

UNION & ANNEXATION ~ CYFEDDIANT

The Tudors left their mark on Wrexham. Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry Tudor, sponsored the building of a new chancel and tower to St Giles's Parish church. Henry VII abolished the restrictive rules on the Welsh people introduced after the Glyndŵr uprising and curtailed the Marcher lords.

Henry VIII's 'Acts of Union' effectively absorbed Wales's Marcher lordships into the kingdom of England. Welsh people locally could once again hold official jobs, as long as they spoke English. Ambitious members of the Welsh gentry gave their allegiance to the Crown. Some local gentry contributed to the community: William Myddelton (1556 – 1621) translated the Psalms into Welsh, while in the early 17th century Valentine Broughton and Thomas Nevitt founded, respectively, Wrexham and Ruabon grammar schools.

The Reformation transformed daily life as the Crown imposed a new religion on its people. During the reign of Henry VIII, Valle Crucis abbey was dissolved and its estates sold off. Religious persecution was state policy under Mary Tudor and Elizabeth I. In 1584 Richard Gwyn, a Catholic convert, was imprisoned in the Black Chamber next to Wrexham Town Hall. He was taken to near the Beast Market and hung, drawn and quartered for his faith.

The Martyrdom of Richard Gwyn, image from stiptych in Our Lady and The Welsh Martyrs' church, Overton.
Martyrthod Richard Gwyn, llyn a driptych yn Eglwys Ein Boneddig a'n Menthynion Cymreig, Overton.

Gadawodd y Tuduriaid eu marc ar Wrecsam. Rhoddodd Margaret Beaufort, mam Harri Tudur, nawdd i adeiladu cangeli a thŵr newydd i eglwys plwyf San Silyn. Cafodd y rheolau caeth a gyflwynwyd i'r Cymry ar ôl gwrthryfel Glyndŵr eu diddymu gan Harri VII ac fe gwtogwyd ar argwyddi'r gororau.

O ganlyniad i 'Ddeddfau Uno' Harri VIII, amsugwyd arglwyddiaethau Gororau Cymru i frenhiniaeth Lloegr. Gallai'r Cymry lleol unwaith eto gael swyddi swyddogol, cyn belled a'u bod yn siarad Saesneg. Rhoddodd aelodau uchelgeisiol o'r Cymry bonedd eu teyrngarwch i'r Goron. Cyfrannodd rhai boneddigion lleol i'r gymuned: cyfieithodd William Myddelton (1556 – 1621) y salmau i'r Gymraeg, ac ar ddechrau'r 17eg ganrif sefydlodd Valentine Broughton a Thomas Nevitt ysgolion gramadeg Wrecsam a Rhiwabon yn y dref honno.

Cafodd bywydau pob dydd eu trawsffurfio gan y diwygiad wrth i'r Goron orfodi crefydd newydd ar ei phobl. Yn ystod teyrnasiad Harri VIII, diddymwyd abaty Glyn y Groes ac fe werthwyd ei ystadau. Roedd erlyniad crefyddol yn bolisi gwladol o dan Mari Tudur ac Elizabeth I. Yn 1584 carcharwyd Richard Gwyn, a drodd at y greffydd Babyddol, yn y Siambwr Ddu ger Neuaidd y Dref yn Wrecsam. Aethpwyd ag ef i'r Beast Market gerllaw i'w grogi, ei ddiberfeddu a'i chwarteru oherwydd ei fydd grelyddol.

Stained glass window, c. 1500, Greatford Parish church.
Ffenestr wydr llw, tua 1500, Eglwys y Plwyf Gwelfordd



W. Hooper and C. Hooper, The Martyrdom of Richard Gwyn, c. 1584.
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