

Mapping Potential Territories

Proposal.

Site Overview:

Carmel Chapel is an old chapel built around the 1850's at the end of Carmel Road, the road which I live on. The fact that I have not been in there in my whole life interests me, along with its long history and multiple rebuilds. The chapel is still in use today for functions and services but from what I have seen there are not many people from the younger generation that still frequent the Chapel. The Chapel is open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, but I am friends with the Vikar and may be able to access the Chapel at request.

Site Research:

Full name, Carmel Chapel Pentredwr is a Christian Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel. This means that a majority of the happenings at the church are done in the Welsh language or are bilingual. The Chapel also holds war memorial plaques from Ebenezer Chapel, (another Chapel in Llansamlet) which was sold for demolition. Due to the opening times and lack of community interest I have not been able to interview any members of the Chapel, but due to the lack of community around the Chapel I feel that this Chapel is verging on a forgotten building, hanging on threads to stay in use and relevant.

Themes and Contexts:

An idea that I had from the history of the place was to take photographs using a medium from around the time when the chapel was built, as an homage to the perception people would have of the Chapel. Another would be to bring life back to the chapel. When I went to the Chapel, I got a feeling of loneliness and in comparison, to other holy places I didn't feel the same atmosphere, I suggest placing lights around the outside of the chapel and projecting the colours of stained glass into the room, filling it with colour and vibrance. This could also be an idea for a community event.

Photographic Evidence:

I have not been able to get access to the inside of the chapel as of now, but I have instead documented the outside of the Chapel. As you will see in the photos I have attached below, it is not inviting, multiple signs warning people of CCTV and alarmed doors, padlock on the main door and unkempt grass surrounding Graves. There are nice, stained windows and signs on the outside advertising services and their Facebook for information, but the looks of the Chapel, sadly, can be very off-putting.

Photographs of the Chapel grounds:

