



Mary Jones and her Bible

This suspended ceramic sculpture was first made in 2007 for the National Eisteddfod's "Maes D". It took approximately 350 man-hours to construct.

Mary Jones was born in Llanfihangel Y Pennant, a small hamlet in Mid-West Wales in 1784. She lived until she was 80 years of age but it was her determination and experience as an adolescent that made her a source of much inspiration.

Barefoot, she walked 26 miles **from her home to Bala** to buy a Welsh Language Bible. She was a catalyst for the formation of the Bible Society.

The teenage Mary Jones is walking, reading a Welsh language Bible opened at Genesis 1:1 and her clothing flows from her youthful step. Her textured costume represents a knitted top, with a light cord gathered through the neckline, a rugged, loosely woven skirt and a tidily stitched apron. The apron has a tidily sewn hem, a Celtic cross and a belt fabric in the style of Celtic knot work. A handkerchief sits loosely in her apron pocket and the apron ribbon flows behind her

The Dove of Peace has taken flight, scattered from her energetic path.

Her skin is white to represent the purity of her intentions and her youth. Her feet are bare.

Her arms and legs are abstracted to scrolls upon which all of the Welsh Language Bible chapters are inscribed.

The daffodils represent her native country of Wales; they are the National Flower of Wales. More than a dozen daffodils were made. It is interesting to note that looking down onto a daffodil, the leaves curl about the stalk in a clockwise direction.

The circular base is inscribed with Llanfihangel Y Pennant about its perimeter and Y Bala at its core. This represents her return route of 52 miles. A circle of 271 geometrically shaped tiles was used to represent her circular or returned route. The colour of tiles and grout represents the local slate.

The name of the sculpture is suspended from the sculpture's canopy in English. The lettering was derived from considering The Book of Kells and each letter is supported by a Cross. The lettering reflects the historic calligraphy in a light adaptation of the "Lucida Blackletter" font. More than 70 letters were readied for the sculpture.

The artist currently lives in a small town in West Wales between Y Bala and Llanfihangel-Y-Pennant.

Today it is possible to walk the path she is believed to have taken.