

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	Providence Baptist Chapel and Attached Manse, Knelston, Swansea
Grade:-	II
Date of Amendment:-	24.01.00
National Grid Reference:-	SS 4671088940
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	
CADW Reference No.:-	22792
C & C of S Reference No.:-	LB:406

Notes:-

Location:-

Narrow roadside site at north side of the A4118 in the centre of Knelston village, 4km north of Port Eynon village. Attached manse to east. Burial ground to west. Low front wall to chapel and manse with iron railings and gates.

History:-

Samuel and Hannah Williams came to Fairfield Farm, Knelston from pant Glas, Monmouthshire, in c1850 Hannah persuaded the Baptist Home Missionary Society of Glamorgan to sponsor the building of a chapel at Knelston, which was opened on the 10th of January 1858. Knelston became a centre of Baptist missionary work in Glamorgan; his successor (whose gravestone gives his dates of ministry here as 1857-65) was appointed with similar responsibility for Gower only. He held a school in the chapel. The building debt was nearly paid off by the time of Mr Evans' death in 1865. In 1872 the Rev Sylvanus Jones came to Knelston chapel which flourished until superseded by a non-denominational village school established in 1874. The 1878 OS map indicates the absence of the present porch (which stands against the north gable wall), and the presence of small annexes at front and rear, now lost, suggesting a redesign of the chapel subsequent to that date.

Exterior:-

Small chapel lying parallel to the road, with the two-storey, three-window manse in tandem to the east. Rendered walls with projecting rusticated quoins and projecting plinth, all painted white. Slate roof to chapel and porch (upvc trim to verges) with decorative crest ridge tiles. Decorative tile finial at west apex. Two pointed windows with stone Y tracery and sills in the front and rear elevations and one in the porch gable to the west; coloured margin glazing, small trefoil light in the apex of the porch. Pitched slate and four-pane sash windows to the whitewashed manse.

Interior:-

The chapel is entered by the west porch, with ledged, framed and battened double external doors. Double two-panel doors to interior. A tall, plain interior with two ranges of pews; simple pulpit at east with a curtained front and a curtain backdrop. Two-bay scissor beam roof with boarding on three purlins each side. Above the pulpit is a shield painted with the words 'Providence, Knelston, Gower, 1858'. Two small war-memorial plaques on side walls.

Listed:-

A small rural chapel and adjoining manse with special interest as a missionary centre in C19 Glamorgan and Gower.