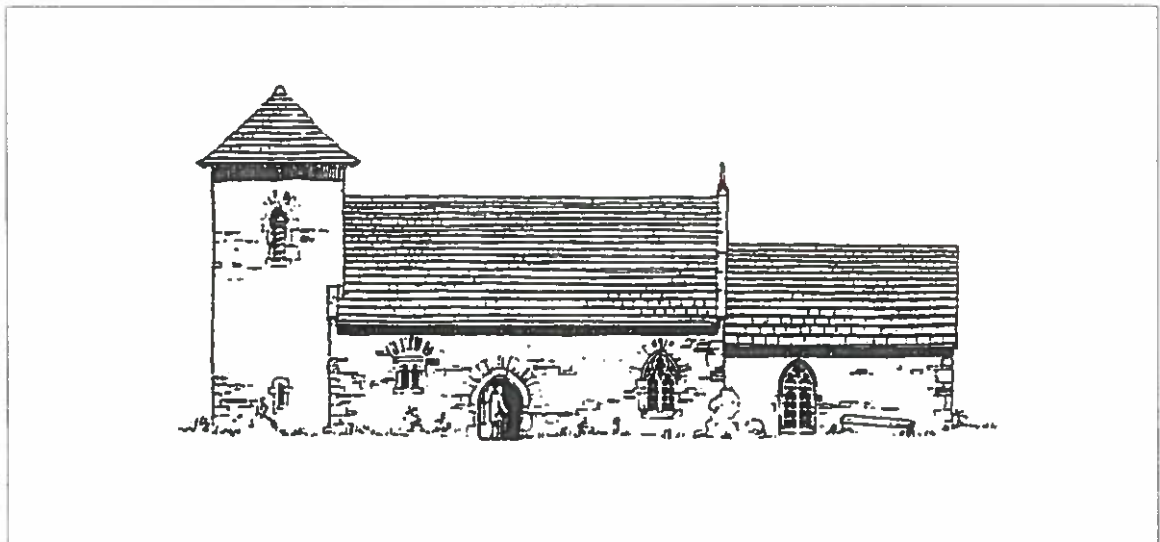


**THE WELSH HISTORIC
CHURCHES PROJECT**

01/09/98

**CARMARTHENSHIRE CHURCHES, 1996-7
(DAT 48)**

PART 2: LAUGHARNE - LLANELLI



Llandawke, Carmarthenshire

Reports prepared for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments
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A R C H A E O L E G
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A R C H A E O L O G Y

THE WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

CARMARTHENSHIRE CHURCHES, 1996-7 (DAT 48)

PART 2: LAUGHARNE - LLANELLI

CONTENTS

Laugharne (PRN 2163)

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**ST MARTIN,
LAUGHARNE,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 2163

RB No. 2987

NGR SN 3021 1143

Listed Building No. 9623

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 75% medieval core fabric.

A multicell, cruciform church, medium-large sized. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 4 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay; medieval. North porch; storehouse (transeptal, south of chancel centre bay), 17th century?. Vestry (north), 2 bays; 1853-6. south porch; 1873-4. Limestone rubble construction. Internal walls without render/plaster in 80% of church. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval windows, 1 with tracery, and arcades, doorways, buttressing, reredos, sedilia, stoups, squint, tower with openings, and rood-loft corbelling. All other openings built, or rebuilt, in 1853-74 with yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs: 1853-74. Floors, 1853 - later 20th century. Finishes, 1873 - later 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, revetted external cutting around 50% of church, primary, secondarily deepened; shallow, earth cutting around 20% of church; levels unchanged?; suspended floors over heating ducts in 60% of church; below-ground floor in 5% of church?; known burials beneath 20% of church; external burials significantly close to 50% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 75% medieval core fabric; medieval windows, tracery, arcades, doorways, buttressing, reredos, sedilia, stoups, squint, tower with openings, and rood-loft corbelling.

Group value - high. Large, important medieval landmark church with tower; in historic town; large terraced churchyard (Grade II listed) with good memorials; cist cemetery below churchyard?; ECM; C20 lych-gate, urban amenity value.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, tower and transepts (and former south porch?), mid C15?

Phase 2 - North porch and storehouse, both C17?

Phase 3 - Restored 1853-6, high impact; vestry built.

Phase 4 - Restored 1873-4, high impact; south porch and south transept rebuilt.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Martin, Laugharne, is a multicell cruciform church, with a central tower, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 75% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, single-bayed north and south transepts, north and south porches, a single-bayed transeptal storehouse south of the chancel centre bay and a 2-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bays. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout. The external pointing is from 1873-4 and the 20th century; only the chancel is plastered internally. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen. Where they occur, medieval dressings are in yellow sandstone (Clive-Powell, 1995, 1); however, most openings were rebuilt in 1853-6, and 1873-4, with yellow oolite dressings. The exterior has medieval buttressing throughout. The church is particularly rich in 18th and 19th century memorials.

A deep, revetted external cutting surrounds the east and north sides of the church, primary, the church being cut into the hillslope, but secondarily deepened. A shallow, earth cutting runs along the nave south wall. There is no evidence for any floor level changes. The flooring is suspended in the nave, transepts and vestry, over underfloor heating ducts. The north porch floor may be below ground level. There are known burials beneath the chancel. External memorials, burial vaults and burial earthworks lie significantly close to the southern and western halves of the church.

The chancel

The chancel walls are mid 15th century but the upper part of the east gable was rebuilt in 1853-6. The 3 bays of the chancel are defined by external stepped buttresses on the side walls, and there are similar cross-buttresses at the east end; they are all 15th century and a contemporary, coped external offset runs around the whole. The east window lies within a 2-centred rear-arch from the mid 15th century, but the surround, including the drip-mould on moulded human head stops, was rebuilt in 1853-6 copying the 15th century original; the 4 lights, with double-chamfered Perpendicular tracery, are similarly a copy from 1853-6. The east and west bay side walls have similar windows, but mainly 2-light and without drip-moulds, which are also rebuilt copies of 1853-6; the west bay south wall was largely rebuilt in 1853-5 and features a larger, 3-light window with flowing tracery, probably not copied from the original. The central bay is now open to the north vestry, and its south wall is blind, but both walls may have featured a 'priest's door', later blocked/alterd (see below).

Internally, there is a 15th century reredos forming an arcade of 7 niches with cusped, ogee heads, crocketed and pinnacled, in yellow sandstone; it was restored in 1853-6 and given its present statuary in 1901 (NLW, SD/F/219). The east bay south wall features a triple sedilia. It has cusped, 2-centred heads lying beneath a square hood-mould, on moulded human head stops, and springing from cylindrical free-shafts with plain abaci and tori; the spandrels are foliated, and the eastern bay forms a piscina with a circular bowl. The whole was rebuilt in 1853-6 in yellow oolite but copies an original from the mid 15th century.

The softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling is from 1855-6 and features bosses at the frame intersections, matchboarded above; it may similarly copy a medieval original but the chase for a lower pitched roof (or ceiling) can be seen above the chancel arch. The floor is largely composed of 18th century memorial slabs with many burials beneath.

The crossing and tower

The crossing communicates with the chancel, nave and transepts via large, plain 2-centred arches without dressings, imposts or bases, from the mid 15th century; the nave arch features a cylindrical attached shaft, in oolite, from 1853-74. The crossing now has a flat timber ceiling from 1873-4 but the corbels for the medieval ceiling can be seen lower down. The passages are quarry-tiled, from 1853-6. The central tower rises 2 more storeys (originally 3 more storeys?, see below) above the crossing, with which it is contemporary. The upper

storeys are reached from a spiral stair which lies in a semi-octagonal thickening of the south-west crossing responds and is entered through a doorway with a chamfered, 2-centred surround from the mid 15th century; the stair is lit by a simple slit light into the church and features a rood-loft corbel. The second stage is lit by simple slit-lights and lancets. The belfry stage has a large, double-lancet opening in each face, with 2-centred drip moulds, which may be entirely from 1873-4 when the tower is said to have been reduced in height by 22ft (ie. 1 storey). The present corbel table and crenellated parapet are also from 1873-4, the similarly finished stair turret rises above.

The nave

The nave walls are buttressed like the chancel and exhibit a similar external string-course, from the mid 15th century. There are 3 windows in each side wall, like the chancel side wall windows but in the north wall are entirely from 1853-6, again copying mid 15th century originals. The north and south doors have 2-centred surrounds in double chamfered limestone, from the mid 15th century; the north door rear-arch lies beneath a relieving arch, and there is an amorphous area of blocking above. East of the south door, the external wall face exhibits an oolite niche and statue, from 1873-4, above a 15th century stoup with a plain trefoiled opening formed from a single block of ashlar; internally is an oolite block, quatrefoil sunk, which may indicate the position of a former stoup. The west wall is cross-buttressed like the chancel. It features a large 2-centred window opening from the mid 15th century with a drip mould on out-turned stops from 1873-4; the 5 lights with Perpendicular tracery were also rebuilt in 1873-4 (Davies, 1988). The 'wagon-roof' ceiling is like that in the chancel and also from 1853-6, but without matchboarding. The passages are tiled as the crossing, with suspended board floors, all from 1853-6, above heating ducts inserted in 1897.

The transepts

The transepts feature the external offset seen in the nave and chancel, and their end walls are cross-buttressed, but the south transept was entirely rebuilt in 1873-4. Both have softwood 'wagon-roofs' like the nave, from 1873-4.

In the east wall of the north transept is a window like those in the nave and chancel but retaining its 15th century tracery; its sill has been lowered to form a doorway to the vestry since 1874 (NLW, SD/F/218) and a concrete lintel inserted beneath the tracery. A corbel to the north may be a scone bracket. The north (end) wall has a window like those in the chancel, 15th century, rebuilt in 1853-6; above it lies a rose window which is all from 1853-6, replacing an original?. The same wall features a tomb recess with a 2-centred surround from the mid 15th century, which has retained its contemporary effigy of an unknown female. The west wall exterior is pierced by 2 square sockets, function?. The floor comprises synthetic stone flags, 20th century, and incorporates a wide flight of steps up to the vestry door.

The south transept is from 1873-4 and features some ORS in its facework, but the east wall retains a blocked squint with dressed yellow sandstone jambs, and (?rood-loft) corbelling, at its junction with the crossing; in the south wall is a re-used 15th century piscina with a triangular, poppyheaded surround, foliated spandrels and a scalloped bracket bowl, all in limestone. The transept is entered through a Caernarfon-headed doorway in the south wall with a gabled surround that projects to form a 'porch', all from 1873-4. Above the door is a replica of the 15th century windows in the church, and a similar window lies in the east wall. The passage is formed from 18th - 19th century memorial slabs, boarded either side in 1853-6.

The north and south porches

The north porch may be post-medieval; it lacks external buttressing. The doorway, which had been blocked before 1873, was reopened and entirely rebuilt in 1897 when the porch was converted into a boilerhouse; it has a 2-centred surround in chamfered oolite. The porch is lit by a double-lancet with triangular, cusped heads in the west wall, also from 1897?. The softwood roof is from 1897.

The south porch was entirely rebuilt in 1873-4 in roughly squared and coursed rubble, with a basal offset and internal oolite benching. There is a contemporary stepped buttress at the end of each side wall with oolite ashlar quoins. The chamfer-moulded, 2-centred door surround and drip-mould are from 1872-4 and may not replicate the original. A decafoil opening above lights the roof-space. The softwood roof, also from 1873-4, lacks trusses. The floor is tiled as the nave.

The storehouse and vestry

The transeptal storehouse may be 17th century. It does not feature external buttressing, its construction removed the chancel south wall buttresses and may have involved the blocking of a 15th century 'priest's door'. The south wall now features a late 19th century doorway with an oolite surround, and a rose window like that in the south transept and probably also from 1873-4 but with Star of David tracery; the softwood roof may be contemporary.

The vestry is from 1853-6 and is buttressed in imitation of the 15th century work. It is entered from the chancel through a 2-centred arch with a plain, oolite surround, possibly replacing a 15th century 'priest's door'; there is a doorway into the churchyard in the east wall with a 2-centred oolite surround. The vestry is lit by a 3-light traceried window in the east wall, and cusped single- and 2-light windows in the north wall, all from 1853-6. The north wall buttress features the truncated chimney from a disused fireplace, also 1853-6. The softwood gabled roof is contemporary..

Structural development

The church displays great stylistic unity, being in the early Perpendicular tradition, and it appears that the present chancel, nave, transepts and tower belong to a single-phase rebuild of the mid-15th century; however, it the only remaining medieval window is the east window of the north transept (Davies, 1988). The degree of external buttressing is unique within South-west Wales. The chancel apparently featured internal stone benching, removed in 1811 (Williams, 1930 (ii), 38), and the tower may have contained a fourth storey, said to have been removed in 1873-4 (Williams, 1934, 38).

There is now no evidence for the pre-15th century church, but during the 1873-4 restoration of the church, the footings of a shorter and narrower nave were uncovered (Davies, 1988, *et al.*)

The north porch cannot be closely dated, but it post-dates the mid 15th century butting against the nave buttresses; it may be earlier post-medieval, and was mentioned in a presentment of 1725 (Evans, 1921, 22), but has been much restored. The south porch was entirely rebuilt in 1873-4 replacing a porch that may again have post-dated the nave, seemingly having to have butted the buttresses. The gabled building south of the chancel is now used as a store but is known as the 'Bone House'; it may represent a post-medieval chancel house, 17th century?, and may have involved the blocking of a 'priest's door'.

The medieval roof was said to be comparable with that at St Davids Cathedral (Williams, 1930 (ii), 38); it received new bosses in 1785 and 1800 (*ibid.*). A rood-screen may have survived the Reformation; in 1750 a 'wooden partition' under the tower was removed (*ibid.*).

The 'walls, roofs, windows and... floor', and the bells, were in 'indifferent repair' in 1705 (Evans, 1917, 52). Much repair work was undertaken in 1718-20 at a cost of £120 (Williams, 1925 (i), 77), and a new bell loft and bellframe were installed in the tower in 1723 (*ibid.*).

The church interior was ceiled and 'otherwise beautified' in c.1810 (Carmarthen. R. O., CPR/38/98). An organ was present by 1809 (Carmarthen. R. O., CPR/38/79) but was replaced with the present organ in 1819 (Carmarthen. R. O., CPR/38/80).

A vestry room, with a gallery over, were erected within the north transept in 1823 (Carms. R. O., CPR/38/83), which was known as 'Palmer's Aisle' during this period (Anon., 1924, 49). There were also galleries in the south transept and at the west end (Williams, 1934, 37).

The church was restored in 1853-6 to the designs of the architect R. Kyrke Penson (Anon., 1856, 331). The 15th century windows were rebuilt/restored (*ibid.*), and the interior was refloored. The north door was blocked. The nave and transepts were reroofed and reseated in 1853 (Carms. R. O., CPR/38/87), and the present vestry and organ chamber were added in 1855 (Carms. R. O., CPR/38/88), removing a former 'priest's door'?. New chancel fittings were installed in 1855-6 and its roof was renewed (Carms. R. O., CPR/38/89-90).

A second restoration was undertaken in 1873-4 (NLW, SD/F/218), again under Penson. The south transept and the south porch were both demolished and entirely rebuilt. The west window was rebuilt. The galleries were removed and the nave was again reseated. The west window was restored. The roofs were repaired and the north transept given a new one. The internal plaster was removed and the rood-loft door rediscovered; the interior was not replastered. Areas of the exterior were repointed. The tower may have been truncated.

A boiler, with underfloor heating ducts, was installed in the north porch 1897 (Carms. R. O., CPR/38/92); it has since been removed.

The chancel underwent renovation during the 1920s and 1930s (Carms. R. O., CPR/38/95) during which most of the stalls were replaced, and the interior was plastered. The church was extensively repaired after storm damage in 1954, including reslating the roofs (Davies, 1988).

There are 2 18th century paintings in the church, one of Jeremiah by Benjamin West, the only survivor of a set of 8 commissioned for St George's Chapel, Windsor (Cadw, 1986, 2-3), the other the Royal Arms of George III. The Vowles organ is from 1819, but has undergone several renovations (Clive-Powell, 1995, 2). The south transept has retained pews from 1855; the altar rails are also from 1855, made from wood derived from the 1810 ceiling (Davies, 1988). The remainder of the pews are from 1873-4 (NLW, SD/F/218). The chancel screen and loft are from 1910 (NLW, SD/F/220), 'introduced as part of a Tractarian refurbishment of the church' (Yates, 1974, 68). The reredos was restored in 1901 (NLW, SD/F/219) and given statuary and a softwood dado either side. The stalls are mainly from the 1920s and 1930s (Carms. R. O., CPR/38/95), and the pulpit is from 1925 (Carms. R. O., CPR/38/96). The south door lobby was installed in 1964 (Davies, 1988).

The octagonal oolite font is from 1873-4.

There were three bells in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii). The bells were in 'indifferent repair' in 1705 (Evans, 1917, 52), the 'three (bells) which we had' being 'crack'd' in 1725 (Evans, 1921, 22). Three new bells were cast, in Laugharne, in 1726 (Williams, 1925 (i), 77-8) using clay 'dug from the Roaches, in Laugharne parish' (Butler, 1962, 9).

A 'Roman cinerary urn' (date?) was found 'underneath the south transept' of the church during the restoration of 1873-4 (Anon., 1875, 430). 'A small, ornamented wheel-topped stone' was discovered during grave-digging in 1876 (Westwood, 1876, 195) and cist burials have apparently been encountered (Williams, 1930 (i), 55). An 'alabaster crocketed pinnacle', part of a canopied tomb?, and a 'medieval tile', were found in the churchyard in c.1927 (Anon., 1927, 4).

The church was Grade II* listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Cist cemetery below churchyard?; ECM.

St Martin, Laugharne, was a parish church during the medieval period, of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. It was a prebend of Winchester Cathedral, rated in the king's books at £45 (Lewis, 1833). The parish churches of Marros and Cyffig were formerly dependencies (ibid.).

In 1833 the living was a vicarage, with the rectory of Llansadwrnen annexed, rated in the king's books at £6 and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Winchester (ibid.).

In 1998 St Martin, Laugharne, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llansadwrnen and Llandawke (Benefice no. 525) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of St Clears (St Davids, 1997-8).

The 'St Martin' in the dedication is St Martin of Tours. It has been suggested (Williams, 1925 (ii), 75) that the original dedication was to St Michael, this dedication being given in 1494 and 1849.

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CPR/38/7 - Churchwarden's Account Book, 1829-35.

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**ST DAVID,
LLANARTHNE,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 728

RB No. 3079

NGR SN 5344 2025

Listed Building No. 18982

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 60% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south chapel, 1 bay; south aisle (united with nave), 3 bays, west tower, 3 storeys; all medieval. Boilerhouse, east of south chapel, later 19th century. Limestone and ORS rubble construction. External walls with render/plaster from the late 18th - early 19th century. Slate gable roofs; boilerhouse with a slate lean-to roof, tower roof not seen. Medieval arcade gone. West tower including openings, chancel arch and blocked chapel arches, medieval. Blocked chapel window, 17th century. Ceiling, 1826. All other openings mainly later 19th century.

Roofs and floors, 1826 - later 19th century. Finishes, 18th - later 19th century.

Condition - fair-good. South wall ivied.

Archaeological potential - very good. No external cutting or drain around church; suspended floors over heating ducts; ?below-ground floor in 5% of church; external memorials significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 60% medieval core fabric; medieval west tower, chancel arch, blocked arcades; 17th century window.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower; central village location; ECMs? and/or prehistoric stone?; large churchyard.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13-14?

Phase 2 - South aisle, C15.

Phase 3 - West tower, late C15.

Phase 4 - Chancel and south chapel - earlier C16.

Phase 5 - Restored 1682, south chapel window inserted?.

Phase 6 - Restored 1826, high impact; arcade removed, chapel arches blocked.

Phase 7 - Restored later C19, medium impact; boilerhouse built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St David, Llanarthne, is a multicell church, of large size. It retains approximately 60% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed south chapel (now vestry), a 3-bayed south aisle, a boilerhouse between the chancel and south chapel, and a 3-storey west tower. Construction is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble throughout. There are extensive remains of late 18th-early 19th century external render (pre-1826), limited later 19th century pointing and there has been some 20th century cement repointing. The interior is plastered. The arcade between the nave and south aisle was removed in 1826. Roofs are slated gables, the nave and south aisle roofed as one unit; the boilerhouse has a slated lean-to roof; the west tower roof was not seen.

The chancel has an external basal batter up to a plain string-course, medieval. The 3-light east window has Geometric tracery inserted, with infill, in the later 19th century, and there is a single cusped lancet of similar date in the north wall. The plain 2-centred chancel arch is medieval. The softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling appears to be later than the 1826 restoration, and, like the tiled floor may belong to the later 19th century restoration.

The nave eastern gable, above eaves level, was entirely rebuilt in 1826 when the south aisle was absorbed and the former arcade was removed. The north wall has 3 windows like the chancel east window but with 2 lights and string-courses which were inserted, with infill, in the later 19th century. The nave west wall is battered externally, and has a door with 2-centred surround, late 15th century but partly rebuilt in the later 19th century. The nave and south aisle are roofed as one; the roof structure is not known, but is from 1826 and lies above a flat plaster ceiling with decorative panelling and medallions, from 1826. The passages are flagged, from 1826?, with suspended board floors from the later 19th century.

The south chapel has an external batter and string-course like the chancel. It formerly communicated with the chancel west bay through a segmental-headed arch into the south chapel which is medieval but has been blocked, probably in 1826; a doorway was inserted through the blocking. The simple 2-centred arch from the chapel into the south aisle is also blocked. A window in the east wall is like the nave windows and also later 19th century, and there is a blocked window in the south wall with a square ORS surround of possible 17th century date (1682?); the blocking is interrupted by a door, probably from the later 19th century. There is a chimney in the east wall, with a square brick stack, shared with the boilerhouse flue and late 19th century. The chapel is now used as a vestry.

The south aisle has 3 windows in the south wall like those in the nave and also later 19th century. The west wall is battered like the nave west wall and pierced by a door with a 2-centred surround from the 15th century. The aisle is floored as the nave.

The west tower is from the late 15th century and comprises 3 storeys. A spiral rises in the thickness of the south wall, entered through a 4-centred, 15th century doorway in the nave west wall and lit by simple square slits of similar date. There is an external batter up to a string-course. The west door is a plain 2-centred arch, late 15th century. The ground floor formerly had a barrel-vault with a segmental profile, the remains of which can be seen; it is flagged as the nave passages. There are 15th century loops in the north, south and west walls of the second storey. The belfry stage has large, cusped, 2-light openings in the north and west walls (the latter mullion gone) from the 15th century, and a similar single light in the east wall. The large opening in the south wall, with a segmental brick head, is probably from 1826. A string-course lies below a crenellated parapet, which displays a 15th century gargoyle.

The lean-to boilerhouse is in brick and from the late 19th century. It has a slated lean-to roof. An external oil-tank, from the later 20th century, lies adjacent.

There is neither an external cutting nor a drain around the church. The floors are suspended over heating ducts. The boilerhouse floor may be below-ground. External memorials lie significantly close to the south walls.

Structural development

The nave is medieval, but cannot be closely dated; the original chancel may have been shorter. The south aisle exhibits 15th century detail. The west tower is from the late 15th century; it contained 3 bells in the 16th century (Wallcott, 1871, i). The chancel and south chapel share an external batter and string-course, and the arch from the south aisle into the chapel arch is similar to the chancel arch; they appear to share the same, ?early 16th century date. The boilerhouse is from the late 19th century.

There appears to have been a restoration in 1682; a stone bearing that date is set in the nave north wall. The chancel had been 'out of repair' in 1678 (Anon., 1919, 211) but was in good order in 1705 (Evans, 1917(i), 66); a (blocked) south chapel window may be from the 1682 restoration. In 1720 the chancel roof was again 'out of repair, the floors and seats out of order and the wheel of one of the bells decay'd' (Evans, 1921, 10). A west gallery was present by 1802 (Evans, 1914(ii), 65), and the roofs were 'tiled'. The chancel east wall was (partly?) rebuilt in 1806 (Evans, 1914(i), 59). The old 'oak' seats were removed in 1807, and the following year the church is described as 'seated and flagged', and whitewashed within (ibid.). The church door was repaired and 3 new window frames, presumably of timber, were made (Evans, 1914(ii), 65); the 'fireplace in the church' was also repaired - a pew fireplace?.

The church was restored in 1826 (Yates, 1974, 71); the restoration was high-impact and in the Non-conformist idiom, and cost £324 17s 5d (Evans, 1914(ii), 65). The nave and south aisle were united by the removal of the arcade (cf. Llannon). The existing west gallery was presumably removed. The west tower was mentioned by Lewis in 1833 who otherwise described the church as 'a plain neat edifice' presenting 'no architectural details of importance' (Lewis, 1833).

Most of the present fenestration dates to the later 19th century, as do the present flooring arrangements (if not materials), and the chancel and south chapel roofs. The softwood pews are from this restoration, as is the pulpit; there are no stalls. There is an organ in the south aisle from c.1890.

The limestone font is octagonal and one-piece, from the 13th-14th century.

In 1906 a broken, cross-incised stone altar table lay in the porch (Jones, 1906, 66) - now represented by a fragment in the chancel?.

The church was Grade II in 1998.

The 'Cross of Elmat' (PRN 761), a large 11th -12th century wheel-cross within the tower ground floor, is not in situ, having apparently been brought from the nearby promontory fort of Cae'r Castell. A 'perforated and grooved stone' (prehistoric? ECM?) was apparently found in the churchyard during a grave excavation (Jones, 1906, 77). Fragments of ECM(s) are apparently built into the churchyard wall (PRN 733).

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site - Celtic dedication; ECMs? and/or prehistoric stone?; 12th century documentary reference.

St David, Llanarthne, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Stradtown. It was a possession of the Bishop of St Davids as a prebend of the collegiate church at Brecon, rated in the king's books at £15 (Lewis, 1833). The prebend was appropriated to the Prior

of the Knights Hospitaller in England by Bishop Bek in 1290 (Evans, 1907, 183), confirmed by Edward II in 1328. There were formerly two chapels-of-ease in the parish (Lewis, 1833).

The patronage was unchanged in 1833, when the living was a discharged vicarage rated in the king's books at £8 and endowed with £200 royal bounty (ibid.).

In 1998 St David, Llanarthne, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanddarog (Benefice no. 593) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Carmarthen (St Davids, 1997-8).

Llanarthne may be the 'Llanadneu' mentioned as a 'Dewi' church in the 12th century 'Poem to Dewi' by Gwynfardd Brycheiniog (RCAHM, 1917; Anon., 1925, 463). The dedication is given as St David in 1833 (Lewis, 1833) but the later Ordnance Survey First Edition gives 'St Arthen'.

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**ST BRYNACH,
LLANBOIDY,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3958

RB No. 3566

NGR SN 2163 2323

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 60% medieval core fabric.

A multicell cruciform church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 3 bays, north transept, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay; medieval. Vestry (north), 2 bays; west porch; 1850s. Former west tower, and chapel?, medieval. Local rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Medieval chancel arch, transept arches, west door?, vestry door?, blocked south door, and blocked window; all other openings from the 1850s, neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings; western single bellcote, 1850s.

Roofs and floors, 1850s. Finishes, 1850s - later 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Very shallow external cutting around 5% of church, footings exposed; former components beyond 20% of church; levels unchanged; suspended floors over a void in 70% of church; burial vaults beneath 25% of church; no external memorials significantly close to the church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair-good. 60% medieval core fabric; medieval arches, doors?, blocked door and blocked window.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church in central village location; estate-built architectural unity between church and surrounding buildings; ECM(s); large churchyard with good memorials; wrought iron gates and gate-pillars; nearby motte.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13?

Phase 2 - North transept, earlier C14?

Phase 3 - South transept, later C14?

Phase 4 - Chancel (and former west tower), C15?

Phase 5 - West wall rebuilt, earlier 18th century.

Phase 6 - Restored 1850s, high impact; vestry and west porch built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Brynach, Llanboidy, is a multicell cruciform church, of medium size. It retains approximately 60% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a large, 2-bayed vestry north of the chancel, single-bayed north and south transepts, and a west porch. Construction is in mixed local rubble. Pointing is mainly from the 1850s, with some 20th century repointing of poor quality and some of good quality; the interior is plastered. The chancel arch, and transept arches, are medieval. Other openings are from the 1850s and neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings. Roofs are slated gables.

The 3-light chancel east window has a dripmould and geometric tracery, all from the 1850s. Built into the east wall are two 15th century heraldic shields said to be from Whitland Abbey (RCAHM, 1917). In the south wall is a large window with a square surround and label, and 4 cusped lights, from the 1850s. The north wall is pierced by a plain segmental pointed doorway that may be, or originally have been, a 15th century 'priest's door' (see below); it now leads to the vestry. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is probably medieval; the adjacent nave quoins are large, and are medieval. The softwood roof is from the 1850s and has queen-post trusses arch-braced from wall-corbels, matchboarded above. the floor is tiled, 1850s, over burial vaults.

The nave is lit by 2 cusped single lancets, from the 1850s, in each of the side walls. The north wall exhibits a central area of blocking representing a large, ?late medieval window, the west jamb dressings of which are partly exposed. In the opposite, south wall is a blocked doorway with a rounded, 2-centred surround in plain chamfered limestone, from the 13th century?; the infill contains an ECM moved to this location in the later 18th - 19th centuries possibly contemporaneously with the blocking (see below). The west wall has large, medieval quoins; the west door has a similar profile and surround to the south door but is plastered over, medieval?. Above it lies a 3-light window with a 2-centred drip-mould and simple intersecting tracery, from the 1850s?, or earlier?; a gabled single bellcote, with gablets, rises above, in ashlar from the 1850s. The roof is like that in the chancel and also from the 1850s. The passages are tiled over a void, from the 1850s (partly relaid with concrete in the 20th century); suspended board floors were formerly present but were infilled with concrete in the 20th century.

The transepts open into the nave through plain, 2-centred medieval arches, that to the north without stops. The north transept is short and of random facework with very large, crude medieval quoins. It is lit by a window in the end wall, like the two east windows, and also from the 1850s, but 2-light. The south transept is in small, very mixed rubble with crude medieval quoins. It is lit by cusped single lights in the east and west walls, with dripmoulds, and a window like that in the north transept in the south wall, all from the 1850s. The softwood roofs, from the 1850s, lack rafters and is matchboarded above the purlins. Floors as in the nave.

The large vestry was built in the 1850s, in squared and coursed slate rubble. It is lit by a contemporary 3-light window in the east wall, with a dripmould and geometric tracery; a large, 4-light window in the north wall is similar to that in the chancel and also from the 1850s but is uncusped. A doorway leads into the churchyard, with a segmental-headed chamfered surround from the 1850s. The softwood roof has collar-rafter trusses, matchboarded above, from the 1850s. The floor is tiled over a void, also from the 1850s. The internal plaster was being stripped 3/10/96.

The west porch is also from the 1850s and of the same construction as the vestry; the west wall has simple buttresses at each end. The 2-centred doorway is contemporary, with polychrome voussoirs and a chamfered surround; the side walls are each pierced by a contemporary cusped lancet. The simple rafted softwood roof is matchboarded, and from the 1850s, as is the quarry-tiled floor.

There is a very shallow external cutting along the north transept north wall which exposes its footings; there is no further drain or cutting. A west tower, and a ?schoolhouse, were formerly present (and a former chapel beneath the present vestry?), which may be represented by below-ground evidence. There is no evidence for any floor level changes. The flooring is suspended over a void in the nave, transepts, and vestry. Burial vaults lie beneath the chancel floor. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The nave is medieval, but cannot be closely dated, 13th century? The north and south transepts are not symmetrical, show different facework styles and may not be coeval, the shorter northern transept possibly being the earlier; a joint is visible between the east wall of the south transept and the nave. Both possibly predate the large chancel which may be an addition of the 15th century; the chancel arch, however, is plain and probably earlier, relating to a 13th century chancel?. The remainder of the church is from the 1850s.

A west tower was formerly present, containing 3 bells in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii) and 4 bells by the early 18th century (Jones, 1938, 81); it collapsed in around 1725 (Evans, 1921, 58) having been 'out of repair' in several early 18th century presentments (Jones, 1938, 81). It had been replaced by 'a little tower where one bell is hung up' by 1745 (ibid.) but this bell was replaced in 1752, while the other 3 old bells were sold off c.1790 (ibid.). The bellcote was rebuilt in 1815 (Lewis, 1975, 155), and the bell was replaced yet again in 1817 (Jones, 1938, 80); the bellcote was rebuilt again in the 1850s but the bell fell to the ground in 1943 (Lewis, 1975, 155). The present bell was dedicated in 1963 (ibid.), the 1817 bell hanging in a low, detached timber belfry in the churchyard.

The mid 19th century vestry is said to be on the site of a former chantry chapel (Lewis, 1975, 155; RCAHM, 1917). However, no building is shown in this location on the tithe map of 1839 (NLW, Llanboidy, 1839). The tithe map does show a long rectangular building leading north from the west half of the nave. It is similar in location to the 18th - early 19th century school-houses present, for example, at Eglwyswrw, Pembro., but the sources make no mention of a school or master, and suggest no alternative function; there is now no above-ground evidence for the structure.

The 'door of ye chancell' was out of repair in 1705 (Evans, 1917, 66). The floor was 'uneven' in 1755, and the walls of the chancel needed whiteliming (Evans, 1921, 38), but the church was in 'good and sufficient repair in every part' in 1790 (Evans, 1922, 54).

The church was reseated in 1854 (Carmar. R. O., CPR/27/12). It is probable that the restoration was undertaken at around the same time, but the date, and the architect responsible, are unknown. The vestry and west porch were built. the church was refenestrated, reroofed and refloored. Internal plaster was stripped and replastered.

The softwood reredos with commandment tablets, the freestanding softwood stalls, the softwood pews and pulpit may all be from the 1850s. The clock on the west wall may be contemporary. The hardboard vestry screen is late 20th century.

The oolite font has a decorated octagonal bowl, stem and base, and is late 19th - 20th century.

The church was not listed in 1998.

The ECM built into the south door blocking bears a Latin inscription; in the early 18th century it was 'pitched on end in (the) steeple' (Owen, 1896, 132-3). Two more ECMs are said to have been formerly present (ibid.).

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site -
Celtic dedication; ECM(s).

St Brynach, Llanboidy, was a parish church during the medieval period, of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. It was a possession of the Bishops of St Davids as a prebend of the collegiate church at Llanddewi Brefi, Cer. (Lewis, 1975, 153). By the early post-medieval period, a dependent chapelry had been established at Whitland.

In 1833, as a discharged vicarage in the patronage of the bishop, the living was rated in the king's books at £8 and endowed with £1000 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833). The tithes were payable to the Earl of Lisburne, the vicar, and All Souls at Oxford (Lewis, 1975, 154).

In 1998 St Brynach, Llanboidy, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Meidrim and Merthyr (Benefice no. 691) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of St Clears (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST ODOCEUS,
LLANDAWKE,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3905

RB No. 2988

NGR SN 2827 1121

Listed Building No. 9683

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; medieval. West tower, 2 storeys, 17th century?. Plastered internally. Slate gable roofs; west tower roof with slate pyramidal roof. Chancel arch, windows, door, rood-loft door, piscina, tomb recess, medieval, with purple sandstone, limestone and yellow oolite dressings, some partly rebuilt. Tower openings, 17th century?. (Effigy, loose, 14th century.)

Roofs: later 19th century. Floors: 18th - early 19th century. Finishes: pre-19th - later 19th century.

Condition - poor. Limited use; plaster and roofing poor; much ivy; overgrown environs; decaying fittings.

Archaeological potential - excellent. Shallow-deep external cutting around 80% of church, primary?, footings not exposed?; levels unchanged; no underfloor void; some internal burials; external memorials significantly close to 20% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - excellent. 100% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch, windows, door, rood-loft door, piscina, tomb recess. 17th century tower openings?.

Group value - high. Unrestored medieval landmark church with tower; ECM; circular churchyard; associated rectorial farm.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, C13.

Phase 2 - West tower, C17?.

Phase 3 - Restored later C19-early C20, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Odoceus, Llandawke, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 100% pre-19th century core fabric, being largely unrestored.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave and a 2-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble. Openings are medieval (post-medieval in the tower?) with purple sandstone, limestone and yellow oolite dressings; some have been rebuilt but as faithful replicas. Pointing appears to be largely pre-19th century; the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables, the tower has an overhanging pyramidal slated roof.

The 2-light chancel east window is from c.1500. The rear arch has a double roll-moulded surround, the lights have 2-centred, cusped heads and Perpendicular tracery of cinquefoils and quatrefoils, in a drip-mould on out-turned stops, all in weathered purple sandstone. The similar south wall window has been largely rebuilt in yellow oolite, with poor infill around the head, from the late 19th - 20th century. That in the north wall is also in purple sandstone, 2-centred and of 2 lights, and also from c.1500 but without tracery. Internally, the south wall exhibits a plain piscina with a semicircular-headed recess and bowl that may be 13th century; the tomb-recess to the west, with a chamfered 2-centred profile and hood-mould on large, plain stops may be rather later, 14th century?. It is now empty but a late 14th century female effigy lies against the north wall, on a late 19th - early 10th century plinth, having been recovered from the churchyard in the 19th century; the effigy reputedly represents Margaret Marlos, niece of Sir Guy de Brian, Lord of Laugharne. The low, plain semicircular chancel arch is regarded as early 13th century, to the north a ?contemporary rood-loft doorway, with a plain semi-2-centred head, lies high up in the wall, its sill comprising 3 steps. Two corbels either side of the arch, on the west face, relate to the former rood-loft; the apparent impression of steps within the plaster finish of this wall, leading up from the southern corbel, appears to be spurious. The softwood chancel roof is from the later 19th century and has simple collared trusses, matchboarded above. The polychrome tiled sanctuary floor is also later 19th century; the west bay passage comprises 18th - early 19th century memorial slabs; the flags either side may be contemporary.

The nave side walls are battered externally to full height, more pronounced in the north wall the east end of which is pierced by a window from c.1400; it lacks a drip-mould comprising 2 lights with ogival heads and simple curvilinear cusped tracery, in purple sandstone with some limestone in the mullion. There are 2 windows in the south wall; that to the east is like the north wall window but was entirely (re)built in purple sandstone in the late 19th - 20th century. To the west is a cusped, 2-light window, with sunk spandrels in a square surround with an internal roll-moulding, in oolite and purple sandstone from the 16th century; the plunging embrasure is probably earlier. Between the 2 windows, the south door has a 2-centred surround in chamfered limestone, from c.1300 but largely restored/recut. The nave roof is from the later 19th century and has collared trusses, arch-braced from wall-plates and matchboarded above the purlins. The floor is flagged as the chancel, 18th - early 19th century?.

The west tower may be post-medieval. It is unusual within the region, its closest affinities being with that at Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili, Carmar. It comprises just 2 storeys but lacks the west door, battered base and string-course 'typical' of the region, and is instead battered to full height. Unlike Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili it features a square spiral stair turret which projects from the eastern half of the north wall which rises the full height of the tower and finished by a lean-to continuation of the pyramidal tower roof; it is entered through a simple, square-headed doorway, ?post-medieval, and lit by contemporary slit-lights. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a doorway with a ?post-medieval semicircular rear-arch and a segmental brick surround from the later 19th - 20th century; there is a similar opening into the belfry above. The west and south walls each feature a simple, segmental light with a very plain chamfered sandstone surround, ?post-medieval, but partly rebuilt in the later 19th - 20th century. The ground floor has a very rounded, 2-centred barrel-vault. The floor is flagged as the nave. A single lancet pierces the north,

south and east faces of the belfry stage; the regular voussoirs of the openings suggest a post-medieval date for all 3, with simple chamfered sandstone surrounds. There is now no parapet, and may never have been; instead, a slated pyramidal roof overhangs at the eaves

An external cutting surrounds the entire church except the chancel north wall, varying in depth from shallow along the nave south wall to very deep along the north wall; all primary?, footings not exposed?. There is no evidence for floor level changes. Floors are not suspended and there is no evidence of internal voids, but there are marked internal burials. External memorials lie significantly close to the chancel south wall.

Structural development

The chancel arch is regarded by most authorities as early 13th century (Yates, 1974, 71 *et al.*); the presence of a ?contemporary piscina in the chancel suggests that chancel and nave may both be from the early 13th century. The west tower may be a 'debased' later addition like the similar tower at Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili, Carmrs., possibly as late as the 17th century; however, one 'little bell' was present in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii).

The church roof was 'out of repair' in 1705, and the seating was 'rotten and decay'd' (Evans, 1917, 66).

The church is, to a large extent, unrestored, and what restoration has taken place has been confined to the faithful replication of original openings, reroofing, and replastering the interior. Neither the date of the restoration, nor the architect responsible, are known, but it appears to have largely occurred by 1906 when the church preserved, 'notwithstanding restoration, much of its original charm' (Treherne, 1906, 178).

The elaborately carved arcaded oak altar table, and the reredos in the form of a scrollwork marble fillet band beneath the east window, are later 19th century; the softwood pews may be contemporary and lie on freestanding board floors. The simple softwood stalls, and the pulpit, may be early 20th century.

The limestone font has a square bowl on a circular stem and base which may all be post-medieval.

An ECM, a Latin and Ogam inscribed stone, formed the sill of the south door until it was moved into the nave during the 19th century.

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; ECM.

St Odoceus, Llandawke, may have been a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. It appears always to have been in private patronage, under the Lordship of Laugharne.

In 1833 the living, a rectory rated in the king's books at £7 10s, was in the patronage of William Powell, Esq. (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Odoceus, Llandawke, was a parish church, but was subject only to very limited use. The living was a rectory, held with Laugharne and Llansadwrnen (Benefice no. 525) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of St Clears (St Davids, 1997-8).

(There is no supporting evidence for the local tradition that the church was founded in the 14th century as a monastic establishment.)

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**ST TWROG,
LLANDDAROG,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 17373

RB No. 3080

NGR SN 5032 1661

Listed Building No. 9393

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, ?and same location as, medieval church (PRN 4720).

A multicell church, large. Consists of chancel, 3 bays; nave, 3 bays; north chapel (now vestry), 3 bays; north aisle, 3 bays; south porch; north-west tower, 3 storeys, with a broach spire; vestry (south), 1 bay; all 1860. Former coalhouse (east of vestry), late 19th-early 20th century. Boilerhouse (east of coalhouse), later 20th century. Construction is in ORS ashlar and rubble; boilerhouse in breezeblocks. Neo-gothic. Slate gable roofs; coalhouse and boilerhouse with slate lean-to roof; tower broach spire, 1860. All openings, except in coalhouse and boilerhouse, from 1860, including chancel arch and arcades; external buttressing, 1860.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1860 and 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. No physical evidence for pre-1860 church; no external cutting or drain; suspended floors over heating ducts in 75% of church; below-ground floor in 5% of church; burial vaults against 10% of church; external memorials significantly close to 20% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-1860 core fabric.

Group value - high. C19 landmark church with tower and spire; hilltop location; central within village; large churchyard; lych-gate.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, north chapel, north aisle, south porch, north-west tower, vestry, 1860.

Phase 2 - Coalhouse, late 19th-early 20th century.

Phase 2 - Boilerhouse, later 20th century.

DESCRIPTION

St Twrog, Llanddarog, is a multicelled church, of large size. It was (re)built in 1860 to the designs of R. K. Penson, on the same site, and in the same location, as its predecessor (PRN 4720) but retaining nothing from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 3-bayed north chapel (now a vestry), a 3-bayed north aisle, a south porch, a 3-storey tower with a broach spire, a single-bayed transeptal vestry south of the chancel, a (disused) below-ground coalhouse east of the vestry, and a boilerhouse (with oil tanks) east of the coalhouse. Construction is in Old Red Sandstone ashlar and rubble; the interior is plastered; the boilerhouse is in breeze-blocks. Dressings are mainly in yellow oolite and from 1860, some having been replaced in ORS; the openings are neo-gothic comprising 2- and 3-light windows with simple tracery, a chancel arch and arcades. The exterior is buttressed throughout. The roofs are slated gables; the coalhouse and boilerhouse have lean-to roofs; the tower has a broach spire from 1860. Floors are suspended except in the tower and south porch.

The pre-1860 church was described as a 'small edifice, internally well-arranged' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833). It was depicted in some detail on the tithe map of 1839 (NLW, Llanddarog, 1839) as having a relatively short, wide (double?) nave, chancel and south transept. There had been 3 bells in the 16th century (Wallcott, 1871, I), suggesting that a tower might then have been present. The roof was 'out of repaire' in 1684 (Evans, 1915, 94) and again in 1720 (Evans, 1921(i), 10). There were some repairs in 1731-2 (Evans, 1921(ii), 24) when the windows were (re)glazed and the bell (now singular, any former tower now gone?) was rehung.

The church was entirely rebuilt in 1860 to the designs of the architect R. Kyrke Penson (Yates, 1974, 71) and was complete by 1861 (Anon., 1861, 248) when the spire was said to be 'faulty' (?).

The tower was being renovated 26/7/1996.

There is no physical evidence for the pre-1860 church. There is neither an external cutting nor a drain. The floors are suspended over heating ducts except in the tower and south porch. The coalhouse floor is below-ground. There are burial vaults against the north and east walls of the north chapel. There is no evidence for any internal vault or crypt. Some external memorials lie significantly close to the north walls.

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

The north chapel (now a vestry) was termed the 'Puxley Chapel' in 1861 (Anon., 1861, 248).

SITE HISTORY

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

St Twrog, Llanddarog, was a parish church during the medieval 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 Brecon (Lewis, 1833).

The patronage was unchanged in 1833, when the living was a perpetual curacy rated in the king's books at £10, endowed with £200 private benefaction, £400 royal bounty and £1200 parliamentary grant (ibid.).

In 1998 St Twrog, Llanddarog, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanarthne (Benefice no. 593) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Carmarthen (St Davids, 1997-8).

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(CPR/34 - Llanddarog)

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**ST TEILO,
LLANDDOWROR,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3907

RB No. 3715

NGR SN 2560 1457

Listed Building No. 9396

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 20% pre-19th century core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of west tower, 3 storeys, medieval. Chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south porch; 1865. Vestry (north of chancel), 2 bays, 1900. Boilerhouse (north of tower), early 20th century. Limestone and Old Red sandstone construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; boilerhouse with slate lean-to roof; west tower roof not seen. Medieval openings in tower, c.1500; remainder of openings, including chancel arch and tower arch, from 1865, 'Early English', with green sandstone dressings, or from 1900, neo-Perpendicular, with yellow oolite dressings. Vestry with external angle buttresses, 1900.

Roofs and floors: 1865 and 1900. Finishes: 1865 - 1947.

Condition - good..

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

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair. 20% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval openings in tower.

Group value - high. Landmark church with medieval tower; central village location; churchyard with scheduled medieval memorials (SAM Cm161).

Phasing:

Phase 1 - West tower, c.1500.

Phase 2 - Chancel, nave, south porch, 1865.

Phase 3 - Vestry, 1900.

Phase 4 - Boilerhouse, early C20.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Teilo, Llanddowror, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 20% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 2-bayed vestry north of the chancel, a south porch, and a 3-storeyed west tower which represents the only surviving medieval component; there is a lean-to boilerhouse north of the tower. Construction is in snecked Old Red Sandstone rubble; the tower is in random limestone rubble. Pointing is mainly from 1865 and 1900, and the interior is plastered. All openings, except within the tower and vestry, are from 1865 and neo-gothic. They include the moulded chancel and tower arches, the 2-centred doors, and the windows which are uncusped single-, double- and triple lancets with green sandstone dressings. The vestry has angle buttresses and openings from 1900, with neo-Perpendicular, cusped, single- and 2-light windows in the east and west walls, with yellow oolite dressings; the external doorway has a Caernarfon surround. The boilerhouse is in similar rubble and has a below-ground floor. The roofs are slated gables, the boilerhouse has a slated lean-to roof while the tower roof was not seen; the softwood roof timbers, tiled passages and suspended floors are from 1865 in the chancel, nave and porch, and 1900 in the vestry, replaced in 1936. (There is a large, 18th century tablet to Gruffydd Jones lying in a tomb recess, from 1865, in the chancel.)

The west tower is in random limestone rubble, with incised pointing from 1947. It comprises 3 storeys and has the basal batter and string-course typical of the region. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the south wall, entered through a segmental-headed doorway that appears to have been rebuilt in 1865 and lit by simple square slits from c.1500. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a moulded 2-centred arch rebuilt in 1865. The west door has a chamfered, 2-centred limestone surround which, with its infill, was inserted in 1865, but (re)using (and replacing?) medieval jambs; above it lies a cusped, 2-light window with sunk spandrels in a square limestone surround and label from c.1500. The ground floor is unvaulted, all stages of the tower now having intervening concrete floors from the 20th century. The woodblock floor may be from c.1900. The second storey is lit by a simple square light, with a chamfered limestone surround, in the west wall, from c.1500. The belfry stage has a cusped, 2-light opening with sunk spandrels in a square limestone surround, from c.1500, in the north and east faces; the west face is pierced by a 2-light opening with semicircular, uncusped heads in chamfered limestone, probably contemporary. The crenellated parapet, from c.1500, lies on an external corbel table, which continues around the stair turret; a second corbel table lies beneath the contemporary turret parapet, at a higher level.

There is neither an external cutting nor drain. Floors are suspended over a void in the nave and vestry. The boilerhouse floor lies below churchyard level. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The west tower represents the only surviving medieval component and is from c.1500. The remainder of the pre-1865 church, with the exception of the vestry, followed the same plan as today being depicted as such on the tithe map (NLW, Llanddowror, Tithe Map, 1845), while in 1865 it was proposed that the 'old church be taken down and a new one built on the same foundation' (Carmr. R. O., CPR/58/44).

There was one bell in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii). The chancel was 'out of repair' in 1684, 'but the rector is now repairing it' (Evans, 1915, 95). In 1790 the floors were uneven in the 'church and chancel' and the pews 'not in good repair' (Evans, 1922, 55).

The 1865 rebuild affected the chancel, nave and south porch of the church. It had evidently been completed by 1866 when 'the church has largely been rebuilt' (Anon., 1866, 195). A 'small' vestry occupied the site of the present vestry, which was added in 1900 to the designs of the architect E. V. Collier of Carmarthen (NLW, SD/F/307).

The boilerhouse is early 20th century and had been added by 1921 (Carms. R. O., CPR/58/26). Concrete floors were inserted into the tower in the early 20th century (Carms. R. O., CPR/58/34) and the vestry was refloored in 1936 (Carms. R. O., CPR/58/26).

The interior was reskimmed in 1947 (Carms. R. O., CPR/58/34). The tower was repointed and its tabling repaired. The boilerhouse was partly rebuilt and reroofed, and its boiler was replaced. Heating was installed in the vestry (*ibid.*).

the softwood stalls are from 1865. The reredos is dated 1901. The organ was in place by 1913 (Carms. R. O., CPR/58/26). The oak tabernacle is from 1938 (Carms. R. O., CPR/58/26); the oak poppyhead stalls, and the vestry fittings, may be contemporary (Carms. R. O., CPR/58/26).

The font has an octagonal bowl with quatrefoils, an octagonal stem and a square base, from the 15th century (RCAHM, 1917, 247) but now concealed beneath paintwork.

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

The 2 so-called 'Pilgrim Stones' in the churchyard (Dyfed PRNs 3908 and 3909; SAM Cm161) lay 'buried in a field below the church' in 1887 and 1907 (Anon., 1907, 149); they appear not to have moved but were formerly separated from the rest of the yard only by a 'rude fence' (Robinson, 1887, 27-29). They are cross-incised memorials, possibly of early post-conquest date (Jefferies, 1944, 58; RCAHM, 1917, 247); the name is spurious.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; (?)early memorials.

St Teilo, Llanddowror, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. It appears always to have been in private patronage, of the Lordship of Llanddowror.

In 1833 the living, a discharged rectory, was rated in the king's books at £6 and was in the patronage of the Sir R. B. P. Philipps, Bart. (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Teilo, Llanddowror, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with St Clears, Llangynin and Llanfihangel Abercywyn (Benefice no. 804) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of St Clears (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication is given as St Cringat by Lewis, 1833.

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**ST MAELOG,
LLANDYFAELOG,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 5360

RB No. 3518

NGR SN 4149 1188

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north aisle, 2 bays; north transept (parallel to nave), 1 bay; south transept (parallel to nave), 1 bay; west porch; south porch; all medieval. Limestone and ORS rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Arcades, south transept window, west porch door, tomb recess, blocked windows and north door, remains of rood-stair?, medieval. Western triple bellcote, chancel door, transept/chapel arch, c.1825. All other openings from the later 19th century and neo-gothic, windows and rebuilt doors with yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs and floors: later 19th century. Finishes: later 19th - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Shallow, external cutting around 20% of church; deep cess-pit adjacent to 5% of church; floor levels unchanged?; suspended floors above heating flues in 50% of church; below-ground floor in 10% of church; many external memorials significantly close to 50% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% medieval core fabric; medieval arcades, window, door, tomb recess, blocked windows and north door, remains of rood-stair?.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church; large circular churchyard.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, C13?

Phase 2 - Nave and transepts, C14.

Phase 3 - South porch, C15?

Phase 4 - West porch, c.1500.

Phase 5 - North chapel, early C16.

Phase 6 - Restored c.1825, medium impact.

Phase 7 - Restored later C19, medium impact.

(Phase 8 - West porch converted into heating chamber, c.1900).

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Maelog, Llandyfaelog, is a multicelled church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 80% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 2-bayed north chapel, single-bayed north and south transepts gabled parallel to the nave, a south porch and a west porch converted into a heating chamber. Construction is in limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone; dressings are mainly yellow oolite and from the later 19th century. Pointing is from the later 19th century; there has been some 20th century repointing and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables throughout.

The chancel east wall has crude external buttresses, from 1820?. The east window is from the later 19th century and has 3 lights with cusped curvilinear tracery. The north wall is a 2-bayed arcade into the north chapel, of depressed, chamfered 4-centred arches with simple imposts from the earlier 16th century. A doorway in the south wall may be medieval but has a semicircular-headed surround from c.1825. It is flanked by 2 windows from the later 19th century, of 2 uncusped lights in square, neo-Perpendicular surrounds. There is an internal tomb recess in the south wall, with a moulded, 2-centred head, from the late 14th - 15th century, effigy gone. Internal corbels lie below present roof truss level and may be associated with a roof of c.1825. The chancel arch is wider than the chancel, is plain and 2-centred; above it is a blocked and truncated medieval loop that originally lit the rood-loft, and a squinch lies within the angle with the nave north wall, associated with the former rood-stair?; an external buttress, also medieval, is built over the joint with the south transept. A quatrefoil lights the roof-space above, from the later 19th century. The softwood chancel roof has collar-rafter trusses, matchboarded above, from the later 19th century. The tiled floor is also from the later 19th century.

The nave is lit by 2 windows in the north wall, one in the south wall and one in the west wall, all 2-light with simple uncusped tracery and from the later 19th century. The north wall west window interrupts the blocking of a former north door. The south door may have a medieval opening but the 2-centred surround is 19th century (c.1825 or later 19th century?). The west end carries a crude, gabled bellcote now with three 2-centred openings each with a bell, possibly built c.1825. The blocked west door cannot be seen internally. The softwood nave roof has arch-braced, queen-post trusses from the later 19th century, plastered above. The passages are quarry-tiled, with suspended board floors, from the later 19th century.

The transepts lie parallel to, rather than transeptal to, the nave into which they open via arches like the chancel arch and similarly 14th century. The side wall of each has window like those in the nave, and similarly from the later 19th century, but 3-light. The west (side) wall of the north transept has a window like the nave. The south transept east (side) wall has a 15th century single, cusped lancet and the jamb of a medieval, blocked window is visible in the opposite, west wall. The transepts are roofed as the north chapel, and floored as the nave, beneath a 20th century suspended floor in the south transept..

The north chapel communicates with the north transept through a plain 2-centred arch, from c.1825?. The walls have a slight external batter. Its east window is like the chancel east window and from the later 19th century; there are 2 windows in the north wall, each of 2 cusped lights in a segmental surround also from the later 19th century. Between them lies a blocked window that had either a semicircular or 4-centred head. The softwood roof has a canted ceiling with frames and plaster panels, from the later 19th century. The flagged floor may be from c.1825.

The west porch is medieval but was converted into a heating chamber in c.1900. The doorway has a depressed, 2-centred head from c.1500. The flue is in the north wall and has a red-brick chimney stack, c.1900. The floor is below churchyard ground level.

The south porch is also medieval but has internal stone benching from the late 19th - early 20th century. The south wall and door were rebuilt in the later 19th century. The softwood roof has scissors-braced rafters, matchboarded above, from the later 19th century. The quarry-tiled floor may be 20th century.

There is a shallow, external earth cutting along the north side of the nave. A deep cess-pit lies adjacent to the north-west corner of the nave. There is no evidence for changes in floor level. Floors are suspended above heating flues in the nave and transepts. There is no underfloor void in the chancel and north chapel. The west porch has a below-ground floor. Many external memorials and family tombs lie significantly close to the south and east walls.

Structural development

The chancel arch is wider than the chancel suggesting that it, and the nave, were added to a pre-existing chancel. The transept arches are similar in form, therefore the nave and transepts may be 14th century additions to a 13th century chancel; the work, however, was not continuous, there being a joint between the nave and the south transept. The south porch was probably an addition of the 15th century, while the west porch appears to be later, from c.1500. The north chapel is from the earlier 16th century. There were 2 bells in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, I), and in 1684 when they required new wheels and ropes (Evans, 1915, 94).

The windows were 'out of repaire' in 1672 (Anon, 1919, 211), and the roofs 'wanted tileing' in 1684 (Evans, 1915, 94). The church was in good order by 1705, but the floors were unpaved (Evans, 1917, 67). In 1720 the roofs of the church and porch were described as recently repaired, but the floor passages still required 'flagging' and walls required plastering and liming; a west gallery is mentioned (Evans, 1921, 11). The bard Iolo Morgannwg described the church in 1796 as 'large, but a confused heap of rude buildings, of additions upon additions - in different ages' (Anon., 1921, 21). The double bellcote and its 2 bells were noted.

The church underwent a period of abandonment and dereliction prior to its being restored in 1825 (Churchwarden, pers. Comm.). The arch between the north transept and the north chapel, which had, for some years, been blocked, was opened up and 'rebuilt' (ibid.). The chancel south door (and the nave south door?) received new surrounds while the chancel buttresses may now have been added. The triple bellcote belong to this restoration, as may the north chapel floor. There is evidence that the church was reroofed; it was probably also refenestrated and reseated. The tithe map of 1842 (NLW, Llandyfaelog, 1842), shows the church as comprising only the chancel, nave and transepts but is stylised and unreliable.

The church was restored again the later 19th century when it was entirely refenestrated, reroofed and refloored; the south porch was partly rebuilt and the interior was reseated and replastered.

The west porch was converted into a heating chamber in c.1900.

The softwood pulpit and pews are from the later 19th century, as is the organ in the chapel. The oak-panelled reredos and free-standing stalls are early 20th century. The softwood screen in the chapel arcade may be later 20th century.

The roofs were reslated in the early 1990s (Churchwarden, pers. comm.).

The octagonal font is 20th century..

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Maelog, Llandyfaelog, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Kidwelly. The church was in the gift of the Lords of the Manor of Kidwelly, who, in 1139, conferred it upon Ewenny Priory, Glam. (Davies and Hughes, 1996,6). It was transferred to New College, Leicester, in 1355-6 (Stephens, 1939, 69) but then appropriated by the Bishop of St Davids in 1359 (Morgan, 1906, 90). There was a formal chapel-of-ease within the parish, and an extra-parochial chapel (Lewis, 1833).

The patronage eventually fell into private hands. In 1833 the living was a vicarage in the patronage of the trustees of the late patron, John Mellor Esq.; it was rated in the king's books at £9 13s 4d, and endowed with £200 royal bounty and £1600 parliamentary grant (ibid.).

In 1998, St Maelog, Llandyfaelog, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Kidwelly (Benefice no. 685) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Cydweli (St Davids, 1997-8).

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DESCRIPTION

The present church

Llandyry is a multicell cruciform church, of medium size. It retains approximately 70% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a long, 5-bayed nave, single-bayed north and south transepts, a south porch and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout. The external pointing is from 1907 and is poor in areas; there are remains of earlier pointing/render, and there has been some later repointing. The interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof.

The chancel walls have a slight batter. The 2-light east window has simple plate tracery and is from 1876, but the opening may be earlier (medieval?); above it is a large finial also from 1876. A plain square aumbry north of the altar may be medieval. The side wall windows are plain single lancets from 1876 although the northern opening may be medieval. The west bay communicates with the vestry through an arch from 1876; in the opposite, south wall is an area of blocking, a former doorway blocked in 1907. The plain chancel arch is also from 1876. The softwood roof is from 1876 and features collar-rafter trusses on wall corbels, matchboarded above. The floor is fully carpeted but may be flagged; it lacks a void.

The nave walls are also slightly battered. The east bay is fully open to the two transepts to roof ridge-level. The side walls are lit by alternate single- and double-lancet windows, like those in the chancel from 1876. The south door has a 2-centred surround which may be restored medieval work. The west bay was added in 1907 and the external joint is visible; it is fenestrated like the rest of the nave and has a 3-light traceried west window; a large, elaborately-moulded, gabled single bellcote rises above (not re-used), and there is also an opening into the roof space. The roof is like that in the chancel and also from 1876, extended to the west in 1907. The passages are carpeted but may be flagged above heating flues; the boarded floors are suspended.

The transepts show some ORS in their construction. They are lit by plain double lancets in their end walls, from 1876. Roofs and floors as in the nave.

The lean-to vestry is from 1876 and is entered through a door in the north wall; single lancets lie in the north and east walls. The roof is matchboarded and the floor is quarry-tiled, without an underfloor void?. The south porch is similar and also from 1876; it has a flagged floor laid on the substrate.

There is a shallow external drain all round the church, which exposes footings in areas. The nave floor has been raised. The flooring is suspended in the nave and transepts, and underfloor heating ducts. There is no evidence for any below-ground crypt/vault. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The chancel, nave and transepts are medieval, but cannot be closely dated; the chancel and nave may be 13th or 14th century and the transepts were probably added during the 15th or 16th century. The vestry and south porch are from 1876.

A churchwarden's presentment of 1759 described the church as 'so much out of repair that service cannot be performed on a rainy day' (Evans, 1917, 58) but by 1790 'everything is in good repair and order there' (Evans, 1923, 7). It was agreed that the nave floor should be raised and flagged in 1815 (Carms. R.O., C/Mus.132), and in 1820 the roof was repaired (Jones, 1937, 68). There was no seating, and no bell, throughout (ibid.). In 1833 the church was described as a 'commodious chapel-of-ease' (Lewis, 1833).

The church was restored in 1876 (Howell Davies, local historian, pers. comm.). The restoration was high impact. The vestry and south porch were added and a simple bellcote was present at the west end by 1898

(Jones, 1937, 69); it may have been erected during this restoration. The church was refenestrated, some earlier openings possibly being used. It was reroofed and refloored, with underfloor heating flues.

In 1907 it had been 'recently restored at a cost of £600' (Jones, 1937, 69). This expenditure evidently relates to the extension at the west end of the nave.

The oak altar table is dated 1946. The softwood stalls are free-standing and may be from 1876, as may be the similar pews and wainscot dado in the nave. The oak pulpit is dated 1966. A hot water system was installed around the mid-20th century.

The ?oolite font has an octagonal bowl with a sunk arcade moulding, stem and base, and is late 19th - 20th century.

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

Llandyry Church was a chapelry of the parish of Penbre during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Kidwelly. In 1353 Penbre Church, 'with its chapels of Llanthdury (Llandyry) and Llancommowr' was granted to the New College of Leicester (Stephens, 1939, 69). Llandyry remained a chapelry of Penbre within whose vicarage it was valued; in 1833 it was described as a 'commodious chapel-of-ease, where divine service is performed regularly in the afternoon'; the living of Penbre was in the patronage of the Earl of Ashburnham, endowed with £600 royal bounty and £1400 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833). Llandyry was granted burial rights in 1876 when the church was restored.

In 1998 Llandyry Church was a formal chapel-of-ease to Pembrey parish church, which was a vicarage (Benefice no. 219) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Cydweli (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication is unknown.

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**ST EDITH,
LLANEDI,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 674

RB No. 3503

NGR SN 5887 0664

Listed Building No. 19449

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

(?18th-)19th century church; ?0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and same location as, medieval church.

A multicell church, medium-sized. Consists of mortuary chapel (transeptal, north of chancel west bay), 1 bay, 18th century?, c.1800?. West tower, lower 2 storeys, c.1800?. Chancel, 1 bay; nave, 3 bays; south porch; vestry (south of chancel east bay, over boilerhouse), 1 bay; west tower belfry; all 1860. Construction is in local rubble throughout; remains of early 19th century external render. Slate gable roofs; vestry with a slate lean-to; west tower with a slated pyramidal roof. Openings are from c.1800, with ORS ashlar voussoirs, or from 1860, neo-gothic, with yellow/grey oolite dressings; external buttressing and offset, 1860. West tower corbel table and belfry openings, 1860.

Roofs, floors and finishes: c.1800 - 1860.

Condition - good. Mortuary chapel fair.

Archaeological potential - good. No external cutting or drain; suspended floors over void in 30% of church; below-ground floor is 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. Some 18th century core fabric?.

Group value - high. Hilltop landmark church with c.1800 tower; large churchyard; churchyard earthwork; associated early 19th century masonry rectory and schoolhouse buildings.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Mortuary chapel, C18?

Phase 2 - West tower, c.1800.

Phase 3 - Chancel, nave, south porch, vestry/boilerhouse, 1860.

DESCRIPTION

St Edith, Llanedi, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It appears to be entirely a late 18th - early 19th century rebuild of a medieval church, retaining nothing from the earlier fabric, and was partly rebuilt again in 1860.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a transeptal mortuary chapel north of the chancel west bay, a south porch, a single-bayed vestry south of the chancel east bay, over a below-ground boilerhouse, and a 3-storeyed west tower.

The west tower has been regarded as medieval by, *inter alia*, RCAHM, 1917, 115, and Yates, 1974, 72. However, despite the basal batter and plain external string course (weathered), the tower is probably later. It is of crude, random local rubble construction with extensive remains of early 19th century render. There is a blocked west door with a 2-centred arch of unweathered, Old Red Sandstone ashlar voussoirs which do not appear to be inserted and are from c.1800; the blocking is not rendered. The second stage is lit by a similar window opening in the west wall, also c.1800, containing an inserted, 2-light window with cusped ogival heads, in yellow oolite from 1860. There is no stair turret, the stair rising within the wall thickness. There is no reason to suppose that the tower is any later than its openings, ie. c.1800. The belfry stage is an addition, or possibly a rebuild, of 1860 and the junction between the two builds is represented by an offset. It is in squared and coursed local rubble, and features claspings 'buttresses' at the 4 corners, united by a corbel table on yellow oolite corbels. There are 3 openings in all except the east face; the openings are lancets with independent chamfered yellow oolite, with timber louvres. The east face lies mainly beneath the nave roof apex but has 2 small, semicircular headed lights, also from 1860. There is an overhanging, slated pyramidal roof.

The transeptal mortuary chapel may be contemporary, but is possibly earlier, 18th century?. It is of similar construction to the lower stages of the tower, and is lit by a window, similar to the tower lower openings, in the north wall, with a mid 19th century timber traceried sash frame. However, this may be inserted; the chapel is entered from the churchyard through a door in the east wall with a plain, slate, weathered lintel. The chapel has a slated gable roof.

The remainder of the church is from 1860. Construction is in local rubble, squared and coursed, with contemporary pointing. Openings are from 1860 and neo-gothic, with yellow/grey oolite dressings, including plain-cusped single- and 2-light windows with simple plate tracery; the east window has 3 lights with curvilinear tracery above an external string-course. The exterior, except the vestry, is buttressed throughout and there is a chamfered oolite offset around all external walls. The vestry lies over a below-ground boilerhouse, and is entered through a Caernarfon-headed doorway reached by a flight of 4 steps which span the stairwell for the 8 steps down to the similar boilerhouse door. There is a plain square chimney in the chancel south wall. The chancel and nave have slated gable roofs, while the vestry has a slated, lean-to roof.

There was one bell in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii) and in 1684 when it 'broke to pieces' (Evans, 1917, 69). It had been replaced by 1749 (Evans, 1921 (ii), 51).

A south porch was present by 1749 when 'the chancel wants to be white-limed'. The nave south window was 'soon to be repaired' (Evans, 1921 (ii), 51). The church was white-limed inside and out in 1820-21 (Carms. R. O., CPR/22/28).

The mortuary chapel may be 18th century (Yates, 1974, 72), or be contemporary with its window ie. c.1800. There is no justification for the suggestion in the Quinquennial Report that the chapel, therein called the 'crypt', dates from 1186 (Jones, 1995, 1). The tower is probably, as suggested above, from c.1800.

Some early 19th century rebuilding may be suggested by the fact that the church had 'recently received an addition of 120 free sittings' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833). The tithe map of 1841 (NLW, Llanedi, 1841) shows the chancel, nave, mortuary chapel, south porch and west tower. The interior was 'pointed' in 1844 (Carms. R. O., CPR/22/21).

The chancel, nave and south porch were entirely rebuilt in 1860 to the designs of the architect R. K. Penson (Yates, 1974, 72). The mortuary chapel was retained unaltered, but the tower belfry was added, and the vestry/boilerhouse was built. There appears to have been no major subsequent alteration.

The font is modern.

There is neither an external cutting nor a drain. Floors are suspended over a void in the nave. The boilerhouse is below-ground. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

A large earthwork immediately south-west of the church is of an unknown nature.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Edith, Llanedi, was not a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Kidwelly. It was in the gift of the Welsh community.

In 1833 the living, a rectory in the patronage of the crown, was rated in the king's books at £8 (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Edith, Llanedi, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Tycroes and Saron (Benefice no. 683) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Dyffryn Aman (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication is given as 'St Edi' (or 'Edy') in most sources, which appears to represent a Celtic tradition rather than a corruption of the name Edith.

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**ST ELLI,
LLANELLI,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 690

RB No. 2696

NGR SN 5069 0053

Listed Building No. 11888

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 15% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 4 bays; north chapel (over below-ground boilerhouse), 2 bays; south chapel/vestry, 2 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay; south porch; all 1905-7. West tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Snecked local rubble construction; no internal finishes. Slate gable roofs; south chapel/vestry with a slated lean-to roof and west tower with a flat roof. Medieval openings in tower, largely rebuilt 1905-7; remainder of openings from 1905-7 including chancel arch, arcades, sanctus bell-turret, sedilia.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1905-7.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Very wide, deep external cutting around 40% of church, primary, secondarily deepened and widened; shallower cutting around 5% of church; suspended floors over heating flues in 75% of church; below-ground boilerhouse in 10% of church; internal burial vaults; external memorials significantly close to 40% of church.

Structural value (pre 20th century) - fair. 15% medieval core fabric; rebuilt medieval openings in tower.

Group value - medium-high. Early C20 church with medieval tower; central urban location; medieval churchyard cross-base (Grade II listed); early C20 lych-gate (Grade II listed); WWI memorial (Grade II listed); amenity value.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - West tower, earlier C16?

Phase 2 - Chancel, nave, chapels, transepts and porch, 1905-7.

and other parts pointing' while the 'great porch' needed repairing and paving with 'broad stones' (Evans, 1915, 96).

It appears that the church underwent a thorough restoration as a result, commemorated in a datestone formerly present at the church, but bearing the date '1683' (Evans, 1921, 64). Bells may have been introduced; they were present by 1790 (Evans, 1922, 56) when the church 'and steeple' were sound, including 'roof, windows, walls and bells' but the pews were 'out of order and repair'. Nevertheless, the church was described as 'ruinous' in 1771 (Buckley, 1973, 110).

The present peal of 6 bells was cast by J. Kingston, of Bridgewater, in 1828 (Evans, 1921, 64) and restored in 1927 (NLW, SD/F/318); the peal was augmented by 2 more bells in 1968 (plaque in church).

A plan of the church from 1839 (NLW, SD/F/314) shows a chancel, nave, west tower, south porch, and north and south transepts. The transepts, labelled the 'Glyn Chapel' and the 'Berwick Chapel' respectively, may have been recent additions; in a description of 1833 two transepts 'have been added', and 'other additions made' (Lewis, 1833), but prior to 1822 when the Berwick Chapel was mentioned (Evans, 1919, 15). Further restorations took place in 1823 (Anon., 1986). In 1833 the whole constituted 'an irregular edifice, having a tower surmounted by an embattled parapet' (ibid.).

The sanctus bell was apparently hung in a large, square turret, of a much greater size than the present sanctus bellcote and apparently comparable to the west tower in size (Anon., 1986; Mee, 1917, 8) although it is difficult to see how such a structure could have been supported; there were no crossing piers (NLW, SD/F/314). The turret may have been the belfry referred to in 1684 as 'out of repair' (Evans, 1915, 97). It apparently had a 'tapering spire' (ibid.) but was taken down in 1845.

The church was restored and 'altered' in 1845 (Anon., 1986; Evans, 1915, 97). The restoration was apparently of high impact. The south porch was removed, a vestry probably built and the church was reroofed and refenestrated. An account from 1849 (Glynne, 1898, 367-8) describes the restored church as 'much modernised, cruciform in plan... having a western tower... the only feature which preserves its original character' but with a 'modern' west window. The chancel and tower arches were low, 2-centred, and possibly medieval; there was a sedilia ('or piscina') in the chancel. Everything else was 'modernised, and in a very poor style'. Drawings accompanying the faculty application for the 1905 restoration (NLW, SD/F/316) may depict the church substantially unchanged from 1845. The west tower is shown with similar fenestration to today. The chancel, nave and transepts were of similar dimensions to the present church. There was no south porch, or chapels. A small, lean-to vestry lay north of the chancel west bay, probably from 1845. A transeptal schoolroom and lean-to coalhouse lay north of the west tower; they had neo-Classical openings and may have been pre-1845 (though not shown in 1839). All other openings were neo-gothic, comprising tall, 2 light windows in the nave, and in the transept end wall, and somewhat smaller but similar windows in the chancel; the windows were apparently from 1845 (ibid.). A west gallery occupied the western half of the nave, and there were further galleries in each transept reached by external staircases. The nave south wall was buttressed, and there were angle buttresses at the east end and transept end walls. All roofs were 'flat-pitched, king-post' roofs, with ceilings, from 1845 when the 'ancient roofs' had been swept away. The passages were paved with 'rough stones' (all ibid.).

The church was rebuilt in 1905-7 to the designs of the architect E. M. Bruce Vaughan, of Cardiff (NLW, SD/F/316) but the work was apparently undertaken by another architect, G. F. Bodley (Cadw, 1992, 4; Yates, 1974, 72). It is apparent from the fabric that, although not originally specified, all walls except those of the tower were demolished and rebuilt; the upper half of the tower belfry, in fact, was rebuilt and the west window, and the niches either side (which were thought to be medieval) were rebuilt. A south porch was reintroduced.

All major fittings, including the oak stalls, screens, reredos and pulpit, date from 1905-7. The nave is seated with loose chairs, as it was in 1907.

The oolite font is dated 1906, but the old font was present within the pre-1905 church and was said to be medieval (Glynne, 1898, 368 *et al.*)

The west tower was restored in 1968 (plaque in church).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

There is a ?medieval churchyard cross-base, with a 19th century cross (Grade II listed).

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; 11th century documentary reference.

St Elli, Llanelli, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Kidwelly. It was valued at £10 per annum in the late 13th century, when the living was in the patronage of Patrick de Chaworth, Lord of Kidwelly (Anon., 1986). With de Chaworth's death, the patronage passed to the crown (*ibid.*). In the later 14th century, the tithes were appropriated by John of Gaunt to the collegiate church of St Mary at Leicester (*ibid.*). There were 4 subordinate chapels within the parish until the Reformation (Lewis, 1833).

After the Reformation, the patronage eventually passed into the hands of the Earl of Northumberland (Anon., 1986). In 1833 the living was rated in the king's books as a discharged vicarage, at £6 6s 8d, but was strictly a perpetual curacy (*ibid.*); it was endowed with £200 private benefaction, £200 royal bounty and £1000 parliamentary grant and in the patronage of Rees Goring Thomas, Esq., who was the impropiator of all the tithes which had been alienated from the church at the Reformation (*ibid.*).

In 1998 St Elli, Llanelli, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage (Benefice no. 181) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Cydweli (St Davids, 1997-8).

The church is mentioned in the 11th century 'Book of Llandaff' (Soulsby, 1983, 164).

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