

# John Price



**M**ae'n debyg y ganwyd John Price mewn bwthyn bychan ar draws yr afon i Tŷ Celyn, Pandy Tudur yn 1825, yn fab i Rhys a Catherine Price. Bu farw ei dad pan oedd John yn 9 oed ac aberthodd ei fam lawer i gadw ef a'i frawd yn ysgol Llangernyw. Gadawodd yr ysgol yn 12 oed ac aeth i weithio fel hwsmon ar ffermydd y Pandy. Parhâi i addysgu gyda'r nos, a benthycai llawer o lyfrau.

Yn 1845, codwyd ysgol Frytanaidd yn y Pandy, ac yn 1850 cynigwyd swydd athro i John Price. Cytunodd yn y diwedd gan gymryd y gwaith ar brawf am dymor. Cafodd ychydig ddyddiau o hyfforddiant yn Ysgol Frytanaidd Lerpwl cyn dechrau.

Un diwrnod, galwodd Col. Sandbach, Hafodunos, gydag Arolygydd Ysgolion, Mathew Arnold, yn ddirybudd. Gobeithiai Sandbach y buasai'r "gŵr mawr" yn tynnu'r "gwas ffarm" yn gareiau, ond yn hytrach fe blesiwyd Arnold gan John Price. Awgrymodd y dylai fynd i goleg ac addawodd Sandbach dalu ei holl gostau ar yr amod ei fod yn mynd i goleg eglwysig, a dysgu mewn ysgol eglwys wedyn. Gwrthododd John Price hyn, ac aeth i Goleg Borough Road, Llundain, gan orffen mewn blwyddyn efo Tystysgrif Gradd Gyntaf.

Dychwelodd i Bandy Tudur fel ysgolfeistr, a'i gyflog dechreuol oedd £45 y flwyddyn (£50 yn ôl cofnod arall). Addawyd talu ei gyflog yn chwarterol, ond anaml y câi ei dalu.

Deuai llawer o bell i ysgol y Pandy, a chaent lety yng nghartrefi'r fro. Bu (Syr) Henry Jones a'r Parch R. Dewi Williams yn ddisgyblion iddo. Cynhaliai John Price Ysgol Nos lwyddiannus i drigolion lleol, ynghyd â dysgu Sol-ffa i blant yr ardal.

Bu'n flaenor, yn cadw cofnodion yr eglwys tan ei farwolaeth, ac yn codi canu am dros 30 mlynedd. Bu farw'n Rhagfyr 1892, yn 67 oed. Claddwyd ef ym mynwent y capel a chodwyd cofgolofn hardd iddo gan ardalwyr y Pandy er parch iddo. Ysgrifennwyd ar y gofgolofn:

*Efe a roddodd yn ei galon ef ddysgu eraill.' Exodus 35.34*

**J**ohn Price was probably born in a small cottage across the river to Tŷ Celyn, Pandy Tudur in 1825, son of Rhys and Catherine Price. His father died when John was 9 years old and his mother sacrificed much to keep him and his brother in Llangernyw school. He left school at 12 and went to work as a farmhand around Pandy. He continued to learn at night, and borrowed many books.

In 1845, the school was built in Pandy Tudur, and John was offered a teaching position in 1850. He eventually agreed to take the role for a term. He started after receiving a few days of training at the British School in Liverpool.

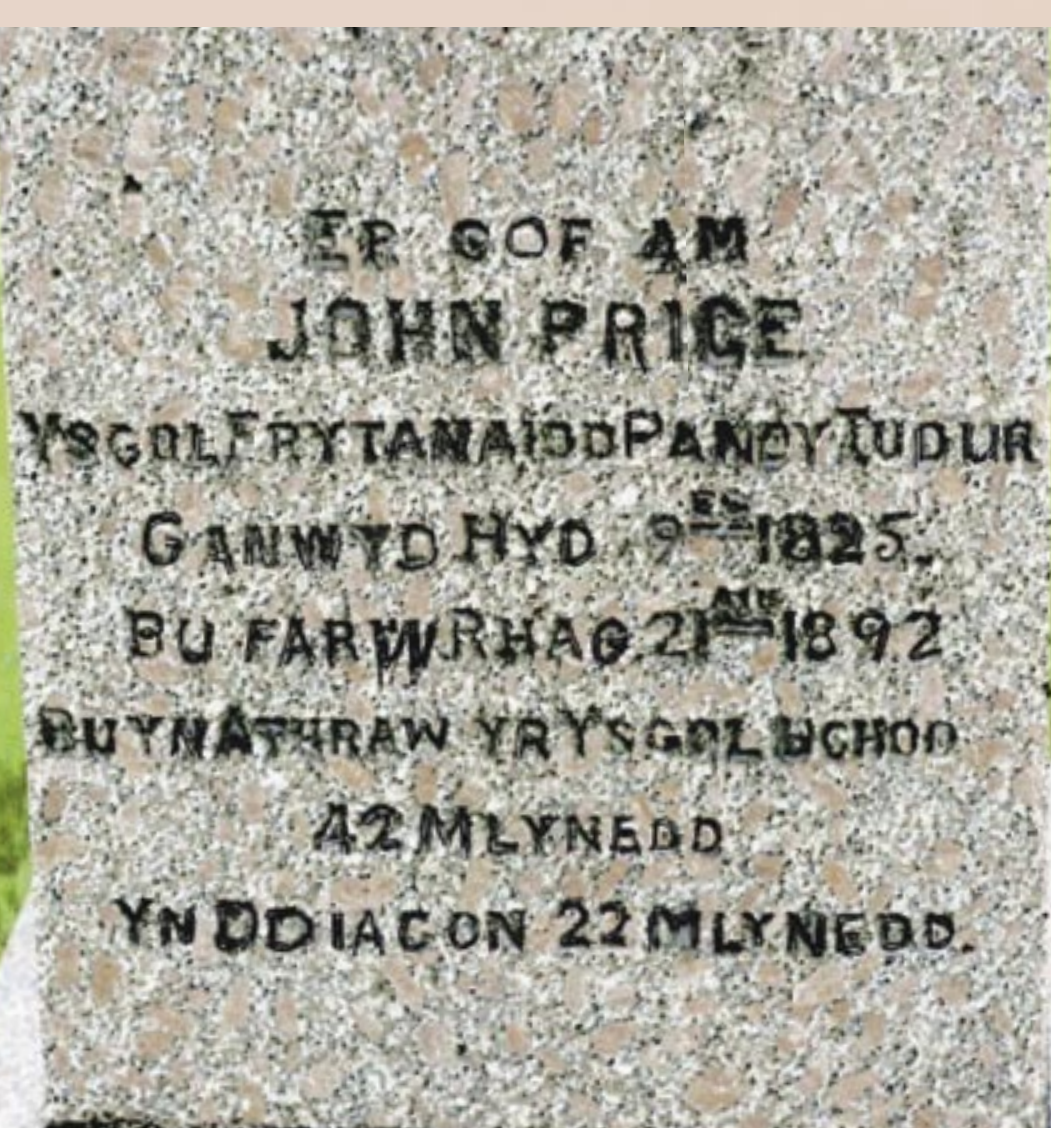
One day, without notice, Col. Sandbach, Hafodunos, visited with an Inspector of Schools, Matthew Arnold. Sandbach hoped that the "great man" would bring the "farmhand" to tatters, but Arnold was pleased with John Price. He suggested that he should go to college, and Sandbach promised to cover all his costs on the condition that he went to church college, and to teach in a church school thereafter. John Price refused this, and went to Borough Road College, London; finishing in a year with First Degree Certificate.

He returned to Pandy Tudur as a schoolmaster, and his initial salary was £45 a year (£50 according to other records). Although promised that his salary would be paid on a quarterly basis, it was rarely paid.

Many came from distance to Pandy school, staying with local families. (Sir) Henry Jones and the Rev. R. Dewi Williams were amongst his pupils. John Price also held successful evening classes for local residents, and taught Sol-fa to local children.

He was a deacon, kept the church records until his death, and was hymn leader for over 30 years. He died in December 1892, aged 67. He was buried at the chapel, and as a mark of respect by local residents, a beautiful monument was erected in his remembrance. Written on the monument is the following verse:

*'He put in his heart that he may teach others.' Exodus 35.34*



Hefyd englyn o waith Hywel Tudur:  
Llyw moliant, a thant, a thwr – i'r eglwys  
Fu'r hyglod ddysgawdwr;  
I bob da bu gynta gwr,  
A nesaf gymwynaswr.