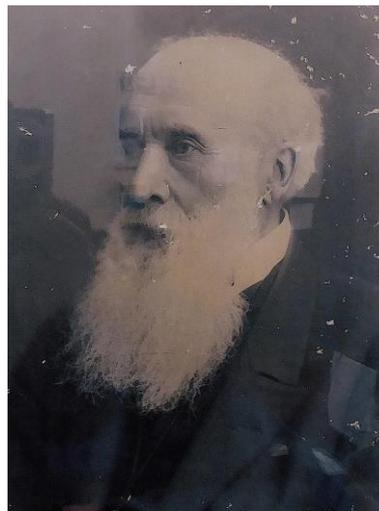


GRAVE NO: E148
GRIFFITHS, Arthur



Inscription:
ARTHUR GRIFFITHS
50 years
Rector of this parish
Who faithfully proclaimed
the gospel of Christ
And fell asleep
Sept 28th 1900
*'I shall be satisfied when
I awake with thy likeness.'*



Arthur Griffiths was baptised on 24 July 1825 in Henfynyw Parish, Cardiganshire, near Aberaeron, the son of Thomas Griffiths, a farmer and his wife Mary. By 1841 he was living in St Mary's Parish, Cardiganshire, aged fifteen, likely in the company of his brother John.

By 1851, at the age of twenty-five, Arthur had entered the Church and was serving as an unmarried curate in Llanelly Parish, residing at Maesygartha. Ten years later, on 21 June 1860, he married Emma Sealy Lawrence at St Paul's Church, Southsea, Portsmouth. Emma was the youngest daughter of the late Captain Lawrence, Paymaster of the Royal Marines at Portsmouth.

In 1861 the couple were living at Dan y Graig House, Llanelly, where Arthur was still recorded as a curate. Over the following decade he became Rector of Llanelly, a position he would hold for fifty years. By 1871 the family were living near Church Farm, and by 1881 at The Rectory, Maesygartha.

Arthur and Emma raised a large family in Llanelly. Their children included Mary Janette (Mary Jane), Frances Anne Susanna, Alban Lawrence, Arthur Lancelot Edward, and Ellen. Census returns show a busy household supported by servants and nursemaids, reflecting both the demands of parish life and the expectations of a Victorian rectory.

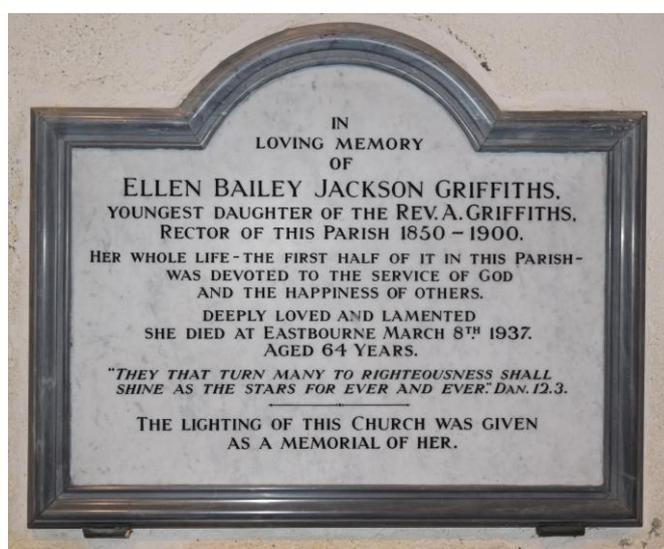
The 1891 census records Arthur, aged sixty-five, still serving as rector, with Emma and their daughter Mary at The Rectory. His long ministry ended in 1900. The parish burial record of St Elli Church notes his death in October 1900 at Maesygartha, aged seventy-five. He was buried on 2 October, the service conducted by his son-in-law, Henry Martin, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Derby. His grave, marked by its simple yet expressive inscription, stands as a testament to fifty years of dedication to his parish and community.

Probate was granted at Hereford in March 1901 to his son Alban Lawrence Griffiths, schoolmaster.

Emma Sealy Griffiths was widowed in 1900 and by the 1901 census was living at the Holy Trinity Vicarage in Derby with her married daughter Frances and son-in-law Henry Martin, together with other children and servants. She died in 1904 at Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire, aged seventy-one, and was brought back to Llanelly for burial. Her funeral was officiated by her son-in-law.

Arthur's children maintained strong clerical and educational traditions. Alban Lawrence Griffiths matriculated at Jesus College, Oxford, in 1885 and later established a private school in Sheffield, assisted by his sister Ellen Bailey Jackson Griffiths. Alban eventually retired to Eastbourne and died in 1942. Frances Anne Sealy married the Rev. Henry Martin Waddelow Martin in 1891 at Llanelly Church; they had four children and later served in Suffolk. Arthur Lancelot Edward Griffiths also entered the clergy, studying at Cambridge and becoming the first vicar of Broadheath, Worcestershire, where he ministered for twelve years before his death in 1914, aged forty-five.

A memorial plaque to Ellen Bailey Jackson Griffiths may still be seen within St Elli Church, Gilwern and stating that the lighting of the church was given as a memorial of her.



SOURCES:

1825 BIRTH RECORD Cardiganshire FHL film 105144 Page 105 Henfynyw Parish Records [near Aberaeron] 24th July Arthur Griffiths baptised. Parents Thomas a farmer at Dolygwarthy and Mary.

1841 Census of Wales living in St Mary's Parish Cardiganshire.

Arthur Griffiths aged 15 with John Griffiths 20, probably his brother.

1851 Census of Wales living in Maesygartha, Llanelly.

Arthur Griffiths aged 25 unmarried curate of Llanelly Parish with two servants Harriet Jones, 63, a widow of Swansea and Emma Jones, 23, of Llanelly.

1860 MARRIAGE RECORD Portsea Island, Hampshire Apr May June Vol 2b Page 697.

On the 21st June at St Pauls Church Southsea, Portsmouth, the Rev Arthur Griffiths, Rector of Llanelly, Breconshire married Emma Sealy Lawrence youngest daughter of the late Captain Lawrence, paymaster of the Royal Marines Portsmouth.

1861 Census of Wales living at Dan y Graig House, Llanelly.

Arthur Griffiths aged 35, a curate with wife Emma 29 born in Southsea, Hampshire with Catherine Passmore, 22, unmarried of Weston, Somerset and errand boy Charles Dendy, 14, of Llanelly.

1871 Census of Wales living near Church Farm, Llanelly.

Arthur Griffiths aged 45. a rector with wife Emma 38 and daughters Mary Janette 7 and Frances Anne Susanna 5 and sons Alban Lawrence 5 and Arthur Lancelot Edward aged 1 years all born in Llanelly. Also present Ann Hammonds 18 a general servant 18 of Llanelly and Mary Ann Jervis 21 a nursemaid of Tredegar.

1881 Census of Wales living at The Rectory, Maesygartha, Llanelly.

Arthur Griffiths aged 55 years, rector with wife Emma 48 with daughters Mary J 19, Frances 17 and Ellen 9 at school and sons Alban 15 and Arthur 11 both at school. Also present Catherine Vaughan 16 a housemaid of Llanelly.

1891 Census of Wales living at The Rectory, Maesygartha, Llanelly.

Arthur Griffiths 65, rector with wife Emma 58 and daughter Mary aged 29 years and Miriam Aubrey 16 a domestic servant of Monmouthshire.

1900 DEATH RECORD St Elli [Llanelly Parish Records]

October death of Arthur Griffiths, Rector, Maesygartha aged 75 years and buried on the 2nd. Officiated by Henry Martin [son in law] vicar of Holy Trinity Derby.

Probate was granted 6th March 1901 at Hereford to Alban Lawrence Griffiths, schoolmaster to the sum of £1560 10s and 9d.

1901 Census of England living at the Holy Trinity Vicarage, London Road, Derby.

Emma Sealy Griffiths aged 68 years a widow with daughters **Ellen [Bailey Jackson Griffiths]** a sick nurse, 29 and Mary Jane 39 both single living with Son in Law Henry Martin 39, Church of England Clergyman and wife Frances Anne Sealy [Griffiths] and their children. There are 4 servants including Mary Emma Griffiths 17 of Gilwern.