

ANWYL, JOHN BODVAN ('Bodfan'; 1875-1949), minister (Congl.), lexicographer, and author

Name: John Bodvan Anwyl
Pseudonym: Bodfan
Date of birth: 1875
Date of death: 1949
Parent: Ellen Anwyl (née Williams)
Parent: John Anwyl
Gender: Male
Occupation: minister (Congl.), lexicographer, and author
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion; Scholarship and Languages
Author: Thomas Herbert Parry-Williams

Born 27 June 1875 in Chester, son of John Anwyl, lay preacher, of the Anwyl family of Caerwys, Flintshire, and his wife Ellen (née Williams), whose family came from Llangwnnadr, Caernarfonshire. He entered the ministry and became minister of Elim (Congl.), Carmarthen in 1899. Owing to deafness he relinquished his church to take charge of the Deaf and Dumb Institute at Pontypridd, 1904-19. In 1914 he was responsible for the sixth edition of *Spurrell's Welsh-English Dictionary*; later, 1916, he edited the seventh edition of *Spurrell's English-Welsh Dictionary*. Both ran to several further editions. He was appointed (1921) secretary of the projected Welsh dictionary sponsored by the Board of Celtic Studies of the University of Wales. On retiring from the post, he settled in Llangwnnadr, Caernarfonshire, where he died, by drowning, 23 July 1949; he was buried in Penllech, Caernarfonshire churchyard.

A younger brother of *Sir Edward Anwyl*, he contributed extensively to the Welsh press. He edited reprints of *Drych y prif oesoedd* and *Gweledigaethau y Bardd Cwsc*, was author of *Y pulpud bach* (1924), *Yr arian mawr* (1934), *Fy hanes i fy hunan* (1933), and *Englynion* (1933), and prepared translations (into Welsh) of books published by the London Missionary Society.

Author

Sir Thomas Herbert Parry-Williams, (1887)

Sources

Y Faner, 10 August 1949

Western Mail, 27 July 1949

Y Cymro, 29 July 1949

Y Llan, 12 August 1949

Y Llusern: *cylchgrawn misol at wasanaeth eglwysi ac ysgolion Sabbothol y Trefnyddion Calffinaidd*, 1949

Who was who?

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [John Bodvan Anwyl](#)

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