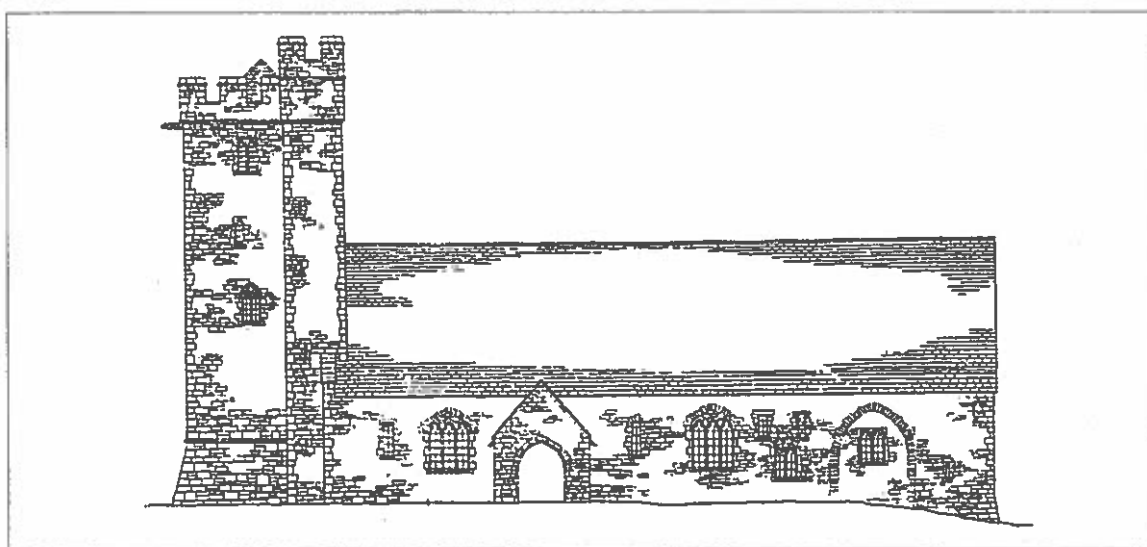


THE WELSH HISTORIC
CHURCHES PROJECT



01/10/98

CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)
CHURCHES, 1997-8
(DAT 48)



Llanfair ar-y-bryn, Carmarthenshire

Reports prepared for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

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THE WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR) CHURCHES, 1997-8 (DAT 48)

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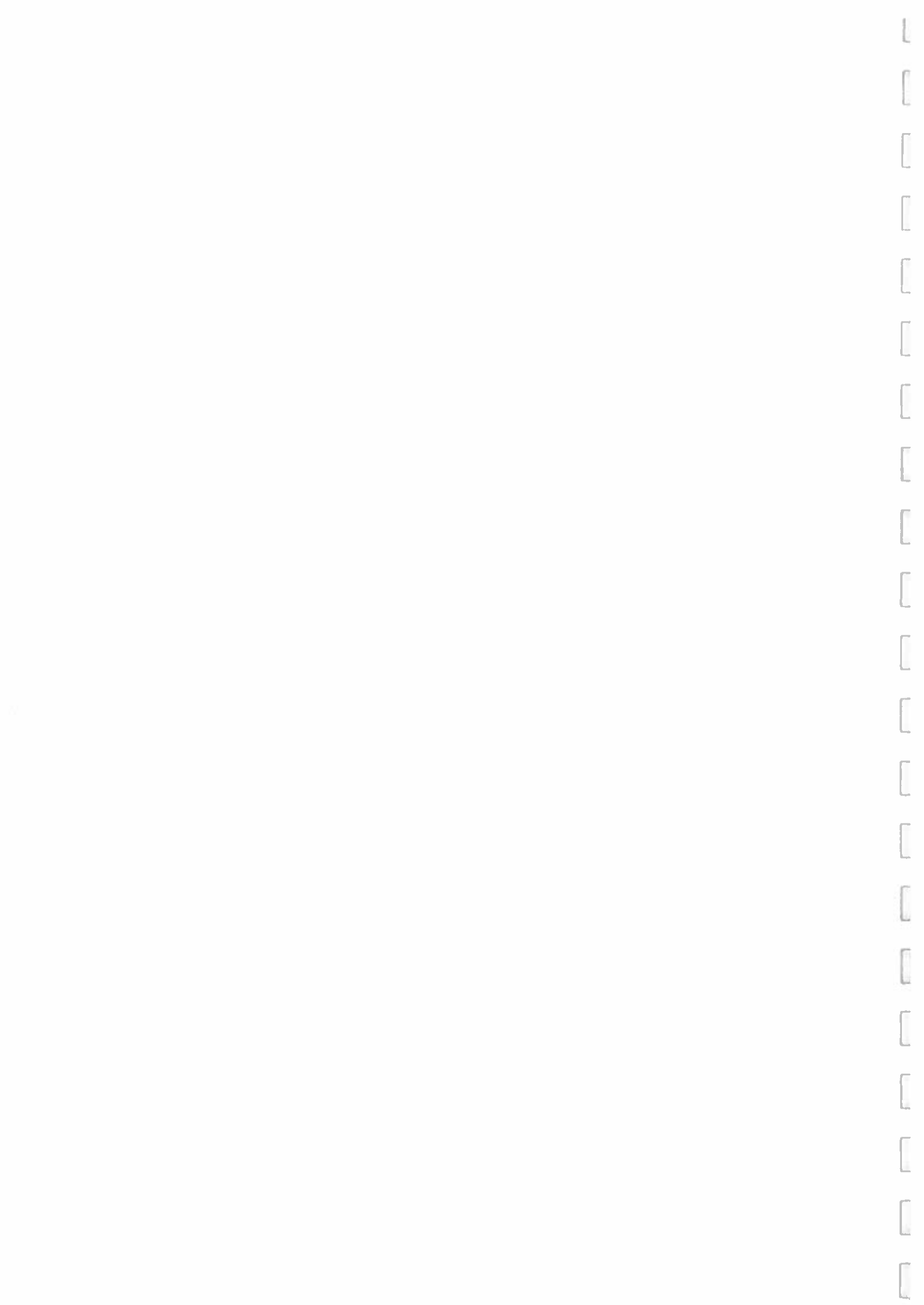
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**ST DAVID,
ABERGORLECH,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 1195

RB No. 3034

NGR SN 5850 3367

Not listed (1998)

*Listed Building Grade 2
15636*

SUMMARY

19th century church; 2% pre-19th century core fabric.

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 eastern bays; early 19th century on pre-19th century footings. Vestry (north), 1 bay, 1885 and earlier 20th century. Nave west bay; south porch; 1906. Construction is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble; remains of early 19th century external render; some brick in the vestry. Slate gable roofs; vestry with a slate lean-to roof. All openings from 1885 and 1906, neo-Gothic, with yellow oolite dressings; there is a western single bellcote, 1906.

Roofs and floors, 1885 and 1906. Finishes, early 19th century - 1906.

Condition - good. Vestry ivied.

Archaeological potential - very good. Deep, wide external cutting around 80% of church, primary; suspended floors over a void in 70% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 2% pre-19th century core fabric.

Group value - low-medium. 19th century church in medieval churchyard; central village location, on valley floor; churchyard cross-base?; adjacent good masonry buildings.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave (and chancel?) footings, pre-19th century.

Phase 2 - Chancel, nave east bays, early 19th century.

Phase 3 - Restored 1885, high impact; vestry built.

Phase 4 - Nave west bay, south porch, 1906.

Phase 5 - Vestry extended, earlier 20th century.

DESCRIPTION

ST DAVID ABERGORLECH

St Mary–Pencader, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It was almost entirely rebuilt in the early 19th century on the same site, and in the same location as the earlier church, retaining only the footings. It was restored in 1885 and extended west in 1906.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a south porch and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in random limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone; there is some brick in the vestry. The chancel and the 3 nave eastern bays are probably from the earlier 19th century and exhibit the remains of contemporary external render. Repointing is largely from 1885 and ribboned. Openings are neo-Gothic; the windows are mainly cusped, single lancets with dripmoulds, in yellow oolite, from 1885 and 1906. The nave west wall carries a gabled, shouldered, single bellcote, from 1906. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof. The floors are suspended.

The 3 nave eastern bays, and possibly the chancel, were built upon the truncated remains of the earlier, ?medieval church; the nave south wall can be seen to lie on a battered base in very random rubble, clearly distinct from the rest of the walling and featuring a very large basal stone at the south-east corner, and a few courses of similar rubble lie beneath the chancel south wall.

The church was restored (not rebuilt) in 1885, to the designs of the architect E. H. Lingen Barker (Evans, 1917, 7; Yates, 1974, 69). The vestry was added. The church was refenestrated (with infill), reroofed and refloored. The interior, with its 3 brass hanging lamps, has been called a successful late 19th century 'period piece' (Yates, op. cit., 68). The church was probably entered through a west door.

The nave west bay (with the bellcote) and the south porch were not added until 1906 (NLW, SD/F/6) which dates at least some of the internal fittings (see above). Fabric and detail are in an identical style to the 1885 work but the joint between the two can be seen; the nave extension side walls feature copies of the 1885 windows and there is a 'rose' widow in the west wall.

The vestry was extended westwards in brick, including a doorway to the churchyard, after 1906 but during the earlier 20th century.

The font is modern.

A deep, wide external cutting, primary, secondarily extended, runs along the north, south and west walls. Floors are suspended over a void in the nave and vestry.

The church was not listed in 1998.

A crude limestone shaft immediately south of the church may represent a cross-base.

SITE HISTORY

There is no evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site.

St David, Abergorlech, was a chapelry to Llanybydder parish during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen.

In 1833 the living, a perpetual curacy of Llanybydder parish, in the patronage of the Vicar of Llanybydder, was endowed with £1000 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St David, Abergorlech, was a chapelry recently separated from Llanybydder parish. The living was a vicarage, held with Brechfa and Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (Benefice no. 569) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

It has been suggested (Yates, 1973, 58) that Abergorlech is a late medieval foundation, on the basis of a perceived post-conquest 'David' dedication. However, the dedication is given as 'St Mary' on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 first edition of 1888; by 1906 the dedication was to St David (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 second edition).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

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NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, XXV.2.

NLW, Parish of Llanybydder, 1840.

Rees, W., 1932, South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century.

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(CPR/19 - Abergorlech)

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**ST DAVID,
BETWS,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 4872

RB No. 2637

NGR SN 6316 1168

Listed Building No. 11166

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 60% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south porch; medieval. Vestry (north), 1 bay, 1872. Roughcast internally. Slate gable roofs. Medieval west and south doors, south porch door, and piscina, with limestone dressings. Gabled simple bellcote at west end, 1696?. Other openings from 1872, with grey oolite dressings. External buttressing throughout, 1872. (17th century roof timbers?).

Roofs and floors: 1872 (roofs re-using earlier timbers?). Finishes: 1872 - 1951.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Adjacent churchyard truncated around 100% of church, exposing footings in 5% of church; external concrete in slight cutting around 100% of church; suspended floor over heating flues in 50% of church; burial vault beneath 5% of church; few external memorials lie significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 60% medieval core fabric; medieval doors and piscina; 17th century bellcote?.

Group value - low. Medieval church; urban amenity value.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave (and chancel?), c.1300.

Phase 2 - South porch, C14.

Phase 3 - Restored 1872, high impact; vestry built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St David, Betws, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 60% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a south porch and a single-bayed transeptal vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in local rubble. There are medieval dressings, in limestone, in the porch; most dressings are in grey oolite from 1872. The exterior was buttressed throughout in 1872. Pointing is mainly from 1872 with some repointing from 1951. The interior is roughcast, later 20th century. Roofs are slated gables.

The chancel east wall has coped, cross-buttresses at the corners, from 1872; a similar buttress on the south wall defines the bays. The cusped 2-light east window is entirely from 1872, and has a 2-centred surround with a dripmould, and simple Geometric tracery. There are double lancet windows in both side walls, also from 1872; beneath the eastern of the 2 southern windows is a small, plain semicircular-headed piscina, medieval. The west bay north wall features the vestry door, which has a 2-centred surround from 1872; to the west the wall was removed when the keyboard for the present organ was inserted c.1900. There is no chancel arch, the chancel being entirely open to the nave. The softwood roof has collar-rafter trusses, cusped, from 1872, matchboarded above. The passage is tiled over former heating ducts, with suspended board floors, from 1872.

The nave, however, is wider than the chancel; the area between the north-east corner and the vestry west wall was infilled flush in 1872. The side walls are buttressed externally as the chancel, from 1872. The side walls have windows like those in the chancel side walls, from 1872 and including surrounding infill, but those at the east and west ends of the south wall are single lancets. The south door has a 2-centred, roll-moulded limestone surround, from c.1300. The west wall has medieval buttresses at either end, and is pierced by a doorway with a chamfered segmental surround of 15th century style. Above the door is a plain, circular window inserted in 1872. The simple, single gabled bellcote is given a date of 1696 on a plaque within the church, but may be from 1821 (see below). The roof has oak collar-rafter trusses, cusped and crocketed, re-used in 1872, 1814-16, or earlier? (see below), with softwood purlins and rafters from 1872. The passages are fully carpeted, with suspended board floors, from 1872; a burial vault lies beneath the west end.

The south porch exhibits low, medieval clasping buttresses at the corners. The door has a plain 2-centred arch, from the 14th century?. The roof has oak trusses like those in the nave, 17th century?, softwood above from 1872. The floor is quarry-tiled directly on the substrate, from 1872.

The transeptal vestry was added in 1872. It is entered through the east wall via a contemporary 2-centred doorway, and lit by a double lancet, with a circular light above. There is a recess for a boiler, from c.1950, in the west wall. The softwood, collar-rafter roof is from 1872. The floor is quarry-tiled, from 1872.

The surrounding area of churchyard was truncated in 1872, exposing footings of part of nave north wall; an external concrete plinth from 1872 all round the church occupies a slight cutting. The floor is suspended over heating flues in the nave. A burial vault lies beneath the nave west bay. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the east and south walls.

Structural development

The nave south door is from c.1300. The chancel may or may not be contemporary; there is no chancel arch. The south porch may have been added during the 14th century.

Elements of the nave and porch roofs may be 17th century, and the bellcote has been dated to 1696. The church was 'a little out of repair' in 1684 (Evans, 1915, 93).

The church was reroofed, using 'oak rafters', in 1814-6 (Carms. R. O., CPR/54/25); notches in the timbers demonstrate the former presence of a ceiling (Cadw, 1997, 1). The west wall may have been partly rebuilt in 1821, when a mason was employed to 'make the west pine end' (ibid).

The pre-restoration church is depicted in a plan of 1872 (NLW, SD/F/34). It comprised the present chancel, nave and south porch, all unbuttressed and lacking a chancel arch. The west door was open, there was a 'priest's door' in the south wall of the chancel, and a third doorway high in the west end of the nave north wall, with an external staircase, led into the gallery. The chancel was lit by single light windows, with timber frames?; there was an east window, 2 windows in the south wall and one in the north wall. Three similar windows lit the nave south wall, while of the 2 windows in the north wall, the western one, adjacent to the pulpit, was larger, later?. Most windows occupied their present locations, but their openings have been entirely rebuilt. The floor was flagged.

The church was restored in 1872. Yates gives the architect as R. Kyrke Penson (Yates, 1974, 67), but the Faculty plans were drawn up by a local architect, John Harries of Llandeilo (NLW, SD/F/34). The vestry was built. The church was refenestrated, the 'priest's door' was blocked and the gallery door similarly blocked and its stairway removed. The exterior received its buttressing. The church was reroofed, re-using some of the existing timbers, and refloored. The gallery was removed. Internal plaster was stripped, and the church was replastered and repointed.

An organ was inserted into the chancel west bay in c.1900 and the dividing wall between the chancel and vestry was removed; it had previously featured a recess for a stove (ibid.). The present low-pressure heating plant had been installed in the vestry by 1950 (Carms. R. O., CPR/54/30).

The west end was raked out and repointed in 1951 (Carms. R. O., CPR/54/30). The interior was roughcast in the later 20th century.

The softwood stalls and pews are from 1872 (NLW, SD/F/34). The large, galleried organ is from c.1900. The oak-panelled reredos, dado and the oak altar rail are from the 1960s, and the pulpit is dated 1963.

The oolite, moulded font is modern, 1872?.

A small, circular stoup bowl, said to have been unearthed from the churchyard (RCAHM, 1917, 10), has been remounted in the porch.

The single bell is dated 1993.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

**ST TEILO,
BRECHFA,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 20697

RB No. 3036

NGR SN 5246 3025

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On general site of, but not in same location as, medieval church (PRN 4762).

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north porch; vestry (south), 1 bay; all new built in 1893. Construction is in squared local rubble throughout. Slate gable roofs; vestry with a slate lean-to roof. All openings are 1893, neo-gothic, in yellow oolite. Limited external buttressing, 1893. Western triple bellcote, 1893.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1893.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Not in location of earlier church; below-ground evidence for earlier church; deep external cutting around 15% of church; no external drain; suspended floors over a void.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre 1893 core fabric.

Group value - low-medium. C19 village church in central location; associated C20 church hall; C20 lych-gate.

Phasing:
All 1893.

DESCRIPTION

St Teilo, Brechfa, is a 3-celled church of small size. It was new built in 1893, immediately west of its predecessor (PRN 4762). Nothing was retained from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a north porch and a single-bayed vestry south of the chancel east bay. Construction is in roughly squared and coursed local rubble throughout. Openings are neo-Gothic, including lancet windows with yellow oolite dressings all from 1893. There is limited external buttressing. The large, gabled western bellcote, from 1893, has 3 openings, each with a bell. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof.

The earlier church was a 'typical' simple upland church of South-west Wales. It was described as 'small and simple' in 1796 (Anon., 1921, 20), and as a 'small, plain edifice, without either tower or spire' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833). In shape it was a 'badly formed parallelogram, being in dimension 35ft by 16ft' (Lenny and Thomas, n.d., 23-4). The church is depicted in a photograph of c.1900, hanging within the present church, as a long, low single-celled chancel/nave, with a simple, single western bellcote and simple, single-light 2-centred windows, from the early-mid 19th century, with timber frames. The exterior was whitewashed; the west door is not visible in the photograph. The transepts and west porch suggested on the tithe map of 1845 (NLW, Brechfa, 1845) are not apparent in the photograph and may be a convention of the mapmaker; it was also shown as a simple rectangle, without a porch, in 1889 (Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 First Edition). There was a single bell (Lenny and Thomas, n.d., 18).

In 1796 an organ was installed and part of the 'ceiling' was raised to receive it, and the west window was blocked (Lenny and Thomas, n.d., 13). The church was 'repaired' in 1848-51 when the roof was reslated and the bellcote rebuilt (Lenny and Thomas, n.d., 20). The existing floors were 'not yet paved', the pews were 'not completed' and the 'north side of the church' had been 'taken down' (ibid.). In 1888 the floor was of 'mortar, the ceiling flat like that of an ordinary room' and 'there is not a single architectural feature in the whole building' (Lenny and Thomas, n.d., 24).

The present church was completed in 1893, to the designs of the architect E. H. Lingen Barker, of Hereford (ibid.); to facilitate its construction the churchyard was extended to the west, doubling its area, the new church being constructed within the extension immediately west of the old church; the site of the latter is not now recognisable but survives as below-ground walling (P. Thomas, Rector, *pers. comm.*) cut by a number of later burials.

It was not until 1907 that the old church was demolished, the materials from which, including the east window, were used to build a church hall (NLW, SD/F/49).

The font has a plain bowl taken from the old church, medieval?, on a stem and base from 1893 (RCAHM, 1917, 10).

The bell was taken from the old church and had been augmented with a further 2 bells by 1918 (Lenny and Thomas, n.d., 26).

There is below-ground evidence in the churchyard for the earlier church, cut by memorials. There is a deep external cutting around the south-west corner of the present church. There is no external drain. The suspended floors are raised over a void. No external memorials lie significantly close to the present church.

The present church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; possible pre-conquest documentary reference.

St Teilo, Brechfa, was not a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. By 1324 it had become a grange chapel of the Premonstratensians of Talley Abbey (Lenny and Thomas, n.d., 7). It was assessed at £2 13s 4d in 1534 (Owen, 1894, 324.). At the dissolution the patronage fell to the crown.

By 1833 Brechfa had become a parish, and the living, a discharged rectory endowed with £600 royal bounty, was in the alternate patronage of George Morgan Esq. and Mrs Elizabeth Hughes (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Teilo, Brechfa, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn and Abergorlech (Benefice no. 569) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

The church at Brechfa may be referred to in the 8th century 'Book of St Chad' (Lenny and Thomas, n.d., 5).

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Map Evidence

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(CPR/18 - Brechfa)

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CAPEL GWYNFE, CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)

Dyfed PRN 5516

No RB No.

NGR SN 7224 2199

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century chapel; 0% earlier core fabric. On site of, and in same location as, medieval?/post medieval chapel.

A 3-cell chapel, small. Consists of chancel/nave, 3 bays; vestry (north, transeptal), 2 bays; south porch, (re)built in 1812-18. Coalhouse/boilerhouse, west of vestry, c.1890.

Construction is in limestone rubble throughout, with some Old Red Sandstone. 70% of external walls are rendered; 90% of internal walls are rendered/plastered, except coalhouse/boilerhouse. Slate gable roofs; coalhouse/boilerhouse with slate lean-to roof. Openings are mainly from 1812; vestry door, later 20th century. Western single bellcote, mid 19th century.

Roofs and floors, all 1812-18?. Finishes, 1812-later 20th century.

Condition - fair-good. Ivied at east end; finishes poor.

Archaeological potential - very good. Chapel entirely (re)built 1812-18, on same location as medieval/post medieval chapel; no physical or structural evidence for earlier chapel; no external drain around chapel; no evidence for floor level changes; no underfloor void; no crypt/vault evident; no evidence of former components beyond chapel; burials significantly close to 30% of chapel.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre 1812 core fabric.

Group value - medium-high. Early C19 church; associated late C19 church.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, south porch, 1812-18.

(?Phase 2 - Vestry, earlier 19th century?)

Phase 3 - Coalhouse/boilerhouse, c.1890.

DESCRIPTION

A chapel has been present at Gwynfe since at least the 16th century and probably before that date. The site of the chapel is represented by the disused roadside chapel at SN 7224 2199, now the Church Hall. In 1898-9 a new church, dedicated to All Saints (Dyfed PRN 35363), was constructed immediately to the north of the old chapel, at SN 7222 2201 (Rev. K. Cottam, Llangadog, pers. comm.). This report concerns only the old chapel, herein termed 'Capel Gwynfe'.

Capel Gwynfe is a 3-celled chapel, of small size. Stylistically, its earliest fabric belongs to the period either side of the year 1800. In 1812 the inhabitants, 'obliged by ancient custom', were ordered to repair the chapel (Carms. R. O., CPR/49/19). By the following year, repair work had cost well over £100 (*ibid.*), a considerable sum for the day, amounting to a major reconstruction. Succeeding expenditure for the years 1813-1846 comprises the usual small repairs paid for out of the wardens' disbursements, and for whitewashing the building (Carms. R. O., CPR/49/16; CPR/49/19). However, a datestone in the vestry records the rebuild as having occurred in 1818.

The present structure, then, must be dated 1812-18. It appears to contain no earlier core fabric. It consists of a 3-bayed chancel/nave without structural division, and a south porch, all of 1812. A transeptal vestry lies against the eastern half of the chancel/nave north wall and is stylistically similar, but unrendered; it may not be contemporary. The coalhouse/boilerhouse is a lean-to against the vestry west wall, in the angle with the chancel/nave, and probably added c.1890 when renovation work was undertaken (Rev. K. Cottam, Llangadog, pers. comm.).

Construction is in medium-large limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone, unsquared and uncoursed but with large squared quoins. There are no dressings. The chancel/nave and porch walls all lie beneath thick render, primarily of 1812-18; the west wall lies beneath 20th century render. All internal walls except the coalhouse/boilerhouse are rendered/plastered. Roofs are slated gables, the chancel/nave being roofed continuously; the coalhouse/boilerhouse roof is a slated lean-to up to vestry eaves level.

The chancel/nave openings are all from 1812-18. There is an east window and a window in each of the side walls, all with simple semicircular-headed openings, without surrounds, and with single light timber framed windows. A window in the vestry is similar, but cruder. The south door is a similar simple 2-centred opening. The west wall carries a plain, square bellcote of squared and coursed limestone rubble, with a timber slated gable which forms the head of the single opening, a mid 19th century addition?. The tile floors may similarly be from later in the 19th century. The coalhouse/boilerhouse door is simple and lintelled, while the door in the vestry east wall, with a 2-centred brick head, has been rebuilt in the later 20th century.

There is no physical or structural evidence for the pre-1812 chapel. There is no external drain or cutting around the chapel. There is no evidence for floor level changes. All floors lie directly on the substrate. There is no evidence for a below-ground void, crypt or vault. There is no evidence of former components beyond the chapel. Some memorials lie significantly close to the east and south walls.

The present chapel building is thought to be the successor of a building of c.1710, which was of much the same plan and dimensions (Rev. K. Cottam, pers. comm.). In 1790 the churchwardens of Llangadog parish presented the 'hamlett chapel within our parish' (Capel Gwynfe) as in 'good order and repair', but without chapel wardens (Evans, 1923, 4). The building was repointed in 1808 (Carms. R. O., CPR/49/19).

The chapel was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is no firm evidence for any pre-conquest religious use of the site.

Gwynfe is shown as the site of a possible chapelry on Rees' map of 14th century Wales (Rees, 1933). It is certainly shown on Saxton's map of Carmarthenshire of 1575-6, as 'Capel Gwenvye', and by Speed c.1610 as 'Capel Gwenvy' (Jones, 1906, 16); by the 17th century, if not before, it was a hamlet chapel of Llangadog parish, and was possibly established as a chapel-of-ease. Gwynfe was one of a number of hamlets into which the large parish of Llangadog was divided, and rated independently (Carms. R. O., CPR/49/16).

The living was a perpetual curacy of the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen by 1833, in the patronage of the Vicar of Llangadog, endowed with £1000 royal bounty and £800 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833, Llangattock).

In 1899 a new church, dedicated to All Saints, was consecrated at Gwynfe and the old chapel was abandoned as a place of worship, becoming the Church Hall. The All Saints dedication only applies to the new church; there was no dedication in 1833 (Lewis, 1833, Llangadog parish).

(In 1998 the new All Saints, Gwynfe, was a chapelry of Llangadog parish. The living was a vicarage, held with Llangadog and Llanddeusant (Benefice 634) of the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog (St Davids, 1997-8).)

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**ST MICHAEL,
CILYCWM,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 4111

RB No. 3205

NGR SN 7533 4002

Listed Building No. 10906

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, medium sized. Consists of chancel/nave, without structural division, 5 bays; south aisle, 5 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Below-ground boilerhouse, between tower and south aisle, 1906. Remains of 18th - early 19th century external render; interior with 1724 plaster. Slate gable roofs; west tower roof not seen. Arcade, tower openings, vault and arch, 4 windows, medieval; early 17th century windows; all with purple sandstone dressings. Some windows, and south door, from the earlier 19th century and 1906, with grey oolite dressings.
(Roofs from c.1500 and the early 17th century; Wall-paintings, from 1724, overpainted 1986).

Roofs: c.1500 and early 17th century. Floors: 1906. Finishes: interior, 1724; exterior, 18th century - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, wide revetted external around 50% of church, primary, secondarily deepened exposing footings; below-ground heating chamber against 10% of church; suspended floors over heating flues in 80% of church; burial vaults beneath 20% of church?; external memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% medieval core fabric; medieval arcade, tower openings and arch, and windows; 17th century windows.

Group value - high. Medieval upland landmark church with tower, in hilltop location; churchyard with good memorials, one listed, and listed early C19 school-house; listed C19 lych-gate.

Phasing:

Phase 2 - Chancel/nave, south aisle, west tower?, c.1500.

Phase 3 - Partly refenestrated and reroofed, early C17.

Phase 4 - Restored 1906, low-medium impact; heating chamber excavated.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Michael, Cilycwm, is a 3-celled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 90% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 5-bayed chancel/nave without structural division past or present, a 5-bayed south aisle, and a 3-storeyed west tower; a below-ground heating chamber lies in the angle between the tower and the south aisle. Construction is in local and limestone rubble. There are dressings from c.1500 and the 17th century, in purple sandstone; other dressings are in grey oolite, from the earlier 19th century and 1906, some of which imitate the earlier dressings. The exterior retains extensive remains of 18th - early 19th century render, with some 1906 ribbon pointing. The internal plaster is from 1724 with contemporary wall-paintings overpainted in 1986. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen. Both external and internal walls display an extensive assemblage of 18th - early 19th century memorials.

The chancel/nave walls have a slight external basal batter; the north-west quoin was rebuilt in 1906. The east window has a segmental rear arch from the early 17th century but the dressings are entirely from 1906, comprising 3 uncusped, semicircular-headed lights with sunk spandrels, in a square surround, in purple sandstone; the window is probably a copy of an original from the early 17th century. The north wall leans outwards; it is lit by 4 windows all new in 1906, with extensive surrounding infill, and based on surviving early 17th century windows in the church. The easternmost and westernmost windows have 3 cusped, ogee-headed lights with sunk spandrels, in square surrounds with cavetto-moulded labels, in grey oolite. The 2 central windows have 2 uncusped semicircular-headed lights with sunk spandrels in square surrounds with roll-moulded labels, also in grey oolite; the eastern of the 2 may occupy an earlier opening. There is a painted crucifixion above the east window, and the Hanoverian Royal Arms on the north wall, all 1724?. The oak, princess-post roof is fundamentally 17th century and has dentilled purlins; it was repaired and matchboarded in 1906. The passages are quarry-tiled, with suspended woodblock flooring, over heating ducts; burial vaults lie beneath the east half.

The external walls of the south aisle are battered like those of the chancel/nave. The aisle communicates with the latter through a 5-bayed arcade of deeply chamfered, 2-centred arches on octagonal purple sandstone ashlar piers with chamfered abaci and square bases. The westernmost pier has a cut-out in its west face, primary, containing the font. The east window is early 17th century and has 3 uncusped, semicircular-headed lights with sunk spandrels, in a square surround with a roll-moulded label featuring a central moulded mask (cf. Myddfai, Carm.), in purple sandstone. The south wall is lit by 4 windows. The eastern 2 windows, and the westernmost, are from c.1500 and have 2 uncusped 2-centred lights in square surrounds with cavetto-moulded labels, also in purple sandstone; the central window was rebuilt in a similar style in 1906. The south door in the east bay has a roll-moulded, square surround with a moulded segmental head, all in grey oolite and, with the surrounding infill, from 1906. The west wall features a 2-light window in a segmental embrasure rebuilt in the earlier 19th century; the square surround with a roll-moulded label featuring a central moulded mask, in purple sandstone, is early 17th century but has been re-used, while the 2 'neo-Classical', segmental headed lights, also in purple sandstone, are also earlier 19th century. There is a painted Royal Arms of George I above the east window, and the south wall exhibits painted texts, while on the west wall a painted skeleton holds a spear, mainly 1724?, one of the texts dated 1795. The transverse, oak wagon-roof frames may be contemporary with the walls, from c.1500; the longitudinal frames, with bosses, are later; the panelling has gone. Floored as the chancel/nave; there is a burial vault beneath the east bay.

The west tower comprises 3 storeys. It has an unusual plan form and spiral stair arrangement, and lacks the external batter up to a string-course typical of the region; such features would normally suggest an early date but the structural evidence suggests that the tower is contemporary with the nave. The square spiral stair turret projects from the north-east corner and into the chancel/nave west bay; towards the nave interior, its the upper half of its external face is corbelled out, and squinched above, for the stair, which is

lit by a simple slit lights, one opening into the nave. The turret is entered from the churchyard, through a doorway in the external face of its north wall, with a chamfered, 2-centred surround from the early 15th century. The tower ground floor communicates with the nave through a doorway with a plain 2-centred surround, medieval, partially rebuilt in 1906. The west wall does have a slight basal batter and is entered through a doorway with a low segmental rear arch of medieval date, with a rounded 4-centred surround in cavetto- and roll-moulded oolite that appears to be later, early 17th century?. The medieval barrel-vault has a rounded 2-centred profile. The floor is quarry-tiled, from 1906. The second storey is lit by a segmental headed single light in each of the north, south and west walls, medieval; a similar opening is blocked in the east wall. The east wall exhibits the creasing of a former, higher pre-17th century roof line. The belfry stage has a 2-light opening with rounded, 2-centred heads in the east wall, medieval but with later raised sills; Similar, single-light openings lie in the other 3 faces. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table, all medieval; the merlons have flat copings and string-courses that may be original.

The heating chamber in the angle between the tower and the south aisle, from 1906, is entirely below ground and vaulted beneath a resin covering, entered through a manhole. It was not seen 11/7/97.

A deep, wide revetted external cutting runs around the north and east walls; primary, but secondarily deepened in 1906 exposing footings. A below-ground heating chamber lies against the west tower and south aisle. Floor levels have been altered but may now reflect the medieval levels. Floors are suspended over heating flues in the chancel/nave and aisle. A marked burial vault lies beneath the east bay of the south aisle, and similar vaults may lie beneath the east bays of the chancel/nave. External memorials lie significantly close to all walls.

Structural development

The external walls of the chancel/nave and south aisle both have external batters, and the arcade appears to be *de novo* rather than adapted from a solid wall, which suggest that the chancel/nave was entirely rebuilt when the south aisle was added in c.1500; the south aisle roof may retain contemporary timbers. No structural division can be seen between the nave and tower which have continuous north walls, suggesting that the tower too is from c.1500, despite its 'early' character. The whole plan-form is that of the 'typical' North-east Carmarthenshire church as fully developed at the end of the medieval period. The church was partly refenestrated in the early 17th century and the chancel/nave roof retains contemporary timbers.

In 1672 the chancel, windows and seats were 'out of repaire' (Evans, 1921, 62), while in 1705 the 'walls want whitewashing, ye roof a little mending and... ye glasses windows to want mending' (Evans, 1917, 50).

The church was 'redecorated' in 1724 as recorded in the contemporary wall-paintings; the redecoration presumably included replastering with the present finish.

The church roofs were (re)slated between 1833 and 1844, and the bellframe and windows were repaired (Carms. R. O., CPR/29/11). In 1847-8 £17 16s 6d was spent on 'making windows and frames' (ibid.); some of this expenditure may be represented by the present mid 19th century south aisle west window.

The roof was again repaired and reslated in 1859, and the exterior of the church was whitewashed (Carms. R. O., CPR/29/11).

There was a heating stove, with a flue in the tower, by 1881. In 1883 it was proposed that 'the 'chancel be opened up and a furnace and flue placed therein' but there is now no evidence that this work was undertaken (Carms. R. O., CPR/29/11).

The church was described by the architect W. D. Caröe, of London, before the restoration of 1906 (Evans, 1914, 11-12) and shown on a plan (NLW, SD/F/120). There were 2 windows in the chancel/nave north wall, the east bay being blind; the windows were 'ugly introductions of the early 19th century', from 1847-8?. The south aisle west window was described as 'obviously modern'. The medieval south aisle windows were noted, but one was a 'quite modern' imitation of the original. The floor had been raised 'by the introduction of ordinary loam... with human bones' and the floor was rotten. The 17th century nave roof was noted.

The church was restored by Caröe in 1906 (NLW, SD/F/120). The chancel/nave north wall was entirely refenestrated with the present windows, the chancel/nave east window and the 'quite modern' south wall window were rebuilt, and the south door was inserted; the west door received its present surround. The internal soil was removed and the floor excavated and refloored above the void. The roofs were repaired. The church was reseated. Internal plaster was stripped, revealing the wall-paintings. The heating chamber was excavated.

The softwood stalls, pews, pulpit and the oak south aisle screens are from 1906 (NLW, SD/F/120).h

The purple sandstone font is contemporary with the south aisle arcade, a pier of which was built around it; it has a circular bowl, an octagonal stem and a square base from c.1500.

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is no evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site.

St Michael, Cilycwm, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. It is not mentioned in the *Taxatio* of 1291 and may not have been founded until after this date (RCAHM, 1917, 16). It is mentioned, however, in documents from 1347, 1399 and 1493 as a parish church; the living was both a vicarage and a rectory in the patronage of the Bishop of St Davids (Anon., 1930, 51; Evans, 1932, 49-50). It later passed to the crown.

In 1833 the living was a vicarage endowed with £600 royal bounty and £1000 parliamentary grant, in the patronage of the Thynne Howe Gwynne, Esq. (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael, Cilycwm, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Ystrad-ffin, St Barnabas Rhandirmwyn and Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn Cyngordy (Benefice no. 635) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST CYNWYL,
CYNWYL GAEO,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 1881

RB No. 3124

NGR SN 6750 3990

Listed Building No. 10908

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, medium sized. Consists of chancel/nave, without structural division, 4 bays; south aisle, 4 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Storehouse (north of tower), 1 bay, mid 20th century. Roughcast internally. Slate gable roofs; storehouse with slate lean-to roof; west tower roof not seen. Arcade, tower openings, vault and arch, 2 windows, medieval. Other windows, south door and piscina from 1858 and 1891, neo-Perpendicular, with purple sandstone and yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs and floors: 1891. Finishes: 1858 - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, wide revetted external cutting around 50% of church, primary; shallow earth cutting around 25% of church, secondary; levels unchanged; suspended floors over heating flues in 75% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; external memorials and vaults lie significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% medieval core fabric; medieval arcade, tower openings and arch, and windows.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, in valley side location; ECM; churchyard with good memorials, one listed; listed C20 lych-gate

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, C13-14?

Phase 2 - South aisle, c.1500.

Phase 3 - West tower, C16.

Phase 4 - Restored 1858, low-medium impact.

Phase 5 - Restored 1891, low-medium impact.

Phase 6 - Storehouse, mid C20.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Cynwyl, Cynwyl Gaeo, is a 3-celled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 90% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 4-bayed chancel/nave without structural division past or present, a 4-bayed south aisle, a 3-storeyed west tower and a storehouse north of the tower. Construction is in local mixed rubble. There are medieval dressings, in limestone; other dressings are in yellow oolite and purple sandstone, neo-Perpendicular, from both 1858 and 1891 but more-or-less replicating the original dressings. There is some 1858 pointing, but pointing is mainly from 1891 with some 20th century ribbon pointing. The interior is roughcast, later 20th century, except the tower interior which has pre-1858 limewash. Roofs are slated gables, the chancel/nave north slope with stone-tiles; the storehouse has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel/nave east gable may have been partly rebuilt after 1891. The 3-light east window is entirely from 1858, and has a purple sandstone, cavetto-moulded 2-centred surround and a drip-mould on out-turned stops which with the Perpendicular tracery are probably copies of the original window of c.1500. Internally, the east wall has a moulded string course at sill level, 1891?, while the east bay south wall features a piscina with a square surround and cavetto-moulded hoodmould, a 4-centred head with sunk spandrels, and a chamfered shallow 'bowl', all purple sandstone and from 1891 but possibly copying an original of c.1500. There are 3 windows in the north wall, all from 1891 but probably replicating at least the style of the originals; all have 3 cusped, ogee-headed lights with sunk spandrels, in square surrounds with cavetto-moulded labels, in purple sandstone. The softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling is matchboarded and from 1891; the southern slope has 2 dormer windows inserted in the 20th century. The passage was flagged over heating ducts, and with an underground chamber for a 'Porritt's stove', in 1891, re-using earlier flags; the woodblock floors are also from 1891.

The south aisle communicates with the chancel/nave through a 4-bayed arcade pierced through the latter's south wall in c.1500; the 2-centred arches are plain, rounded, lying on plain, square piers; the eastern pier is wider than the other two. The rubble construction of its external walls features more igneous components than in the chancel/nave. The east wall window has a rear arch from 1891, but the window itself is from c.1500, similar the chancel east window but in cavetto-moulded limestone, the mullions replaced in grey oolite in 1891. The uppermost courses of the south wall were rebuilt/heightened in 1858. It is pierced by 3 windows from 1858 but probably replicating at least the style of the originals; all are as the north wall windows but in yellow oolite. The south door has a purple sandstone 4-centred surround and similar cavetto-moulded dripmould on out-turned stops, with the surrounding infill from 1891, on site of an earlier door and replicating its (mid 16th century) detail?. The west wall has an external basal batter; the west window has a rebuilt segmental rear-arch but the square surround and cavetto-moulded label, the 3 cusped, 2-centred lights with sunk spandrels are in limestone from the mid 16th century. The aisle is roofed as the chancel/nave but without dormer windows, 1891. The floor is flagged throughout, from 1891 but re-using earlier flags.

The west tower is from the mid 16th century and comprises 3 storeys. It contains some limestone rubble and is of later Perpendicular character. It has the external batter up to a string-course typical of the region. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a doorway with a chamfered 2-centred surround, and lit by simple loops. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch, mid 16th century; a plain, square door into the second stage lies above, also mid 16th century?. The west door has a 4-centred head in a chamfered, square surround with a drip-mould produced from the string-course, all mid 16th century; the concrete 'typanum' is 20th century. Internally, a stoup with a plain square ORS bowl, 'which never runs dry', lies in the south wall; it may not be *in situ*; the yellow brick flue from the 'Porritt's' stove of 1891 runs up the south-east corner. The mid 16th century barrel-vault has a 2-centred profile, with a secondary bellrope hole. The floor is flagged as the

nave and aisle, re-used in 1891, and features 3 steps up to the nave. The second storey is lit by a slit-light in the east wall, a single light in the north wall with a semicircular-headed surround; a single light with a square head, surround and label lies in the west wall. All are in limestone from the mid 16th century. The belfry stage has 2-light openings with semicircular heads and surrounds in all 4 faces, in limestone again from the mid 16th century; that in the south wall has a dripmould. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table, all from the mid 16th century but restored in 1891. The crenellations have rebuilt copings.

A small storehouse was built against the stair turret in the mid 20th century, in local rubble. It has a simple square door to the north, and a slated lean-to roof up to the turret.

A deep, wide revetted external cutting runs around the north and east walls, becoming shallow along the south wall; primary, but secondarily deepened in 1891 and extended along the south wall. There is no evidence for floor level changes. Floors are suspended over heating flues in the nave and aisle. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. External memorials lie significantly close to the south aisle, and a large family vault from 1815 is built against the east end of the north wall.

Structural development

The chancel/nave may be 14th century but in the absence of any detail, or a chancel arch, cannot be closely dated. The south aisle is secondary, butting against the south-east corner of the chancel with a full-height joint, and is probably contemporary with its Perpendicular windows dating from c.1500. The south aisle west wall (and the side walls, if the present windows are copies), were refenestrated in the mid 16th century and the west tower may be contemporary. The whole plan-form is that of the 'typical' North-east Carmarthenshire church as fully developed at the end of the medieval period.

The 'church and chancell' were 'out of repair' in 1684 (Evans, 1915, 93) and were 'ruinous and out of repair' in 1720, but had recently been repaired 'with a vast expense' (Anon., 1921, 8). The walls and roof, however, had not been 'adorn'd, as... required' (ibid.). The south aisle was 'in great measure renovated' by the Dolaucothi Estate in the 18th century (Anon., 1878, 325), but in 1790 the 'church, chancel and steeple' were 'but in very indifferent repair, especially the steeple (tower) which wants to be pointed and whitewashed' (Evans, 1922, 7). It was hoped that the 'chancel will soon be put in decent order as materials are provided' (ibid.).

The church interior was still 'out of repair' when visited by Glynne in 1850 (Glynne, 1898, 362). He noted that the original east window was 3-light, with 'Third Perpendicular' tracery; most the others were 'square headed, of 2 and 3 lights, some labelled, some not'. The roofs were ceiled and the tower arch had been partly blocked.

The church was again in an 'unsatisfactory state' in 1855 (Anon., 1855, 302) and was restored in 1858 (Cadw, 1995, 1). The architect may have been R. Kyrke Penson (Anon., 1855, 302). The south wall windows, and the chancel east window, were replaced, in yellow oolite. The internal fittings were 'rearranged' (ibid.), but not replaced?; they were of 'very poor character' and 'badly arranged' in 1890 (Anon., 1890, 149-50). The tower was 'renovated' (Anon., 1878, 325). Heating was installed, 'effected by a hot-air pipe running along the arcading, at springer level' (ibid.). The flagged floors present in 1891 may pre-date this restoration.

The church was restored again in 1891, to the designs of the architect Ewan Christian of London (Anon., 1890, 149-50). The north wall windows were replaced in purple sandstone, the south door was similarly rebuilt (Cadw, 1995, 2), and the church was reroofed, refloored and reseated. New drainage was cut, the tower arch was reopened and a 'Porrit's' heating stove was installed (Anon., 1890, 149-50).

The storehouse was built against the tower in the mid 20th century, and is not marked on earlier Ordnance Survey maps. The internal roughcast and dormer windows are also 20th century.

The softwood stalls, pews, tower screen, south aisle vestry screen and pulpit are from 1891 (Cadw, 1995, 2).

The limestone font has an octagonal bowl and stem from the 14th century (Yates, 1974, 70) or 15th century (RCAHM, 1917, 32); the square base is modern.

The 'bells' were 'out of repair' in 1684 (Evans, 1915, 93) but in 1720 '3 new bells hang'd in the steeple' (Evans, 1921, 8). A bell dated 1717 lay loose in the church in 1878 (Anon., 1878, 325).

The ECM now built into the facework of the north wall, a Latin inscribed stone, formed the sill of the west (or south?) door until 1858 when it was moved to its present position (ibid.).

The church was Grade II* listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication, ECM, long tradition.

St Cynwyl, Cynwyl Gaeo, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. It was a possession of Talley Abbey, confirmed in 1325 (Owen, 1894, 39). In 1291 it was valued at £13 6s 8d (Owen, *op. cit.*, 235). There were formerly chapels-of-ease at Cwrt-y-cadno and Pumsaint (Lewis, 1833)

In 1833 the living, a vicarage in the patronage of the crown, was rated in the king's books at £5 (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Cynwyl, Cynwyl Gaeo, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llansawel and Talley (Benefice no. 612) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

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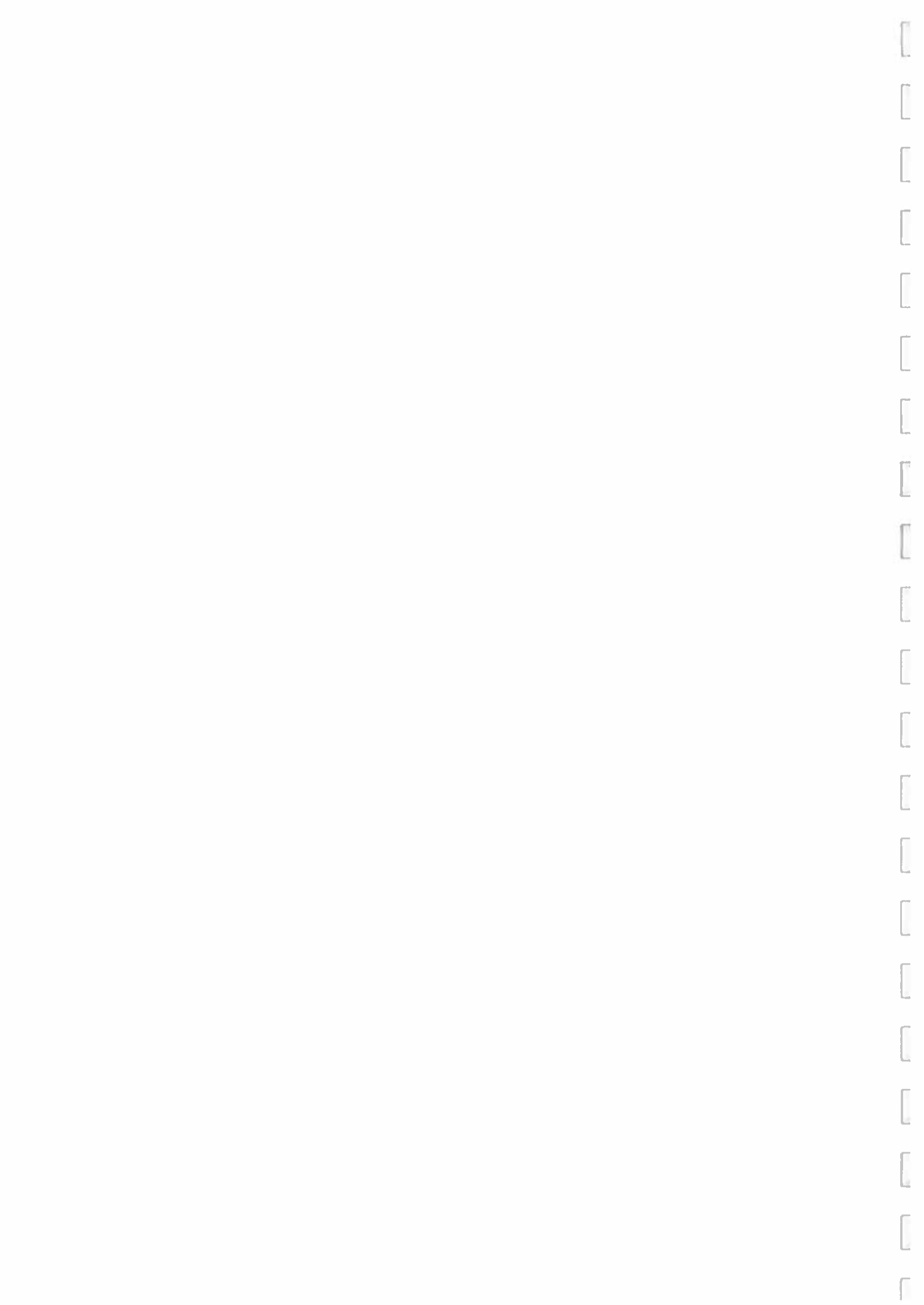
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**SS SIMON & JUDE,
LLANDDEUSANT,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 4055

RB No. 3196

NGR SN 7768 2453

Listed Building No. 10914

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, medium-large sized. Consists of chancel/nave, 4 bays; south aisle, 4 bays; west porch/bell turret, 2 storeys; all medieval.

Construction is in limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone limestone rubble. 100% of internal walls are roughcast. Slated gable roofs. No chancel arch. Medieval arcade; 3 medieval east windows, with mullions, and south door; blocked medieval north door and possible south window; medieval aumbry/piscina?. West bell-turret gabled (saddleback). Remainder of openings, 1913-14, or rebuilt 1913-14.

Roofs: Chancel/nave and south aisle with oak wagon roof, medieval. Floors: 1885-20th century. Finishes: 18th century render on 30% of church; remainder repointed 1913-14, and roughcast 1987-8.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Medium-depth external cutting around 100% of church; floor levels raised; underfloor void; possible crypt/vault in 25% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; no evidence for former components beyond church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% medieval core fabric; medieval arcade; medieval roofs; saddleback 'tower'; 3 medieval east windows, medieval doors (open and blocked) and aumbry.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with 'tower' in hilltop location; circular churchyard.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - South aisle (former chancel/nave), 14th century.

Phase 2 - Chancel/nave (former north aisle), c.1500.

Phase 3 - West porch/bell turret - 16th century.

Phase 4 - Restored 1885, low-medium impact; no new components.

Phase 5 - Restored 1913-14, low-medium impact; no new components.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

SS Simon & Jude, Llanddeusant is a 4-celled church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 90% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 4-bayed chancel/nave without structural division, a 4-bayed south aisle of the same dimensions, and a west porch/bell turret of 2 storeys against the south aisle west wall. Construction is in medium-sized limestone rubble with some Old Red Sandstone, unsquared and uncoursed, partly with medieval quoining. Extensive areas of external pre-1885 render survive, but the church was repointed in 1913-14, with 1987-88 ribbon-pointing over, while the interior was also roughcast in 1987-88. Slated gable roofs, the chancel and nave probably always roofed continuously; the south aisle roof lies at the same level. The roofs are of late medieval date (see below); flooring is largely from 1885.

The arcade separating the two cells can be dated to c.1500 century on stylistic grounds, its 2-centred arches on octagonal piers without bases or capitals. The east windows of both the chancel/nave and the south aisle have 3 2-centred lights in square limestone surrounds and drip-moulds, from the 16th century; the gables were rebuilt to receive them. A similar, 2-light window occupies the chancel/nave east bay north wall, and the south aisle east bay south wall. The outline of a blocked window head may be preserved in the south aisle south wall. The south aisle south door has a 2-centred sandstone surround, of possible 14th century date (though possibly later). A blocked door in the 'nave' north wall has a rounded 2-centred head with a limestone ashlar surround of late-medieval date; it was possibly blocked at the reformation, the blocking lying beneath 18th century render. A simple square recess lies in the south wall of the south aisle east bay, probably representing a piscina, a further indication that it was formerly the chancel. There is a socket (putlog-hole?) in the chancel/nave east wall. All other windows are from 1913-14.

Both cells still have oak wagon-roofs with plain frames and a timber-corbelled wall-plate, of c.1500; the plaster panels have been replaced.

The west porch/bell turret appears to belong to later in the 16th century, but cannot be closely dated. Both the west door, and the archway into the south aisle have been rebuilt, and the side windows are later. The gabled belfry was probably never intended to rise higher but appears to have been finished at this level from the first, as a 'saddleback' roof. Its timber floor is a later replacement. A crude stoup of possible 14th century date lay loose in the ground floor in 1917 (RCAHM, 1917, 81).

A medium-deep earth-cut cutting surrounds the church. Floor levels have been raised. A crypt/vault probably lies beneath the 'chancel'. There is an underfloor void in the 'nave' and south aisle. There is a below ground heating chamber in the south aisle, and flues. There is no evidence for former components beyond the present walls.

Structural development

The northern cell now contains the nave and chancel and has traditionally been regarded as the earlier of the two, dated to the 14th century (Salter, 1984, 32); other authors have attributed both cells to the 15th century (Yates, 1974, 71). However, the construction of the 2 cells is different, the north cell walls being battered externally, and the south aisle fabric being more irregular, and quoined; the external joint between the two, moreover, suggests that the north cell butts against the (earlier) south aisle, which will have been the former site of the chancel.

The church has changed little from its medieval arrangements. It was, unusually for the region, thought necessary to mention that the walls had been cleaned ready to mount the King's Arms in 1672; the implication is that they were to be painted, along with the Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments (Evans, 1919, 211). No mention was made of their uncovering during any of the restorations.

Early 19th century vestry minutes (Carms. R. O., CPR/50/5) note a number of minor repairs, mainly to the 'steeple' (bell turret); more than one bell was present. Larger tasks were, however, undertaken. In 1827 the south aisle was tiled (*ibid.*) and it appears that, by this period at least, the chancel was in the northern half of the church. As in most cases, the church was whitewashed within and without; some external finishes survive, see above. In 1830 the bell turret was subject to extensive work, including rebuilding part of its walls, when the bellframe was raised (*ibid.*); the belfry displays evidence of having been rebuilt, but the chimney now present appears later. The chancel/nave roof was also extensively repaired. In 1836, the south aisle floor was raised 'level with the churchyard' (*ibid.*). The church was described as 'not remarkable for any architectural details' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

The church was restored in 1885 (RCAHM, 1917, 81) when the floor level was apparently raised to incorporate heating apparatus (Anon., n.d.). The restoration appears to have been of low-medium impact. The 'nave' and south aisle passages were flagged in limestone, possibly re-used. The board floors beneath the stalls may lie on the flags, but the pews lie on suspended woodblock floors. A heating chamber for a 'Porritt's' heating apparatus lies in the south aisle; the flue led beneath the passage to a plain square central chimney on the east wall; the south aisle east bay was made into a vestry with an oolite fireplace ducted into the same chimney. The church was re-seated in softwood.

The church was restored again in 1913-14 (RCAHM, 1917, 81; Anon., 1914, 32), but the architect is not known. Again, the restoration was of low-medium impact. It was probably during this restoration that the 'nave' and aisle side windows were (re)built, as the existing 'chancel' windows but in oolite. The west porch/bell turret openings were also largely rebuilt, including lancets in the ground floor side walls, and the west door with its segmental-headed sandstone surround. It may have been also now that the 'chancel' received its tiled floor, and the altar rail and pulpit. During either this or the 1885 restoration the interior was undoubtedly replastered, following an unknown amount of removal of the existing plaster, but no internal finishes from this period can now be seen.

Further restoration work, part funded by Cadw, was undertaken in 1987-88 and was low-impact, mainly concerned renovating the roof timbers, which were partly rotten, repointing, and roughcasting the interior walls (Anon., n.d.).

The font has an octagonal bowl of conglomerate; it is probably 14th century. The octagonal oolite stem and base are 20th century.

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site - Celtic tradition dedication; circular churchyard?

SS Simon & Jude, Llanddeusant, was not a parish church during the post-conquest period, but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy (Rees, 1933). The benefice appears always to have been annexed to the vicarage of Llangadog (Evans, 1921, 10), which was in the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids, a union which continues into the 1990s.

Llanddeusant had become a parish before 1833 (Lewis, 1833) through a division of Llangadog parish largely engineered by the Moore-Gwynne family (Anon., 1914, 32) which enabled the church to obtain separate endowments.

In 1998 SS Simon & Jude, Llanddeusant, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llangadog and Gwynfe (Benefice 634) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

It is probably more correct to associate the church with the cult of St Paulinus, despite the present dedication to SS Simon & Jude (Yates, 1973, 65), who may merely represent a pair of Latin saints with a feast day conveniently close to that of Paulinus (Yates, 1972, 56). However, that the original dedication was to 'SS Notolius & Potolius', as has been suggested, is more doubtful.

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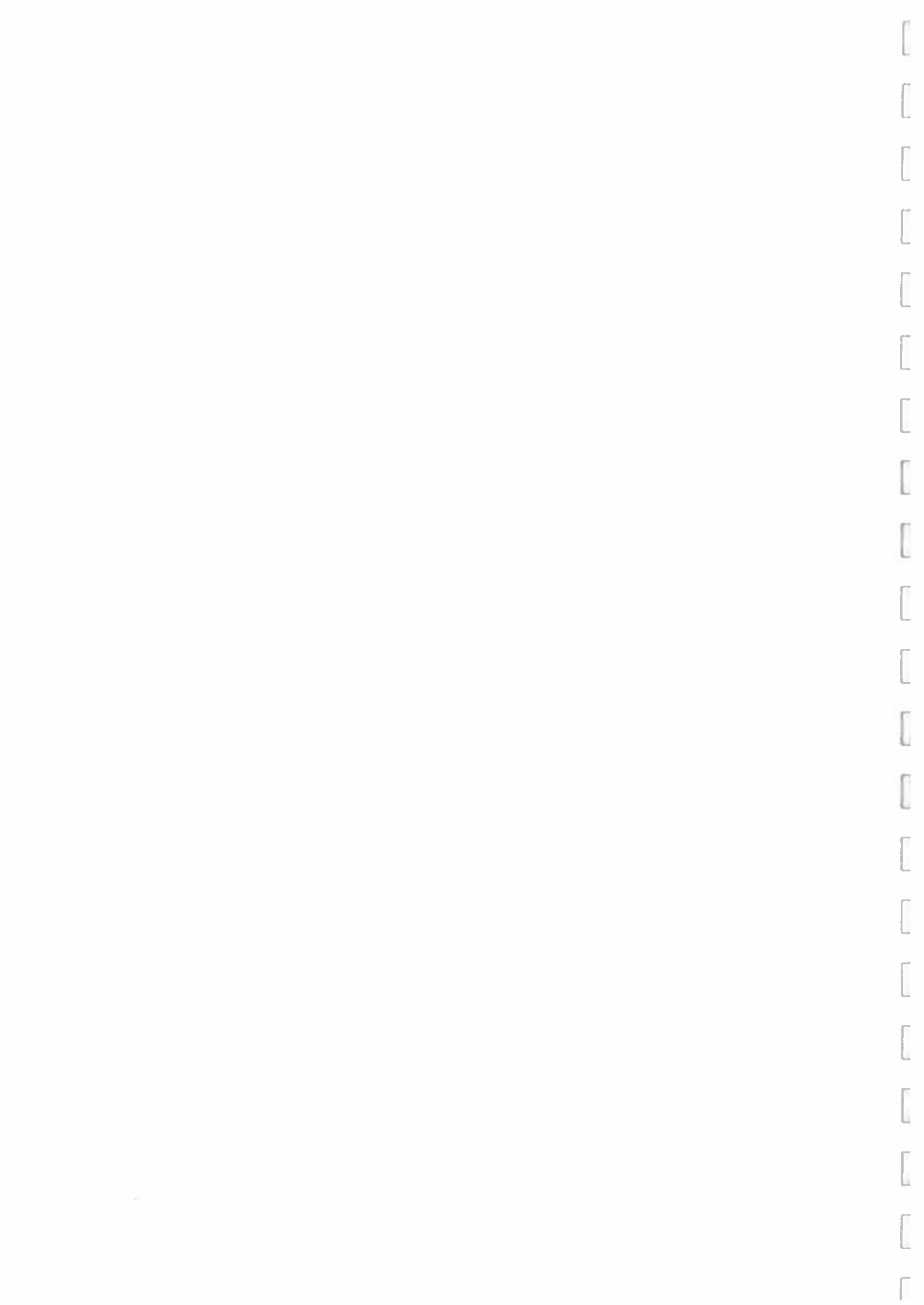
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**ST TEILO,
LLANDEILO FAWR,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 888

RB No. 3437

NGR SN 6293 2225

Listed Building No. 11097

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 15% pre-19th century core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of west tower, 3 storeys, medieval. Chancel/nave, without structural division, 7 bays; south transept, 1 bay; north aisle, 6 bays; north porch; vestry (south of east bay), 1 bay; 1848-51. Organ chamber (between vestry and transept), over heating chamber, 1 bay, 1903. Mainly snecked local limestone and ORS rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to roof; west tower roof not seen. Medieval openings, in tower; remainder of openings, including chancel arch and arcade, from 1848-51 and from 1903, neo-gothic, with grey limestone dressings; exterior buttressed throughout, 1848-51 and 1903.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1848-51 and 1903.

Condition - good..

Archaeological potential - good-very good. No external drain or cutting; earthwork platform around/below 15% of church; burial vaults beneath 20% of church; 10% of church beneath ground level; suspended floors above deep heating ducts in 60% of church; external memorials against 60% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 15% medieval core fabric; medieval tower with openings and parapet.

Group value - high. Landmark church with medieval tower, in hilltop location; central within historic town; 2 ECMs; large attractive churchyard with good memorials and C19 vaulted well (Grade II listed).

Phasing:

Phase 1 - West tower, later C16.

Phase 2 - Chancel, nave, north aisle, south transept, north porch, vestry, 1848-51.

Phase 3 - Organ/heating chamber, 1903.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Teilo, Llandeilo Fawr, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 15% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 7-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division, a single-bayed south transept, a 6-bayed north aisle, the east bay of which lies over a vault, a north porch, a single-bayed vestry south of the east bay, and a single bayed, transeptal organ chamber, over a heating chamber, between the vestry and the south transept. The 3-storeyed west tower represents the only surviving pre-19th century fabric, the remainder of the church having been rebuilt in 1848-51; the east bay of the north aisle is traditionally known as the 'Dynevor Chapel' and is said to lie over a medieval undercroft (Cadw, 1991, 34) but the 'undercroft' is more likely to be an 18th century burial vault; it projects beyond the aisle east wall where it is coped back to form a lean-to up to the sill level of the wall.

The 19th century construction is in snecked local limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble, with grey limestone ashlar quoins; there is similar roughly squared and coursed rubble in the tower, with Old Red Sandstone quoins. Pointing is mainly from 1848-51, but there has been some 20th century repointing particularly in the tower; the interior is plastered. All openings, except in the tower, are from 1848-51 and neo-gothic. They include the north aisle arcade, which has 2-centred, plain arches on octagonal piers, and the similar transept and organ chamber arches. Doors are 2-centred, with plain, chamfered grey limestone dressings except the north porch door which exhibits cylindrical attached nookshafts. The 19th century windows are generally 3-light, with neo-Gothic, geometric and curvilinear tracery, in plain, chamfered grey limestone; the end wall windows have 4 and 5 lights, while the chancel east window has 6 lights. The exterior, except the tower and vestry, has stepped buttresses throughout, cross-buttressed at the corners, from 1848-51; an external chamfered grey limestone offset runs around the base of the 19th century walls. There is a burial vault beneath the north aisle east bay and the vestry. The roofs are slated gables, the vestry has a slated lean-to roof while the tower roof was not seen. The softwood roof timbers are from 1848-51 and 1903, as are the tiled passages and suspended board floors.

The west tower is from the later 16th century, is of late Perpendicular character similar to the contemporary tower at Llandybie, Carm., and comprises 3 storeys. The facework is in roughly squared and coursed rubble, with Old Red Sandstone dressings and quoins. The tower has the external batter up to a string-course typical of the region; the latter is in roll-moulded Old Red Sandstone and has been extensively restored, particularly on the north side. A square spiral stair turret projects from the western half of the north wall, entered through a doorway with a chamfered 2-centred surround, and is lit by both slit-lights and small, square single lights. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a 2-centred arch from the later 16th century, redressed/rebuilt in 1848-51. The west door occupies a later 16th century cut-out in the batter, but was rebuilt in 1848-51 with a 2-centred surround, in double chamfered grey limestone with a dripmould. The side walls are blind. The softwood roof and tiled floor are from 1848-51. The second stage is lit by an uncusped, 2-light window in the north wall, with 4-centred heads and sunk spandrels in a square surround and label, all in chamfered Old Red Sandstone from the later 16th century. The belfry stage has 2-light openings with cusped 4-centred heads, in square surrounds, in all 4 faces, similarly in chamfered Old Red Sandstone from the later 16th century. The crenellated parapet, which occupies a higher level over the stair-turret, lies on a string-course, all from the later 16th century; rainwater chutes moulded as gargoyles issue from the north, south and west faces, similar to those at Llandybie.

The organ chamber was added in 1903 and is identical in style to the 19th century work. The below-ground heating chamber beneath is entered through a segmental-headed doorway in its south, gable wall, approached from an external stairwell. The vestry fireplace shares a flue with the heating apparatus and the octagonal chimney is from 1930.

There is neither an external drain nor a cutting around the church. There is a regular earthwork platform below, or around, the west tower. There are burial vaults beneath the north aisle east bay and the vestry. The heating chamber is below churchyard ground level. Floors are suspended above deep, underfloor heating ducts in the nave and north aisle. External memorials and railed tombs lie against the north walls, the nave south wall and the tower.

Structural development

Two maps (NLW, Llandeilo Fawr, Tithe Map, 1837 and NLW, Plan of the Town of Llandeilo and Lands in the County of Carmarthen, n.d.) show the pre-1848 church to have been of the same dimensions, and to possess the same ground plan, as its successor, comprising a nave, north aisle and west tower, with a large south transept (and vestry?) on the site of the present transept, vestry and organ/heating chamber. Nothing survives from this building except the west tower, which is later 16th century and similar to the contemporary tower at Llandybie, Carmar.

The north chapel 'ought to be repaired' in 1678 (Evans, 1921, 63-4), when part of the roof and gutter were also out of repair. The chancel was 'out of repair' in 1685 (Evans, 1915, 95). In 1705 the church was 'in repair excepting some breaches in ye glass of ye windows' (Evans, 1917, 67). The church was described in 1833, as a 'large heavy building, consisting only of 2 aisles, and undistinguished by any peculiar architectural features' (Lewis, 1833). The north aisle is left unshaded on the tithe map (NLW, Llandeilo Fawr, 1837) suggesting that it may have been roofless; in 1845 the church was said to be 'in a state of dilapidation and inferior construction in many respects' (RCAHM, 1917, 91).

The body of the church was demolished in 1848 and rebuilding began immediately (Jenkins, 1912, 31); a quarry was apparently excavated within the churchyard itself, but caved in killing one of the workers (ibid.). The work was undertaken to the designs of the architect George Gilbert Scott and was completed in 1851 (Samuel, 1868, 10). The church was entirely rebuilt with the exception of the tower.

The organ/heating chamber was added in 1903 to the designs of the architect David Jenkins of Llandeilo (NLW, SD/F/256). The chancel was refloored and reseated, and the nave and aisle (and porch?) were partly refloored and reseated. The interior was partly replastered and the ceilings were repaired.

The north aisle was stripped of its seating, and converted into an open hall in the later 20th century. Screens were inserted to form a lobby, 2 WCs and a kitchen at the west end of the aisle. The underfloor heating ducts were upgraded in 1992.

The pews are partly from 1848-51, and partly from 1903. The stalls are from 1903. The organ was built in 1857 (Davies, 1858, 14) and moved to its present location in 1903 (NLW, SD/F/256). The elaborate pulpit is also 19th century (Yates, 1974, 71). A clock was present in the tower by 1868 at least (Samuel, 1868, 10), when it was already 'decrepit with old age'. A bell, of unknown date, is suspended from an iron bracket on the tower north wall.

The font is from the nearby church at Llandyfeisant; it has an octagonal bowl from the 15th century (Cadw, 1991, 34).

The bells were cracked in 1868 (Samuel, 1868, 10).

There are 2 ECMs within the church, both of them knotwork-decorated cross-heads from the 10th - 11th century (Dyfed PRNs 889-890). One of them was discovered beneath the chancel (or north aisle) during restoration in the 1850s (Westwood, 1859, 136-8), the other may have been found at the same time but was lost, and had been 'recently dug up in the town' in 1893 (Anon., 1893, 130). A Latin-inscribed stone (Dyfed PRN 891) stood in the churchyard in 1697 but had been lost by 1893 (ibid.).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

The churchyard contains a spring, covered over and culverted to exit through the churchyard wall as a vaulted well-chamber, at road-level, in the later 19th century (Dyfed PRN 27003; Grade II listed).

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site -
Pre-conquest documentary reference; 'clas' church; Celtic dedication; 2 (formerly 3) ECMs; well.

St Teilo, Llandeilo Fawr, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932) of the medieval Deanery of Stradtown. It may have been a possession of the Bishops of Llandaff but by the 12th century had passed to St Davids (Owen, 1894, 228). It was appropriated to the Premonstratensian Abbey at Talley by Rhys Grug, approved by Bishop Gervase of St Davids, previously Abbot of Talley, in c.1215 (Price, 1879, 166). The grant was disputed and in 1239, the abbot and convent were ordered to pay 10 marks annually for 'Llanteylanvair' (Llandeilo Fawr) and 'Llanegantvair' (Llanegwad) churches (ibid.); it was confirmed during the reign of Edward III (Price, 1879, 171). The church was valued at £25 at the dissolution (Owen, 1894, 324). There were a number of chapels-of-ease within the parish.

After the dissolution, the patronage fell to the Bishops of St Davids, and in 1833 the living, a vicarage in the patronage of the Bishop, was rated in the king's books at £16 (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Teilo, Llandeilo Fawr, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Taliaris (Benefice no. 675) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

An ecclesiastical establishment at Llandeilo Fawr is mentioned in the pre-conquest Lichfield Gospels.

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**ST DINGAT,
LLANDINGAT,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 4093

RB No. 2997

NGR SN 6750 3990

Listed Building No. 10991

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of chancel, 1 bay; nave, 3 bays; south chapel, 1 bay; south aisle, 3 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. North porch, later 19th century. heating chamber (south of tower), 2 bays, 1906-7 and later 20th century. Roughcast internally. Slate gable roofs; heating chamber with flat roof; west tower roof not seen. Chancel and chapel arches, some tower openings, vault and arch, some windows including Perpendicular tracery, medieval. Other windows, north and porch doors, nave arcade, from the later 19th century and 190-7, neo-Perpendicular, with Old Red Sandstone and yellow oolite dressings.

(Nave roof trusses from c.1700).

Roofs: c.1700 and 1906-7. Floors: 1906-7. Finishes: 1906-7 - 1991.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Very shallow external drain around 50% of church.; floors formerly suspended over void in 50% of church; below-ground floor in 10% of church?; few external memorials significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% medieval core fabric; medieval arches, tower openings and arch, and windows including tracery; roof trusses c.1700.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, in valley floor location; churchyard with good memorials; on urban fringe, with amenity value.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C14.

Phase 2 - Chancel, early C15?

Phase 3 - South chapel, south aisle, west tower, all late C15.

Phase 4 - Restored later C19, high impact; north porch built.

Phase 5 - Restored 1906-7, high impact; heating chamber built.

Phase 6 - Heating chamber west bay, later 20th century.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Dingat, Llandingat, is a multicelled church of large size. It retains approximately 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a single-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed south chapel, a 3-bayed south aisle, a north porch, a 3-storeyed west tower and a heating chamber in the angle between the tower and the aisle. Construction is in local mixed rubble, predominantly limestone. There are medieval openings including window tracery, in sandstone, limestone and oolite and largely Perpendicular; other dressings are in yellow oolite, neo-Perpendicular, from the late 19th century and 1906-7 but more-or-less replicating the original dressings. Pointing is mainly from the later 20th century. The interior, except for the porch, is roughcast, from 1991. Roofs are slated gables; the storehouse has a flat roof and the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel is the same width as the nave. It has an external basal batter and squared medieval quoins. The east gable was rebuilt in small limestone rubble, probably in 1906-7 with a contemporary single, cusped lancet. The 3-light east window has a 2-centred surround and Perpendicular tracery from the late 15th century, partly rebuilt in both the late 19th century and in 1906-7 when the rear-arch was rebuilt. The north wall is pierced by a cusped 2-light window with sunk spandrels, in a square surround of sandstone; 15th century, but similarly partly rebuilt. The 2-centred chancel arch is chamfered and has plain chamfered imposts, probably all from the 14th century; a corbel on the west side of the northern stop is probably associated with a former rood-screen. The softwood roof has king- and princess-posts on tie-beams, frame-and-matchboard 'ceiling' above, from 1906-7. Internally, corbels for earlier (medieval?) roof timbers survive beneath the summits of the east, north and south walls. The flagged floor is mid-late 19th century; the sanctuary was tiled in 1906-7.

The nave lacks an external batter, but the north wall leans out towards the top and features 3 stepped buttresses added in the later 19th century, rebuilt in 1906-7. At the east end of the wall lies a single plain lancet with a chamfered sandstone surround, low down, probably associated with the rood-screen or stair, and possibly also 14th century. The 3 main windows have large, 2-centred embrasures, probably original and of late 15th century date, each containing 3 lights with Perpendicular tracery, in yellow oolite, from 1906-7. The north door has a 2-centred surround, with infill, all from the late 19th century. The west wall is quoined. Internally, the north wall east bay exhibits a plain, square aumbry in chamfered limestone, 14th century?, with an Old Red Sandstone lintel from ?1906-7. The nave roof has oak tie-beams with king- and princess-posts from c.1700, and ?later carved arch-braces; the purlins, common rafters and matchboarding are from 1906-7. The passages are flagged as the chancel floor; the former suspended floor voids have a later 20th century concrete fill, with a damp course inserted in 1991 (churchwarden, pers. comm.).

The south chapel communicates with the chancel through a double-chamfered 2-centred arch on semi-octagonal stops with plain imposts and bases. The external walls are quoined, but not battered. The east window has a large, 2-centred embrasure from the late 15th century and 3 lights with Perpendicular

tracery like the nave windows, but in limestone, also from 1906-7?; surrounding infill is visible. The south wall is pierced by a similar window but the tracery is in double chamfered Old Red Sandstone all from the late 15th century; to the west is a rebuilt 'priest's' door with a 2-centred surround in roll- and cavetto-moulded Old Red Sandstone, and a drip-mould, from 1906-7 but possibly in imitation of the late 15th century original (see below). There is a small, plain, square internal recess in the south wall, (re)built in the 20th century. The softwood roof is matchboarded and framed like that in the chancel, but without the trusses, and also from 1906-7. The floor is concealed beneath a later 20th century suspended board floor.

The south aisle communicates with the chapel through a 2-centred, double-chamfered arch with single chamfered stops with neither imposts nor bases, all late 15th century. It communicates with the nave through a 3-bayed arcade of double-chamfered 2-centred arches on octagonal piers with plain imposts and bases, in oolite ashlar from the later 19th century in imitation of the arch between the chancel and the chapel. It is lit by 2 windows in the south wall, like the chapel east window and similarly from the late 15th century. The south door has a similar surround to the 'priest's' door and also rebuilt in 1906-7 but with a segmental head. Internally, the east end of the south wall exhibits a recess with a depressed segmental head, medieval, function?, blocked window associated with extension of rood-screen? (but no blocking visible externally); it has a limestone shelf inserted in 1906-7. The west wall features a large, 4-light window with a 2-centred surround and drip-mould and Perpendicular tracery of multiple cavetto mouldings, in Old Red Sandstone possibly predating the 1906-7 restoration. To the north is a blocked doorway, at half-height, with a segmental head and infill from the mid-late 19th century, blocked in 1906-7 and representing the entry to a former stair turret (see below); it is associated with a corbel of similar function. To the south of the window is a blocked doorway at ground level, again from the mid-late 19th century and blocked in 1906-7. The northern half of the wall is now occupied by a plain, square opening, with a grating, into the heating chamber, from 1906-7. The aisle is roofed and floored as the nave.

The west tower is from the late 15th century and comprises 3 storeys. It is of later Perpendicular character and has the external batter up to a string-course typical of the region. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a doorway with a 2-centred surround in chamfered limestone, and lit by simple loops with chamfered Old Red Sandstone surrounds. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch, from the late 15th century; the simple square imposts are confined to the render finish and continue as a fillet around the ground floor interior. The west door has a 2-centred surround in chamfered Old Red Sandstone, late 15th century, and a window lies above, with 3 lights, Perpendicular tracery and a cavetto-moulded drip-mould, all in yellow oolite from 1906-7 in imitation of an original from the late 15th century. Internally, a corbel halfway up the south wall is probably connected with the former west gallery. The late 15th century barrel-vault has a segmental profile. The floor was concreted, probably in 1991. The second stage is lit by a 2-light window in the north wall with a 2-centred drip-mould from 1906-7; the cusped lights and trefoil spandrel may be later 15th century in origin, restored in the late 19th century and in 1906-7. The south wall is pierced by a single cusped lancet in chamfered Old Red Sandstone in chamfered Old Red Sandstone, late 15th century, and the west wall by a simple, square-headed light in chamfered Old Red Sandstone, also late 15th century. The belfry stage has a 2-light opening in the east, south and west walls, like that in the second stage but all from 1906-7; a similar opening in the north wall may be late 15th century in origin. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table, all rebuilt in 1906-7.

The north porch was entirely rebuilt in the later 19th century in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble, and was restored in 1906-7. The side walls incorporate two contemporary buttresses against the nave north wall, and all external walls have a plain basal offset and a moulded yellow oolite string-course. The doorway has a 2-centred surround in chamfered Old Red Sandstone; above it is a blind lancet. The side walls are pierced by single trefoil lights in yellow oolite. The softwood roof has scissors-braced rafters and matchboarding from 1906-7. The floor is flagged as the nave, directly onto the substrate.

The heating chamber in the angle between the tower and the south aisle west wall is originally from 1906-7, replacing one from the late 19th century. The entry is in the south wall, and has a square surround in cavetto-moulded Old Red Sandstone. The east bay rises above the west bay, which was added in the later

20th century, with a stepped buttress on the south wall at the junction; the west bay is low. There is a flat roof throughout, with an oil tank overlying the west bay. The floor may be below-ground.

A very shallow external drain runs around the north walls and the chancel east wall. Floors were suspended over a void in the nave and aisle. The heating chamber floor may be below-ground. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the north and south walls.

Structural development

The nave contains an opening that may be 14th century, contemporary with the chancel arch. The chancel itself was rebuilt, with a batter, possibly in the earlier 15th century, but the rebuild stops short of the west end. There is a joint between the chancel and the south chapel; the latter is stylistically late Perpendicular, contemporary with the south aisle and probably contemporary with the west tower (and the original north porch?). In 1484 Richard III gave 10 marks towards repairing the church and that at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn (Caröe, 1917, 21; RCAHM, 1917, 97), which expenditure may very well represent this late 15th century remodelling. The whole plan-form is that of the 'typical' North-east Carmarthenshire church as fully developed at the end of the medieval period. The south aisle was traditionally known as the 'parish chancel' (Evens, 1921 (i), 5).

In 1672 the church was described as 'out of repair' (Evans, 1921 (ii), 64). The church was 'in good repair' in 1684 (Evans, 1915, 95); the chancel, however, 'is out of repair, but the rector is repairing it'. 'Ye walls, rooffe, windowes and floor be in good repaire' in 1705 (Evans, 1917 (i), 68) but, oddly, 'excepting the rooffe'. In 1710 the church floors were still 'of earth, which are insufferably uneven, occasion'd by the frequent burials of ordinary people in them. The tiling wants repairs. The inside walls want rendering and whiting. The windows want glazing' (RCAHM, 1917, 97). There was 'elder growing out of the walls at the east end of the chancel, and ashes growing on the walls on the north side of the church'. An altar rail was absent in 1720 (Evans, 1921 (i), 6). The south aisle was 'decayed' in 1739 (Evans, 1921 (i), 5).

The church was described by Lewis, in 1833, as 'an ancient building, consisting of two spacious aisles, with a tower, but presents no interesting architectural details' (Lewis, 1833). In a description of the church of 1851 (Glynne, 1898, 360-361) 'the windows on the north side are mostly modern, those on the south square-headed and rather poor; the east window of the chancel square-headed and small, of 3 lights; the north portion very large and plain'. The doors were 'pointed and simple'. Over the north porch, which featured a stoup, was a parvis, 'lighted by a slit'; the porch was very large, shown on the tithe map of 1839 as a transeptal building (NLW, Llandingat, 1839). The church exterior was whitewashed. An organ lay in its present location. The font was 'modern'.

The architect W. D. Caröe described the church at some length in 1904 prior to its restoration (Caröe, 1914, 15-16). It had been subject to 'unscholarly, tasteless and injudicious restorations'. The north porch was 'entirely modern', and had replaced the large porch with a parvis described by Glynne. The nave arcade too was 'entirely modern', and was 'a bad copy' of the surviving 15th century arch between the chancel and the south chapel; the arch between the chapel and the south aisle was also medieval. The northern windows were rather poor copies of the originals, and the north wall had recently been buttressed. The central windows of the south aisle were similarly 'very bad copies'. Both the south door and 'priest's door' were blocked. The oak roof over the nave was attributed to c.1700 replacing a lower-pitched roof of 'Tudor' date, 'when a clerestory may have been added'. The chancel roof was 'modern', and raised from its original line, while the south aisle roof was inaccessible (ceiled?); these roofs dated from 1867 as recorded on a plaque in the aisle. The tower parapet, and belfry lights, were similarly 'modern'. A photograph of c.1900, taken from the west (reproduced in Parry and Roberts, 1909, 157), shows a west door into the south aisle, south of the west window; both door and window were 'quite modern' (Caröe, op. cit.) and have been rebuilt/blocked. In addition, a low, semi-octagonal stair turret,

with square quoins and pyramidal roof, of mid-late 19th century date and leading to a western gallery (*ibid.*), is shown; it was in poor condition by 1904 and are now gone. A heating chamber occupied the same location as the present building; it had a lean-to roof up to the tower but was also in poor condition.

Caröe restored the church in 1906-7 (RCAHM, 1917, 97). Many of the windows were rebuilt. The removal of 'thick coats of modern plaster' revealed 'the approach to the rood-loft, the Priest's door, and the south door, all of which were obliterated'; the doorways were unblocked and rebuilt (Evans, 1907, 182). The western gallery and stair were removed, and the aisle west door was blocked. The north porch and buttresses were partly rebuilt, as was the tower parapet and the belfry openings. The heating chamber was entirely rebuilt. The chancel, south chapel and south aisle were reroofed. The church was refloored, and replastered.

The interior was roughcast, and damp courses were inserted beneath the nave and aisle floors, in 1991 (churchwarden, pers. comm.).

There is a (disused) altar table from 1701, with the inscription 'S. I. * R. B. * E. P. M. D. D.P. 1701' (Evans, 1907, 182). The large organ in the south chapel may be a rebuild of that present in 1851, or a rather later introduction?. The chancel fittings, including the free-standing oak stalls, with floorboards, are from 1906-7. The free-standing softwood pews and the elaborate oolite pulpit with neo-Perpendicular mouldings are also from 1906-7. The glazed, oak tower screen is from 1927 (NLW, SD/F/267).

The square font bowl may be from 1720 (RCAHM, 1917, 97), but has an octagonal stem and base and an elaborate moulded casing, with 4 corner free shafts, dated 1859.

'Ye bells' were 'out of repaire' in 1705 (Evans, 1917 (i), 68). There were 4 bells 'in the steeple' in 1710 (RCAHM, 1917, 97), 'which are all crack'd; none of them have clappers'. They were replaced by 5 new bells in 1720 (*ibid.*).

The church was Grade II* listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; churchyard formerly sub-circular.

St Dingat, Llandingat, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradgowy. It appears to have always been a possession of the Bishops of St Davids.

In 1833 the living was a vicarage, with the perpetual curacy of Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn annexed, in the patronage of the Bishop and rated in the king's books at £7 (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Dingat, Llandingat, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Myddfai (Benefice no. 530) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

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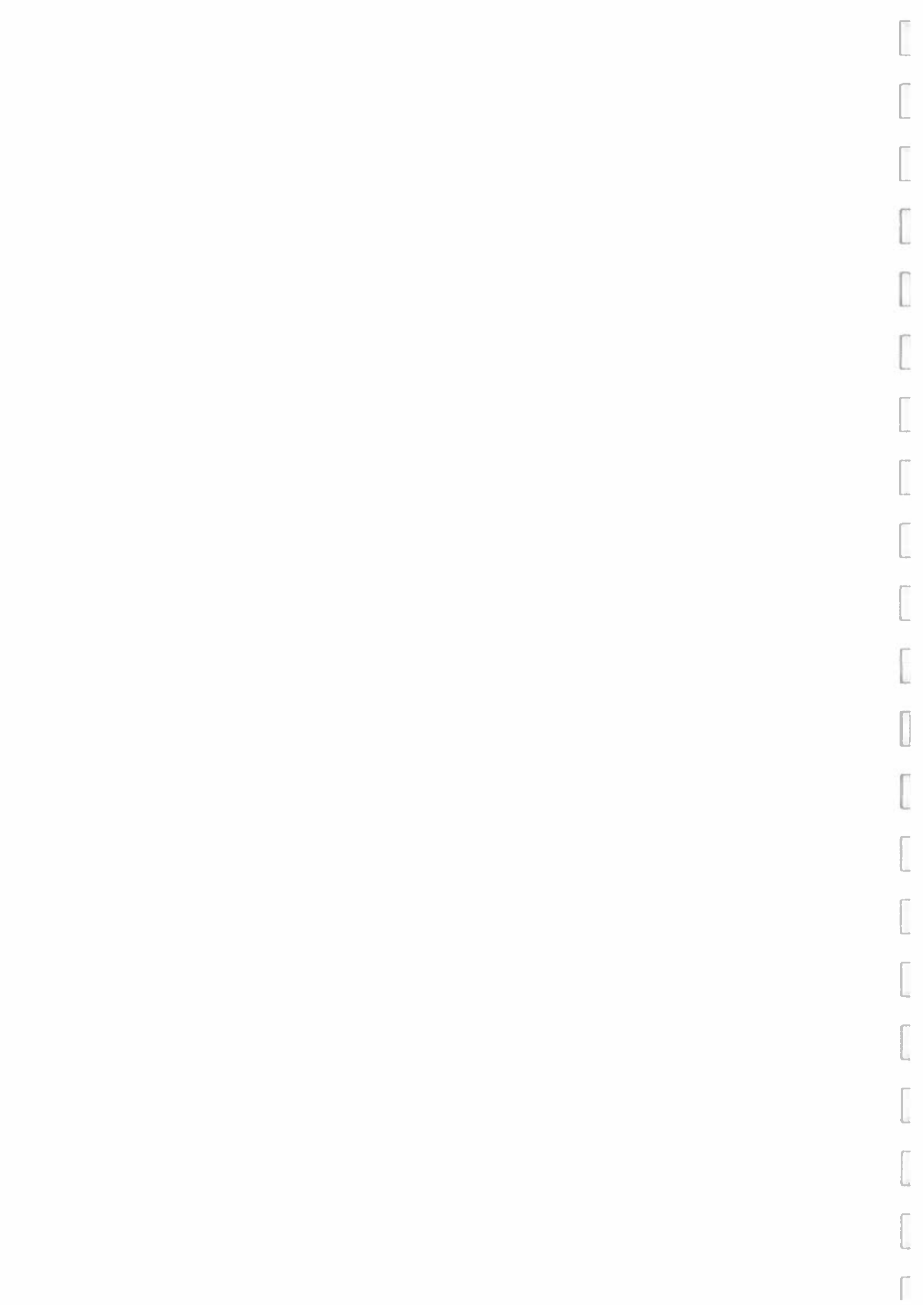
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**ST TYBIE,
LLANDYBIE,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 824

RB No. 2685

NGR SN 6183 1555

Listed Building No. 10915

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 70% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; south chapel, 2 bays; south aisle, 3 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. West porch; south porch; vestry (transeptal, south of chapel); ?boilerhouse (transeptal, north of nave); 1853-7. Plastered internally. Slate gable roofs; west tower roof not seen. Arcades, tower openings, roof timbers; blocked opening(s)?; medieval. Other openings, including rebuilt chancel arch, 1853-7, neo-Gothic, with yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs: late 15th century. Floors: 1853-7. Finishes: 1853 - 1968.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Flag-covered external drain runs around 40% of church; shallow concrete-lined drain around 10% level; suspended floors over deep void in 875% of church; heating flues in 40% of church; below-ground floor in 5% of church; external burial vaults, memorials and former memorials lie significantly close to 50% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 70% medieval core fabric; medieval arcade, tower openings, and roof timbers.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, in valley floor, central village location; churchyard with good memorials; associated schoolhouse buildings.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, C14?

Phase 2 - South chapel and aisle (and porches?), late C15.

Phase 3 - West tower, late C16.

Phase 4 - Restored 1853-7, high impact; porches, vestry and boilerhouse built.

Phase 5 - Vestry (re) built, 1912.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Tybie, Llandybie, is a multicell church, of large size. It retains approximately 70% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 2-bayed south chapel, a 3-bayed south aisle, a south porch, a west porch, a 3-storeyed west tower in the angle between the nave and the south aisle, a single-bayed transeptal vestry south of the south chapel east bay, and a transeptal boilerhouse north of the nave west bay. Construction is in limestone and sandstone rubble. Openings are mainly from 1853-7, neo-Geometric, with yellow oolite dressings. Pointing is mainly from 1853-7, with some later repointing; the interior is plastered except in the porches, tower and boilerhouse. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel east wall, with its quoins, were partly rebuilt in 1856-7. The 3-light east window is entirely from 1856-7 and has a drip-mould and Geometric tracery. There is a blocked window in the north wall represented by a square area of infill, post-medieval window?, blocked in 1856-7?. The 2-centred chancel arch was partly rebuilt in 1856-7. The chancel has an oak wagon roof from the later 15th century, partly restored, with panelling, in 1912. The quarry-tiled floor from 1856-7, over heating ducts from 1912.

The nave is lit by 3 windows in the north wall, each of 2 lights and with dripmoulds and geometric tracery, all from 1853-5. To the west, part of the jamb and sill of a small blocked window are visible externally but too little has survived to date the dressings. The west wall is pierced by a cusped, double-lancet window with a central circular light from 1853-5. The west door has a moulded 2-centred surround from 1853-5. The oak wagon-roof is like that in chancel and also late 15th century, largely unrestored; The passages are tiled like the chancel floor, with suspended board floors.

The west porch was entirely rebuilt in 1853-5, in similar quoined rubble to that in the rebuilt sections of the chancel. The doorway is contemporary, with a moulded 2-centred surround. The softwood roof is also from 1853-5 and lacks trusses, all common rafters having collars. The floor is limestone flagged, from the later 20th century.

The south chapel communicates with the chancel through a 2-bayed arcade of plain, 2-centred arches inserted in the late 15th century. The arch into the south aisle was partly rebuilt in 1856-7. The east wall was partly rebuilt in 1856-7, as the chancel east wall including the quoins, and pierced by a similar window, but of 2 lights, and the in the west bay south wall is a window, like those in the nave and from 1856-7, with surrounding infill but without a dripmould. The south chapel has a wagon roof like those in the chancel and nave, but extensively restored in 1912. Floored as the nave, without heating ducts, 1856-7.

The south aisle communicates with the chancel/nave through a 4-bayed arcade pieced through the latter's south wall in the late 15th century; the 2-centred arches are plain. The south wall features 2 windows like those in the nave, from 1853-5. The south door has a moulded, 2-centred surround similarly from 1853-5, with extensive surrounding infill in coursed and squared Old Red Sandstone. The wagon-roof is like that in the nave, late 15th century. Floored as the nave, without heating ducts, 1853-5.

The south porch was entirely rebuilt in 1853-5, as the west porch but with a slight external batter, and with yellow oolite quoins. The doorway is contemporary, with a moulded 2-centred surround. The softwood roof is also from 1853-5 and lacks trusses, all common rafters having collars. The floor is limestone flagged like the west porch, from the later 20th century.

The west tower is from the later 16th century, of later Perpendicular character similar to the contemporary tower at Llandeilo Fawr, Carmar., and comprises 3 storeys. The facework is in large, coursed and squared Old Red Sandstone and yellow sandstone rubble, repointed in 1968. It has the external batter up to a cavetto-moulded string-course typical of the region. A square spiral stair turret projects from the western half of the north wall, entered through a doorway with a chamfered 2-centred surround, and lit by slit-lights. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a 2-centred arch, later 16th century, redressed/rebuilt in 1853-5. There is no west door, but the west wall is pierced by an uncusped 2-light window with a chamfered, square surround and cavetto-moulded label; the lights have semicircular heads in chamfered limestone from the later 16th century but the central mullion was replaced in grey oolite, probably in 1892-3. There is a second cavetto-moulded string course at the top of the second stage, which is lit by a window like that in the ground floor but single-light. The belfry stage has 2-light openings with uncusped elliptical heads, with sunk spandrels in square surrounds in all 4 faces, in limestone again from the later 16th century. The parapet has crenellations with a string-course around both merlons and embrasures, which both also have coping, and lies on a corbel table, all from the later 16th century but restored in 1892-3; rainwater chutes moulded as gargoyles issue from the north and west faces.

The vestry is entered from the south chapel through a doorway with a moulded, 2-centred surround from 1856-7 and which led to a contemporary vestry which was (entirely?) rebuilt, to a larger plan and in squared and coursed limestone rubble with oolite ashlar quoins, in 1912. The exterior has an external basal batter up to a roll-moulded oolite string-course, 1912. It is lit by a 2-light window in the east wall, with a square surround imitating the 16th century tower openings, from 1912; the south wall window has cusped triple lancets and is either a rebuilt or retained window from 1856-7. The vestry is entered from the churchyard through a doorway in the west wall with a Caernarfon-headed surround that was similarly either rebuilt or retained from 1856-7. A disused fireplace lies in the south-east corner; the chimney has gone. The matchboarded softwood ceiling is from 1912 as is the floor.

A boilerhouse was built against the north wall of the nave west bay, possibly in 1853-5. It is entered through a contemporary segmental-headed doorway, with an inserted 20th century concrete lintel, in its east wall, approached down a flight of 7 steps in a revetted stairwell; the exterior of this wall is partly rendered. The single lancet in the north wall is also contemporary, as is the gabled roof. The square boilerhouse has an octagonal, moulded oolite stack, also from ?1853-5, rising through the northern slope of the nave west gable.

A flag-covered external drain runs around the north and east walls. A shallow concrete-lined drain runs along the nave south wall. Floors are suspended over deep voids, and heating flues in the chancel and nave. The boilerhouse floor is below ground level. External burial vaults, memorials and former memorials lie significantly close to the north and south walls.

Structural development

It has been stated (RCAHM, 1917, 103, *et al.*) that the south chapel and aisle represent the original chancel and nave, and that the present chancel and nave were secondarily added as a north aisle before their usage changed. This appears to be merely an attempt to explain the location of the west tower. However, the very fact that the present chancel is wider than the nave, and the fact that the tower location is paralleled by eg. Prendergast, Pembs., is sufficient to allow reasonable satisfaction that the elements and their usage have remained unchanged.

In the absence of detail, the chancel and nave cannot be closely dated but the arcade into the south aisle and chapel is secondary, the arches having been cut through a solid wall; the chancel and nave may be 14th century. The south chapel and aisle are from the later 15th century and contemporary with the oak wagon roofs, which form a complete set (Yates, 1974, 65, 72). The tower is later 16th century and similar to the contemporary tower at Llandeilo Fawr, Carmar.. Both porches appear to have been added by at least 1732, when 'ye porches' are mentioned, but have since been entirely rebuilt (Lewis, 1936, 38).

The church was ceiled in c.1700 (RCAHM, 1917, 108); the ceilings have since been removed. The floors were 'not paved' in 1705, being earthen? (Evans, 1917, 67)

The tower was renovated in 1823, as recorded in a plaque on the tower.

The pre-restoration church was described as 'greatly disfigured during the last century', with windows that were 'pagan monstrosities' (Anon., 1855, 281). Some restoration work had been undertaken in 1853 (Evans, 1917 (ii), 7) and in 1855 the church was described as 'lately repaired and restored', with 'new windows' and 'proper seats' (Anon., 1855, 281).

The work may represent the first stages of a campaign of restoration known to have been undertaken on the chancel and chapel, in 1856-7 (Anon., 1893, 170), to the designs of the architect (Sir) George Gilbert Scott (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/7/7). Upon the completion of both stages, a vestry, smaller than at present, had been built. The west and south porches were entirely rebuilt. The east gables were partly rebuilt. The church was refenestrated, refloored and reseated. The ceilings were removed except in the chancel. The internal plaster was stripped, and the church replastered. The tower was not restored. A boilerhouse had been built against the north wall of the nave west bay by 1878 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition), and may be contemporary with the nave restoration of 1853-5; an apparatus by John King Ltd was installed before 1912 (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/7/1).

The tower was renovated in 1892-3 to the designs of the architect Ewan Christian (Anon., 1893, 170). Repairs were undertaken on the roofs in 1894 (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/4/1). It was intended to add a north aisle in 1903, but the plans were not undertaken (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/7/14).

In 1912 the vestry was demolished and rebuilt to a larger plan but retaining, or re-using, much of the 1850s fabric. The chancel ceiling was removed, and the heating flues, to the designs of the architect W. D. Jenkins of Llandeilo (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/7/1).

A large, ornate railed tomb lay north of the chancel but was removed after 1906 (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/7/14; Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Second Edition), possibly in 1925 (NLW, SD/F/251). The tower was renovated in 1968 as recorded in a plaque.

An iron casting of the Royal Arms of George III, from 1814, are hung in the chancel. The oak pews, and the pulpit, and the iron porch gates are from 1856 (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/4/4). The organ was installed in 1914 (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/7/19). The chancel fittings and stalls are from 1966 (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/7/22).

The font is modern, but the old font lay loose in the porch in 1917 (RCAHM, 1917, 103).

'One of the bells' was cracked in 1684 (Evans, 1915, 94), and 'bells' were present in 1733 (Lewis, 1936, 38). The 3 bells now in the tower are from 1681 but 2 were recast in the late 19th century (Anon., 1893, 170).

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; yard formerly subcircular.

St Tybie, Llandybie, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. It fell into the hands of King Edward I, 'by reason of the forfeiture of the patron', and in 1284 the king granted the advowson to the Bishop of St Davids as a prebend (Evans, 1910, 63).

In 1833 the living, a discharged vicarage in the patronage of the bishop, was rated in the king's books at £4 and endowed with £200 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Tybie, Llandybie, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage (Benefice no. 171) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Dyffryn Aman (St Davids, 1997-8).

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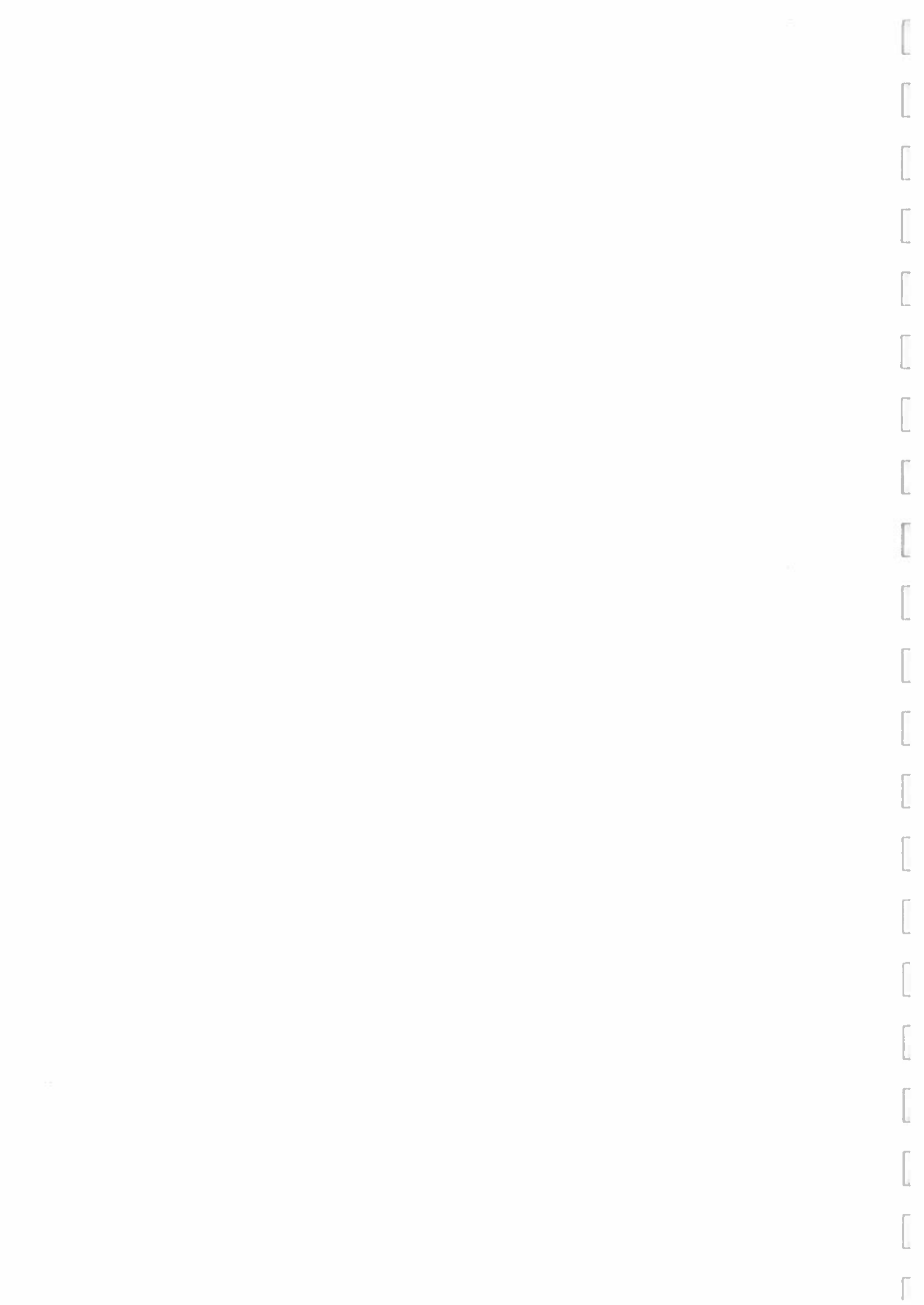
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**ST EGWAD,
LLANEGWAD,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 17392

RB No. 3453

NGR SN 5193 2132

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and in same location as, medieval church (Dyfed PRN 7370).

A multicell church, large. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; north chapel, 2 bays; north aisle, 4 bays; north porch; all 1849. North-west tower, 3 storeys, 1902. Coalhouse and boilerhouse (south of chancel), early-mid 20th century. Construction is mainly in squared and coursed limestone rubble, with some 20th century brick; the south wall is partly rendered and the interior is plastered. Openings are mainly from 1849 and neo-Perpendicular, with ORS dressings partly rebuilt in 1902 in grey oolite. Slate gable roofs; coalhouse and boilerhouse with asbestos lean-to roofs; tower with a timber 'spire'.

Roofs and floors: Mainly 1849 and 1902. Finishes: 1849 - 1948.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. No external drain or cutting around church; below-ground floor in 5% of church; suspended floors over a void in 50% of church; external memorial significantly close to 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-1849 core fabric.

Group value - low-medium. C19 landmark church in centre of village; large churchyard; lych-gate; inscribed stone (?).

Phasing:
All 1849.

DESCRIPTION

St Egwad, Llanegwad, is multicelled church, of large size. It was entirely (re)built in 1849, on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, but retaining nothing from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 2-bayed north chapel, a 4-bayed north aisle, a north porch, a 3-storeyed tower built against the north-west corner of the aisle, and a coalhouse and a boilerhouse south of the chancel. Construction is mainly in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble; the nave south wall is rendered, from 1948?, and the interior is plastered. Openings are neo-Perpendicular, and except in the tower are from c.1849; windows are mainly 2-light with Old Red Sandstone dressings, but some were rebuilt in 1902 in grey oolite. The north-west tower is square, crenellated, with similar openings from 1902. The coalhouse and boilerhouse are in brick. The roofs are slated gables; the coalhouse and boilerhouse have lean-to asbestos sheet roofs and the tower carries a timber 'spire'.

Nothing remains from the earlier church, which appears, with the exception of the tower, to have followed the same general plan form with chancel, nave, and north aisle, the latter having been reroofed in 1788 (Carms. R. O., CPR/103/17); the tithe map shows a simple rectangle (NLW, Llanegwad, 1839). Something more substantial than a bellcote lay at the west end, but of unknown form; in 1717 it was described as 'our steeple (if it be so called)', and was in 'good order, according to the form it was first built' (Evans, 1921 (ii), 2). The floor was still unflagged in 1790 (Evans, 1922, 56). In 1848, there was room for 112 sittings (Carms. R. O., CPR/103/31).

The church was entirely rebuilt 'and enlarged' in 1849, to the designs of the architect John Harries of Llandeilo (Carms. R. O., CPR/103/31), to accommodate 312 sittings.

The north-west tower was added in 1902 (NLW, SD/F/310), but the 2 pre-Reformation bells were retained (Lewis, 1925, 389); they date from c.1500 and bear the inscriptions 'NOS REGAT HIIS ANNIS SANCTA FIGURA IOHANNIS', and 'ORA PRO NOBIS SA'CTA MARIA' (RCAHM, 1917, 117).

The coalhouse and boilerhouse were added in the early-mid 20th century.

The church was renovated, and the internal plaster entirely stripped, in 1948 (Brunker, 1961, 3). It was replastered; the nave south wall may have received its render at the same time.

The font is modern.

An inscribed stone (inscription? date?) was found during the 1940s renovation within the south wall (Brunker, 1961, 3).

There is neither an external drain nor a cutting around the church. The boilerhouse floor is below churchyard ground level. Floors are suspended above a void in the nave and north aisle. An external burial vault lies against the north chapel north wall.

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site - Celtic dedication.

St Egvad, Llanegwad, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932) of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. It was appropriated to the Premonstratensian Abbey at Talley by Bishop Gervase of St Davids, previously Abbot of Talley, in 1215 (Owen, 1894, 227); in 1291 it was valued at £6 13 4d, and in 1536 at £13 6s 8d. There were at least 3 chapels-of-ease within the parish (Price, 1879, 171) but there may have been more ie. one for each township.

After the dissolution, the patronage fell to the Bishops of St Davids, and in 1833 the living, a vicarage in the patronage of the Bishop, was rated in the king's books at £8 13s 4d (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Egvad, Llanegwad, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanfynydd (Benefice no. 677) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST MARY,
LLANFAIR-AR-Y-BRYN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 3856

RB No. 2998

NGR SN 7698 3517

Listed Building No. 10967

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 100% pre-19th century core fabric.

A 3-cell church, medium sized. Consists of chancel/nave, without structural division, 8 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. South porch, 18th century. Vestry (north of nave), 1 bay, early-mid 19th century. Organ chamber (east of vestry), 1 bay, 1880. Local rubble construction, including some re-used Roman brick/tile. Internal early plaster with wall-paintings. Slate gable roofs; vestry/organ chamber with slate lean-to roof; west tower roof not seen. Windows including tracery, doors, blocked doors including ?rood-loft door, tower openings, vault, gargoyles, fireplace and arch, piscina, tomb-recess(es)/Easter sepulchre, stoup, blocked arch, medieval, some openings 12th century. Other windows and doors from 1880, 1906 and 1913, neo-Gothic, with ORS and yellow oolite dressings. (Some 17th century loose fittings.)

Roofs: ?1723 and 1913. Floors: 1913. Finishes: ?late medieval - 1913.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - excellent. Pronounced, D-shaped platform beneath 50% of church, primary; medium-depth, earth-cut drain around 40% of church; shallow, concrete-lined drain around 50% of church; former components beyond 20% of church; floor raised in 50% of church; floors formerly suspended over a void in 50% of church; below-ground floor in 5% of church; external memorials significantly close to 60% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - excellent. 100% medieval core fabric; medieval windows including tracery, doors, blocked doors, tower openings, vault, gargoyles, fireplace and arch, piscina, tomb-recess(es)/Easter sepulchre, stoup, blocked arch; 18th century roof and porch.

Group value - high. Important medieval landmark church with tower, in hilltop location; within Roman fort site; C18 lych-gate; associated good masonry buildings.

Phasing:

- Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, C12.
- (Phase 2 - Former south chapel, c.1290).
- (Phase 3 - Former south porch, C14?).
- Phase 4 - West tower, late C15.
- Phase 5 - South porch, early C18?
- Phase 6 - Vestry, early-mid C19.
- Phase 7 - Restored 1880, medium impact.
- Phase 8 - Restored 1906 and 1913, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Mary, Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, is a 3-celled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 100% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 8-bayed chancel/nave without structural division past or present, a south porch, a 4-storeyed west tower, and a vestry and organ chamber north of the nave. Construction is in local mixed rubble; brick and tile derived from an underlying Roman fort can be seen in the facework of the east and north walls. There are many medieval dressings, in Roman tile, limestone and Old Red Sandstone; other dressings are in yellow oolite, from 1880 and neo-Gothic, and from 1906/1913, in Old Red Sandstone and neo-Gothic but more-or-less replicating earlier dressings. There are extensive remains of late 18th-early 19th century external render, with repointing from 1880 and 1913; the internal plaster is early, with wall-paintings (pre-Reformation?). Roofs are slated gables, the vestry/organ chamber has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen.

The 'chancel'

Although there is, and has never been, any structural distinction between nave and chancel it is useful here to divide the internal space for descriptive purposes.

The 'chancel' walls are battered, and feature Roman brick/tile. They appear to have been raised considerably, along with the floor; the sill of the original east window lies very close to the present floor level as does the piscina in the same wall (see below). The present east window is of 3 lights, with cusped semicircular heads and sunk spandrels in a square surround, from the late 15th century but extensively restored in 1913. Internally, the sills and lower splays of the earlier, blocked 2 light window are visible, interrupted by the 15th century window and given segmental heads; the internal framing of the splays caused Carøe to reconstruct the window as a Romanesque type from the 12th century (Carøe, 1917, 26-8) and some internal paint remains. South of the window is the piscina, which has a crude 2-centred head and a plain bowl, of probable 13th century date.

The east bay north wall features a window like the east window but of 2 lights and all in Old Red Sandstone, with heads rebuilt in 1913. The central bay is lit by a single, multi-cusped lancet in a square surround, all (re)built, with infill, in 1913. The west bay is lit by single uncusped lancet in a 2-centred surround, in double cavetto-moulded Old Red Sandstone rebuilt in 1913, with infill, from a 14th century original; there is a small, simple, lintelled square opening above, which may be a light but equally may be a socket. Internally, the east bay north wall features a tomb recess or Easter sepulchre with a low, rounded 2-centred head with a chamfered surround, probably from the 13th century; it is empty. A second, similar recess lies in the bay to the west, but lacks a surround; it has been interrupted by the insertion of a tall, square recess, of unknown date and function but not, apparently, a window. Above it, a line of quoins can

be seen on the internal face of the wall which appears to represent an internal return into a former transeptal structure, removed prior to the insertion of the tomb-recess(es)

The east bay south wall is pierced by a plain medieval slit-light with a square head which, with the sill, was replaced in 1913; the rear arch is segmental which gives the opening a probable late 13th-14th century date. The south wall of the central bay features a blocked arch that led into a former south chapel (see below); internally, the arch has a chamfered, 2 centred surround with plain, chamfered imposts probably from the 14th century, and externally the arch has a rounded, 2-centred profile with voussoirs that lie beneath the render, demonstrating that the chapel was removed prior to the early 19th century. The blocking is itself pierced by a cusped 2-light window in a square surround and label, in cavetto-moulded Old Red Sandstone, yellow sandstone and oolite, with sunk spandrels featuring moulded shields, all from the late 15th century; the sources suggest that the blocking is rather later and that the window is re-used (see below). In the west bay is a further window with 2 cusped, semicircular-headed lights in a square surround with sunk spandrels, all rebuilt in cavetto-moulded Old Red Sandstone in 1913, with infill. Above it are 2 simple slit-lights; the one to the east is blocked both internally and externally, but the heads and sills were replaced in 1913, while the one to the west has an inserted timber lintel and a square embrasure.

The internal plaster is fundamentally early, and there are the remains of wall-paintings on the east wall, with a text in 16th century characters. The oak, king-post roof is 18th century (1723?) but was given a softwood 'wagon roof' ceiling in 1880, restored in 1913. The red-tiled floor is from 1913.

The 'nave'

The 'nave' north wall features some Roman brick/tile; the west end features very large, medieval quoins. There is a window towards the west end, with 2 independent 2-centred, cusped lights in a segmental arch with infill, from 1880. Internally, a blocked medieval north door is visible beneath the window; it has a cavetto-moulded 2-centred surround, with chamfered stops at the bases of the jambs, from the late 15th century. Further west is a plain, square-headed, earlier(?) medieval light, re-exposed in 1913.

At the east end of the south wall is a 3-light window like the 1880 window in the north wall. A stone projects from the external face beneath its sill, which may relate to the blocked doorway visible internally and truncated by the window; however, in this location the doorway probably relates to a former rood-loft stair in the wall thickness. Immediately east of the south porch is a simple slit light with a semicircular head whose voussoirs incorporate Roman tile, lying in a splayed embrasure with a semicircular head; all 12th century. The south door has a 2-centred surround, probably from the 14th century but restored in 1913, externally, to the east of the door is a plain stoup of probable 14th century date. At the east end of the south wall is a single light, unblocked in 1913, with a cusped, 2-centred head in a square surround with sunk spandrels, with the sill probably from the 15th century but with jambs replaced in 1913; the embrasure, with a roughly segmental head, may be earlier.

The internal plaster is early like that in the chancel and the north wall exhibits faint wall-paintings. The oak king-post roof is continuous with that in the 'chancel' but is here without the 1880 ceiling, and was restored in 1913. Floored as the 'chancel'.

The west tower

The west tower is from the late 15th century and comprised 4 storeys. The facework is in large limestone rubble, and the tower features the external batter up to a string-course typical of the region. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the south wall, entered through a late 15th century doorway with a cavetto-moulded 2-centred surround, with chamfered stops at the bases of the jambs, and lit by simple loops. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch, late 15th century. The west door lies beneath the string-course which is corbelled over the cut-out in the batter; it has a rounded 2-centred surround in chamfered Old Red Sandstone from the late 15th century,

unblocked in 1906. Above it is a 2-light window of cusped lights with semicircular heads in a 2-centred outer arch, the spandrel of which is pierced by a trefoil, all in chamfered Old Red Sandstone from the late 15th century but much restored, after earlier damage, in 1913. The late 15th century barrel-vault has a 2-centred profile. The floor is tiled as the chancel/nave.

The second stage is lit by a window in the south wall like that in the west wall of the ground floor, late 15th century; this stage is now continuous with the third stage, which is lit by 2 cusped single lancets and has a surviving fireplace and flue suggesting that it formerly formed a 'priest's chamber' (Carøe, 1917, 35). The belfry stage has cusped 2-light openings with semicircular heads in all 4 faces, again from the late 15th century. The crenellated parapet lies on a string-course, and features gargoyles, all from the late 15th century but restored in the late 17th century (ibid.).

The south porch

The south porch was entirely rebuilt, in roughly squared and coursed limestone, in the 18th century. The door has a contemporary 2-centred surround in chamfered limestone and Old Red Sandstone, but may re-use part of a 14th century surround, and there is 18th century internal benching. The softwood roof, and floor laid directly on the substrate, are from 1880.

The vestry and organ chamber

The vestry is from the early-mid 19th century and is entered from the 'nave' through a plain, 2-centred doorway, and from the churchyard through a simple, square doorway in the north wall, rebuilt in the later 20th century when the plain, square window was also rebuilt. A heating chamber was excavated beneath the floor of the eastern half in 1880, and the upper courses of the walls were rebuilt in 1913 when the heating chamber was altered and given a plain square chimney in the east wall. The apparatus was again converted, in the later 20th century, to run on oil from an external tank. The softwood lean-to roof is from 1913.

The organ chamber was added at the east end of the vestry in 1880 and communicates with the 'nave' through a tall, contemporary segmental arch. The external walls have square quoins; there is a single square light in a chamfered Old Red Sandstone surround in the east wall, and a similar 2-light window in the north wall. The softwood lean-to roof is from 1913; floored as the chancel/nave.

There is a pronounced, D-shaped platform beneath the eastern half of the church, primary; it terminates beneath the east wall suggesting that the church may originally have been shorter. Medium-depth, earth-cut drains run along the north and south walls of the eastern half of the church, and a shallow, concrete-lined drain runs around the western half and vestry. There was formerly a south chapel, and a possible transeptal structure north of the 'chancel'. The floor was raised in the eastern half of the church during the medieval period. Floors were formerly suspended over a void in the 'nave' and organ chamber. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the vestry. External memorials lie significantly close to the north-east, east and south walls.

Structural development

St Mary, Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, stands within the Roman fort site of *Alabum*.

The chancel/nave contains 12th century openings including very small slit lights. A transeptal structure appears to have led off from the north wall but had gone by the time the 13th century tomb recess(es) were inserted; the church was apparently 'restored' in 1290 (Carøe, 1917, 15) which may at least provide a date for the former south chapel and arch. It has been seen above that the east bay, which hitherto must have lain at a considerably lower level than the 'nave' floor (and approached by steps down?), was raised during the same period. The south porch may have been added during the 14th century but was rebuilt in

the 18th century (see below). In 1484 Richard III gave 10 marks towards repairing the church, with that at Llandingat (RCAHM, 1917, 97), and this may provide a context for the late 15th century windows including the re-used chancel south wall window (formerly in the south chapel?), the construction of the tower, and the insertion of the rood-screen, for which there are 'distinct traces' (Carøe, 1917, 15) including a possible door. The vestry and organ chamber are 19th-20th century (see below).

The 'steeple and bells' were out of repair in 1672, and the windows were unglazed (Anon., 1919, 212). In 1705 the 'walls, roof and windowes' were in good repair, 'excepting a little of ye roof, and ye wheel of ye bell' (Evans, 1917, 70).

An account of 1710 describes the floors as of earth and uneven, but the windows were glazed (Evans, 1909, 42). Much of the exterior was ivied, and with saplings. This situation still obtained in 1720 when the church 'and chancel' both 'want repairing very much', and the tower was 'much impair'd... by the great quantity of ivy that has been suffer'd to grow upon it' (Evans, 1921, 11); the greater window at the east end of the chancel 'was something out of repair', and the window on the 'south side of the chancel... to want glazing very much'. The present, king-post roof is 18th century, possibly from 1723 according to Carøe, 1917, 35. The tower apparently carried a lead spire during the 17th and 18th centuries (*ibid.*). The porch has been dated to the first half of the 18th century by Carøe (*ibid.*), and re-uses part of a 14th century door surround.

Churchwarden's accounts of the 18th century make frequent reference to the former south chapel. The chapel appears to have been transeptal, and the 1710 account describes the 'space, about 25ft in length between the church porch and a side chancel that is projected from the body of the church as far from the body of the church as the church porch' (Evans, 1909, 42); this space was apparently full of 'men's skulls (sic) and bones... piled up against the church wall about 6 foot high and expos'd to the open air'. In 1781 'a part of Llanfairarybryn church, commonly called... Llwynhowell Chapel' was out of repair, and in 1788 'the chapel called Llwynhowell, adjoining the church' was 'miserably out of repair' (Jones, 1937, 49). By 1790 it was 'out of repair and ruinous' and the 'current of air admitted thro' the said chapel may, for want of a vent, endanger the roof of the church' (*ibid.*). The chapel appears to have been demolished soon afterwards; it had apparently contained a fine 16th century tomb, fragments from which now lie in the new parish church at Cynghordy (*ibid.*).

The extent of 18th-early 19th century blocking of medieval openings, or their alteration and refenestration, can be judged from Glynne's description of 1851 (Glynne, 1898, 361). The chancel was described as 'not very well distinguished; the east window square-headed, of 3 lights. On the north side of the chancel is a similar window of 2 lights, and a plain slit... the other windows are modern'. The porch and tower are described as they exist today, and there was 'a modern excrescence on the north side', the present vestry, which was presumably a fairly recent addition.

The church was restored in 1880 when some refenestration took place, the organ chamber was added and the south porch was rebuilt. The work was much criticised by the architect W. D. Carøe, in an account of 1906 written prior to his restoration (Carøe, 1914, 11). The 'chancel' north wall windows had been 'mutilated out of recognition', and 'the modern (Bath stone) windows of the church... of a conventicle kind... and the porch' were 'quite out of character with the fabric', and the east window (still square?) showed signs of movement. The late 15th century west window in the tower had been reset, but upside-down, and capped 'with a piece of modern work'. The 'chancel' received its present ceiling, and the church was refloored, reseated and partly refitted; the timber floors had dry rot in 1913.

The tower was restored by Carøe in 1906 (*ibid.*), but work on the rest of the church was not commenced until 1913 (Yates, 1974, 65). The restoration was very low impact. Blocked medieval openings were re-exposed, including the sills of original eastern window, and many windows were rebuilt/restored. The west door was unblocked. The church was refloored, and the porch, vestry and organ chamber reroofed. The seating was removed and replaced with chairs. The vestry heating chamber was altered.

The altar table and credence are Jacobean (Yates, 1974, 72). The organ is said to be 'pre-1800' (Anon., n.d.) but appears to have been (re)built in 1880 (Caröe, 1917, 35). The pulpit from 1922, by Caröe (Anon., n.d.).

The font has a 15th century octagonal Old Red Sandstone bowl, on a 'modern' limestone stem (Anon., n.d.; Yates, 1974, 72).

There were 4 bells in 1535 (Anon., n.d.). The bells were 'out of repair' in 1672 (Anon., 1919, 212), 1678 (Evans, 1912, 34) and in 1684 (Evans, 1915, 97) when at least one bell was replaced. Another was 'very much out of repair' in 1720 (Evans, 1921, 11) and all 'want clappers etc'. Two bells were recast in 1902 (Anon., n.d.) but there were only 2 bells in 1913, from 1684 and 1902 (Caröe, 1917, 35).

A post-conquest inscribed tombstone, and a moulded head, are set in the internal face of the nave north wall, probably not *in situ*.

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Roman fort site.

St Mary, Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. The church itself was detached, lying within the parish of Llandingat. From c.1126 until 1185 it was a cell of the Benedictine Priory at Great Malvern, but was dissolved by Rhys Grug (Caröe, 1917, 15).

In 1833 the living was a perpetual curacy annexed to the vicarage of Llandingat, endowed with £1000 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833). It ceased to be a parish church in 1883, when a new parish church was erected at Cynghordy (Yates, 1974, 52), and became a chapel-of-ease to Llandingat. However, in 1710 it was referred to as 'a Chapell to Llan Dingad' (Evans, 1909, 42).

In 1998 St Mary, Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, was a vicarage of the benefice of Llandingat (Llandovery) with Myddfai (Benefice no. 530), in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

The 'Mary' dedication is probably post-conquest, according to Yates, 1974, 52.

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**ST MICHAEL,
LLANFIHANGEL ABERBYTHYCH,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 4726

RB No. 3678

NGR SN 5898 1972

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and in same location as, medieval church.

A multicell church, small-medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 1 bay; north porch; vestry (north), 1 bay; all c.1850. Construction is in squared and coursed ORS rubble. Openings all from c.1850 and neogothic, in ORS and grey oolite; limited external buttressing, c.1850; western timber bellcote/turret, c.1850. Slate gable roofs; vestry with a slate lean-to roof; bellcote with a low slate 'spire'.

Roofs, floors and finishes: c.1850.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Below-ground oil-tank and cutting against 5% of church; shallow earth cutting around 50% of church; suspended floors above a void in 75% of church; some external memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-c.1850 core fabric.

Group value - medium. C19, good-quality landmark church; hillslope location on edge of estate and park, with estate village buildings; circular churchyard; lych-gate.

Phasing:
All c.1850.

DESCRIPTION

St Michael, Llanfihangel Aberbythych, is a multicelled church, of small-medium size. It was entirely (re)built in c.1850, on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, but retaining nothing from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a north transept, a single-bayed vestry between the chancel and transept, and a north porch. Construction is in squared and coursed Old Red Sandstone rubble; the interior is plastered. Openings are neo-gothic, from c.1850, and include 'Early English' lancets and windows with simple tracery; dressings are in sandstone and grey oolite. The east and west ends are buttressed externally, c.1850. The north porch is half-timbered. The nave west bay carries a square, timber bellcote/turret, louvered throughout and with a fish-scale slated 'spire', supported on internal timbers from the nave floor, all c.1850. The north transept gable carries a disused chimney, c.1850. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof.

Nothing remains from the medieval church. The earlier church was described in 1833 as a 'small neat edifice, (which) was, according to the tablet recording the event, erected in 1617 (and) repaired in 1753' (Lewis, 1833). The tithe map of 1839 (NLW, Llanfihangel Aberbythych, Tithe Map, 1839) depicts a small, possibly single, cell with a north transept, in the same location as the present church. The church was remarkable for the region in possessing a timber bellcote/turret, rising from the floor of the nave west bay and emerging through the roof, of which the present bellcote is a faithful copy (Jones, 1864, 263). In 1672 the church wanted 'a new bell for the steeple' (Evans, 1921, 64).

The church was entirely rebuilt in c.1850 to the designs of the architect (Sir) George Gilbert Scott (Anon., 1855, 303).

A boiler was installed in the vestry, with a below-ground oil-tank between the vestry and the chancel north wall, in the later 20th century. There have been no major subsequent alterations.

The font is modern.

The oil tank is below-ground and occupies a cutting north of the chancel. A shallow earth cutting runs along the east and north walls. Floors are suspended above a void in the nave, transept and vestry. Some external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site -
Circular churchyard; pre-conquest Latin dedication.

St Michael, Llanfihangel Aberbythych, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932) of the medieval Deanery of Stradgow. The rectory was in the gift of Talley Abbey, valued at £6 13s 4d in 1536 (Owen, 1894, 324).

After the dissolution, the church eventually fell into private patronage. In 1833 the living, a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the Earl of Cawdor, was endowed with £200 private benefaction, £400 royal bounty and £800 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael, Llanfihangel Aberbythych, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llangathen and Llanfihangel Cilfargen (Benefice no. 800) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST EGWAD,
LLANFYNYDD,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 678

RB No. 3454

NGR SN 5584 2761

Listed Building No. 10927

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 90% pre-19th century core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; north aisle, 5 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Extensive areas of 18th - early 19th century render; plastered internally. Slate gable roofs; west tower roof not seen. Arcade, chancel arch, squint, tower openings, vault, stoup and arch, south door, medieval with limestone dressings. Medieval aisle roof. Many windows, gabled rood-loft recess, early 17th century with yellow oolite dressings. Some windows rebuilt 1861, replicating early 17th century originals.

Roofs: c.1500 and 1861. Floors: 1861. Finishes: 18th - 20th century.

Condition - fair-good. Some windows in poor condition

Archaeological potential - very good. No external cutting or drain; footings exposed in 5% of church; raised floor in 30% of church; burials beneath 30% of church; suspended floors over heating flues in 60% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 10% of church; external memorials significantly close to 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% medieval core fabric; medieval arcade, chancel arch, squint, tower openings, vault, stoup and arch, south door, roof; early 17th century windows, gabled rood-loft recess.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, central village location; circular churchyard; C18 lych-gate

Phasing:

Phase 1 - West tower, c.1400.

Phase 2 - Chancel, nave, north aisle, c.1500.

Phase 3 - Rood-loft recess, refenestration, early C17.

Phase 4 - Restored 1861, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Egwad, Llanfynydd, is a multicelled church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 90% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 5-bayed north aisle, and a 3-storeyed west tower. Construction is mainly in limestone rubble. Openings are largely either from the early 17th century or are 1861 copies replicating the original dressings, both in yellow oolite. There are extensive remains of 18th - early 19th century external render, with some 1861 and 20th century repointing; the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel east window is entirely from 1861, with a segmental head and infill, but imitates an early 17th century original; it has 3 semicircular-headed lights, with sunk spandrels, in a square surround and cavetto-moulded label. The east bay south wall is pierced by a single ogee-headed lancet, with infill, from 1861. To the west is a blocked medieval window with a 2-centred head, ?associated with a moulded human mask corbel at springer level; the blocking lies below the 18th - early 19th century render. Further west is a third area of blocking or refacing, above the render, from 1861?; there appears to be an irregular vertical joint along its eastern edge, date?, function?. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch may date from c.1500, like the squint, with a chamfered square surround, that lies to the south. The softwood roof is from 1861. The tiled floor is also from 1861.

The nave east bay is thrown out from the south wall as a shallow, square gabled projection, with very large quoins, inserted in the early 17th century for the rood-loft and stair (cf. Myddfai, Carmar.). The top of the gable has been rebuilt, in the early 20th century?; it is lit by a 3-light window like that in the chancel east wall, but in yellow oolite and from the early 17th century. Below the window is a blocked window, the jambs and sill of which are visible externally and probably also early 17th century, with a large, segmental-headed embrasure. The western half of the projection is a downwards continuation of the gable and houses the rood-stair, which is entered from the nave through a doorway with a 4-centred surround from the early 17th century; the upper door to the loft was blocked with brickwork in 1861. The nave south wall proper is pierced by 2 windows like that in the gablet but without dripmoulds, from the early 17th century; that to the west has only 2 lights and was rebuilt, with infill, in 1861. To the west, a segmental arch is visible in the external face but is not associated with any visible blocking. The south door has a semicircular-headed surround in chamfered limestone that is probably earlier than the windows, from c.1500. The south-west corner of the nave was rebuilt in the later 20th century in limestone ashlar. Roofed as the chancel. The passages are tiled over heating ducts, with suspended board floors; it lies at a higher level than the chancel floor below nave floor probably due to the presence below of post-Reformation burials.

The north aisle communicates with the chancel through a wide, low-headed plain segmental arch; the arcade into the nave consists of 4 chamfered, 2-centred arches on chamfered square piers, the eastern stop of which is wide, and is pierced by small doorway that now leads onto the pulpit but may formerly have been associated with the rood-screen. Both the eastern arch and the arcade are from c.1500. The aisle east wall window is like that in the chancel east wall but all in yellow oolite from the early 17th century, in poor condition. A flight of 8 steps in a revetted well leads down the east wall to a below-ground heating chamber entered through a doorway with a plain, segmental head from c.1900; the flue rises through the thickness of the north-east corner to emerge as a square, yellow-brick chimney from c.1900. The north wall has an external basal batter and is pierced by 3 early 17th century windows similar to that in the east wall, and in similar condition, but without dripmoulds; the western two are 2-light. The west wall features a similar, 3-light window but entirely from 1861, also in yellow oolite but cruder, with surrounding infill. The oak wagon-roof principals are from c.1500 but some of the framing was replaced in 1861. Floored as the nave. The east bay is separated from the remainder by a lath and plaster screen wall, to form a vestry.

The 3-storeyed west tower contains some Old Red Sandstone rubble. It is early, from c.1400 and is of late Decorated character, but features the external batter up to a string-course typical of the region. The spiral stair is squinched, above ground level, from the eastern half of the north wall and the aisle west wall (cf. Llangathen), and continues upward with a corbel-table at half-height; the stair is entered from the nave through a doorway with a 2-centred head, c.1400, and lit by simple slit-lights. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a double wave-moulded 2-centred arch, with a plain imposts, from c.1400; the 2-centred west door occupies a corbel-headed cut-out and has a similarly moulded surround beneath a segmental outer arch. Internally, a cusped stoup from c.1400 lies in the south wall. The interior is barrel-vaulted, from c.1400. Floored as the nave and aisle. The second storey is lit by a slit light in the south wall, with a yellow oolite surround, also from c.1400. The belfry stage has single-light openings with cusped, rounded 2-centred heads and surrounds in all 4 faces, in yellow oolite and from c.1400; those in the north and south faces have been rebuilt. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table, from c.1400.

There is neither an external cutting nor drain, but the tower footings have been exposed. The nave floor has been raised by the action of post-Reformation burial beneath. Floors are suspended over heating flues in the nave and aisle. There is a below-ground heating chamber beneath the aisle east bay. External memorials lie significantly close to the chancel south wall.

Structural development

The tower can be dated, by its dressings, to c.1400 and may be the earliest part of the present church; it has a spiral stair turret like that at Llangathen, Carm., of similar date. The chancel and nave cannot be closely dated, but contain a squint from c.1500 and the two may have been rebuilt when the north aisle was built in c.1500, with its surviving contemporary roof. The overall plan-form is that of the 'typical' North-east Carmarthenshire church as fully developed at the end of the medieval period.

The church was extensively refenestrated when the rood-loft stair projection was added in the early 17th century; the latter may be 'Laudian' in concept, cf. the similar recess at Myddfai, Carm.. Considerable evidence of fire damage was apparently noticed in 1861, which may provide a context for this work (Williams, 1915, 4).

The roof of 'one ile' was 'drawn down' in 1684 (Evans, 1915, 98), and was being repaired 'with all speed'; this refers to the first reroofing of the nave.

In 1789 the 'church, chancel and steeple is not in good repair in general, our windows is glazed' (Evans, 1921 (ii), 51); the floor was 'not very even'.

The restoration of 1861 (Williams, 1915, 4, *et al.*) was very slight. Some windows were replaced with copies of the originals. The nave and chancel were reroofed, and the church was refloored and reseated. The rood-loft stair was blocked and the interior was replastered; the stair lower door was still blocked in 1917 (RCAHM, 1917, 140).

The heating chamber was probably inserted beneath the aisle east bay c.1900, but has now been replaced by a free-standing boiler in the aisle. There have been some later 20th century repairs, including to the south-west corner of the nave.

The softwood pews, stalls and pulpit, and the plaster partition in north aisle, may all be from 1861; the latter was present by 1914 (Williams, 1915, 4). The lobby around the south door is probably c.1900-1910.

The font is modern, from 1861?. The former font, 'an octagon, probably of the 15th century', was observed in a neighbouring garden in 1917 (RCAHM, 1917, 140).

'Bells' were present in 1684 (Evans, 1917, 31); two bells were present in 1790 (Evans, 1923, 3)..

The church was Grade II* listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; circular churchyard.

St Egwad, Llanfynydd, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. It was a possession of the Bishop of St Davids as a prebend of the collegiate church at Abergwili, annexed by the Precentor in 1331 (Jones, 1963, 185).

In 1833 the living, a discharged vicarage in the patronage of the Bishop of St Davids, was rated in the king's books at £6 13s 4d and endowed with £200 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Egwad, Llanfynydd, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanegwad (Benefice no. 677) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication is given as St John on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps, but St Egwad is given by Lewis, 1833..

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**ST CADOG,
LLANGADOG,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 4049

RB No. 3195

NGR SN 7062 2845

Listed Building No. 10936

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 60% medieval core fabric.

A 6-cell church, medium-large, cruciform. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 5 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay; west tower, 3 storeys; all medieval. South porch, post-medieval?, rebuilt 1888-9.

Construction is in Old Red Sandstone and limestone rubble throughout. 100% of internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Few surviving medieval features - medieval window and corbelled parapet in tower; tower unvaulted; medieval rood stair projection and door, blocked. Chancel arch, and transept arches, 1888-9. All windows, and south and west doors rebuilt 1888-9. Some external buttressing, 1888-9.

Roofs and floors: 1888-9. Finishes: 18th century render on 10% of church; remainder repointed and replastered 1888-9; some 20th century repointing.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Deep, wide external cutting around 10% of church; floor levels unchanged?; underfloor void; crypt/vault in 25% of church; below-ground boilerhouse in 5% of church; heating chamber in 5% of church; evidence for former components beyond church; memorials significantly close to 80% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 60% medieval core fabric; medieval tower window, and rood stair door.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, in central village location; pre-conquest site; large circular churchyard with good memorials.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave and transepts, 14th century.

Phase 2 - West tower, c.1500

(Phase 3 - Former south porch - post-medieval? 1694?)

Phase 4 - Restored 1888-9, high-impact; no new components; chancel, south transept and south porch rebuilt.

DESCRIPTION

St Cadog, Llangadog, is a 6-celled cruciform church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 60% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 5-bayed nave, single bayed north and south transepts, a south porch and a west tower.

Construction is in medium-sized Old Red Sandstone rubble with some limestone, medieval, with some medieval oolite ashlar quoins, many rebuilt/replaced in 1888-9. There are the very limited remains of early external render on the nave north and west walls. The external pointing is largely from 1888-9 but with 20th century ribbon pointing in areas. The interior is plastered, again from 1888-9. Slated gable roofs, the nave probably always roofed at a higher level; the west tower roof was not seen. Roofs and floors, 1888-9.

A deep, wide, revetted external drain runs along the nave south wall. No evidence exists for floor level changes. An underfloor void is present. A below-ground boilerhouse lies beneath the south porch, and heating chambers within the nave. There are crypts/vaults beneath the chancel and north transept; possibly also beneath the south transept - burials are said to occur just beneath the surface of the south transept, and east of the church (Anon., 1910, 40). External memorials lie significantly close to all walls except the tower. The foundations of an apse are said to lie beyond the present east end (Anon., 1855, 306; RCAHM, 1917, 146).

The ground plan of the church has changed little since the medieval period, but few medieval features have survived, openings being largely from 1888-9. However, the chancel, nave and transepts may be all of one build, deliberately cruciform - the plan, and length of the nave suggesting a possible 14th century date.

The 3-storeyed west tower is of c.1500 (Yates, 1974, 73) and has retained most of its medieval fabric of limestone rubble, possibly with early pointing; internally, the ground floor walls are plastered, from 1888-9. There is not the basal batter typical of the region, but there is an external string-course (rebuilt in 1888-9) and the tower is untapered, and without a spiral stair turret. The ground floor openings, 2 cusped lancets and a 2-centred west door, are from 1888-9. There is no ground floor vault, but a timber ceiling replaced in 1888-9. The floor is tiled as the nave passage and at the same level, 1888-9. There is a window of 2 lights with semicircular heads in a square surround in the second stage north wall, c.1500; the south wall window is as on the ground floor. The 2-light belfry openings are all from 1888-9. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table; all medieval but recoped in 1888-9. The tower openings were described as all 'square-headed slits' in 1850 (Glynne, 1898, 362). It is in good condition.

A square external projection towards the east end of the nave north, nearly full-height and dying back into the wall, exhibits an internal blocked doorway with a 4-centred head, of the 15th-16th century, and represents a former rood-loft stair. The south door and nave west wall door are medieval entries but have been rebuilt. A internal stoup was possibly present east of the south door, but removed and blocked in 1888 (NLW, SD/F/341).

(Several mural paintings, including an 'Angel of Death' are said to have been present in the pre-restoration church (Anon., 1910, 31; RCAHM, 1917, 146).)

The church was 'in good repair' in 1684 (Anon., 1916, 184-6), when at least one bell was present (Evans, 1917, 31). An inscription built into the tower exterior bears the date '1694' and may refer to a restoration (Anon., 1893, 175; Anon., 1910, 41), but 'some parts of the walls' were evidently in poor condition in 1705 (Evans, 1917, 83). The former south porch, rebuilt in 1888-9, may have belonged to this period.

The 'steeple roof and ye door of ye church' were out of repair in 1720 (Evans, 1921, 13), and the 18th century may have been a period of considerable decay - ivy was cut down from the church interior in 1785-88 (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/18). A west gallery was present by at least 1790, with 'windows', possibly referring to nave side wall windows? (ibid.). The window adjacent to the pulpit was fixed in 1795 (ibid.).

The early 19th century was a period of much new building work at the church rather than the minor repairs and limewashing typical of the period, but the overall plan was little changed. Both transepts and a south porch were present by 1832 (NLW, Dan-yr-allt Estate Map Book, 1832), but much new work on the porch was undertaken in 1843 (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/16). The north transept was occupied by the 'Glansevin' vault (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/16), and was walled off from the nave in 1815 (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/19); the vault was removed in 1888 and the remains re-interred (Anon., 1927, 20). Earth had apparently accrued all around the church walls but drains were present (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/16). The floor was flagged, and of the 'various' pews, the Dan-yr-allt pew featured a fireplace (Anon., 1927, 20). An organ had been built by a local watchmaker in 1801 (Lewis, 1833), but was sold in 1843 to pay for repairs (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/16), when a new pulpit and desk were installed. The church was had been given a new ceiling in 1803 (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/19), and in 1805 a vestry room was made in the nave west bay beneath the gallery (ibid.), with a fireplace inserted in place of the west tower door, and a flagged floor. The tower west window was moved to the nave west bay north wall. The church was entirely re-seated in 1813 (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/19). A new south transept window was installed in 1855 (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/20) when the west gallery and vestry were repaired. 'Bells' are mentioned in 1837 (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/16) and there were 3 in 1850 (Glynne, 1898, 362); one 18th century bell has survived into the 20th century (see below). In 1850 the church was described as having 'few windows, and those mauled or modernised. To the (south) transept there is no arch' (Glynne, 1898, 362).

It may be assumed, then, that though the core plan was unchanged, little medieval detail remained when plans for restoration were submitted, in 1874, by the architect R. J. Withers, of London (Carmar. R. O., CPR/49/20). In fact, it was 1888 before restoration work commenced, this time under the architect D. Jenkins, of Gorslas, Llandybie for an estimated cost of £1212 (NLW, SD/F/341). The restoration was high-impact. The south transept and chancel walls were demolished and rebuilt (to greater extent than indicated in the Faculty); the south porch was substantially rebuilt. The nave walls were to be largely relined internally; the survival of the rood-stair doorway suggests that this may not have been done, but most walls display evidence of some refacing. Buttresses were built in the angles between the chancel and the transepts; the northern carried a flue, now blocked. A 2-centred chancel arch was rebuilt in moulded oolite; the arcades to the transepts were similarly rebuilt. All windows in the body of the church were (re)built, the east and transept windows with geometric tracery, oolite; the remainder are largely 2-centred openings for 2-light windows with central trefoils, the surrounding infill visible. The 2-centred, moulded south door, porch door, west tower door and nave west wall doors are rebuilds. An aumbry/recess, with a trefoil-moulded head, was featured in the chancel north wall. An external buttress built against nave north wall, and angle buttresses on the porch. The church was entirely reroofed in softwood, the chancel, nave and transepts with a matchboarded 'wagon-roof' ceiling, corbelled from the side walls in the nave; the end walls were given weather tabling. The south porch roof is of collared common rafters. A below-ground boilerhouse was inserted beneath the (rebuilt) south porch, and 2 subsidiary heating chambers within the nave. The porch, and the nave and transept passages were tiled, with gratings to heating ducts; suspended board floors were inserted beneath the new seating. The church was replastered, with a decorative fillet band; probably all the existing plaster was removed. The nave and transepts were re-seated in softwood, and an oolite pulpit fitted.

There has been a fair amount of subsequent work. An organ was installed in the south transept after 1888-9 restoration (NLW, SD/F/341). The chancel floor was oolite-flagged in the later 20th century, and the oak-panelled altar table and reredos, the altar rail and the credence table are also later 20th century.

The font has an octagonal limestone bowl and a square stem and base, all one-piece and later medieval (14th-15th century).

One of the bells was seen in 1893; it was inscribed '1738' (Anon., 1893, 175).

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

St Cadog, Llangadog, occupied the high-certainty site, and probably the location of, a pre-conquest religious site -

Celtic dedication; churchyard formerly circular; pre-conquest documentary reference?.

St Cadog, Llangadog, was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Stradtown (Rees, 1933). The benefice formed a part of the estate of the Bishops of St Davids, a connection possibly arising during the pre-conquest period. In 1283 Bishop Bek of St Davids founded a college at the church for a precentor and 21 canons (Soulsby, 1983, 169; Lewis, 1833); it was however short-lived, being transferred to Abergwili in 1287, and doubt has been expressed as to whether the intention was ever carried out (Knight, 1919, 12-13). However, the remains of buildings to the north of the church seen in 1855 were said to belong to the college (Anon., 1855, 306), and canons were present in 1289 when Pope Nicholas IV granted William of Estavayer, a canon of Llangadog, to a prebend of Lincoln Cathedral (Lewis, 1937, 237). The church remained in the patronage of the bishop and in 1833 was rated in the king's books at £9.

In 1998 St Cadog, Llangadog, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Gwynfe and Llandeusan (Benefice 634) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

Llangadog Church may be referred to in the pre-conquest Book of Llandaff (Soulsby, 1983, 169); however, doubt has been cast on Cadog being the original dedication, being a secular figure whose name has supplanted that of the original dedication to St David (Yates, 1873, 58).

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**ST CATHEN,
LLANGATHEN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 709

RB No. 3676

NGR SN 5844 2214

Listed Building No. 10929

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 90% pre-19th century core fabric.

A 3-cell church, medium sized. Consists of chancel, 3 bays, nave, 3 bays; north transept, 1 bay; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. South chapel, 2 bays; south aisle, 3 bays (absorbing former south transept); south porch; early 17th century. Coalhouse (north of tower), c.1900. Extensive areas of 18th - early 19th century render; plastered internally. Slate gable roofs; coalhouse with slate lean-to roof; west tower roof not seen. Tower vault, stoup, openings and arch, piscina(e), tomb recess, medieval. West window, south doors and chapel arch, early 17th century. Aisle arcade, 1813. Transept arch, chapel east window, 1868. Other windows, chancel arch, and chapel arcade, 1899, neo-Jacobean, with red sandstone dressings. (Early 17th century dresser tomb.)

Roofs and floors: 1868 and 1899. Finishes: 18th - 20th century.

Condition - fair. Damp; plaster peeling; ivied, loose masonry.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, narrow external cutting around 15% of church, secondary; suspended floors over heating flues in 60% of church; below-ground heating chambers in 15% of church; known burials beneath 25% of church; many external burial vaults and memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings, vault and arch, piscina(e), tomb recess; early 17th century window, doors and arch.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, large churchyard with good memorials; lych-gate.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, C13?.

Phase 2 - North transept (and former south transept), C14.

Phase 3 - West tower, earlier C15.

Phase 4 - South chapel, c.1600.

Phase 5 - South aisle, south porch, early C17.

Phase 6 - 'Restored' 1813, arcades and arches rebuilt.

Phase 7 - Restored 1868, low impact.

Phase 8 - Restored 1899, medium impact; heating chamber excavated?.

Phase 9 - Coalhouse (and heating chamber), early C20?.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Cathen, Llangathen, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 90% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 3-bayed south chapel, a north transept, a 3-bayed south aisle, a south porch a 3-storeyed west tower and a coalhouse north of the tower. Construction is in limestone rubble. There are some early 17th century dressings, in limestone; other dressings are in yellow oolite, neo-Gothic, from 1868, and red sandstone, neo-Perpendicular, from 1899. There are extensive remains of 18th - early 19th century external render, with 20th century ribbon pointing over; the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables, the tower roof was not seen. The church features a good early 17th century dresser tomb and many 18th - early 19th century memorials.

The upper courses of the chancel north wall, and the east gable were rebuilt/heightened in 1899, along with the east window and its infill; the 3-light window has a 2-centred moulded rear hoodmould on acanthus stops, a 2 centred surround and drip-mould and neo-Perpendicular tracery in red sandstone. Internally, beneath the window is a shelf, on moulded corbels in red sandstone, all from 1899. The moulded chancel arch is also in sandstone from 1899, with imposts and bases. The softwood roof is from 1899, and has king- and princess-posts trusses braced from 'hammer-beams' on the wall-plate, with bosses and carved fretwork between the braces. The passages have glazed tiles, with suspended woodblock floors also from 1899; there is burial beneath the altar.

The upper courses of the nave north wall were rebuilt/heightened, and 2 windows were inserted, with infill, in 1899. The windows are probably imitations of early 17th century originals and have 3 lights with depressed 2-centred heads and sunk spandrels in square surrounds with chamfered labels, all in red sandstone. The west end of the wall features much poor quality repair of its facework, 20th century. The nave roof is from 1868, concealed by a contemporary curved, plaster ceiling. The passages are tiled over heating flues, with a chamber for a 'Porritt's' stove beneath the west bay, and the boarded floors are suspended; all from 1868.

The south chapel communicates with the chancel through a 2-bayed arcade of moulded, 2-centred arches, with hoodmoulds, on octagonal piers with plain abaci and tori, from 1899. The east wall is pierced by a 2-light window with Geometric tracery in yellow oolite, with surrounding infill, from 1868. The upper courses of the south wall have been rebuilt/heightened like the chancel and nave; the west bay features an area of blocking that represents the site of a window, probably from c.1600, that was blocked when the fine Jacobean dresser tomb of Bishop Rudd, with a classical arch, pediment, acroteria, effigies and chest, in oolite, was built against the interior face in c.1616. To the west, the south wall is pierced by a doorway with a square head; above the door is an area of blocking terminated by a chamfered oolite label from c.1600 indicating that the present doorway is a later remodelling, from 1788? (see below). The west bay

south wall displays a full-height area of blocking, lying between definite jambs, apparently representing a second doorway; the blocking contains some brick, and lies beneath the external render, and so the opening may be a secondary door blocked in ?1788 when the original door was reopened. The softwood chapel roof is from 1868. The flagged floor is pre-1868. The south chapel is known as the 'Aberglasney Chapel' and there are marked burials beneath.

The north transept is entered from the nave through a chamfered 2-centred arch rebuilt in 1868. The upper courses of the outside walls have been rebuilt/heightened as in the rest of the church and there is much 20th century repair work in the east wall facework. At the south end of this wall is a blocked window, visible internally as a segmental-headed recess, medieval, and represented externally by an amorphous area of blocking with some brick, from the late 18th - early 19th century. To the north is an internal aumbry or piscina with a plain, 2-centred head, medieval, 14th century?; externally is a shallow recess with a memorial slab from 1798. The transept is now lit by a 2-light window in the north end wall, like the chancel east window but 2-light, with infill, from 1899. The transept is entered from the churchyard through a doorway with a plain, 2-centred head, post-1899?; to the south the same wall exhibits a blocked doorway with a low segmental brick head from the late 18th - early 19th century, with render over the blocking, blocked in 1813? (see below). The transept is ceiled and floored as the nave, 1868. The north transept is known as the 'Cadfan Chapel'.

The south aisle communicates with the nave via a 3-bayed arcade of chamfered, 2-centred arches on similar piers, from 1813 (Anon., 1925, 461); the westernmost respond is original and from the early 17th century. The plain, 2-centred arch into the south chapel is contemporary. The aisle absorbed a 14th century south transept, and to the south of this arch the east wall of the east bay contains a contemporary piscina 'of interesting character' (Anon., 1925, 461), now concealed by the organ; the south wall features a 14th century tomb recess, similarly concealed (ibid.). The south and west walls have an external basal batter and have been poorly pointed since 1899. The south wall is pierced by 3 windows from c.1900, like those in the nave but possibly copying early 17th century originals. The south door has a 4-centred surround in roll-moulded red sandstone, possibly early 17th century (see below). The west wall gable was rebuilt in 1899 when the 4-light west window was rebuilt re-using the early 17th century red sandstone dressings; the depressed, 2-centred heads, sunk spandrels and square surround with a chamfered label are all like those in the nave windows but weathered and original. A below-ground boilerhouse, from 1899?, lies beneath the west bay, reached by a flight of 10 steps in a revetted cutting along the west wall, leading to a doorway with an iron lintel. The aisle is ceiled and floored as the nave, 1868.

The south porch finishes are like those in the aisle, with repairs of 1899 and the 20th century. The doorway has a 2-centred head from the early 17th century (see below). The porch is ceiled and floored as the nave, from 1868.

The 3-storeyed west tower has characteristics which suggest a fairly early date. It lacks the external batter up to a string-course typical of the region. A spiral stair turret is squinched, above ground level, from the eastern half of the north wall and the nave west wall, the curved face continuing up the belfry level where it becomes square, all of one construction?; the stair is entered through a doorway with a 2-centred head, earlier 15th century, and lit by simple square lights. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch, earlier 15th century. The west door has a 2-centred, double chamfered surround from the earlier 15th century. Internally, there is a medieval stoup. The earlier 15th century barrel-vault has a semicircular profile. Floored as the nave. The second storey is lit by a simple light. The belfry stage has 2-light openings in all 4 faces, some with plain 2-centred heads and others cusped, earlier 15th century. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table, from the earlier 15th century but restored.

A small coalhouse was built against the north wall of the tower in 1899 or the earlier 20th century, of simple construction, entered from the churchyard through a simple square door in its west wall and lit by a similar timber-framed window in the north wall. It has a simple, slated lean-to roof up to the tower.

A deep, narrow revetted external cutting runs around the chancel north wall and the north transept east wall, secondary. Floors are suspended over heating flues in the nave, transept and aisle. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. A heating chamber lies beneath the south aisle east bay with an external stairwell. Known burials lie beneath the chancel and south chapel. Many external burial vaults and memorials lie significantly close to all walls.

Structural development

The nave and chancel may be 13th century but in the absence of original openings and chancel arch cannot be closely dated. The north transept is secondary as can be seen from the external joint between the two; an accompanying south transept has been absorbed by the south aisle but the contemporary piscina and tomb recess have been dated to the early 14th century (Anon., 1925, 461), the church, then, was cruciform. The west tower can probably be dated to the earlier 15th century and has a spiral stair turret like that at Llanfynydd, Carmis., of similar date. The south chapel was added in c.1600 as a mortuary chapel for Archbishop Rudd, the occupant of the neighbouring Aberglasney Hall; the south aisle is thought to be contemporary with its early 17th century windows (ibid.) and may be also be Rudd's work, but may be represented by the request, in 1619, that the patron repair the church (Anon., 1846, 370). The south porch, and a probable large-scale refenestration, are contemporary.

The windows were 'out of repair' in 1705 (Evans, 1918, 7). The late 18th and early 19th centuries were characterised by the usual expenditure of small sums on white-liming the church, mending windows, reslating etc. A gallery was present by 1782 when its windows was repaired (Carmis. R. O., CPR/6/13). 'Part of the church floor' was flagged in 1786 (ibid.), and the 'chapel door' was given a new lintel in 1788 - the south chapel door? (see above). The tower crenellations were recoped in 1798 (ibid.). Some of the external render, and some blocking of openings eg. in the transept, are possibly contemporary.

The church was 'restored' in 1813. The south aisle arcade, the chancel arch and the arcade between the chancel and the south chapel were rebuilt, as commemorated in a plaque (Anon., 1893, 135; Anon., 1925, 462). However, in 1820 the windows were 'out of repair', some of them 'full of holes' (Evans, 1919, 45). The 1813 chancel arch is shown in a drawing of 1899 as a plain, full-centred semicircular arch (NLW, SD/F/347); the same drawing shows the chapel arcade as comprising 2 plain, segmental-headed arches on a square pier.

The church was restored in 1868 (Anon., 1893, 135; Samuel, 1868, 21). The south chapel east window with yellow oolite dressings. The church was reroofed, with the present plaster ceilings (NLW, SD/F/347). The interior was refloored, reseated and the gallery was taken down. The north transept, 'which was in ruin', was 'rebuilt' at the same time (Evans, 1912, 37). The 'Porritt's' stove may now have been installed in the nave.

The church was again restored in 1899, to the designs of the architect Stephen Williams of Rhyader (NLW, SD/F/347) and using red sandstone dressings. The chancel arch and the arcade between the chancel and the south chapel were rebuilt. The church was almost entirely refenestrated, possibly in imitation of early 17th century originals, and the original aisle west wall window was restored; the similar 17th century 4-light chancel east window was replaced to a different design. The wall-tops, and some gables were rebuilt or heightened. The chancel was reroofed and refloored. The 'Porritt's' stove may belong to this period, or was replaced by the heating chamber beneath the aisle; the latter, however, and the coalhouse, may be rather later, as is the external north transept door.

The oak altar table is Jacobean, from the early 17th century. The softwood pews are from 1868, as may be the south chapel screen. The organ was introduced into the south aisle east bay after 1899 (NLW, SD/F/347). The simple stalls are later 20th century.

The octagonal oolite font is modern, probably from 1868; the earlier font, 'a plain square basin with chamfered angles', was observed lying loose in the church in 1917 (RCAHM, 1917, 157). The 3 bells are dated 1760 (Lewis, 1925, 389) or 1791 (Anon., 1893, 136).

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication.

St Cathen, Llangathen, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. It was a possession of the Prioress and nuns of Chester (Williams, 1961, 205) valued at £4 6s 8d in 1291 (Anon., 1969, 67). There were at least 2 dependent chapelries within the parish.

It remained a possession of the Prioress but the advowson was in the gift of the Bishop of Chester by the earlier 16th century (Anon., 1846, 370). The 'rectory' and tithes were let to a succession of individuals during the post-medieval period, mostly the owners of the neighbouring Aberglasney estate, but in 1713 the Bishop of St Davids 'reserved the right' of presentation (Anon., 1969, 68).

Aberglasney was occupied by Bishop Anthony Rudd of St Davids in the early 17th century which may provide a context for the extensive contemporary work at the church.

In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage, in the patronage of the Bishop of Chester, rated in the king's books at £6 13s 4d and endowed with £200 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Cathen, Llangathen, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanfihangel Cilfargen and Llanfihangel Aberbythych (Benefice no. 800) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

The south chapel, known as the 'Aberglasney Chapel', is still a possession of the Aberglasney estate.

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**ST SADWRN,
LLANSADWRN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 1903

RB No. 3446

NGR SN 6953 3146

Listed Building No. 10945

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A 5-cell church, medium-large. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; south chapel, 2 bays, incorporating south transept, 1 bay; South porch; (former north transept); medieval.

Construction is in limestone rubble throughout. 70% of internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs. Medieval openings in all components, some blocked or altered; some blocked openings retain their surrounds. Extant medieval openings include the chancel east and north windows, the main south doorway, the south chapel south door, and the south porch door, benching, stoup and aumbry. Blocked arcades to south transept and chapel, medieval; blocked openings to former north transept, medieval, blocked west (and north?) doors, medieval. Double bellcote, medieval. Remainder of windows mid 19th century. Chancel arch, 1883-4. South transept buttresses, 1980s.

Roofs: 17th century, mid 19th century and 1883-4. Floors: 1883-4-20th century. Finishes: 18th century-1990.

Condition - fair. Weathered; plaster poor-fair in south chapel and transept; south transept south wall poor, leaning, and buttresses poor.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. Deep, wide external cutting around 40% of church, primary?, deepened and ?extended 1994 exposing footings; medium depth drain around 10% of church; floor levels raised in 50% of church; no underfloor void; known internal burials in 20% of church; evidence of former components beyond church; memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 90% medieval core fabric; medieval openings, open and blocked; medieval bellcote; medieval benching, stoup and aumbry; 17th century porch roof.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church in hilltop location; central within village; very large, formerly circular churchyard with good memorials.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, 13th century.

Phase 2 - South transept and south porch (and former north transept) - 14th-15th century

Phase 3 - South chapel, c.1500.

(Phase 4 - North transept removed, openings blocked, south porch roof etc - 17th-18th century.)

Phase 5 - Restored mid 19th century, low impact; no new components.

Phase 6 - Restored 1883-4, low impact; no new components.

DESCRIPTION

St Sadwrn, Llansadwrn, is a 5-celled church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 90% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave of the same width, a south chapel incorporating a south transept, and a south porch. Construction is in medium-sized limestone rubble throughout with some conglomerate, unsquared and uncoursed, with large medieval quoins. There are localised remains of 18th century render; most of the external pointing is from 1883-4, some 1990 ribbon pointing. The internal plaster finish in the south porch, south transept and chapel is early 20th century; in the nave from 1990; the chancel is unplastered, removed in 1990. Slated gable roofs, the chancel and nave probably always roofed continuously; the south chapel/transept roof lies at the same level. Roofs and floors are of various dates.

A north transept formerly lay north of the nave east bays; there is no physical evidence in the yard. A medium-deep external cutting runs along the north and west walls, possibly primary, but deepened and concrete-lined (and extended?) in 1994; footings are exposed. A medium-depth secondary drain runs around the porch and transept west wall. The chancel and south transept/chapel floors have been raised, while there may be no underfloor voids. Known burials occupy the south chapel. External memorials lie significantly close to the south chapel south wall.

In its basic form the surviving fabric has changed little since the medieval period, but the former north transept has gone. There are a large number of medieval openings and features, but many of them have been blocked or altered. The nave and chancel are of the same width and probably contemporary, but in the absence of contemporary detail cannot be closely dated; a 13th century date cannot be ruled out. The south door is a plain 2-centred opening, unlike the south porch door and probably earlier. A joint in the north wall suggests the former presence of a north door. The blocked west door has a segmental head (NLW, SD/F/416), of any date. A blocked window in the south wall of the nave west bay is interrupted by a later window but retains part of its surround suggesting a date of c.1500. A 3-light window with Perpendicular detail formerly lay above the west door but has been blocked (ibid.; see also RCAHM, 1917, 183); it may have been medieval. The west wall bellcote is a massive gabled structure with 2 plain, square-headed openings of broadly medieval date. There may have been a chancel arch; one was present in 1883 but was rebuilt (ibid.).

A surviving single-light window in the north wall of the chancel east bay has a semicircular head of 15th-16th century date. The chancel east window has a square surround of c.1500 but the 3 lights have been rebuilt.

The south porch is of similar construction. It has retained its crude medieval upstand, and the doorway has a 2-centred head of limestone ashlar. There is internal masonry benching on the side walls. A stoup on the nave south wall has a weathered bowl which may originally have been scalloped. A plain square aumbry lies in the west wall. The porch and all features may be broadly dated to c.1400.

The site of the former north transept is represented by an area of infill in the north wall of the nave east bay, and by a vertical scar on the chancel west bay; there is a blocked doorway either side, one in the nave with a semicircular head of probable later medieval date, and one in the chancel west bay with a plain lintel. The communication with the chancel suggests that the transept may have been a later medieval addition, as a chapel, and possibly contemporary with the south transept.

The south transept is no longer transeptal, but open to the south chapel with which it is roofed continuously. However, the two exhibit differing quoining and are probably not contemporary. No features survive in their original form and the arcade into the nave, a plain semicircular segmental arch, has been blocked. It may be a product of the later medieval period of enlargement of churches, and be contemporary with the south porch of c.1400 (and the former north transept).

The south chapel has features of c1500, which may represent its date of construction and it probably absorbed the transept from the first. The 2-bayed arcade to the chancel is plain, with segmental-headed arches now blocked. The east window, formerly of 3 lights, is similar to the chancel east window and of c.1500 but later altered and reduced to 2 lights. The jamb and lintel of a similar blocked window survive in the south wall. The south door jambs appear to be contemporary, and the door is still open, but the 'segmental' head is 20th century.

The post-medieval period is marked by the removal of the north transept and by the blocking of many openings. This had occurred by the 18th century; the infill and blocking lying beneath the external render of that period, remains of which survives in many areas. The nave west door and window, the east windows, the south door and the chapel door remained open. It is not known when the south transept/chapel was blocked off from the chancel; the doorway in the blocking is a simple square opening which cannot be dated, but it had occurred by the mid-19th century (*ibid.*). The nave arcade was not blocked until 1883-4 (*ibid.*). The south porch roof, of oak collar-rafter trusses, may be 17th century.

The church floor appears to have lacked any floor-covering into the 18th century, when 'it has never been paved' (Evans, 1918, 26). However, glazed floor tiles were in the possession of an early 20th century vicar of Llansadwrn, which had been found 'worked up in the wall over an arched door that had been taken down; formerly perhaps the church had been paved with them' (Anon, 1918, 37). Where was this door? The windows were apparently 'out of repair' in 1672 (Evans, 1919, 212; Evans, 1921, 66). The roof was repaired in 1705 (Evans, 1918, 26), when a pulpit and desk are mentioned. The south chapel was 'out of repair' in 1720 (Evans, 1917, 14). The present roof over the south chapel and transept is similar to the porch roof but later (early 19th century?); the south walls were heightened to receive it.

There was some low-impact restoration around the middle of the 19th century when the east windows were altered as described. New windows, similar to the old, were inserted - 1 in the nave west bay north wall, 2 in the nave south wall and 2 in the chapel/transept south wall. The chancel had been walled off from the chapel, but not the nave. The west door was still open. In 1883, a partition separated transept from chapel, the chancel, nave and transept were seated with box pews, and there was a gallery over the nave west bay (NLW, SD/F/416). The pulpit seen by the RCAHM in 1917, of probable 18th century date (RCAHM, 1917, 183), may not have been from Llansadwrn; a very different, octagonal pulpit is shown on the contemporary plan (NLW, SD/F/416.)

The church was restored again in 1883-4 (*ibid.*), to the specifications of the architects Middleton and Son, Westminster and Cheltenham. The restoration was again low-impact and some of the proposed work appears not to have been undertaken (eg. it as proposed to demolish and rebuild the porch and bellcote). The west door was blocked. The existing chancel arch was removed and the present 2-centred, moulded chancel arch was inserted. The chancel and nave were refloored, with tiled passages and woodblock, but the latter appear not to be suspended. The chancel and nave were reroofed in softwood, the former with scissors-braced common rafters and the latter with king-post trusses with strutted collars. The interior was replastered, all the existing plaster apparently being removed. The nave and chancel were resealed in softwood, and a new altar rail and pulpit were fitted.

There has been a considerable amount of subsequent work. The medieval west window (RCAHM, 1917, 183) was blocked during the earlier 20th century, its surround removed and it is now represented by an area of cemented rubble. A pitch-pine ceiling was inserted in the chapel, the chapel was replastered, its floor was raised and concreted and a new plaster partition erected, again during the earlier 20th century. The porch was given a flagged floor laid directly on the substrate. A new altar table and credence were fitted, and the pulpit seen by the RCAHM (see above) removed and a plain octagonal softwood pulpit was installed.

During the 1980s, the leaning south chapel south wall was given two buttresses under an MSC scheme (churchwarden, pers. comm.); they are of poor quality. The plaster was stripped from the chancel walls, and the nave replastered, in 1990 (ibid.).

The font has a an octagonal bowl and stem, of limestone, and of later medieval date (15th century - RCAHM, 1917, 183).

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

(The south chapel is traditionally known as the 'Abermarlais Chapel' after its patrons, and possible founders, of the nearby Abermarlais Mansion.)

SITE HISTORY

There is evidence for pre-conquest religious use of the site -
Celtic dedication; churchyard formerly circular, large.

St Sadwrn, Llansadwrn, was not a parish church during the post-conquest period, but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Stradtown (Rees, 1933). The benefice was, with the neighbouring chapelry of Llanwrda, conferred upon the Premonstratensian Abbey at Talley by Rhys ap Gruffydd ('Lord Rhys') in 1176 (Price, 1879, 171). In 1539 'rectoria de Llansadurne cum capella de Llanurda' was valued at £15 11s 6d (Owen, 1894, 48). Llansadwrn appears to have been by now regarded as a (parish?) church, while Llanwrda is referred to as a chapel (Owen, 1893, 324). The union with Llanwrda continues into the 1990s.

At the dissolution the possessions of the abbey, including Llansadwrn and Llanwrda, fell to the crown. The patronage of Llansadwrn vicarage was granted by Henry VIII firstly to Sir Rhys ap Gruffydd, and upon his conviction for treason, to Thomas Jones, Kt., of Haroldston, Pembs. (Williams, 1932, 54). It remained in private patronage.

In 1833 the living, a discharged vicarage of the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, was annexed with Llanwrda and in private patronage. It was rated in the king's books at £6 10. 0d, and endowed with £400 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Sadwrn, Llansadwrn, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanwrda and Manordeilo (Benefice 676) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST SAWYL,
LLANSAWEL,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 1870

RB No. 3126

NGR SN 6203 3624

Listed Building No. 10949

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 70% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Vestry (north of chancel), 1 bay, 1887. Plastered internally. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to roof; west tower roof not seen. Chancel arch with 2 squints and blocked ?rood-loft door(s), windows, tower openings, vault and door, tomb recess/Easter sepulchre, stoup (not in situ), blocked priest's door, medieval. Other windows from 1887, neo-Gothic, with Old Red Sandstone dressings.

Roofs and floors: 1887. Finishes: 1887 - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. No external cutting or drain; footings exposed in 20% of church?; suspended floors over heating flues in 50% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 70% medieval core fabric; medieval chancel arch with squints and blocked ?rood-loft door(s), windows, tower openings, vault and door, tomb recess/Easter sepulchre, stoup (not in situ), blocked door.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, in valley floor location; central within village; circular churchyard with early C19 listed schoolroom; cross-incised stone in church.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave (and chancel?), C14.

Phase 2 - West tower, c.1500.

Phase 3 - Restored 1887, high impact; vestry built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Sawyl, Llansawel, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 70% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 3-storeyed west tower and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in local mixed rubble. There are few medieval dressings, in Old Red Sandstone; other dressings are from 1887 and neo-Gothic, also in Old Red Sandstone. Pointing is mainly from 1887 but there is extensive 20th century cement ribbon pointing; the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables, the vestry has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen..

The east window is entirely from 1887, with infill visible, and comprises 3 plain lancets beneath a 2-centred drip-mould on lozengic stops. The upper half of each side wall was rebuilt in large rubble, probably in the 1860s and rebuilt again in the south wall in 1887. The east bay is lit by a window in both side walls; each is a cusped, single lancet in chamfered Old Red Sandstone probably from the 15th century. There is a blocked 'priest's door' in the south wall of the west bay, with a simple lintel, and surrounding infill and thus secondary, post-medieval?. Internally, a tomb recess or Easter sepulchre occupies the north wall, with a plain segmental head; there is no effigy. A piscina, from 1887, lies at the east end of the south wall and has a cusped surround and 2-centred hoodmould on cavetto-moulded Old Red Sandstone. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is medieval, 14th century?; either side is a plain, square squint, probably contemporary, each with a curved embrasure (the heads were described as ogival in 1887, see Chidlow, 1906, 105). The softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling is matchboarded and from 1887. The passages are tiled, from 1887, with suspended board floors.

The nave features some very large rubble in the facework, particularly at the west end of the north wall; the upper courses of the walls are from 1887, the junction corresponding with an internal plain offset. At the east end of each side wall is a medieval single lancet, the northern with a cusped, ogee-headed surround in chamfered Old Red Sandstone, probably from the late 14th century, the southern a plain cusped lancet in chamfered yellow ?conglomerate, probably contemporary but partly rebuilt in concrete. There are 3 further, larger single lancets in each side wall, in chamfered Old Red Sandstone from 1887 and featuring infill which is continuous with the upper facework courses. An internal recess in the centre of the north wall has a square head and represents a blocked doorway; it led to a rood-loft stair which apparently lies in the thickness of the wall, 're-entering the church near the east end (of the nave)' (Chidlow, 1906, 105). The west wall features a stoup, 'found imbedded in the wall' in 1887 and moved to its present location (ibid.), and possibly retooled; it has a plain square bowl in chamfered grey oolite. The softwood nave roof is from 1887 and is without trusses, all common rafters being scissors-braced and matchboarded over. The passages are tiled over former heating ducts and there is a chamber for a disused 'Porrit's' stove, all from 1887, with suspended board floors.

The west tower is from c.1500 and comprises 3 storeys. The limestone rubble facework is roughly squared and coursed, and there is the external batter up to a string-course typical of the region. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a doorway with a simple square head, and lit by simple loops. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a plain, 2-centred doorway, possibly 14th century. The west door has a plain, 2-centred head, from c.1500. The barrel-vault has a 2-centred profile, with a ?secondary string-course/coving at springer level. The tiled floor is from 1887. The second stage is lit by a slit-light with a chamfered limestone surround in the west wall, from c.1500. The belfry stage has a plain, single lancet with a chamfered limestone surround in the north, south and west faces, c.1500. The plain, uncrenellated parapet lies on a corbel table, all from c.1500.

The vestry is from 1887 and communicates with the chancel west bay through a contemporary doorway with a Caernarfon-headed arch, and entered from the churchyard through a segmental-headed doorway in the east wall. It is lit by a window in the north wall, with 2 ogival lights in a square surround, all in Old Red Sandstone. The flue from the 'Porrit's' stove in the nave rises through the south-west corner to emerge as a moulded, octagonal chimney in Old Red Sandstone ashlar, from 1887. The softwood lean-to roof is also from 1887 and is matchboarded above the rafters; the concrete floor is 20th century.

There is neither an external cutting nor a drain, but footings may be exposed at the west end of the nave and the tower. Floors are suspended over heating flues in the nave, where there is a below-ground heating chamber. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The nave features late 14th century windows and a contemporary chancel arch; the chancel may also be 14th century. The west tower was added c.1500. The single-aisle plan, and the squints, are unusual occurrences within north-eastern Carmarthenshire, but the former rood-stair in the thickness of the north wall is paralleled at nearby Llanycrwys.

The chancel windows needed glazing in 1720 (Evans, 1921, 14) but the 'chapel, chancel and steeple' were in 'good repair' in 1790 (Evans, 1923, 5). Fenton, writing in c.1809 described it as a 'poor miserable building without and within' (Cadw, 1995, 11).

According to Yates, 1974, 73, the church was 'poorly rebuilt' in 1860 but RCAHM, 1917, 190, give a restoration date of 1868. Nothing about these works is known, but the 'small vestry' present in 1885 may belong to this period.

The church was, however, again restored in 1887 (Chidlow, 1906, 105; Yates, 1974, 73) to plans drawn up in 1885 by the architect J. Middleton of Westminster and Cheltenham (NLW, SD/F/424) and 'carried out under the direction of his successors' (Chidlow, op. cit.). A doorway at the west end of the nave north wall was blocked; this may have been associated with a porch, as a structure of some kind is suggested on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition of 1887, for which there is now no physical evidence. The church was refenestrated, apart from the side windows of the east bays of both the chancel and nave. The vestry was rebuilt to a larger plan. The church was reroofed, refloored, reseated and replastered.

The softwood pews are from 1887; the oak stalls may be contemporary. The elaborate, canopied oolite reredos features figure sculpture of Christ and the Apostles (Sermon on the Mount?), and commandment tablets, from c.1900-1910. The oak pulpit, with an oolite stem, is earlier 20th century.

The font has plain, square Old Red Sandstone bowl, medieval but retooled, formerly free-standing but now fixed to a corbel.

A small, cross-incised stone of probable post-conquest date lies within the internal face of the nave south wall, where it was uncovered during the 1868 restoration (RCAHM, 1917, 190) - consecration cross?.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; oval churchyard.

Rees, 1932, shows Llansawel as the site of a parish church during the 14th century, of the medieval Deanery of Stradtown. However, in the confirmation charter of the holdings of Talley Abbey issued by Edward III it is referred to as the 'chapel' of 'Pistyll Sawy' (Price, 1879, 171) in the parish of Cynwyl Gaeo (Owen, 1894, 47). At the dissolution it was worth £6 13s 4d (Owen, op. cit., 324).

Llansawel was still referred to as a chapel in 1790 (Evans, 1923, 5), but had become a parish church by 1833 when the living was annexed to the vicarage of Cynwyl Gaeo, in the patronage of the crown (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Sawyl, Llansawel, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Cynwyl Gaeo and Talley (Benefice no. 612) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

The 'Sawyl' dedication may not be original (Yates, 1973, 68).

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(CPR/108 - Llansawel)

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**ST CWRDAF,
LLANWRDA,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 17381

RB No. 3444

NGR SN 7126 3195

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 50% medieval core fabric.

A 4-cell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel/nave, 5 bays, medieval. north aisle, 3 bays; vestry (north), 1 bay; 1894-5. South porch, 1906?.

Construction is in limestone rubble throughout. 100% of internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs; the vestry with a slate lean-to. No chancel arch. Few surviving medieval features - medieval batter on east and west walls; medieval chancel door, partly rebuilt; medieval stoup, reused? not in situ. North aisle arcade, windows, south door, western double bellcote, all 1894-5.

Roofs and floors: 1894-5. Finishes: 1894-5.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. No external cutting or drain; floor levels unchanged?; underfloor void; possible crypt/vault in 25% of church; heating chamber in 5% of church; no evidence for former components beyond church; memorials significantly close to 50% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor-fair. 50% medieval core fabric; medieval chancel door and stoup.

Group value - medium. Medieval church; large churchyard on edge of village; C20 lych-gate.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, 13th century.

(Phase 2 - Former bier house, gone - 18th century?)

Phase 3 - Restored 1869, medium impact; east window inserted (south porch built: gone).

Phase 4 - Restored 1894-5, high impact; north aisle and vestry built.

Phase 5 - South porch (and bellcote?), 1906?.

DESCRIPTION

St Cwrdaŵ, Llanwrda, is a 4-celled church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 50% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 5-bayed chancel/nave; a 3-bayed north aisle of the same height, and nearly the same width, with a transeptal east bay projecting slightly; a lean-to vestry in the angle between the aisle east wall and the north wall of the 'chancel' west bay; and a south porch.

Construction is in medium-large limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone, unsquared and uncoursed, with crude medieval quoins. The external pointing is largely from 1894-5 while the interior is plastered, again from 1894-5. Slated gable roofs, the chancel and nave probably always roofed continuously; the north aisle roof lies at the same level, its west bay transeptal. The vestry has a slated lean-to roof continuing the 'chancel' roof north slope. Roofs and floors, 1894-5.

There is no external cutting or drain. No evidence exists for floor level changes. There is a below ground heating chamber in the 'nave', and flues. An underfloor void is present. A crypt or vault below may lie beneath the chancel. There is no evidence for former components beyond the present walls. External memorials lie significantly close to the east and south walls.

Few features survive from the medieval church, which comprised only the present 5-bayed nave/chancel. There is, however, a medieval 'priest's door' in the north wall of the 'chancel' west bay, with a weathered 4-centred surround, probably 16th century. The stoup in the 'nave' west wall is medieval though probably not in situ; it has a framed, square bowl in a crude, triangular-headed opening - former font bowl? The present south door is probably on the site of the medieval door but was rebuilt in 1894-5. The medieval east and west walls display a pronounced batter.

Plans and elevations that accompanied the Faculty application for the 1894-5 restoration (NLW, SD/F/438) show the church as it then existed, which was still fundamentally medieval. The church was still a single cell (the south porch depicted was probably a 19th century addition, see below). A square projection shown in the north wall of the 'nave' east bay is roofed by a continuation of the north slope; it appears to represent the site of a rood-loft stair but was, by 1894, lit by a square-headed, 3-light window of 'Perpendicular' character, which have been early post-reformation (but see below). The uncusped 2-light windows in 2-centred outer arches with simple plate tracery shown in the west wall and the south wall of the 'nave' west bay may have been genuine 13th century survivals. A plain, 2-centred west door is shown, and a single cusped lancet in the chancel north wall, almost certainly both medieval. Two large, 3-light square-headed windows lay in the south wall; they may have been 16th century or later neo-Perpendicular (see below). The plain, gabled double bellcote with 2-centred openings may also have been medieval; no bells are shown. However, the church was described as 'devoid of architectural interest' in 1855, and of 'rude and meagre character' (Anon., 1855, 299, 302).

The church floor was unpaved, 'and never had been', in 1705 (Evans, 1918, 27). In 1786 the church was 'decorated at the expense of the Honourable Lady Letitia Cornwallis' (RCAHM, 1925, 202; tablet in church). The extent of this 'decoration' is not known. The west door, and 'chancel' north door, had been blocked by 1894; the west door blocking is not visible. A low, lean-to bier house, entered from the exterior, had been built against the 'nave' north wall probably during the late 18th-early 19th centuries (NLW, SD/F/438), although a bier was present in 1705 (Evans, 1918, 27).

There was a medium-impact restoration in 1869 when a grant of £25 was provided towards reseating the church (plaque in church porch). It is clear, however, that much of the church was also refenestrated around this period. The present chancel east window pre-dates the 1894-5 restoration; it is shown on the plans and elevations that accompanied the faculty application in 1894 (NLW, SD/F/438) and is a 3 light, curvilinear traceried oolite window in a 2-centred brickwork opening. The elevations show a south porch which appears a de novo mid 19th century structure with low clasping buttresses; it survived the 1894-5

restoration but has now gone. It is possible that the 'Perpendicular' windows shown in the nave south wall (see above), and in particular the one depicted in the former rood-loft projection, were also mid-19th century; all were removed in 1894. The west door had by this time, at least, been blocked. The bier-house was still present, and all other features including the bellcote appear to have been retained from the earlier church. The floor passages had been tiled, with suspended boarding, and 'typical' open seating of the mid 19th century is shown, all doubtless from 1869. A large organ occupied the nave west bay. The contemporary church was described as 'a small unimportant structure' in 1893 (Anon., 1893, 94).

The church was restored again in 1883-4 (NLW, SD/F/438), to the specifications of the architect Stephen W. Williams of Rhayader. The restoration was high-impact. The north wall and bier-house were removed, and the north aisle and vestry built new, the aisle with an arcade of moulded 2-centred arches on cylindrical piers. The vestry has a 2-centred external door. The 'chancel' east wall gable was rebuilt, as was the upper half of its north wall, and the entire south wall was heightened. All windows were replaced, mainly by 3 light windows with cusped ogee heads, neo-Perpendicular, in square sandstone surrounds and drip-moulds. The 'chancel' north door was re-opened, into the new vestry. The south door was rebuilt. The western double bellcote was rebuilt in squared limestone rubble (or possibly in 1906, see below). The church was entirely re-roofed in softwood, the chancel/nave with a matchboard 'wagon-roof' ceiling, the aisle with strutted common rafters; no tabling was built. The vestry has a lean-to roof of common rafters, and a woodblock floor, possibly suspended. The 'chancel' floor was polychrome-tiled, and the 'nave' and aisle passages tiled, with suspended boarding/woodblock floors. A 'Porritt's' underground heating apparatus was installed in the 'nave', with a flue leading below the passage floor to a chimney on the vestry west wall, with a limestone base and square brick stack. The interior was replastered, all the existing plaster probably having been removed. The 1869 seating and pulpit were re-used (and altar rail?). The font was moved (and substantially rebuilt?).

There has been a fair amount of subsequent work. The present south porch is similar in construction to the yard lych-gate which is dated 1906; it is of rusticated limestone rubble, squared and coursed, without internal plaster. The door is a simple 2-centred arch. The gable roof is of softwood common rafters, and the polychrome-tiled floor is laid directly upon the substrate. (The bellcote is of similar construction - see above).

The oak-panelled reredos was added in 1929 (NLW, SD/F/439) and possibly the altar-table and limestone credence-shelf. The organ dates from 1972 but replaces an earlier one, proposed in 1894 (NLW, SD/F/438).

The font has an octagonal limestone bowl, of the 19th century? and a square sandstone stem and base, with attached shafts, probably from 1894-5 (the old font bowl re-used as a stoup? see above).

The church was not listed in 1998.

(Documentary sources for the medieval church have the separate Dyfed PRN 4080).

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site - Celtic dedication.

St Cwrdaf, Llanwrda, was not a parish church during the post-conquest period, but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy (Rees, 1933). The benefice was, with the neighbouring chapelry of Llansadwrn, conferred upon the Premonstratensian Abbey at Talley by Rhys ap Gruffydd ('Lord Rhys') in 1176 (Price, 1879, 171). In 1539 'rectoria de Llansadurne cum capella de Llanurda' was valued at £15 11s

6d (Owen, 1894, 48). Llansadwrn appears to have been by now regarded as a (parish?) church, with Llanwrda referred to as a chapel annexed to it (Owen, 1893, 324).

At the dissolution the possessions of the abbey, including Llansadwrn and Llanwrda, fell to the crown. The patronage of Llansadwrn vicarage, with Llanwrda annexed, was granted by Henry VIII firstly to Sir Rhys ap Gruffydd, and upon his conviction for treason, to Thomas Jones, Kt., of Haroldston, Pembs. (Williams, 1932, 54). Llanwrda remained annexed in 1833 (Lewis, 1833) and the union with Llansadwrn continues into the 1990s.

In 1998 St Cwrdaf, Llanwrda, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llansadwrn and Manordeilo (Benefice 676) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

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(CPR/109 - Llanwrda)

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**ST MICHAEL,
MYDDFAI,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 4090

RB No. 2999

NGR SN 7723 3013

Listed Building No. 10957

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 95% pre-19th century core fabric; largely unrestored.

A 5-cell church, large. Consists of chancel, 2 bays, nave, 4 bays; north chapel, 2 bays; north aisle, 4 bays; all medieval. South porch, early 17th century. Vestry (north of aisle), 2 bays, early 19th century?; gas-plant house (north of aisle), 1926.

Construction is in mixed rubble, predominantly limestone. 100% of internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs, vestry and gas-plant house with slated lean-to roofs. Medieval chancel arch. Medieval north chapel arcade. Medieval north aisle arcade. Medieval rood stair recess. Medieval windows with mullions; medieval tracery in north chapel. Medieval piscina, external corbel table and internal benching in chancel. Medieval chancel south door rebuilt 1808; main south and north doors rebuilt ?1808 and 1926. Early 17th century rood-loft recess, and vaulting, door and possible stoup in south porch. Aisle west window, 1808. Few later openings, confined to rebuilds in nave and aisle, later 19th century-early 20th century. Western single bellcote, later 19th century.
(18th century glass in chancel east window.)

Roofs: Chancel, nave, north chapel and north aisle, oak roofs c.1500; south porch, early 17th century; vestry and gas-plant house, 1926.

Floors: Mainly 18th century; 20th century in chancel, vestry and gas-plant house.

Finishes: 18th century render on 50% of church; medieval plaster in 80% of church, replastered 1992. Wall-paintings in nave and north chapel, probably medieval?; wall-painting in chancel, 18th century.

Condition - good. Some ivy.

Archaeological potential - excellent. Earthwork beyond 10% of church, platform? former component?; shallow external cutting around 15% of church; floor levels raised in 80% of church?; no underfloor void; no internal crypt/vault; external vault and cellar against 10% of church; external memorials significantly close to 30% of church; building debris beyond 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 95% pre-19th century core fabric; much medieval detail including arcades, windows including tracery, roofs and piscina; medieval wall-paintings; early 17th century vault, door and ?stoup; 18th century floors, glazing and wall-paintings, window and door(s) from 1808.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church; central village location; churchyard with good memorials.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, 13th-14th century.

Phase 2 - North chapel and north aisle, c.1500.

Phase 3 - South porch and nave rood stair recess, early 17th century.

Phase 4 - Vestry, early 19th century?; some refenestration, 1808.

(Phase 5 - limited restorations, very low impact, between 1874 and 1926; no new components)

Phase 6 - Restored 1926, low impact; gas-plant house built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Michael, Myddfai, is a 5-celled church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 95% pre-19th century core fabric, being largely unrestored.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a wider 4-bayed nave, a 2-bayed north chapel of the same dimensions as the chancel, a 4-bayed north aisle of the same dimensions as the nave, a south porch, a 2-bayed lean-to vestry north of the aisle west bays, and a single bayed lean-to gas-plant house north of the aisle and east of the vestry.

Construction is in medium-large mixed rubble, limestone predominating, unsquared and uncoursed, with medieval quoins in areas. Extensive remains of external render/pointing survive from the ?18th century; 1926 repointing in areas, and poor later 20th century ribbon pointing; 100% of internal walls are rendered/plastered, medieval but partly reskimmed in 1992. Slated gable roofs, the nave and aisle roofs at the same level and above the chancel and chapel roofs; these roofs are of oak, medieval; the vestry and gas-plant house have slated lean-to roofs. The body of the church is largely floored with limestone flags from the later 18th century.

The chancel east wall has a low, basal batter and internal stone benching. The south wall has an external corbel table at the wall-head, medieval - formerly parapetted?. The east window comprises 3 cusped lights in a square surround, all in Old Red Sandstone, c.1700; the glazing is 18th century (Yates, 1974, 66) as is the painted text, 'Words of Institution', above the window on the internal face. The 2 south wall windows are similar and of similar date, but have square drip-moulds, the western with primitive moulded head stops and a similar central moulding (cf. Cilycwm, Carm.). Between the two, and in the west bay, is a doorway, still open and probably medieval but with its head rebuilt as a semicircular arch with a 'Gibbs' surround, probably from 1808 (see below). Internally, a plain piscina lies beneath the south wall east bay window, comprising a recess with a 4-centred surround of c.1500. The north wall arcade into the north chapel is represented by a single 4-centred arch occupying both bays, with semi-octagonal stops and plain-moulded capitals (but no bases, or bases concealed), of c.1500. The chancel arch is plain and 2-centred, with chamfered stops and plain imposts, 14th-15th century?. The creasing for the medieval chancel roof is visible higher up on the external face. There is a slight medieval stone bench south of the arch, and an area of weathered wall-painting, medieval?

The chancel roof is medieval, ceiled with an oak 'wagon-roof' of c.1500; the plaster panels were renewed in 1992 (Anon, n.d., 6). In 1926, the roof was still partly stone-tiled (NLW, SD/F/501); were the tiles survivals from an early covering? The polychrome tiled floor may be from 1926. The limestone Commandment tablets of the early 19th century (Yates, 1974, 66) have been relocated to the south wall.

The nave is divided from the north aisle by a 4-bayed arcade similar to that in the chancel, but with 2-centred arches; it is also from c.1500. The oak wagon-roof is also like that in the chancel and similarly from c.1500, but the framing is transverse only, with panels renewed in 1992. The south-east corner features large Old Red Sandstone quoins in the upper half where it may have been rebuilt in the early 17th century; the east bay south wall is pierced by 2 windows, the upper as the chancel windows and early 17th century, the lower a single lancet from the 15th century. Both formerly lit the medieval rood loft and stair, and were blocked presumably later in the 17th century; the lower lancet has a history of being successively unblocked and reblocked until left open in 1926 (NLW, SD/F/501). The west half of this bay is produced externally as a square projection from the south wall with a 2-centred internal recess; the projection has large external quoins like the south-east corner, over which it is squinched at a higher level, and was probably built in the early 17th century similarly for the rood stair. It is pierced by an inserted window, like the chancel windows but with 3 lights, in oolite, with surrounding infill and all representing an early 20th century copy of an original 3-light window from the early 17th century (shown in NLW, SD/F/500). A similar window lies to the east, again a copy of the original; the intervening 'plain recess or aumbry' from c.1500 and mentioned in 1917 (RCAHM, 1917, 218) and shown on a plan of 1866 (NLW, SD/F/500) has since been filled in - in 1926? The south door lies in the nave west bay; it has been rebuilt with a semicircular head, possibly in 1808 (see below). The west wall is pierced by a plain 3-light window in a 2-centred Old Red Sandstone surround, inserted in 1874 into an existing opening (Anon., n.d., 6; Evans, 1917(b), 7) which, in 1866, had a single light timber-framed window (NLW, SD/F/500). The gable supports an elaborate bellcote on a 2-centred arch corbelled out from the external wall face, with oolite quoins, dressings and string course, the bellcote above the string course being of oolite ashlar and gabled, with a single 'Caernarfon'-headed opening; all is from the later 19th century. It contains a bell. There are 3 external buttresses on the south and west walls, from 1926 (NLW, SD/F/501). The limestone-flagged floor was laid in the later 18th century, directly on the substrate.

The north chapel has a 3-light, Perpendicular traceried east window in a 2-centred surround with a drip-mould, all from the early 16th century. The north wall is pierced by a similar window but with a 4-centred surround. To the west, the internal face of the wall displays a fragmentary wall-painting of apparent medieval date. The chapel is open to the north aisle through an arch identical to those in the aisle arcade and similarly from c.1500. The oak wagon roof is like that in the chancel and also c.1500. The floor was lowered in 1926 (NLW, SD/F/501) and floored with re-used limestone flags.

The north aisle has a window in the east bay north wall like the early 20th century nave windows, inserted into an existing opening that featured a single light timber-framed window in 1866 (NLW, SD/F/500). An internal aumbry like that formerly in the nave south wall (see above), probably coeval with the core fabric, lay to the west until filled in, ?c.1926. A second window lies further west, like the chancel windows and also from c.1500. In the west bay north wall is a doorway with a segmental arch, which formerly represented the north door of the church; it was probably blocked at the Reformation and has been successively blocked and reopened to be finally unblocked and rebuilt in 1926 to communicate with the vestry beyond. The west wall is pierced by a window with a semicircular head and a 'Gibbs' surround, dated 1808 in the masonry; it contained a single-light, timber framed window in 1866 (NLW, SD/F/500) but was given a window like the nave west window in 1874 (Anon., n.d., 6; Evans, 1917(b), 7). The aisle is also roofed like the chancel, and floored as the nave.

The south porch may be early 17th century. It is vaulted with a segmental barrel vault, plastered, and the door has a semicircular 'Laudian' arch of Old Red Sandstone ashlar. The internal plaster conceals the possible remains of a stoup (RCAHM, 1917, 218-19). The floor is flagged as the nave.

There is a possible 'D' shaped earthwork beyond the east end of the church, former apse? platform?. A shallow earth-cut cutting runs along the west half of the north side of the church. The floors may have been raised concealing former pier bases, but the north chapel east bay floor has been subsequently lowered. No suspended flooring, or underfloor void, is present. There is possible evidence for a former component beyond the present east end (see above). There is an external vault, a below-ground heating chamber and former gas-plant house against the north aisle north wall, but no evidence for any internal crypt/vault. Many memorials lie close to the south wall. An external earthwork north of the north aisle represents construction/demolition debris.

Structural development

The pre-19th century church has survived more-or-less unchanged. The nave and chancel may be 13th or 14th century and the only close parallel for the external corbel table in the chancel is in the nave at Llangynin, in south-west Carmarthenshire. The north chapel and north aisle are doubtless contemporary with each other, and were added c.1500. There is no justification for the suggestion by RCAHM that the chancel and nave formerly occupied the northern cell (RCAHM, 1917, 218) and the chancel certainly occupied its present position by 1866 (NLW, SD/F/500). The south porch may on stylistic grounds be dated to the early 17th century; the rood-loft stair recess in the nave south wall features early 17th century openings and it may well be an addition from this period and occupy a 'Laudian' context, cf. the similar recess at Llanfynydd, Carmrs.. The church has been largely unrestored and retains many medieval features, including the roofs; features representing virtually every succeeding architectural period are also present, as well as wall paintings, glass and flooring.

Post-17th century work has been episodic. The church windows were apparently 'out of repair' in 1672 (Evans, 1919, 213) but no later 17th century detail is evident in the present fabric. The present floors have been noted as being largely from the late 18th century, and may conceal the arcade pier bases ie. raised?. The chancel south door and aisle west window are from 1808; they have the same 'Gibbs' surrounds, and the window has the date incised (the south door is less similar).

The lean-to vestry had been built by 1839, and is shown on tithe map (NLW, Myddfai, 1839). However, on a plan of 1866 it is shown as only entered from the exterior, and in form looks more like a bier-house (NLW, SD/F/500). It was being used as a vestry by the later 19th century when the north door was unblocked, and an east window was inserted (blocked in 1926). All other openings, and the roof and floor, are from 1926.

In 1849 the wardens were charged with putting the chancel in good repair (Carmrs. R. O., CPR/48/7). The repairs were still being undertaken in 1851 and may have included reseating; a plan of 1866 (NLW, SD/F/500) shows the seating as open benches, now gone.

The church underwent some very low impact restoration in 1874 (Evans, 1917 (b), 7) when the 2 west windows were inserted and a pulpit, since replaced, was installed (Anon., n.d., 6); possibly it was now that the north door was unblocked to the vestry. The installation of 2 heating stoves in the nave and north aisle may have occurred at the same time; the flues led to chimney stacks in the side walls, removed in 1926 (NLW, SD/F/501).

Some limited refenestration occurred between 1917 and 1926, when 2 windows of c.1500 noted in the south wall of the nave by the RCAHM in 1917 (RCAHM, 1917, 218) were rebuilt in oolite, along with the north aisle east window, which had been rebuilt in the same style by 1926 (NLW, SD/F/500).

More extensive building work was undertaken in 1926 (ibid.), to the specifications of the architect Charles W. Mercer, of Llanelli, and at an estimated cost of £1600. It was, however, still of low impact and chiefly concerned the vestry, which had for some time been used as a coalshed, the doorway into the aisle (the former north door) having been blocked once more. The doorway was reopened and rebuilt, and the

vestry was divided into two by a partition wall. The west half was excavated out to form a below-ground heating chamber, with steps down, and a low-pressure heating apparatus was installed; the flue led to a simple square chimney stack on the aisle north-west corner, now gone. The east half was given a woodblock floor. The vestry north door was rebuilt with a concrete lintel, and a new 2-light window in a square Old Red Sandstone surround was inserted either side of the door. The whole was reroofed with lean-to softwood common rafters continuing the aisle north roof slope. A small lean-to structure was erected between the vestry east wall and the aisle north wall, with a low roof and a plain doorway reached by 4 steps down within external brick retaining walls; the new structure was built to house a gas-plant for the heating apparatus, now disused.

At the same time, the north chapel east bay floor was lowered and relaid, the screen between the chancel and north chapel was re-used and extended, the nave and aisle stoves were removed and their stacks demolished, and the nave buttresses were built (*ibid.*). The walls were repointed in areas, and some new roof slating was laid, and timberwork repaired.

At around the same period, but not mentioned in the above specs., the present chancel floor was laid and the altar rail was fixed. The pews in the nave and aisle, free-standing on raised boarded floors over the flagging, also appear to be earlier 20th century, as do the pulpit and desk.

In a programme of renovations completed in 1992 the roofs were reslated, and the defective timber and plaster panels were replaced. The internal walls were partly reskimmed (Anon., n.d., 6).

The limestone font has an octagonal square bowl and stem moulded from one piece, of probable 14th century date. A loose font bowl observed in the church in 1925 was apparently recovered from the former chapelry at Dol Hywel (RCAHM, 1917, 219)

The bell has been recast (Anon., n.d., 6).

The church was Grade B listed in 1998. It lies within Brecon Beacons National Park.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site -
Circular churchyard.

St Michael, Myddfai, was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy (Rees, 1933). It is first mentioned in 1284, when the advowson fell to King Edward I due to the forfeiture of the previous patrons (Anon., n.d., 3), who were apparently a family named Wroth (RCAHM, 1917, 218, who give the date of the forfeiture as 1291). The advowson was subsequently granted to the Bishop of St Davids (Anon., *op. cit.*), with whom it still formally remains. Rees, 1933, has the church appendent to Talley Abbey, but this assumption may be due to the surrounding grange that was present during the medieval period.

The benefice was a vicarage; in 1492 Bishop Hugh Pavy collated to Sir Rhys ap Ieuan, chaplain, the vicarage of the parish of 'Mothevey' and instituted him, the vicarage then being vacant by the resignation of the last vicar, 'on a yearly pension of 5 marks' (Anon., 1930, 42). The parish had a dependent chapelry at Dol Hywel, now gone.

In 1833, the living was a discharged vicarage of the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, in the patronage of the Bishop, rated in the king's books at £6 6s 8d and endowed with £200 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael, Myddfai, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llandinat (Llandovery), Benefice 530 in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

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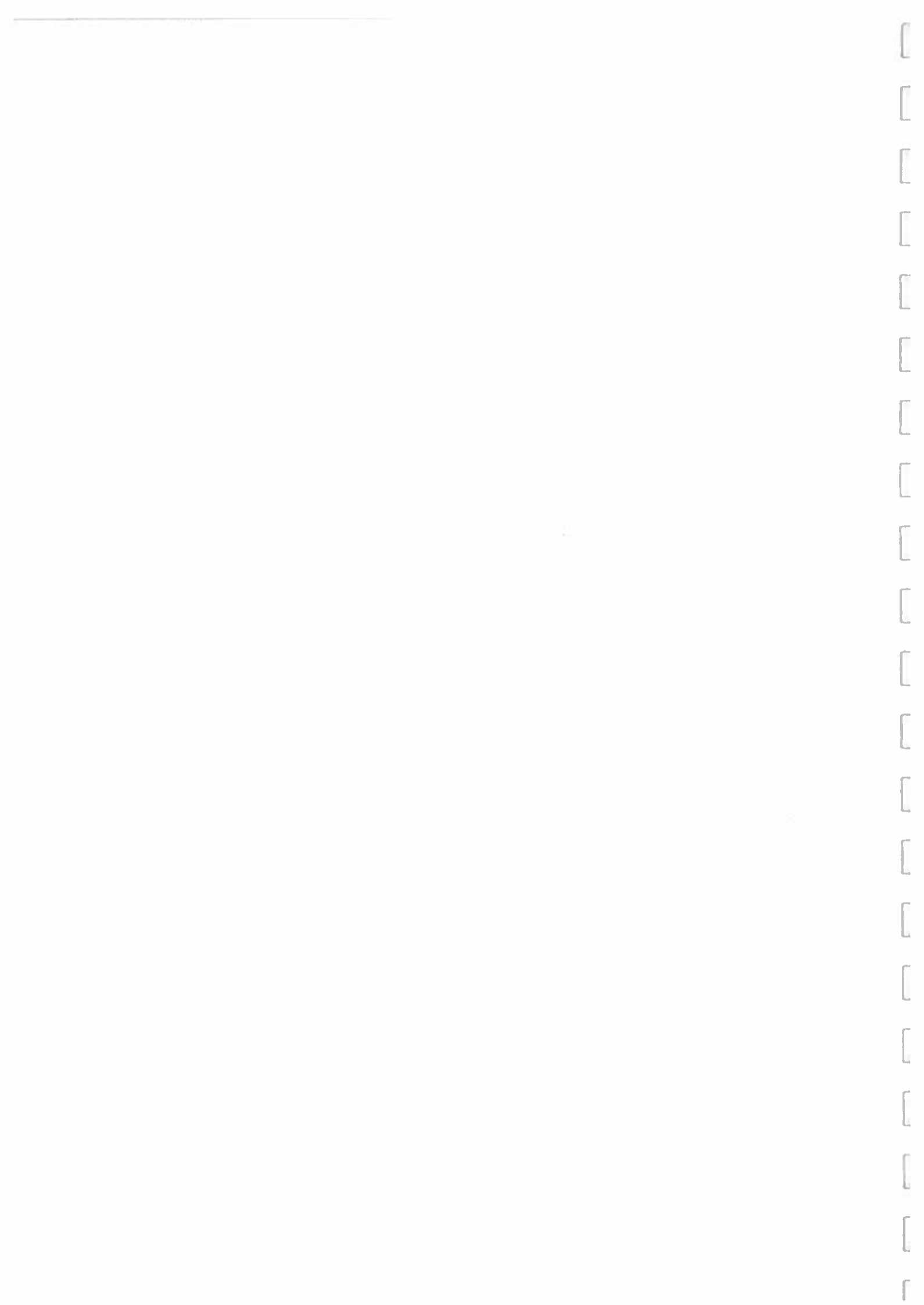
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**HOLY TRINITY,
TALIARIS,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 17324

RB No. 3435

NGR SN 6540 2822

Listed Building No. 15189

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% pre-19th century core fabric.

A multicell church (chapel), medium sized. Consists of chancel, 1 bay; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay; west porch; all earlier 19th century. Vestry (north), 1893. Heating chamber (south of chancel), rebuilt 20th century?. Construction is in local rubble, plastered within. Red-tile gable roofs; heating chamber with red-tile lean-to roof. Openings mainly from 1893, neo-Perpendicular, with ORS dressings. Western single bellcote, 1893.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1893.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Slight earthwork platform beneath 25% of church, natural?; deep, external concrete drain around 50% of church; shallow concrete drain around 20% of church; suspended floors above heating ducts in 50% of church; one memorial significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-19th century core fabric.

Group value - low-medium. Early 19th century chapel in landmark rural upland location; large churchyard.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, transepts, west porch (and heating chamber?), early C19.

Phase 2 - Restored 1893, high impact; vestry built.

(Phase 3 - Heating chamber rebuilt C20?).

DESCRIPTION

Holy Trinity, Taliaris, is a multicelled church (properly chapel), of medium size. It was entirely rebuilt in the early 19th century on the same site, and probably in the same location as the earlier, 17th century church, and nothing was retained from the earlier fabric.

The present chapel consists of a single-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, single-bayed north and south transepts, a west porch, a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel, and a single-bayed heating chamber south of the chancel. Construction is in local rubble, with pointing from 1893; plastered within. Openings are neo-Perpendicular with Old Red Sandstone dressings, mainly from 1893. A simple, single bellcote lies at the west end. The roofs are red-tiled gables; the heating chamber has a red-tiled lean-to roof.

The form of the original 17th century chapel is not known, but the building was described as 'small, neat' and in a 'sequestered situation' in 1809 (Anon., 1933, 10). The chapel was rebuilt, before 1833, by Lord Robert Seymour (Lewis, 1833) and the tithe map of 1837 shows it as a simple rectangular building occupying its present location (NLW, Llandeilo Fawr, 1837). However, the map depiction may be conventionalised; it was a cruciform building by 1892, at least (NLW, SD/F/644), with a west porch, a coalshed south of the chancel, and windows that were largely timber-framed but the east window had 4 lights with simple tracery and the nave north window was 2-light and neo-Perpendicular.

The chapel was restored in 1893, to the designs of the architect David Jenkins of Llandeilo (ibid.) during which it was visited by the Cambrian Archaeological Association who described it as 'unroofed, and whatever traces of old work may have previously existed were being entirely obliterated' (Anon., 1893, 87). The vestry was added, and the coalshed was converted into a heating chamber. The chapel was refenestrated and the bellcote was added; however the west porch and door were retained unchanged. It was reroofed, refloored, reseated and replastered.

The heating chamber may have been largely rebuilt during the 20th century.

The church stands on a slight earthwork platform but this appears to represent a natural terrace with an escarpment to the south-east. A deep, external concrete drain runs along the north and east walls and a shallow concrete drain runs along the west half of the south wall. Floors are suspended above heating ducts. Just one memorial lies significantly close to the nave south wall.

The chapel was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is no evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site.

Holy Trinity, Taliaris, is shown as a possible 14th century chapel site by Rees, 1932. However, it appears that the chapel was a rather later foundation, said to have been consecrated by Bishop Jeremy Taylor during the reign of Charles II (Anon., 1893, 87) after he had found refuge at the nearby Golden Grove estate (Anon., 1933, 10); the pulpit from Taylor's incumbency was said to have been destroyed in the 1850s (ibid.). The living was in the patronage of the Taliaris estate.

In 1786 the living of 'Holy Trinity or Taliaris Chapel' had a certified value of £10 (ibid.) and was endowed with a house and 10 acres of land in the early 19th century (ibid.). In 1833 Taliaris was a chapelry of Llandeilo Fawr parish, but was previously annexed to Talley (Carmarthen R. O., CPR/8). The living was a perpetual curacy endowed with £200 private benefaction and £600 royal bounty, in the patronage of the proprietor of the Taliaris estate (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 the living was a vicarage in the parish of Llandeilo Fawr (Benefice no. 675) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

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Rees, W., 1933, South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century.

Church in Wales Records

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

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**ST PAULINUS,
YSTRAD-FFIN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE (DINEFWR)**

Dyfed PRN 17406

RB No. 3206

NGR SN 7876 4704

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% pre-19th century core fabric.

A 2-cell church (chapel), small. Consists of chancel/nave, 3 bays; west porch; all 1821. Construction is in mixed local rubble, plastered within. Slate gable roofs. All openings from 1821, simple and without dressings; timber window-frames from 1900. No bellcote.

Roofs: 1900. Floors: 1821. Finishes: 1900 - 1986.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Earthwork platform around 50% of chapel; primary?, debris?; no external drain; no underfloor void?; few burials significantly close to 100% of chapel.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-19th century core fabric.

Group value - low-medium. Early 19th century chapel in rural upland location, on valley floor; lych-gate; adjacent spring.

Phasing:
All 1821.

DESCRIPTION

St Paulinus, Ystrad-ffin, is a 2-celled church (properly chapel), of small size. It was entirely rebuilt in 1821 on the same site, and probably in the same location as the earlier church, and nothing was retained from the earlier fabric.

The present chapel consists of a 3-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division, and a west porch. Construction is in mixed rubble, with pointing from 1900 and 1984; plastered within. Openings are plain, without surrounds, and from 1821; the semicircular-headed windows contain neo-Gothic timber frames from 1900, and the west door and porch door are similar. There is no bellcote. The roofs are slated gables.

The form of the earlier chapel is not known, but it was 'fallen down' in c.1810 and services were performed in a nearby cottage (Anon., 1930, 52). The present building was erected by the then Earl Cawdor in 1821, on the same site and probably within the same location as the earlier chapel, as recorded on a plaque within the chapel (ibid.; RCAHM, 1917; Yates, 1973, 65, *et al.*). Lewis' statement that the 'neat chapel' of Ystrad-ffin was 're-erected here (Nant-y-bai), instead of at Ystrad Fin, where the original building stood' (Lewis, 1833) is confused and at odds with all the evidence; the churchyard at the present chapel certainly contains pre-19th century memorials.

The plaque also records a restoration in 1900, when the present window frames were inserted, and the chapel was reroofed and reseated. Small-scale renovations were undertaken under an MSC scheme in 1984.

A pronounced earthwork platform is visible along the north side of the chapel, particularly noticable at the north-west corner; primary?, or debris from earlier chapel?. There is no external drain. There may be no underfloor void. A few burials lie significantly close to the chapel.

The chapel was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; adjacent spring.

St Paulinus, Ystrad-ffin, was a chapelry to Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn parish during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradtown. It was a possession of the Cistercian abbey at Strata Florida and is first mentioned in 1339 when the Bishop of St Davids, Henry Gower, conferred the obligations of the abbey's 'chapel of St Paulinus' upon the house (Anon., 1930, 52); the entire surrounding area represented the abbey's grange of Nant-y-bai. A plaque within the church asserts that the chapel was founded in 1117 but this may be entirely spurious.

Methodists were permitted to preach at Ystrad-ffin, along with a number of Carmarthenshire chapels-of-ease, during the 18th century (Roberts, 1946, 27). Burial rights were not received until after 1710 (Evans, 1909, 42).

The chapel is described thus by Lewis, 1833 (Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn parish), 'in the hamlet of Rhandir Abbot is a neat chapel, called Nant y Bai, the living of which is a perpetual curacy... endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £1000 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Earl Cawdor'.

In 1998 the living was a vicarage in the parish of Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, held with Cilycwm, St Barnabas Rhandirmwyn and Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn Cyngordy (Benefice no. 635) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Llangadog and Llandeilo (St Davids, 1997-8).

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