



Rev. H. P. Jenkins.

The Rev. H. P. Jenkins is retiring from his ministerial charge of Saron (Cong.) Church, Aberaman, on June 11th next. Mr. Jenkins has held the pastorate for 29 years, and came from Bethania, Treorchy, to Aberaman in succession to the Rev. R. Rowlands. Rev. Jenkins is a native of Blaenafon, about two miles from New Quay, Cardiganshire, and commenced his ministerial career in 1875. He spent some months at the New Quay Grammar School, which was then under the control of Mr. Charles Hughes, B.A.

At this school he had as a fellow student the Rev. J. Towyn Jones, M.P. In March 1876, Rev. Jenkins kind passed successfully into Bala College and after a three, years collegiate career came out in his final examination second on the list. Rev. Jenkins first church was the Wern, Ystalyfera, and he was ordained minister on April 13th and 14th, 1880. Some of the stalwarts of the Congregational denomination took part in the services, Rev. Dr. Rees, Ebenezer, Swansea; Penry Evans, J. Rees, Cwmllynfell; Prof. T. Lewis, M.A., and others.

After five years' service in the Lord's vineyard at Ystalyfera, he received a call to Trewilliam and this he accepted. This church was in financial straits when Rev. Jonkind took charge. The debt amounted to £2,200, and after some strenuous work he succeeded in reducing the debt considerably, and he was the means of creating a spirit of enthusiasm among the members of the church that has been kept aglow to this day.

In 1888 the young minister received a very pressing call from the members of Bethania Church, Treorchy, to become their minister in succession to the Rev. B. Davies, D.D. Upon leaving the church at Trewilliam Rev. and Mrs. Jenkins received handsome presents as tokens of the high respect in which they were held by the members of that church. On January 7th, 1889, Rev. Jenkins was inducted as minister of Bethania Church, which at the time numbered 390 members, and after five years' ministry the membership increased to 575, and through his energetic work a debt of over £1,500 was cleared off. His stay at this church was not long, and in October 1893, he commenced his work at Saron Church, Aberaman.

At the induction services the Rev. Dr. Probert, Bala Bangor, and John Davies, Soar, Aberdare, officiated. Rev. Jenkins has laboured hard at Saron during the 29 years of his ministry. He followed in the footsteps of a noted and worthy preacher Rev. R. Rowlands and built up a strong church at this place. The membership increased rapidly, and here again we find Rev. Jenkins putting his shoulder to the wheel and with the help of members clearing a substantial debt.

In 1896 the church erected a new schoolroom at the lower end of Aberaman, which cost £550. This sum was soon cleared, and the members celebrated a Jubilee of the church.

Several members of Saron, with the aid of members from Tabernacle, Aberdare, commenced an English Church at Aberaman, which is known as Bethany Church. This offshoot received the blessing of the Rev. H. P. Jenkins and the church generally. Saron holds a high record in the Congregational Churches of the district for turning out ministers. Under the direction and guidance of the Rev. H. P. Jenkins, the following have been ordained as ministers: Revs. J. R. Jones, D.D., America; J. Solon Rees, G. Thomas, J. R. Evans, J. D. Jones, B. Morris, D. H. Jones, T. G. Griffiths, Arthur Evans, T. Jones, Meredith Davies, Thomas Perkins, Australia (now on a visit to the homeland), and Phillip Jones.



Saron 1890s.

Rev. Jenkins has been a devoted tutor to the young people of all the churches he has been connected with, and the young folks have not been backward in appreciating his work.

The Rev. H. P. Jenkins is a most acceptable preacher, and his ever-ready to render help to the weaker churches. Rev. Jenkins has been blest with a partner, who has been of great assistance to him in all his work on behalf of the Master and mankind. Mrs. Jenkins is well-known by people of all creeds and no creed and is highly respected in the neighbourhood. Miss Jenkins, their daughter, is a mistress at the secondary school, Ferndale, and has graduated B.A. During the past twelve months Saron Church has been renovated, and it is the intention of the members to instal a pipe organ.

Farewell Meeting to the Rev. H P Jenkins.

17/06/1922

On Monday evening meeting was held to bid adieu to the Rev. H. P. Jenkins, who has resigned pastorate of Saron Cong. Church; Mrs. Jenkins, Miss Jenkins, and Miss Lewis (sister of Mrs. Jenkins). Mr. J. H. Powell, J.P., Danygraig one of Saron's deacons presiding over a large gathering. The Rev. J. Sulgwyn Davies, Siloh, Trecynon, read a portion of the Scripture offered prayer.

The Chairman was pleased to see so many friends present to show their appreciation of Rev. Jenkins and his family on their departure from Aberaman. They had gathered together to honour their minister after 29 years' faithful service. Rev. Jenkins given the church of his best. He had done a

good day's work at Aberaman. Leaving Aberaman did not mean that Rev. Jenkins had finished working for his Master. The deacons and the members had nothing but praise for their minister. Rev. Jenkins had not confined his energies to the church of the church alone but was always ready to assist any good movement.

Mrs. Jenkins ideal minister's wife, and her departure would be sorely by the women and children of Saron, and the district. The departure of the family would be a great loss to the church, but they as members must rally together to carry on the good work. He (Mr. Powell) felt sure that their minister would always remember Saron in his prayers. On behalf of the church, he wished the family well in their new home on the banks of the Towy.

The secretary, Mr. Thomas read letters from following who were unable to be present: Revs. R. H. Davies (late Cwmbach); W. Davies, Soar, Mountain Ash; E. Wern Williams, Hirwaun; T. E. Waters, Libanus; H. A. Davies (late Moriah Aman); J. Phillips, Mountain Ash; W. S. Davies, Llwydcoed; S. J. Leeke, B.A., B.D., Cwmaman; H. Evans, Miskin; D. Smith, Bethany; W. A. Jenkins, Cwmdare; and Mr. Isaac Edwards, Merthyr.

Coun. Evan Jones J.P. treasurer of Saron said that he personally and the church were sorry to lose Rev. Jenkins and his family. Their minister had been most faithful to all gatherings of the church. Rev. Jenkins had taken great interest in the welfare of the children and young people. His work with the 'Christian Endeavour Society' was creditable and had no doubt been means of keeping many on the straight road also bringing public men women. Rev. Jenkins had been a faithful teacher of the Bible Class and had assisted young and old to solve many a problem. The Cymanfa Ganu had in their minister a great supporter.

As a preacher Rev. Jenkins was not lazy. His sermons were a proof of that. Peace had reigned during the whole of his ministry in Aberaman. Their minister had been very fortunate in life partner Mrs. Jenkins had been of great assistance to him in carrying on his ministerial work. She was always at the service of church. No task was too great for her. No obstacle was allowed stand in the path of duty. She was always up and doing. Miss Jenkins followed in the footsteps of her parents and was highly respected by the church and congregation.



Parch. H. Parry Jenkins Illuminated Address.

Dr. Solon Rees Bishop Auckland (erstwhile minister of Bethany) desired to add his appreciation of the work performed by the Rev. H. P. Jenkins and his family. Saron had also in the chairman true friend. It Rev. Jenkins that he (the speaker) was indebted for being in the ministry today. Rev. Jenkins had always taken a keen interest in the young people and had been the means of assisting several to become ministers. He desired to publicly thank the family for their many kindnesses during his stay at Aberaman.

Rev. Thomas Jones, Tredegar (one of Saron's children) was proud to be able to add his tribute to the Rev. H. P. Jenkins. It was through the entreaties and help of the rev. gentleman, that he had entered the ministry. Rev. Jenkins had been to him a true friend and counsellor when he was a member of that church. Although Rev. Jenkins was leaving the neighbourhood the effect of his good work would long remain at Aberaman. Saron would have another pastor, and the church would have to adapt itself to new methods and new ideas. He wished to thank Mrs. Jenkins for her kindness to him.

Rev. John Lewis, Hebron, on behalf of ministers of Aberaman and district, paid a tribute to the work done by Rev. Jenkins in locality. Ministers were often criticised unfairly and harshly by the outside public. Some ministers failed in their work, but that was due to a great extent to the apathy of the members. Ministers could not do much without the co-operation of the members. He was sorry to lose Rev. Jenkins and family and wished them every blessing in their new abode.

At this juncture the chairman called upon Mr. Oakley Rees to present Miss Jenkins with a wristlet watch. Mr. Rees, in a short and pithy address referred to the sterling qualities Miss Jenkins. She was ever-ready to serve in all branches of church work. Miss Jenkins in a few words responded.⁴

Rev. Thos. Perkins (another of Saron's children), who recently returned from Australia and has accepted a pastorate at Llanelly, spoke highly of Rev. Jenkins and the family. The work by Rev. Jenkins had far-reaching effects. The late Rev Meredith Davies, one of Aberaman's brightest lights, thought a great deal of Rev. Jenkins under whose ministry he had been brought up, and the people of Melbourne Australia, highly appreciated the work done by that young minister. Mr. Davies had received much inspiration from his old minister at Aberaman.

Mr. Watkin Price, one of the oldest deacons, in an address full of "hwyl" presented Rev. Jenkins with a handsome umbrella and also handed to Mrs. Jenkins an umbrella for her sister Miss Lewis. The Chairman then called Mr. T. Edwards, secretary to read the illuminated to presented to Rev. Jenkins following the text:

Saron Aberaman Church's address to the Rev. H. Parry Jenkins on his departure and she and the place. Reverend and Dear Mr. Jenkins, We are glad to think that you are leaving us in Saron by your own choice, without a word or suggestion from anyone else. The only thing we can do to make this happen, to be permanent, is to present to you, in the name of the church and the congregation, this memorial.

We are bound to one heart, as of one heart, to do this, by your good name, your good name, and your considerable service. Your ministry of twenty-nine years among us is full of your strong personality as well as your specialty as a preacher and shepherd.

The three honourable folds of your ministry were social manners, fidelity to the dignity of your position, and the purity of your life and your aims, Some of the milestones of your journey were the schoolhouses in Wyndham Crescent as in North View Terrace; the two Jubilees; the four who were raised to preach to the ministry; repair of Saron Hall; and the "glory" of the second house is greater than the first. You were also notably loyal and prominent regarding the Singing Assembly in I place.

You showed a sublime and holy humanity in strange times and embarrassing difficulties; We found in your strength and sympathy after we got along well. You never once lost sight of basic principles; and you were Wise.

You proved yourself to be of strong will as quite irreversibly; at the same time protect your nobility and stick faithfully to your trust. In, the, course of your pastorate among us, you saw great, changes in the place, in his religious temper, in his questions and his social life, and in his behaviour towards Church religion. No minister who has been before you, has had such trials as you.

But in all, you kept your function uncorrupted, and you kept the church one, without division or rupture; and your name, at the end of the working day, will be truly respected in every house, and by everyone in Aberaman as in Saron.

You were at hundreds of weddings and at hundreds of funerals and likewise for the exceptional meetings of the place and the denomination; and everywhere you were characterized by a decent humor and by a spirituality that was felt.

Your character as a man, preacher and minister is known to the denominations of the place, and to the families of the circle; and everyone with us unites to wish you and your spouse, and your daughter many more years of success in your good work.

"Until he comes" Yes, for the church.

J. H. Powell, Watkin Price, David Phillips, Evan Jones, William Perkins, David Davies, Thomas Edwards, David Harris, Samuel Jones, Thomas Evans, diaconiaid:
Oakley Rees, Cadeirydd, Mehefin 12fed. 1922

Mr. D. Phillips, another of the deacons in a short speech, handed the address to Rev. Jenkins, and Miss Jones (sister of Coun. Evan Jones) presented a wallet with notes to rev. gentleman.

The Rev. H. P. Jenkins, on rising, to respond, was heartily cheered. He cordially thanked all speakers for their kind words and the members of the church for their valuable gifts. Although leaving district he hoped to be able to pay an occasional visit to Saron. Some people asked why he resigned. The answer was that the exigencies of the times were such that demand the vitality and strength of the young to cope with them. He did now wish to hinder any good movement. He preferred to step one side so that a younger person could take the work. He would always take an interest in the welfare of the church. He would give all assistance possible, and they would always have is prayers. He wished to thank to all friends inside and outside Saron for, their, kindness to him and family

Miss Phillips presented Rev. Jenkins on behalf of the North View schoolroom with a beautiful inkstand. She hoped Rev. Jenkins would send the first letter to the of North View. Rev. Jenkins thanked Miss Phillips and the children and promised to send them a letter Sunday.

Rev. John Davies, Dudley, still another of Saron's children, spoke of Rev. Jenkins' generosity to and interest in the young people of the church. Rev. Jenkins was a great believer in independence in thought and action.

Rev. Morgan Price, Abercwmboi on behalf of the ministers of the district, handed to Rev. Jenkins a book as a small token of respect, and to show their appreciation of his good work. Mr. Price also read some topical verses.

Rev. Silyn Evans, Siloa in a short and pithy address paid a high compliment to the work done by both Rev. and Mrs. Jenkins during their long stay at Aberaman. Although Rev. Jenkins was leaving the district they would find the influence of his teachings and work still in Saron and throughout Aberaman and the neighbourhood.

Mr. W. W. Price spoke a few words on behalf the Hall Committee others. Thanks to the chairman was proposed by Rev. G. W. Jones, Abercynon and seconded by Mr. J. D. Harris precentor of Saron. Mr. Powell responded. The meeting was closed in prayer by the Rev. D. G. Harris, Gwawr, Master Edward John Pugh presided at the organ during the meeting.

Tea was provided at Saron Hall. At the tables were Mrs. Llewellyn, Miss Davies, Mrs. Davies Cardiff Road; Mrs. James, Mrs. J. R. Wilson, Mrs. Rees, Mrs. A. J. Davies, Miss Ada Phillips, Mrs. Margaret Jones, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. D. J. Mitchelmore, Cutters etc., Miss Katie Davies, Mrs. Tom Evans, Mrs. Wm. Lewis, Miss Gertie Jones, Mrs. Roberts, Messrs. W. J. Phillips, Tom Evans, and D. E. Davies, Saron; Revs. J. D. Rees, (Salem) James Griffiths (Calfaria); David Evans, Moriah Aman; Mr. Jones, Bryn Sion, Cwmbach; Rev. T. Jeffreys, Abercynon; Revs. M. P. Moses and J. Jenkins, Hirwain and Rev. D. G. Harris, Gwawr (B) eulogised the services of the ladies. Mr. Thomas Maddy was the caterer.