

Progress report 5 Henry Vaughan Grave - Restoration and access project

Date: 1 March 2015

LLANSANTFFRAED CHURCH - BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK

Grave of Henry Vaughan *Ei Fedd*

1621-1695

**'Or else remove me hence unto that hill,
where I shall need no glass.'**
They are all Gone into the World of Light, Henry Vaughan

So wrote the poet Henry Vaughan about death restoring his misty vision of lost loved ones. This peaceful resting place overlooks the Usk valley and Brecon Beacons - a landscape in which Vaughan saw the hand of God at work. It is thought he chose to be buried here in order to be close to the natural world.

Generations of followers of Henry Vaughan have visited this inspiring place, including Siegfried Sassoon in 1924.

The carved slab carries the Vaughan coat of arms. Three boys have serpents around their necks, 'Innocent as boys and wise as serpents'. The small stone bearing his initials is a lintel - all that remains of his final home nearby at Sctethrog. The Latin text on the slab says:

*Henry Vaughan - Silurist Doctor of Medicine.
Died April 23 in the year of Salvation 1695. His age was 73.
This is what he wanted on his tomb:
Here I lie, a useless servant and the greatest of sinners.
Gloria! † Have mercy!*

There is more information on Henry Vaughan, inside the Church. If closed, a leaflet is available in the Church Porch. Information can also be found on the Brecknock Society's website. www.brecknocksociety.co.uk

At the Grave of Henry Vaughan

*Above the voiceful windings of a river
An old green slab of simply graven stone
Shuns notice, overshadowed by a yew.
Here Vaughan lies dead, whose name flows
on for ever
Through pastures of the spirit washed with dew
And starlit with eternities unknown.
Here sleeps the Silurist; the loved physician;
The face that left no portraiture behind;
The skull that housed white angels and had
visions
Of daybreak through the gateways of the mind.
Here faith and mercy, wisdom and humility
(Whose influence shall prevail for evermore)
Shine. And this lovely grave tells Heaven's
tranquility.
And here stand I, a suppliant at the door.*
Siegfried Sassoon

**'Neu fy nghludo ymaith i'r bryn hwnnw,
lle na fydd arnaf angen drych.'**
Hey all a Arhant i Fyd Goleuni, Henry Vaughan

Dyna gyfieithiad o eiriau'r bardd Henry Vaughan am y gobaith y byddai marwolaeth yn rhoi golwg glir iddo unwaith eto ar annwyliaid a golwyd. O'i orffwysfa heddychlon, ceir golygfeydd hardd o ddyffryn Wysg a Bannau Brycheiniog - tirwedd lle gwelai Vaughan law Duw ar waith. Credir iddo ddewis cael ei gladdu yma er mwyn bod yn agos at y cread.

Mae cenedlaethau o ddiynwyr Henry Vaughan, yn cynnwys Siegfried Sassoon yn 1924, wedi ymweld â'r lle ac wedi'u hysbrydoli ganddo.

Mae arbaith y teulu Vaughan ar y garreg fedd gerfiedig. Gwelir tri bachgen â seirff o gwmpas eu gyddfau, 'Mor ddiiniwed â bechgyn ac mor ddoeth â seirff'. Capan yw'r garreg fechan a llythrennau ei enw arni - y cyfan sydd ar ôl o'i gartref olaf yn Sgethrog gerllaw. Mae'r geiriau Lladin ar y llech yn dweud:

*Henry Vaughan - Siluridd Meddyg. Bu farw ar Ebrill 23
ym mhwyaldyn Iachawdwriaeth 1695. Roedd yn 73 oed.
Dyma'r heddwgraff a ddymanai:
Yma y gorweddaf; gwaw anffidol a'r pennaf o bechaduriaid.
Gogoniant! † Bydd drugarog!*

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth am Henry Vaughan yn yr Eglwys. Os bydd ar gau, cechw daflen yn Mhorth yr Eglwys. Ceir gwybodaeth hefyd ar wefan Cymdeithas Brycheiniog. www.brecknocksociety.co.uk

The Usk valley with its mountain backdrop where Henry Vaughan lived and worked.

Dyffryn Wysg a'r mynyddoedd yn y cefndir - lle'r oedd Henry Vaughan yn byw ac yn gweithio.

The slab bears the marks of age and the harsh Beacons environment. The original grave structure was restored in the 19th century. Further restoration work in 2014 was undertaken in order to facilitate access to the grave, under the initiative of the Brecknock Society & Museum Friends, supported by the Brecon Beacons Trust, Vaughan Association, Llansantffraed Church and individual donors from near and far.

Mae'r garreg fedd wedi'i dirywio gan oed a hinsawdd garw'r Bannau. Cafodd y bedd gwreiddiol ei adnewyddu yn y bodwaredi ganrif ar bymtheg. Gwnaed rhagor o waith adfer yn 2014 er hwylysu'r mynyddiaid at y bedd fel rhan o gynllun gan Cymdeithas Brycheiniog a Chyfeillion yr Amgueddfa, gyda chymorth Ymddiriedolaeth Bannau Brycheiniog, y Vaughan Association, Eglwys Llansantffraed a chyfranwyr unigol o bell ac agos.

EGLWYS LLANSANTFFRAID - PARC CENEDLAETHOL BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG

Information Board located adjacent to the paved grave area The design matches the signage on the nearby Henry Vaughan walk and displays information about the grave, including an explanation of the inscription and Siegfried Sassoon's famous poem.

Location of proposed Vaughan Corner at the rear of the Church. This will display and sell material about the life and achievements of Henry Vaughan and his brother Thomas and about their Llansantffraed environment.

The space is now clear of pews which were moved to replace others in the nave that were affected by the damp and rotting wooden floor. The floor has been restored under the HLF-funded floor restoration project.

