837, and went to Pontypool College in January 1842. He ministered at Cilfowyr, 1846-50, and at Penuel, Carmarthen, 1850-6; at Penuel he built a new chapel. He married Laura Emily Blagdon, a

Churchwoman who had become a Baptist. He spent thirty years at Tabernacle, Cardiff, and was responsible for the present edifice. He served as editor of Y Bedyddiwr, was an advocate of temperance, educational and Liberal movements, and helped to succour blind and unfortunate people. He was the first president of the Welsh Baptist Union; he also served on committees of the Baptist Union of England and Wales. He died 2nd December 1888.

3 Reverend Alfred Tilly (1821-1905)

PLOT M1250



Rev Alfred Tilly became pastor of Bethany Chapel in St Mary Street in the 1850s before moving on to Tredegarville Chapel, which he is said to have built, and where, during a highly successful ministry of 35 years, he drew together a great flock of adherents, as well as a substantial body of Church members. He was a member of the committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, and was one of the founders of the separate Congo Mission. He was in his day a foremost educationist in Cardiff. He was one of those through whose action a school board was formed in Cardiff, was one of the original members of the school board, and continued a member of that body for several years. He

was also a member of the free library committee, and the infirmity committee. He was also a member of the local Liberal Association. Dying at the age of 84, through kidney trouble, at his house in The Parade, Cardiff, a retired Baptist minister.

4 Joseph Henry Fish (1858-1930)

PLOT U296

Missionary on Robben Island

Joseph Henry Fish, who died on 29 July 1930, aged 72, in London. He had been a missionary to lepers on Robben Island and in South Africa for 41 years. The inscription also refers to his wife, but not by name, who had died in South Africa six years earlier and had also 'laboured amongst the lepers', and his daughter, Jessie.

Joseph had a brother, James Westcot Fish, who had also served as a missionary on Robben Island and, furthermore, had written on his experience. His book "Robben Island - An Account of 34 Years' Gospel Work Amongst Lepers of South Africa" was published in 1924. The brothers' family came from Devon, their father being a rope-maker, and they had lived in Grangetown.

The Island's most famous resident of course was Nelson Mandela. By 1991, all political prisoners had been freed from Robben Island and, in 1996, the last of the common law prisoners left the island. It is now a tourist destination.

5 William Watkiss (1827-1892)

PLOT M983

William was born in Rock, Shropshire, England on 31st December 1827 to Miles Watkiss (1785–1842) and Mary Elliss (1787–1869). William Watkiss married Mary Ann Garrett and had 3 children; Miles Watkiss (1854–1913); William Henry Watkiss (1855-) and Benjamin Watkiss (1853–1923).

The Rev W. Watkiss was a native of Shropshire, and began life in the mining and manufacturing districts of that county as a collier. At an early age he took a deep interest in religious exercises, and when still in his teens became a sort of lay preacher, visiting the rural districts of his native shire and holding open-air and other services among the agricultural labourers. He was a member of the

United Methodist Free Church, and it was soon seen by the their influential members of the body that he was a young man of more than average ability, who gave great promise, excelling in ministerial work. Accordingly he was sent out as an evangelist and in the 1860s came to Cardiff, making a commencement at Guildford-street Chapel. In consequence of some passing misunderstanding, between certain sections of the church, he left and entered into negotiations with Mr Jacob Matthews, who was then the proprietor of the circus and music-hall at the corner of Wood Street and Havelock Street, Temperance Town in Cardiff. He acquired the use of the building in 1868, which he proceeded to use as a chapel, and he soon drew large congregations, to the place, composed almost exclusively of working men.



He was twice married, his first wife, to whom he was married in Shropshire, having died in 1875. His second wife was Mary Ann, the widow of the Sir Guilford, of Cardiff. They had two sons, one of whom was employed at Howell and Company.

After the deceased had severed his connection with Guildford Street Church he drew round him a small but useful and steadfast body of working men, by whose aid he was enabled to successfully initiate the scheme for converting the Wood Street Circus into a chapel, and in subsequent years he carried on this large undertaking, one attended with many heavy responsibilities. He attracted in large numbers to the new place, men and women over whom nearly all the other ministers in the town had failed to previously exercise any influence, and those who never regularly attended any place of worship.

The buildings at Wood Street Congregational Church were later purchased by the Wood Street Congregationalists. After renovations and extensions, it became the largest Congregational Church in south Wales.

He passed away on 6th January 1892 in Cardiff.

6 William Edward Winks

PLOT M2009

Curator of Cardiff Museum 1876-1914, Bethany Baptist Minister

William was born in Leicester on 28 January 1842 and was son to J.F. Winks; He passed away in Cardiff on 21 December 1926. Winks trained for the Baptist ministry at Chilwell College, Nottingham,. He was ordained in 1865 and entered the Baptist ministry, and was minister of Allerton, near Bradford, Yorkshire, and Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. In 1876 he became pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Cardiff, where he stayed until retirement in 1914. He wrote the centenary history of the church, *History of Bethany Baptist Church, Cardiff* (Cardiff, 1906), and he was evidently a person of some renown in the city: he was responsible for the official guide to the Cardiff Exhibition of 1896. He also published *Thoughts on Prayer: selected chiefly from modern writers* (London, 1881),

His son L.F. Winks F.I.C.S. of Powell Duffryn Ltd, donated a leaden papal bulla to the National Museum (1954)

He was the author of this book: "Lives of Illustrious Shoemakers".

7 Fr. Gennadios Themelis (1855-1928)

PLOT EH2521

Archimandrite of Greek Church



The Archimandrite Fr. Gennadios Themelis, originally from the island of Kalymnos, was the Parish Priest of St. Nicholas Church at the time. He served the Greek Community in Cardiff from 1917 up to 1928. He had studied psychology at Brussels University; he was very well equipped in the Byzantine Church Music and had written and published a number of books and articles. In South Wales he organised the Greek Education and established Schools in Cardiff and Barry. He was very well respected by his congregation. Fr. Gennadios passed away on 12th December 1928 and is the only Greek Orthodox Priest who had died and was buried in Cardiff.

8 Lilian Edwards (1877-1945)

PLOT S3045

Baptist Missionary in India 1906-1925

Miss Lilian Edwards, daughter of Principal Edwards of the Baptist College, Cardiff. Her father was twice married so Lillian had a sister Marion and a half sister Anita. She had been born on 30th October 1877.

She applied to the Baptist Zenana Missionary Committee. After training at the Women's Training College in Edinburgh she joined a mission to India. She sailed for India by P&O's Arcadia in October 1906. She arrived in Agra, North West India and wrote of the plight of Indian Women and girls. She was invalided home after 9 years in the North West India but returned to the cooler Calcutta, speaking Hindu and Urdu. Her book, a biography, is entitled "A Welsh Woman's Work in India" and tells of life in India in the early 1900s, describing the Temples, holidays and ritual then existing. She also highlights the contribution to the Cause by Richard Cory and his daughters Frederica and Beatrice. The book is freely downloadable online.

9 Bishop John Cuthbert Hedley (1837-1915)

PLOT D418

Roman Catholic Bishop. A British Benedictine and writer who held high offices in the Roman Catholic Church.

Born in Morpeth, Northumberland, he was educated at Ampleforth College. He was professed a member of the Order of Saint Benedict in 1855 and ordained a priest of the order on 9th October 1862. He was appointed an auxiliary bishop of Newport and Menevia and Titular Bishop of Caesaropolis on 22nd July 1873. His consecration to the Episcopate took place on 29th September 1873; the principal consecrator was Archbishop (later Cardinal) Henry Edward Manning of Westminster, with bishops Brown and Chadwick as co-consecrators. Hedley acted as editor of the Dublin Review, before appointed the Bishop of the Diocese of Newport and Menevia on 18th February 1881. His episcopal title was changed to Bishop of Newport in 1895.



He published a number of works “The Christian Inheritance: Set Forth in Sermons”, “Lex Levitarum: Or, Preparation for the cure of souls”, “Lex Levitarum with the Regula Pastoralis”, “The Light of Life: Set Forth in Sermons”, “Our Divine Saviour and other Discourses” and “A Retreat 33 Discourses with meditation for the Use of the Clergy, Religious, and Others”.

Bishop Hedley died in office on 11th November 1915, aged 78. After his death, the see of Newport was elevated to an archdiocese and changed its name to Cardiff in 1916.

10 Hugh Michael Hughes (1858-1933)

PLOT M570

Hugh Michael Hughes was an Independent minister, born 13th August 1858, at Llanllechid, Gwynedd, being the son of Michael and Elizabeth Hughes. He was educated at the Memorial College, Brecon, and at Aberystwyth and Cardiff university colleges, graduating with first-class honours (Wales) in 1898; in 1930 the university gave him a honorary LL.D. he was ordained in 1886, and held pastorates at Old Tabernacl, Holyhead; Grove Street, Liverpool; and

Ebenezer in Cardiff, holding the Cardiff pastorate for almost forty years. He was a noted preacher, educationalist, and writer on theological, political and social questions. He was, for many years editor of Y Tyst, the Welsh Congregational weekly, and for twenty years secretary of 'Y Gronfa', Welsh Independent Chapel Debts Fund. He was president of the Congregational Union of Wales and vice-president of Cardiff University College, and the chairman of the committee of Brecon Memorial College. His publications included John Penry; Yr Iesu Sicr; Griffith John, arwr China, and Esboniad ar yr Ephesiaid. He married Mary Ann Howell (1852-1934) of Aberystwyth. He died 15th January 1933 at Cardiff.



11 C W Lamport (1843-1910)

PLOT S13a

Rev. C. W. Lamport, was an active member of the Cardiff Board of Guardians. The son of a farmer, he was born at Salisbury, and came to Cardiff in about the 1865 as a clothing assistant. On inheriting a legacy left by an uncle, who had always wanted young Lamport to enter the Church, he began to study at St. Bees, and afterwards at Lichfield College. After being ordained he served his

deaconate at St. Pauls, Cardiff Dock. From 1880 to 1886 he held the Living of St John at Spalding, but returned to Cardiff, where he started a mission church in Riverside. His work as a missionary was so successful that he erected the Christ Church, in Wells Street, where he had ministered until the end of his life. He passed away at the age of 67.

12 Rev Griffith Arthur Jones (1827-1906)

PL0T L1239a

Griffith Arthur Jones was a Welsh Anglican priest for over 50 years, and was a strong supporter of the practices of the Oxford Movement in his ministry.

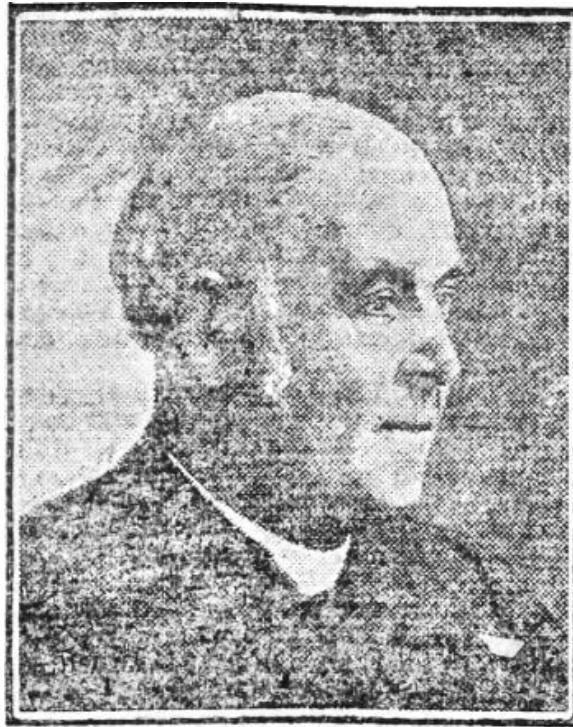
Jones was born in Ruabon, Wales, where his father was curate. He studied at Jesus College, Oxford between 1847 and 1851, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1851. He was also ordained deacon in 1851, priest in 1852, and was initially curate in Trewalchmai and Heneglwys, Anglesey declining the vicarage of Llangorwen, Cardiganshire. He served as vicar of Llanegryn from 1857 to 1872, when he took up what was to be his last appointment, at St Mary's Church in Cardiff. He retired in 1903 and died on 22 September 1906. During his ministry in Wales, he followed and taught the views and practices of the Oxford Movement, having been greatly influenced by this when a student.

Griffith Arthur Jones was born in Ruabon on 16 July 1827, the fifth child and only son of the Rev. John and Charlotte Harriett Jones. Griffith went to Jesus College, Oxford, where he was much influenced by Dr Pusey and became prominent in the Tractarian, or Oxford, Movement, which promoted the adoption of Catholic ritual. He graduated in 1851 and in the following vacation accompanied the Dean of the college on a trip to Paris and Normandy. He was ordained deacon at Bangor Cathedral on 21 December 1851 and went on to officiate at Gwalchmai and Heneglwys, Anglesey.

Unusually, he was offered the incumbency of Llangowen only three months into his diaconate but, after advice from friends and family, declined this. In 1857, he was appointed Vicar of Llanegryn, near Towyn and in the shadow of Cader Idris, where he stayed for 16 years. Initially, at Llanegryn, the parishioners were reluctant to accept his form of Anglican ministry, but he eventually won them over and is credited with raising church attendance and having one of the first, if not the first, surpliced choirs in North Wales.

In 1871, Rev Jones was offered the benefices of both St Mary's, Butetown, and

St Margaret's, Roath, at same time. He accepted the former and became vicar in 1872. He was to hold this position for 31 years. Despite determined opposition, he revived the patronal festival at St Mary's and introduced Catholic practises, including confessions, incense and daily Eucharist services, previously Sunday only services had generally sufficed.



In 1843, John Crichton-Stuart, 2nd Marquess of Bute paid for the construction of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Stephen the Martyr, in Bute Street as a permanent replacement. This church was designed by Thomas Foster, of Bristol, and the first divine service in the new building was held on December 14th 1843. The 2nd Marquess was to die within three years, but worshipped at St Mary's.

Father Jones, as he was normally addressed by his parishioners, also instigated changes to the church. The original enormous three-decker pulpit, which completely hid the small altar from the view of the congregation, was removed and replaced with a smaller pulpit to one side of the chancel arch. The organ and choir were moved from the west gallery and placed closer to the chancel. In 1884, the east end of the church was significantly modified, to designs by the architect J D Sedding, removing the original main entrance and replacing the "very bad coloured glass" with masonry, although dummy doors and windows remain. Internally, niches, to be occupied by life-sized statues of the

apostles, were created and wall paintings of St Margaret and St Winifred were commissioned for each side of the chancel arch.

The east end of the church was further enlarged in 1907 and it is today a Grade II listed building. These changes would not have been possible without the continued benefice of the Bute family, even though the 3rd Marquess had converted to Roman Catholicism in 1868, and other influential friends. The latter included Sir Edward Hill and Alderman Robert Hughes. Hill, of Rookwood, Llandaff, was the owner of a dry dock close to the church and, for a time, a churchwarden at St Mary's. When the 1884 modifications were carried out, he gave the beautiful reredos with its painting, by Westlake, of the Adoration of the Shepherds. Hughes was a child at Llanegryn, when Father Jones was there, and became one of the most devoted Sunday school teachers at St Mary's. He was to become Cardiff's first Lord Mayor and, in the first year of his Mayoralty, presented a lectern to celebrate Father Jones 32 years incumbency.

Father Jones took a keen interest in everything connected with Welsh life, attending Eisteddfod and receiving a bardic title, Eos Egryn, and medal. He also did all he could to support the social well-being and education of his people, including getting the first two church schools for boys and girls, built in North Church Street and run by the Sisters of St Margaret's, East Grinstead. He was also involved in the management of seven national schools in the parish.

There was a large seafaring population around the docks, with many sailor's lodging houses and a large number of houses of disrepute. This did not deter Father Jones from siting his parish office in the heart of the most deprived area around Loudon Square. He also arranged mission work, again using the Sisters from East Grinstead, who first arrived for this around 1873. Within a short time, the number of sisters based in Butetown had doubled.

Father Jones' interests were not confined to Butetown. He formed a lifelong friendship with Father Lowder, a parish priest in Wapping, another poor dockland area, with much in common with Butetown. They would visit and preach in each other's churches. Griffith Jones was fond of country sports and he happily accepted invitations from the Manager of the London & Provincial Bank, Mr Watkins from Llandaff, to go grouse shooting on the Cumberland Moors. While he was at Llanegryn, he had made a retreat with the Society of St John the Evangelist in Cowley. When he was at St Mary's, it was largely through his efforts that retreats were instigated in Margam and Aberdare. In the latter, Abernant House became a retreat house and, later, the theological college for the diocese (which transferred to Llandaff in 1907). With the help

of Robert Hughes, he was instrumental in getting a church for services in Welsh, Eglwys Dewi Sant, in Cardiff. Father Jones was involved in the publishing of several religious books in Welsh, including a Welsh psalter, and “A Manual on Confirmation”.

With increasing infirmities of old age, Father Jones resigned the living of St Mary's in 1903 and took a small house in Longcross Street, which he named Lluesty Mair, “*St Mary's rest*”. On Sunday 9th September 1906, he returned home to 15 Longcross Street, Roath, from church at midday, feeling ill and unable to eat and the end came on 22nd September 1906.

Gordon Hindess

