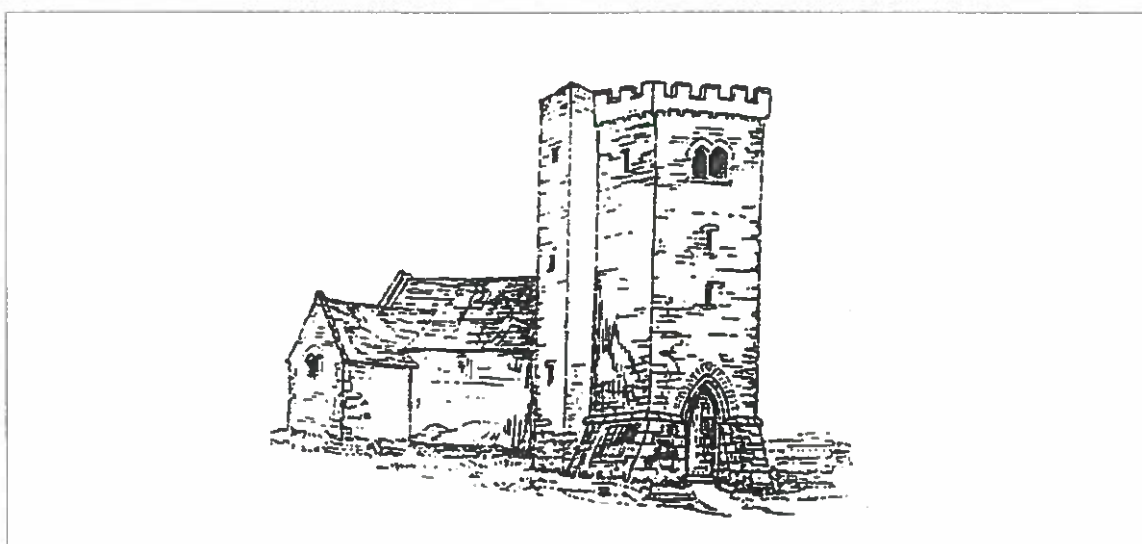


THE WELSH HISTORIC
CHURCHES PROJECT

01/09/98

CARMARTHENSHIRE CHURCHES, 1996-7
(DAT 48)

PART 3: LLANFIHANGEL-AR-ARTH - LLANGYNOG



Llangynin, 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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THE WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

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

PART 3: LLANFIHANGEL-AR-ARTH - LLANGYNOG

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**ST MICHAEL,
LLANFIHANGEL-AR-ARTH,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 1793

RB No. 2722

NGR SN 4560 3991

Listed Building No. 15631

- listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 2 bays; south aisle, 4 bays; medieval. South porch; mid 19th century. Boilerhouse (north of chancel), later 20th century. Mudstone rubble construction. 90% of internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; boilerhouse with asbestos sheeting roof. Chancel arch, arcade, altered windows, blocked rood-loft stair and bellcote, medieval. Western single bellcote, early post-medieval?. All other openings from the mid 19th century and neo-gothic including windows and (rebuilt) doors; yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs and floors: mid 19th century?. Finishes: 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - excellent. Shallow external cutting around 60% of church; no evidence for floor level changes; no underfloor void; external memorials significantly close to 25% of church

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% medieval core fabric; medieval arcades, altered openings, blocked rood stair; ?early post-medieval bellcote.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church in hilltop location; central within village; scheduled ECM(s), SAM Cm 071.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, C13?

Phase 2 - South aisle east bays, c.1500.

Phase 3 - South aisle west bays, early C16?

Phase 4 - Restored mid C19, medium impact; south porch built.

Phase 5 - Boilerhouse, later C20.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Michael, Llanfihangel-ar-arth, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 80% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, a 4-bayed south aisle, a south porch and a boilerhouse north of the chancel west bay. Construction is predominantly in Silurian mudstone rubble (Clive-Powell, 1996, 2); dressings are mainly yellow oolite and from the mid 19th century. Pointing is ribboned and 20th century; the interior is plastered except in the south porch. Roofs are slated gables; the boilerhouse has a lean-to 'asbestos' sheeting roof.

The chancel side walls are battered. The 3-light chancel east window has simple cusped tracery from the mid 19th century and a concrete hoodmould from the 20th century; there is a single cusped lancet in the north wall, also mid 19th century, to the west of which is a high, blocked opening, window? Post-medieval?. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is medieval, 13th century?. A plaster ceiling from the mid 19th century follows the 3 cants of a collar-rafter roof - date?. The floor is of quarry-tiles from the mid 19th century with 20th century artificial flags in the sanctuary.

The nave walls are battered like the chancel. In the north wall is a square external projection that formerly housed a rood-loft stair; all medieval openings are now blocked but it is pierced by a 2-light window with 'Y'-tracery from the mid 19th century; there is a similar window to the west and there may be a blocked opening low down between the two. The double-lancet west window may be medieval but the dressings are mid 19th century. There is a blocked medieval door with a plain, 2-centred head below, and the openings for a former double-bellcote are fossilised within the present upstand. The nave is ceiled as the chancel, mid 19th century. The quarry tile floor lacks a void and is mid 19th century.

The south aisle walls are unbattered. The aisle is separated from the chancel by a 2-bayed arcade of depressed, semicircular arches with chamfered voussoirs in octagonal piers with chamfered imposts, from c. 1500. The nave arcade is similarly 2-bayed but the arches are segmental, lack imposts, and may be later, early 16th century?. The east wall window is a triple lancet like the nave west window, also largely medieval. The two south wall windows are like the nave north wall windows but the 2-centred openings have brick heads (cf. Llangynwr), all mid 19th century?. The semicircular-headed south door is all from the mid 19th century. On the west end is a single gabled bellcote on a plain corbel-table, with a segmental-headed opening, crude, early post-medieval? (post-1552?, see below). The aisle is ceiled and floored as the nave and chancel, mid-19th century.

The south porch is all from the mid 19th century and has an external oolite offset and a chamfered oolite door-surround. The softwood gabled roof lacks trusses and is contemporary?; the floor is tiled like the nave and lies directly on the substrate, also mid 19th century.

The boilerhouse is later 20th century and of breeze-blocks. There is a simple square doorway in the east wall and a similar window in the north wall. The lean-to roof has an artificial, 'asbestos' sheeted covering. It houses the boiler for a hot-water system

There is a shallow, earth-cut external cutting around the north, west and east walls. There is no evidence for changes in floor level. There is no underfloor void. External memorials lie significantly close to the east walls and areas of the south wall.

Structural development

The chancel and nave are similar, are both battered externally and may be contemporary; the style of the chancel arch suggests an early date, 13th century? The chancel and nave arcades into the south aisle are stylistically different and the former may be from c1500 (as a south chapel arcade) and the latter from the early 16th century. The south porch is mid 19th century while the boilerhouse is later 20th century.

There were 2 bells in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii), and the outline of a former double bellcote can be seen in the nave west wall; the present bellcote is ?later.

In 1705 the church roof and windows were described as 'in no good repair' and the floors were unpaved (Evans, 1917, 83), while in 1720 the chancel was to be repaired by the impropiator of the tithes (Evans, 1921, 12).

The church was restored in the mid 19th century. The restoration was medium impact; the south porch was added (and south door inserted?), the church was refenestrated and refloored, and may have been reroofed; it was certainly given its present plaster ceilings.

The free-standing, softwood poppy-head stalls are later 19th century, as are the freestanding, softwood pews and pulpit. The sanctuary fittings are all 20th century. The vestry screen in the south aisle east bay was inserted c.1900.

The limestone font has an octagonal bowl and stem, and a square base; it is from the 14th-15th centuries.

The church was - listed in 1998.

There is a Latin-inscribed stone in the south aisle (Dyfed PRN 1794; SAM Cm 071), and a cross-incised stone, possibly a post-Conquest altar-table? (Dyfed PRN 1795; also Cm 071); both formerly lay within the yard (RCAHM, 1917, 135).

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
ECM(s); pre-conquest Latin dedication?
Evidence for the pre-conquest church has the separate PRN 12860.

St Michael, Llanfihangel-ar-arth, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. It was granted to the Augustinian priory of St John at Carmarthen by Edward, the Black Prince, in 1360 (Anon., 1915, 35).

At the dissolution, the advowson fell to the crown but found its way into private patronage; in 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage in the alternate patronage of the William Lewis and J. R. L. Lloyd Esq., rated in the king's books at £6 6s 8d and endowed with £200 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael, Llanfihangel-ar-arth, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Capel Dewi (Benefice no. 188) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Emlyn (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Parish of Llanfihangel-ar-arth, Tithe Map, 1841.

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

Church in Wales Records

Clive-Powell, R., 1996, Quinquennial Report, Llanfihangel-ar-arth.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/329, Faculty - Stained glass window, 1918.

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(CPR/67 - Llanfihangel-ar-arth)

Printed Accounts

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RCAHM, 1917, Inventory: Carmarthenshire.

Salter, M., 1994, *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales*.

Walcott, M. E. C., 1871, 'Original Documents', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. II, Fourth Series.

Yates, W. N., 1974, 'Carmarthenshire Churches', *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary* Vol. X.

**ST MICHAEL,
LLANFIHANGEL RHOS-Y-CORN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 742

RB No. 3035

NGR SN 5496 3470

Listed Building No. 15362

- listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel/nave, without structural division, 4 bays; south aisle, 3 bays; west porch; all medieval. Limestone and shale rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Arcade and porch door, medieval. Western single bellcote, (re)built in 18th century. All other openings from c.1850 and neo-gothic, windows and rebuilt doors; yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs and floors: c.1850. Finishes: c.1850 - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - excellent. Shallow, external earth-cut/concrete-lined drain around 100% of church, exposing footings in 30% of church; no evidence for floor level changes; no underfloor void; few external memorials significantly close to 40% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% medieval core fabric; medieval arcade and porch door; 2 rebuilt doors.

Group value - low-medium. Medieval church in hilltop location.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, C14?

Phase 2 - West porch, C14-15.

Phase 3 - South aisle, c.1500.

Phase 4 - Restored 1850, medium impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Michael, Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn, is a 3-celled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 80% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 4-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division, a 3-bayed south aisle, and a west porch. Construction is in limestone and shale rubble throughout; dressings are mainly yellow oolite and from c.1850. Pointing is from 1850 and 1907; there has been some limited later 20th century repointing and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables.

The chancel/nave exhibits a basal external offset, medieval. The windows are of 2-lights throughout, from c.1850 and with simple 'Y'-tracery; there are 3 in the north wall and one in the east wall. There is a plain, gabled, shouldered bellcote at the west end, rebuilt with a single semicircular-headed opening in the 18th century and since restored. The west door is simple and square, probably rebuilt before 1850. The softwood roof has king-post trusses (Jones, 1991), probably from c.1850; they are concealed by a fibreboard ceiling inserted c.1960. The passages are flagged, probably from before 1850; the sanctuary has a tiled floor from 1907.

The south aisle is separated from the chancel/nave by a 3-bayed arcade of plain, 4-centred arches from c.1500. It lacks an external offset. There are 2 windows in the south wall and one in the east wall, all like those in the chancel/nave and from c.1850. There is a doorway in the south wall with a 4-centred head, which appears to be a poor c.1850 copy of an original from c.1500. Roofed, ceiled and floored as the chancel/nave.

The west porch is medieval. The only opening is the doorway, a plain 2-centred arch from the 14th-15th century. The softwood gabled roof lacks trusses and is from the 20th century, post-1907?; the concrete floor lies directly on the substrate and is also 20th century.

The church is surrounded by a shallow, external earth-cut/concrete-lined drain, exposing footings along the north wall. There is no evidence for changes in floor level. There is no underfloor void. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the chancel/nave east wall and south aisle south wall.

Structural development

The chancel/nave may be 14th century but lacks detail. The west porch may be 14th-15th century. The south aisle arcade suggests that it was added c.1500. There were 2 bells, presumably within a double bellcote, in the 16th century (Wallcott, 1871, ii); the present bellcote is single and was rebuilt in the 18th century.

In 1790 the church was described as 'in tolerable repair... having no steeple... the... windows (are) glazed; walls whitewashed; floor even, bell (singular) in good order' (Evans, 1922, 56).

The church was restored in the 1850s (Thomas, 1990, 5) when it was reroofed and refenestrated, and the doors rebuilt in their present form; the flagged floors are probably earlier. The nave west bay was converted into a vestibule of unknown form; this was removed after 1907 (NLW, SD/F/33).

The church was again restored in 1907 to the designs of the architect E. V. Collier, of Carmarthen (NLW, SD/F/33). The restoration was low impact, lower in fact than the specifications suggest, much proposed work having been not undertaken. The work was largely superficial. Extensive repairs were undertaken c.1960 (Thomas, 1990, 5).

The softwood pulpit may be 18th century (Yates, 1974, 73). The freestanding, softwood stalls and pews may be from c.1850. The vestry screen was inserted after 1907.

The limestone font has an octagonal bowl and stem from the 14th-15th centuries; the base has gone.

The church was - listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Churchyard formerly subcircular; pre-conquest Latin dedication?.

St Michael, Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of Llanllwni parish in the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy, Llanllwni Church and living being possessions of the Bishops of St Davids. In 1291 one moiety, and in 1308 another moiety of the tithes of Llanllwni and Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn were bestowed upon the Augustinians of Carmarthen Priory (Evans, 1908, 54); after the dissolution they were obtained by the Bishop of Lincoln and were not restored to the parish until 1883 (ibid.).

By 1833 Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn had become a parish, but the living was annexed to the vicarage of Llanllwni which was still in the patronage of the Bishop of St Davids, rated in the king's books at £5 and endowed with £600 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833). Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn was separated from Llanllwni by Order of Council in 1885 (Evans, 1908, 54).

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

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Parish of Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn, Tithe Map, 1844.

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

Church in Wales Records

Jones, D., 1991, Quinquennial Report, Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/33, Faculty - Restoration of church, 1907.

Parish Records, Carmarthenshire Record Office, Carmarthen

(CPR/17 - Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn)

Printed Accounts

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Walcott, M. E. C., 1871, 'Original Documents', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. II, Fourth Series.

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**ST MICHAEL,
LLANFIHANGEL-UWCH-GWILI,
CARMARTHEN, CARMS.**

Dyfed PRN 5377

RB No. 3487

NGR SN 4891 2288

Listed Building No. 9386

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 70% pre-19th century core fabric.

A 3-cell church, small-medium-sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; medieval. West tower, 2 storeys, 17th century?. Vestry (transeptal, north of chancel), 1 bay; coalhouse (west of vestry), 1 bay, early 20th century. Local rubble construction; remains of early external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower with overhanging pyramidal roof and without parapet; coalhouse with slate lean-to roof. Blocked south door, medieval; west tower arch and openings, ?medieval - 17th century. All other openings early 20th century and neo-gothic, including windows, doors and chancel arch, with yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs and floors: early 20th century. Finishes: 18th - 19th century external render, 20th century internal plaster.

Condition - good. Some external ivy.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Slight platform beneath 20% of church; possible drain around 40% of church; churchyard cut into by 5% of church; suspended floors over a void in 50% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 70% pre-19th century core fabric; unusual west tower with ?medieval and 17th century openings, blocked medieval south door.

Group value - low-medium. Pre-19th century church with tower.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, C13-14?

Phase 2 - West tower, C17?

Phase 3 - Restored early 20th century, high impact; vestry and coalhouse built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Michael, Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili, is a 3-celled church, of small-medium size. It retains approximately 70% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 2-storeyed west tower, a single-bayed, transeptal vestry north of the chancel west bay with a lean-to coalhouse to its west. Construction is in local, predominantly limestone rubble; there are some pre-20th century openings in the west tower, but dressings are mainly yellow oolite, neo-gothic and early 20th century. There are the extensive remains of early 19th century external render which, in areas, has broken away exposing earlier, ?18th century render; some repointing from the early 20th century. The interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the west tower has a slated pyramidal roof with overhanging eaves and the coalhouse has a slated lean-to roof.

The south-east corner of the chancel is built on a very large basal stone. The 3-light east window has cusped Geometric tracery and, like the 2-centred, chamfered chancel arch, is from the early 20th century. The east gable, like all the gable walls in the church, has a lozengic opening into the roof space, also early 20th century. The 'wagon-roof' ceiling, with oak frames and plastered panels, is from the early 20th century. The passages are fully covered with vinyl but may be concrete, early 20th century, with contemporary suspended woodblock flooring.

The nave is lit by 2 windows in each of the side walls; those in the south wall are like the east window but 2-light, while the north wall windows are single, cusped lancets, all early 20th century including infill. The south wall of the west bay exhibits a blocked, medieval doorway, the blocking lying below early 19th century external render. The nave is roofed and floored as the chancel.

The west tower may be medieval but is unusual within the region, its closest affinities being with that at Llandawke, Carmarthen. It comprises just 2 storeys but lacks the west door and square spiral stair turret 'typical' of the region; the spiral stair instead occupies a squinch between the north wall and the nave west wall, now truncated, with a blocked door in the belfry north wall, and closed off. The ground floor has a slight external batter and weathered string-course; it communicates with the nave through a tall, plain 2-centred ?post-medieval arch. The tower is now entered through a 2-centred, early 10th century door in its south wall. High up in the west wall is a window comprising 2 semicircular headed lights beneath a straight dripmoulds, from the early 17th century. The floor is quarry-tiled, later 20th century; there is a flat, softwood ceiling from the early 20th century. A slit light pierces each face of the belfry stage, ?post-medieval; this stage has been partly rebuilt in the early 20th century. There is now no parapet, and may never have been; instead, a slated pyramidal roof overhangs at the eaves.

The vestry is early 20th century and entered through a contemporary 2-centred door in the chancel north wall; there is also a square-headed external door in its east wall. It is lit by a window like those in the nave south wall. The gabled roof and suspended floor are also early 20th century. Against the west wall, and built as one with the vestry, is a lean-to coalhouse entered through a square-headed doorway in its north wall.

There is a very slight platform beneath the west tower. The concrete path along the south walls may overlie a drain. The coalhouse is cut into the churchyard. Floors are suspended over a void in the nave and vestry. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The chancel and nave may be 13th - 14th century but lack detail. The west tower may be a 'debased' later addition, possibly as late as the early 17th century and contemporary with the window in its west wall?; the church had a single bell in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii). The vestry and coalhouse are from the earlier 20th century.

The church was described in 1710 as 'decay'd' and apparently abandoned (Evans, 1905, 64), but contributions were being sought for its repair. It was in use in 1792 but was, 'and for some time past' had been, out of repair (Evans, 1921, 55). There are early 19th century, and earlier, external render finishes. The church was reseated in 1844 (Griffiths, 1994, 1).

The vestry and coalhouse were added during the early 20th century, after 1906 (NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Sheet XXXII.14) when a major restoration of the church occurred. The building received its present windows, doors, chancel arch, roofs, floors, and internal plaster.

The sanctuary fittings, stalls, pulpit and pews are all oak and early 20th century.

The octagonal font is also early 20th century.

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

Documentary sources for the medieval church have the separate Dyfed PRN 17360.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Michael, Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapel-of-ease to Abergwili parish, of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen, which was appropriated to St Davids Cathedral. It is still a chapelry of Abergwili, but with burial rights from the mid 19th century.

In 1833 the living was a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the Vicar of Abergwili, endowed with £1200 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael, Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili, was a chapelry. The living was a vicarage, held with Abergwili and Capel-y-Groes (Benefice no. 681) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Carmarthen (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Sheet XXXII.14.

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NLW, Parish of Abergwili, Tithe Map, 1840.

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Church in Wales Records

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St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/8, Faculty - Erecting organ and effecting alterations, 1890.

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(CPR/85 - Abergwili)

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**ST CAIN,
LLANGAIN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 17349

RB No. 3702

NGR SN 3889 1557

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, but not in same location as, medieval church (PRN 5240).

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; west tower/turret, 2 storeys; north porch; vestry (south), 1 bay; all 1871. Construction is in limestone rubble. Neo-gothic. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to roof. All openings from 1871; western broach spire, 1871.

Roofs and floors, 1871 and 1979. Finishes, 1979.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Not in location of earlier church; no physical evidence for the earlier church; no external cutting nor drain; suspended floors over heating ducts; no external memorials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-1871 core fabric.

Group value - low.

Phasing:
All 1871.

DESCRIPTION

St Cain, Llangain, is a multicell church of medium size. It was new built in 1871 to the designs of the architect R. J. Withers of London (Williams, n.d., 28) on the same site, but c.10m to the north of its predecessor (PRN 5240). Nothing was retained from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3 bayed nave, a north porch, a 2-storeyed west tower/turret with a spire, and a single-bayed vestry south of the chancel west bay. Construction is in limestone rubble; the interior is plastered. All dressings are in grey oolite and from 1871; the openings are neo-gothic comprising cusped 2-light windows with curvilinear tracery. The nave is buttressed. The west tower/turret exhibits 2 offsets up to an octagonal broach spire, in grey oolite also from 1871, with 4 openings. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof. The floors are suspended except in the porch.

The earlier church was referred to as 'a neat structure' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833) but nothing further is known of the building; the tithe map of 1842 is very vague, showing merely a rectangular structure, and may be conventionalised (NLW, Llangain, 1842). There was one bell in the 16th century (Wallcott, 1871, ii); the roof was 'out of repair' in 1684 (Evans, 1915, 99). According to Griffiths and Lewis, the church had been (re)built during the 17th century but they do not quote a source (Griffiths & Lewis, 1994, 1).

The church was apparently 'dilapidated' in 1871 when the present church was built c.10m to the north, to the designs of the architect R. J. Withers of London (Williams, n.d., 28); it appears that the churchyard reduced to its present size at the same time (NLW, Llangain, Tithe Map, 1842). The new church was restored in 1978-9 when it was repointed throughout, partly refloored, reseated and repaired (Williams, n.d., 13).

The font served as a flower-pot in the churchyard in 1917 (RCAHM, 1917, 149) but was returned to the interior of the church during the restoration of 1979 (Williams, n.d., 15). The bowl is octagonal and carries a representation of the circumcision of Jesus - it may be early 13th century..

The bell is dated 1913 (Williams, n.d., 13).

There is no physical evidence for the earlier church, which appears to have lain beyond the present southern churchyard boundary (NLW, Llangain, 1842). There is neither an external cutting nor a drain. The floors are suspended over heating ducts. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Cain, Llangain, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. It was granted, as 'Eglwysgain', to the Augustinian priory of St John at Carmarthen, by one Arthur Drue, c.1150 (Williams, n.d., 10). In a list of the possessions of Carmarthen Priory of 1395 it is referred to as Maenorgain Chapel (ibid.).

At the dissolution, the advowson fell to the crown but found its way into private patronage; in 1833, when it was endowed with £800 royal bounty, the patron was F. Bludworth Esq. (Lewis, 1833).

The parish amalgamated with Llanllwch parish in 1977; they were later joined by Llangynog.

In 1998 St Cain, Llangain, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanllwch and Llangynog (Benefice no. 803) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Carmarthen (St Davids, 1997-8).

'Cain' is a local variation on the name of St Keyne, a reputed 'daughter of Brychan'. The dedication is given as 'St Synin' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Sheets XLVI.2 and XXXIX.14.

NLW, Parish of Llangain, Tithe Map, 1842.

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

Church in Wales Records

Griffiths & Lewis, 1994, Quinquennial Report, Llangain.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/344, Faculty - Removal of cottage, 1900.

Parish Records, Carmarthenshire Record Office, Carmarthen

(CPR/68 - Llangain)

Printed Accounts

Crossley, F. H., and Ridgway, M. H., 1947, 'Screens, Lofts and Stalls situated in Wales and Monmouthshire: Part 8', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. XCIX.

Evans, G. E., 1915, 'Carmarthenshire Presentments', *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society* Vol. 10.

Evans, G. E., 1917, 'Carmarthenshire Presentments', *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society* Vol. 11.

Evans, G. E., 1921, 'Carmarthenshire Presentments', *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society* Vol. 14.

Evans, G. E., 1923, 'Carmarthenshire Presentments', *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society* Vol. 16.

Lewis, S., 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.

RCAHM, 1917, *Inventory: Carmarthenshire*.

Salter, M., 1994, *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales*.

Walcott, M. E. C., 1871, 'Original Documents', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. II, Fourth Series.

Williams, H., n.d., 'St Cain's Church, Llangain: a brief History and Guide'.

**ST CELER,
LLANGELER,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 5263

RB No. 2728

NGR SN 3740 3938

Listed Building No. 15633

- listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and in same location as, medieval church (PRN 2278).

A 2-cell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 5 bays; west porch; vestry/store (north), 2 bays; all 1858. Construction is in slate rubble. Slate gable roofs; the vestry/store has an internal dividing wall and a slate lean-to roof. All openings from 1858 and neogothic, in yellow oolite; the exterior is buttressed and there is a western single bellcote, 1858.

Roofs and floors, 1858. Finishes, 1858.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. No external drain or cutting. Suspended floors in 90% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-1858 core fabric.

Group value - medium. C19 landmark church; large, circular churchyard; lych-gate.

Phasing:
All 1858.

DESCRIPTION

St Celer, Llangeler, is 2-celled church, of medium size. It was (re)built in 1858, on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor (PRN 2278), retaining nothing from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 5-bayed nave, a west porch and a 2-bayed vestry/store north of the chancel. Construction is in roughly coursed local slate rubble; the interior is plastered. All dressings are in yellow oolite and from 1858. The openings are neo-gothic comprising simple single or triple lancets. The exterior is buttressed throughout. The vestry is divided from the store by an internal wall. A simple, gabled single bellcote lies on the west end, from 1858. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry/store has a slated lean-to roof. The floors are suspended except in the porch.

The earlier church was, in 1833, described as a plain neat edifice... not distinguished by any architectural details of importance' (Lewis, 1833), when it had recently been reseated with the addition of 380 sittings. In a comprehensive account of 1850 it consisted of a chancel, a nave, and a south chapel (Glynne, 1898, 358). The south chapel was called 'the new church' in the early 17th century (RCAHM, 1917) when it was said to house the 'sepulchre' of St Celer, represented by a very deep tomb of freestone. The chapel occupied the full length of the chancel, and the eastern 2 bays of the nave from which it was divided by an arcade of 'rude pointed arches' (Glynne, op. cit.); it was entered through a south door. There was a square-headed, 3-light 16th century window in the chapel east wall, and 'some unsightly sash windows' in the north walls. Over the nave west door was a shallow niche, above which was a double bellcote. The exterior was whitewashed.

The church was entirely rebuilt in 1858 to the designs of the architect Charles J. Davies (Clive-Powell, 1992, 1). There appear to have been no further major alterations, but a hot-water heating apparatus and boiler were installed in 1928 (NLW, SD/F/355).

The octagonal font is from 1858.

There is neither an external drain nor a cutting. Floors are suspended in the chancel, nave and vestry.

The church was - listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Celer, Llangeler, as 'Merthyr Celer', was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Emlyn, and in the patronage of the Lords of Emlyn.

The living consisted of a rectory and a vicarage. The rectory, rated in the king's books at £12 18s 9d, was in the patronage of the crown until the early 19th century when it was appropriated to the Principal and tutors of St Davids University College, Lampeter (Lewis, 1833). The vicarage, which was discharged in 1833, was rated in the king's books at £6 13s 4d, endowed with £200 royal bounty and in the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids (ibid.). The tithes were subject to a long standing division into two divisions, the 'Gwlad' and the 'Grange', which in 1833 were divided between the Principal and tutors of Lampeter, the vicar and the Llys Newydd family (ibid.).

In 1998 St Celer, Llangeler, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Penboyr (Benefice no. 835) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Emlyn (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Parish of Llangeler, Tithe Map, 1839.

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

Church in Wales Records

Clive-Powell, R., 1992, *Quinquennial Report, Llangeler.*

St Davids, 1997-8, *Diocesan Year Book.*

NLW, SD/F/355, Faculty - Electric light, heating apparatus and stained glass window, 1928.

Parish Records, Carmarthenshire Record Office, Carmarthen

(CPR/104 - Llangeler)

Printed Accounts

Crossley, F. H., and Ridgway, M. H., 1947, 'Screens, Lofts and Stalls situated in Wales and Monmouthshire: Part 8', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. XCIX.

Glynne, S. R., 1898, 'Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. XV, Fifth Series.

Lewis, S., 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales.*

RCAHM, 1917, *Inventory: Carmarthenshire.*

Salter, M., 1994, *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales.*

**ST GWYNOG,
LLANGENNECH,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 17374

RB No. 3462

NGR SN 5606 0188

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

20th century church; 5% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of north aisle, lowermost courses pre-1900. Chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; vestry (north, over boilerhouse), 2 bays; north aisle, 3 bays; west tower, 4 storeys; all 1900-1904. Construction is mainly in snecked rubble. Neo-gothic. Slate gable roofs; west tower flat-roofed. All openings are from 1900-1904, including chancel arch and arcades, boilerhouse chimney; external buttressing, 1900-1904; west tower with crenellated parapet, 1900-1904.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1900-1904.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Shallow external cutting, with deep drain, around 30% of church; external stairwell along 10% of church; cellar (boilerhouse) beneath 15% of church; suspended floors over heating ducts in 80% of church; external memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 5% pre-1900 core fabric.

Group value - low-medium. C20 church with tower; polygonal churchyard (formerly circular?); good memorials; central within village; amenity value.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - North aisle north wall lowermost courses, pre-1900.

Phase 2 - Nave, north aisle, west tower, 1900-1902.

Phase 3 - Chancel, vestry (with boilerhouse), 1902-1904.

DESCRIPTION

St Gwynog, Llangennech, is a multicelled church, of large size. It was rebuilt in 1900-1904 to the designs of E. M. Bruce Vaughan, retaining some limited fabric from the earlier church (PRN 4717).

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 2-bayed vestry (over a below-ground boilerhouse) north of the chancel, and a 4-storey west tower. The lowermost 1m of the north aisle north wall was retained from the pre-1900 church; it is in uncoursed rubble and features 2 truncated buttresses. The remainder of the church is from 1900-1904; construction is in sneaked local rubble and the interior is plastered. Dressings are in yellow oolite and from 1900-1904; the openings are neo-gothic comprising 2-, 3- and 5-light windows with curvilinear tracery, a chancel arch and arcades. The exterior is buttressed throughout with cross-buttressing to the west tower, which has a crenellated parapet. The boilerhouse flue leads to a neo-gothic oolite chimney in the roof valley, from 1904. The roofs are slated gables; the tower has a flat roof. Floors are suspended except in the tower.

The pre-1900 church is shown on both the tithe map and the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition (NLW, Parish of Llangennech Map, 1842; NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Sheet LIX.1). It was a large structure with a north aisle (including a vestry) occupying the length of the nave and the chancel west bay, a south transept and a west porch. In the 16th century, as 'Llangewyth', the church had one bell (Wallcott, 1871, i). In 1672 the door and windows were 'out of repair' (Anon., 1919, 212) but the church was in good order by 1684 (Evans, 1917, 13).

The church was entirely rebuilt in 1900-1904 to the designs of the architect E. M. Bruce Vaughan, of Cardiff (NLW, SD/F/357), in two stages (Griffiths & Lewis, 1994, 1). The west porch, and the west and south walls were entirely removed, but the north wall of the aisle was truncated to a height of 1m. The nave and aisle were rebuilt following the plan of the earlier church but without a south transept, and the west porch was represented by a tower; the work was complete by 1902. The chancel was then demolished and replaced by the present chancel and vestry in 1904.

The font has been retooled but the square bowl may originally date from the 15th century (RCAHM, 1917).

A shallow external cutting, with a deep drain, runs along the south wall of the church. There is an external stairwell along the vestry north wall. A cellar (boilerhouse) lies beneath the vestry. The floors are suspended over heating ducts except in the tower. Some external memorials lie significantly close to the east wall.

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Gwynog, Llangennech, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Kidwelly.

By 1833 it was a parish church (Lewis, 1833). The living was a perpetual curacy endowed with £600 royal bounty and £800 parliamentary grant, in the patronage of Edward Rose Tunno Esq. Of Llangennech Park (ibid.).

In 1998 St Gwynog, Llangennech, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Hendy (Benefice no. 678) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Cydweli (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication is alternatively given as 'St Cennech' (RCAHM, 1917).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Sheet LIX.1.

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Sheet LIX.1.

NLW, Parish of Llangennech Map, 1842.

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

Church in Wales Records

Griffiths & Lewis, 1994, Quinquennial Report, Llangennech.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/356, Faculty - Removal of cottages, 1887.

NLW, SD/F/357, Faculty - Restoration and enlargement of church, 1900.

NLW, SD/F/358, Faculty - Erecting reredos, 1922.

NLW, SD/F/359, Faculty - Memorial tablet, 1928.

NLW, SD/F/356, Faculty - New churchyard gates, walls and railings, 1929.

Parish Records, Carmarthenshire Record Office, Carmarthen

CPR/7 - Llangennech:-

CPR/7/18 - Churchyard fund, 1928-55.

CPR/7/18 - Churchyard maintenance fund, 1928-54.

Printed Accounts

Anon., 1916, 'Reviews and Notices', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. XVI, Sixth Series.

Anon., 1919, 'Miscellanea', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. XIX, Sixth Series.

Crossley, F. H., and Ridgway, M. H., 1947, 'Screens, Lofts and Stalls situated in Wales and Monmouthshire: Part 8', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. XCIX.

Evans, G. E., 1915, 'Carmarthenshire Presentments', *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society* Vol. 10.

Evans, G. E., 1917, 'Carmarthenshire Presentments', *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society* Vol. 11.

Evans, G. E., 1921, 'Carmarthenshire Presentments', *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society* Vol. 14.

Lewis, S., 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.

RCAHM, 1917, *Inventory: Carmarthenshire*.

Salter, M., 1994, *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales*.

Walcott, M. E. C., 1871, 'Original Documents', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. II, Fourth Series.

**ST CLEDWYN,
LLANGLYDWEN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 17379

RB No. 3346

NGR SN 1745 2660

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 60% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; medieval. South porch; vestry (south), 1882. Former north component? Limestone rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to roof. Chancel arch, medieval. All other openings from 1882, and neo-gothic; western single bellcote, 1882. ECMs/prehistoric stones re-used in fabric.

Roofs and floors: 1882. Finishes: 1882 - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Possible former component beyond 10% of church; earthwork platform beneath 20% of church, primary?; Deep external cutting around 30% of church, primary?, secondarily deepened exposing footings; floored over void in 80% of church; few external memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair. 60% medieval core fabric; medieval chancel arch.

Group value - medium. Medieval church; scheduled ECM (PRN Cm 160); prehistoric stones?; C19 churchyard gatehouse.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13-14?

Phase 2 - Chancel, C14-15?

(Phase 3 - Former north component, vestry?, early C19?)

Phase 4 - Restored 1882, high impact; south porch and vestry built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Cledwyn, Llanglydwen, is a 3 celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 60% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a south porch and a single-bayed vestry south of the chancel west bay. There may formerly have been a component north of the nave. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout. Pointing is from 1882 and obscures the facework; there has been some 20th century repointing and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof. Floors lie above a void in the chancel, nave and vestry. A number of large ?prehistoric stones and/or ECMs have been re-used within the fabric; one, at the base of the west wall, is over 2m long and has a full-length groove, part of cross? artificially cut?, while another apparently displays 'cup-marks' (Lewis, 1975, 141).

The 2-centred chancel east window has 2 cusped lights and simple, Decorated tracery, from 1882. There is a doorway into the vestry in the south wall, from 1882. The plain 2-centred chancel arch is medieval, later medieval?. The softwood chancel roof is from 1882 and has collar-rafter trusses braced from timber corbels. The floor is flagged above a void, also from 1882.

The nave is lit by 2 windows in each of the side walls; all are cusped single lancets from 1882. The nave west window is similar to the chancel east window and also from 1882, as is the south door. A gabled, single bellcote, also from 1882, lies on the west gable and features a plain string-course. The softwood roof is from 1882 and has arch-braced, queen-post trusses carved into quatrefoils. The passages are flagged over a void and the suspended board floors may lie above flagging; all from 1882.

The south porch is all from 1882 and has a raking buttress and a cusped lancet in each side wall; the roof is softwood and the floor is quarry-tiled directly on the substrate. The lean-to vestry is also from 1882 and has a cusped lancet in the south wall.

There is a deep, external earth-cut cutting along the nave north wall, continuing as a very deep, revetted cutting along the west wall and continuing to the south porch; primary?, secondarily deepened exposing footings. A very slight platform lies beneath the east end of the church, primary?, cut by a memorial from 1714. There is no evidence for changes in floor level. The flooring lies over a void in the chancel, nave and vestry. Few memorials lie significantly close to the east wall.

Structural development

The nave and chancel are pre-19th century but cannot be closely dated. Lewis & Lewis, 1996, date the building to the 17th century, but do not cite their evidence; it appears more likely that the nave at least is medieval. The chancel is secondary, later medieval?; there is a joint between the nave and chancel walls and, moreover, the nave east wall exhibits a horizontal roof-crease at eaves level which may be for a former lean-to roofed chancel. The south porch and vestry are from 1882.

A truncated, detached block of masonry lies opposite the west end of the nave north wall and may represent part of a former buttress cut through by the secondary external cutting. However, the tithe map (NLW, Llanglydwen, 1845) appears to show a shallow, square projection north of the nave, to which this masonry may have belonged and which may represent a former component, a vestry?, of early 19th century date?.

The church was described as a 'small, neat edifice', recently 'repaired and beautified' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833). There had been one bell in the 16th century (Wallcott, 1871, 11). The windows were 'out of repaire' in 1672 (Anon, 1919, 212).

The church was restored in 1882 to the designs of the architect E. H. Lingen Barker (Lewis, 1975, 141), not 'entirely rebuilt' as stated by RCAHM, 1917. The restoration was high impact; the church was refenestrated, reroofed and refloored and the present doors were inserted. The present vestry and south porch were *de novo* additions.

The free-standing softwood stalls are from 1882, as are the similar pews. The pulpit and altar table are 20th century.

The limestone font has a square bowl and cylindrical stem with cable moulding, from the 14th century; the base is modern.

The church was not listed in 1998.

Documentary sources for the medieval church have the separate PRN 7397.

An ECM lies, ?in situ, within the churchyard (PRN 1140; SAM CM 160); it is incised with a wheel-cross. The stone described by Edward Lhuyd in the 17th century as 'lying on the floor of the chancel' has gone (RCAHM, 1917).

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; 1+ ECM; prehistoric stones?.

St Cledwyn, Llanglydwen, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. It was valued at £2 in the 'Taxatio' of 1291 (Lewis, 1975, 140). By the 14th century at least, it was a possession of the Cluniac priory at St Clears (ibid.).

At the dissolution, the advowson fell to the crown but found its way into private patronage; in 1833 the living was a discharged rectory, rated in the king's books at £2 13s 4d, endowed with £200 royal bounty and £200 parliamentary grant, in the patronage of the king as Prince of Wales (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Cledwyn, Llanglydwen, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Llanfyrnach (no benefice no.) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of St Clears (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Parish of Llanglydwen, Tithe Map, 1845.

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

Church in Wales Records

Lewis, W., & Lewis, P., 1996, *Quinquennial Report, Llanglydwen*.

St Davids, 1997-8, *Diocesan Year Book*.

Parish Records, Carmarthenshire Record Office, Carmarthen

(CPR/10 - Llanglydwen)

Printed Accounts

Anon., 1875, 'Carmarthen Meeting', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. VI, Fourth Series.

Anon., 1919, 'Miscellanea', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. XIX, Sixth Series.

Crossley, F. H., and Ridgway, M. H., 1947, 'Screens, Lofts and Stalls situated in Wales and Monmouthshire: Part 8', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. XCIX.

Evans, G. E., 1921, 'Carmarthenshire Presentments', *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society* Vol. 14.

Lewis, E. T., 1975, *Local Heritage from Efailwen to Whitland*.

Lewis, S., 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.

RCAHM, 1917, *Inventory: Carmarthenshire*.

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Yates, W. N., 1974, 'Carmarthenshire Churches', *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary* Vol. X.

**ST CYNDEYRN,
LLANGYNDEYRN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 1703

RB No. 3512

NGR SN 4562 1398

Listed Building No. 9399

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north chapel, 2 bays; north aisle, 3 bays; south porch; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Boilerhouse (north of chancel), 1 bay; 1927. Limestone and ORS rubble construction. Internal walls with restricted render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; boilerhouse with a slate lean-to, tower roof not seen. Medieval chancel arch and arcades; rood-stair projection; openings, vault and stoup in tower; piscina in chancel; stoup in porch; blocked north door. Remainder of openings from 1883-8.

(Remains of 17th century oak screen in chancel.)

Roofs; 1883-8 retaining some pre-19th century timber. Floors; 1883-8. Finishes: externally, mainly late 18th-early 19th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. No external cutting or drain around the church; footings exposed in 10% of church; 3 former components beyond church, without physical evidence; floors lowered; former inhumations below 780% of church; floors over heating flues in 50% of church; 7below-ground floor in 5% of church; external memorials significantly close to 20% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% medieval core fabric. Medieval chancel arch and arcades; rood-stair projection; openings, vault and stoup in tower; piscina in chancel; stoup in porch; blocked north door. Remains of 17th century oak screen in chancel. Roofs retain some pre-19th century timber.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower; large churchyard; medieval cross-base; good C19 churchyard entrances.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, C13-14?

Phase 2 - West tower lower storey (formerly west porch), earlier C15.

Phase 3 - North chapel, south porch, later C15.

Phase 4 - North aisle, west tower upper storeys, C16.

(Phase 5 - Former components to north, west and south, ?post-medieval)

Phase 6 - Restored 1883-8, medium impact.

Phase 7 - Boilerhouse, 1927.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Cyndeyrn, Llangyndeyrn, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 80% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave (with a square projection for a former rood stair), a 2-bayed north chapel, a 3-bayed north aisle, a south porch, a 3-storey west tower, and a boilerhouse north of the chancel west bay from 1927. Former ?post-medieval components to north, west and south of church. Construction is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble throughout. Dressings are mainly yellow oolite and from 1883-8. There are extensive remains of 18th-early 19th century external render; repointing where it occurs is generally from 1883-8. The interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the boilerhouse has a slated lean-to roof while the west tower roof was not seen.

The chancel east gable was rebuilt in 1883-8 including the window which is of 3 cusped lights with Perpendicular tracery, with infill. The north wall is a 2-bay arcade to the north chapel, of depressed 2-centred arches on chamfered piers from the later 15th century. The south wall is lit by 2 windows of 2 cusped lights and simple tracery, with infill, from 1883-8. There is a simple, square-headed recess with a chamfered piscina in the south wall, medieval but restored, and a doorway from 1883-8. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is medieval. The oak roof comprises collar-rafter trusses from 1883-8 but retaining some pre-19th century timbers. The tiled floor is from 1883-8 when it was lowered.

The nave north wall is a 3-bayed arcade into the north aisle, of 2-centred arches on chamfered piers with square bases, from the 16th century. There are a low buttresses at each end of the south walls from 1883-4; the east bay is thrown out as a shallow square projection from the south wall that formerly housed the rood-loft stair (cf. Llanfynydd and Myddfai, Carms.), now lit by a window like the chancel south wall from 1883-8. Two more similar windows are inserted in the south wall. The south door has a segmental rear arch that may be medieval but the surround is from 1883-8. The oak roof comprises collar-rafter trusses braced from wall-plates, from 1883-8 but retaining some pre-19th century timbers. Floors are tiled like the chancel, from 1883-4, above heating flues inserted in 1927.

The north chapel is similar in construction to the chancel but quoined. The gable was rebuilt 1883-8 as the chancel, including the east window. There are 2 windows in the north wall, both of 2 lights with 4-centred heads, both in square 'Tudor' surrounds, with infill, from 1883-8 but probably copies of existing early 17th century windows. The roof is like that in the chancel and of similar dates. The floor comprises re-used 17th-18th century memorial slabs.

The north aisle was blocked from the north chapel in 1883-8 but formerly communicated via an arch similar to the arcade into the nave; there is a door in the blocking also from 1883-8. There are 3 windows in the north wall, each of 2 cusped lights, 'Elizabethan', with infill, from 1883-8; the west wall window is like the chancel east window and also 1883-8. The west bay features a blocked north door with a depressed semicircular head and ornamented dripmould, all in Old Red Sandstone ashlar from the 16th

century; the blocking lies beneath external render. The roof and floor are like those in the nave and of similar dates.

The south porch is plain, from the later 15th century but the internal stone benching is 20th century. There is a slight external batter. The gable was rebuilt 1883-8 but the door has a plain 2-centred arch from the 15th century. The interior is pebbledashed, 1935?; next to the nave south door is a stoup with a weathered bowl in a simple square recess, medieval. The oak roof of close-coupled rafters may all be from 1883-8; the pitch stone floor is laid directly on the substrate, from the 20th century.

The west tower is not typical of the region. It was formed out of an earlier 15th century west porch in the early 16th century, and comprises 3 storeys but is very tall, narrow and tapering. A straight stairway rises in the thickness of the south wall, entered from the nave through a narrow 16th century door, and lit by simple square slits of similar date. There is an external batter up to a string-course. The plain 2-centred doorway into the nave is 15th century, with an inserted square opening (blocked) for the bellropes above, and the west door is similar. There is a cross-incised, square stoup in a semicircular-headed recess in the south wall, early 15th century. The ground floor has a segmental barrel vault, probably 16th century. The pitch stone floor may be laid directly on the substrate like the porch, and similarly from the 20th century. The second stage is lit by simple slits in the north and east walls, 16th century. The belfry stage has a single-light, segmental-headed openings in all 4 walls; cusped opening in each wall, 16th century but, except in the north wall, rebuilt with concrete surrounds in the 20th century. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table, of 16th century date.

The boilerhouse lies north of the chancel west bay and was added in 1927. There is a door in the east wall with a concrete lintel. The roof is a slated lean-to.

There is no cutting or drain around the church, but footings are exposed at the east end and the north-west corner. There were 3 former components beyond the present church, but without physical evidence. The floors were lowered, in 1676?, and in 1883-8; there were extensive inhumations below the pre-1883 floors. The flooring lies over heating flues in the nave and north aisle. The boilerhouse floor may be below-ground. External memorials lie significantly close to the south wall.

Structural development

The chancel and nave are medieval, but cannot be closely dated; they may be 14th century. The west tower ground floor was, it appears, added as a west porch in the earlier 15th century. The north chapel arcade is stylistically different from the aisle arcade and may be later 15th century along with the south porch; the blocked north aisle doorway may date the component to the 16th century with the remainder of the west tower. The boilerhouse was added in 1927. There were 3 former components of unknown date (see below).

There were 3 bells in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, I) which were 'out of repair' in 1672 (Anon., 1919, 212) and replaced in 1679 (Thomas, 1944, 59). 'About the year 1676' the floor had been partly lowered exposing the pier bases (Clark, 1902, 129). The north aisle was 'out of repair' in 1749 (Evans, 1921 (ii), 50). A west gallery had been fitted in the nave by 1822 (Evans, 1919(ii), 15).

The church depicted on the tithe map of 1845 (NLW, Llangyndeyrn, 1845) was somewhat larger than the present church, having possessed two components that have now been lost altogether. One component lay west of the north aisle, but detached from the tower, while the second lay south of the nave west bay but detached from the porch; a further component occupied the site of the present boilerhouse. The function of these former components is not known, but in their locations it is unlikely that they were medieval; one may have housed a schoolroom and been a construction of the early 19th century as at Llanboidy, Carmar, and Eglwysrwrw, Pembrokeshire. The components were removed either during the restoration of the late 1850s or that of 1883-8.

The pre-1883 church was described as 'lamentably neglected... its 13 windows of wood, without a trace of stonework, dating from the 17th century or later; roofs of a low pitch and the meanest construction... windows without rear-arches, and an entire absence of cut stonework in piers, arches etc.' (Clark, 1902, 128-31).

The church was restored in 1883-8 (ibid.) to the designs of the architect J. P. St Aubyn. The restoration was medium impact. The floors were lowered and '497 skeletons were discovered' (ibid.). The church was reroofed (but retaining some earlier timbers), refloored and refenestrated.

The boilerhouse was constructed in 1927 and fitted with a Musgrave heating apparatus (Carms. R. O., CPR/4/20).

A low oak panelled screen between the chancel and north chapel is dated 1676. The softwood stalls and pews are free-standing and from 1883-8, as is the pulpit. The simple oak reredos is from 1930 (Carms. R. O., CPR/4/20).

There was some renovation in 1935 with particular attention to the seating (Carms. R. O., CPR/4/20).

The marble font is early 20th century.

There are three bells in the tower belfry, 2 from 1679 and the third from 1721 (Thomas, 1944, 59; Wright, 1957, 126-8).

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

There is a medieval churchyard cross-base immediately south of the church.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Cyndeyrn, Llangyndeyrn, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Kidwelly. The advowson appears always to have belonged to the Lord of Kidwelly (ibid.).

The church was granted to New College, Leicester, in 1355-6, along with the chapels of Capel Dyddgen and 'Llangenhithon', both in Llangyndeyrn parish (Stephens, 1939, 69); St Cyndeyrn itself does not appear to have formed a part of the grant. There were at least two more medieval chapelries in the parish.

In 1833 when the living was a perpetual curacy endowed with £800 royal bounty and £1200 parliamentary grant and in the patronage of Rees Goring Thomas, Esq. (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Cyndeyrn, Llangyndeyrn, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Pont-iets (Benefice No. 684), in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Cydweli (St Davids, 1997-8).

St Cyndeyrn is normally equated with St Kentigern.

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**ST CYNIN,
LLANGYNIN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3871

RB No. 3712

NGR SN 2539 1805

Listed Building No. 9401

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south aisle, 3 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Former skew passages. Limestone rubble construction; remains of 18th - early 19th century external render and internal walls with render/plaster. Synthetic tile gable roofs; chancel with slate gable roof; west tower roof not seen. Tower openings, vault and arch, south aisle arcade, door and stoup, north transept vault and stoup, external nave corbel table, rood-loft corbel, all medieval, with limestone dressings. Other openings mainly from 1895-8 and neo-Perpendicular, some replicating the originals, with yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs: c.1920. Floors: earlier 19th century. Finishes: 18th century - c.1920.

Condition - fair-good. Plaster fair, damp; ivied externally.

Archaeological potential - excellent. No external cutting or drain; levels unchanged; no underfloor void?; known burials beneath 40% of church; external memorials significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% medieval core fabric; medieval tower openings, vault and arch, arcade, door, stoups, vault, corbel table, rood-loft corbel.

Group value - low-medium. Medieval landmark church with tower, in hilltop location; churchyard largely cleared.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, C13-14.

Phase 2 - North and south transepts, with skew passages, C14.

Phase 3 - South aisle, c.1500.

Phase 4 - West tower, early C16.

Phase 5 - Restored c.1920, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Cynin, Llangynin, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 90% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed north transept, a 3-bayed south aisle, and a 3-storeyed west tower. Skew passages were formerly present. Construction is in limestone rubble. There are some medieval openings in limestone; other dressings are in yellow oolite, neo-Perpendicular and from 1920, some in imitation of original openings. There are extensive remains of 18th - earlier 19th century lime render and mortar pointing and the interior is plastered, c.1920. The chancel roofs is slated gables; the nave, transept and aisle are roofed with later 20th century synthetic tiles and the tower roof was not seen..

The chancel east window is from c.1920, including the embrasure and infill, and has 2 cusped lights, with neo-Perpendicular tracery, in a 2-centred surround and drip-mould. The upper fifth of each side wall was rebuilt or heightened in the mid 19th century, with very poor pointing. there is a single cusped lancet in each wall, with a square surround, from c.1920 but within medieval embrasures. The south wall of the east bay features a shallow internal, square headed recess with a dog-legged eastern stop, externally represented by an area of blocking which lies above the 18th - early 19th century render; the whole represents the site of a former skew passage arch, blocked and adapted (for memorials) in the ?mid 19th century. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is an insertion, and is set back from the stops at the corners of chancel and nave; it may be either mid 19th century, or, like the upstand above, be from c.1920. The softwood roof is from c.1920 and has collar-rafter trusses arch-braced from wall-plates, matchboarded above. The sanctuary floor is tiled, from .1920, possibly over a burial vault; the remainder is flagged, from the early 19th century, worn, and including 2 contemporary memorial slabs.

The nave north wall has an external corbel table at eaves level, probably late 13th - early 14th century and which possibly carried a former parapet. The wall is pierced by a neo-Perpendicular, cusped 2-light window with sunk spandrels in a square surround and label, all from c.1920 with infill. Beneath it, an amorphous area of blocking is visible which may represent the site of a former north door. Internally, the north wall exhibits a rood-loft corbel in the west bay. The nave roof timbers are as the chancel, on contemporary wall-corbels; the line of a lower-pitched roof can be seen on the east wall of the tower. The nave is floored as the chancel, including burials.

The north transept is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch, from the 14th century. The junction of the transept east wall and the chancel north wall features a squinch at half-height, which is crude, lies beneath all finishes and appears truncated; it appears to represent the remains of a former skew-passage like that to the south (see below). In the east wall is a blocked, low, square window, the jambs of which can also be seen; the blocking lies beneath 18th - early 19th century render. The transept is now lit by a 2-light window in its north wall, like that in the nave and also c.1920, with infill, partly filling an earlier opening below sill level. It is entered from the churchyard through a doorway with plain, semicircular head and an internal timber lintel, post-1920?. Internally, the east wall features a small square recess, medieval?, piscina?. The transept has a plain, 2-centred barrel-vault, 14th century. The floor is boarded, c.1920, over a void. The transept is now used as a vestry.

The south aisle has very large, crude quoins and features some conglomerate rubble; the south wall has an external basal batter. It communicates with the nave through a 3-bayed arcade of plain, 2-centred arches on moulded, octagonal piers with chamfered abaci and square bases, from c.1500; the eastern pier, and the eastern 2 arches, were replaced (but not in imitation) in c.1920. The east wall may have belonged to a former south transept, swept away when the aisle was added in c.1500; the northern third features similar blocking to that in the chancel south wall, and a diagonal stone at the base of the southern end of this blocking, which are all derived from the former presence here of a skew passage. A window has been

inserted through the blocking, like that in the nave; the east bay south wall is lit by a similar window while a third lies in the west wall, and all are probably in imitation of original windows from c.1500. In the south wall of the west bay is a doorway with a 2-centred surround in chamfered limestone, weathered, from c.1500; to the east, the internal face exhibits a contemporary stoup with a square recess and a semi-octagonal bowl. The aisle is roofed and floored as the nave.

The west tower is in roughly coursed limestone rubble with external putlog holes, has detail from the early 16th century and comprises 3 storeys. It is slightly tapered and has the external batter up to a string-course typical of the region. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered from the nave through a low doorway with a 4-centred surround, early 16th century, and lit by simple loops some of which are blocked in cement. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch, with chamfered imposts, from the early 16th century. The west door has a 2-centred surround in chamfered limestone over which the string-course is carried as a 2-centred drip-mould. There is a plain, 2-centred barrel-vault. The floor is flagged as the nave and aisle, earlier 19th century. The second stage was lit by openings in 3 of its faces, all now blocked. That in the east wall is represented by a segmental arch and an amorphous area of blocking; there are 2 square openings, one above the other, in the both the south and west walls, with cement blocking. The belfry stage has a 2-light opening in the east wall, with a segmental outer arch, simple, chamfered, square limestone surrounds from the 16th century, blocked in the 20th century. A similar, blocked, single light opening lies in the north wall. The south wall is pierced by a louvered opening with a 16th century semicircular head, while the cement-blocked, 2-light opening in the west wall has a segmental outer arch and 2-centred heads with 16th century jambs but rebuilt heads. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table which was restored in c.1920; it does not extend around the stair turret which has been truncated, the base of a higher level parapet and corbel table being visible.

There is no external cutting or drain, but the yard has been truncated adjacent to, or debris has been cleared away from, the nave north wall. There is no evidence for floor level changes. There is no underfloor void (except in the transept?), but burial vaults lie beneath the chancel, and there are burials beneath the nave. External memorials lie significantly close to the east wall and the south aisle.

Structural development

The nave may be from the late 13th or early 14th century; the only close parallel for its external corbel table is in the chancel at Myddfai, in north-east Carmarthenshire. The chancel may be contemporary and formerly featured a 14th century window. The vaulted north transept is a 14th century addition; it formerly possessed a skew passage, and the evidence for a southern skew passage suggests that there was also a (contemporary?) south transept, ie. the 14th century church was cruciform. The south transept was absorbed by the south aisle which can be dated to c.1500. The west tower was added in the early 16th century.

There were 2 bells in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii). 'Ye bell' was rung in 1684 (Evans, 1917, 13) and just the one was present in 1887 (Robinson, 1887, 116-118), which had been recast in 1810.

The pre-restoration church is shown in an illustration, taken from the north-west, of 1887 (Robinson, 1887, 116-118), when some work had recently been undertaken, for it was described as having been "done up" lately, for such work cannot be called restoration in any sense'. This may provide a context for the heightening of the chancel and the removal and blocking of the southern skew-passage; the northern passage had been truncated and blocked at an earlier date (see above) while the blocking of the possible former north door cannot be closely dated. The west tower was as today, and the stair turret had already been truncated, but the openings were as yet unblocked; its floors were rotten and the belfry floor had gone. The nave and chancel were, unlike at present, roofed continuously, and the nave north wall was blind. The north transept was lit by what appears to be a medieval, uncusped 2-light window in its north

wall, and there was no doorway through its west wall. The interior was ceiled, and plastered, the plaster of both being in poor condition. the floors may be earlier 19th century (see above).

The church had still not been restored when visited by the Royal Commission in c.1917 (RCAHM, 1917, 167-8); remarkably, they described the church as 'devoid of antiquarian interest' then went on to describe the east window as '14th century, of 2 broad lights with an oval light above'. The cusped single lancets in the chancel north and south walls were also the original windows, while the south aisle east window, from c.1500, was similarly unrestored.

The church was eventually restored, probably around 1920 to judge from the fittings, but the date and architect responsible are not known. The east window, and north transept window, were replaced with the present neo-Perpendicular windows, evidently not in imitation of the originals (see above); the south aisle windows, and the chancel side windows, may however be copies of those already present. The nave north wall was given an entirely new window. The chancel arch, and 2 bays of the south aisle arcade, were rebuilt. The church was reroofed and replastered, but not refloored, and possibly not reseated. The plain transept door may be later.

A 17th - 18th century altar table was observed within the church in 1974 (Yates, 1974, 66); the present altar table is later 20th century. The softwood pews, with their freestanding board flooring, may predate the restoration of c.1920. The oak altar rail, in the Arts and Crafts tradition, is from c.1920 as may be the pulpit on an oolite base, and the transept vestry screen. The softwood tower screen may be mid 20th century.

The simple font has an octagonal bowl, stem and base, late medieval?, or post-medieval?.

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

A statuette lying loose in the south aisle stoup is thought to be a weeper from the 15th century tomb of Sir Rhys ap Thomas in St Peters Church, Carmarthen, acquired during its restoration in 1865 (Baker-Jones, 1963, 119); it had reached Llangynin by 1887 (Robinson, 1887, 116-118). On of the south door jambs was thought to be derived from an inscribed stone, but the inscription has now gone (ibid.).

SITE HISTORY

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

St Cynin, Llangynin, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of St Clears parish in the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. It appears to have been a possession of the Cluniacs at St Clears Priory.

Llangynin had become a parish by 1833 when the living, a perpetual curacy, was endowed with £800 royal bounty; the right of presentation was in dispute between the joint patrons, who were the Vicar of St Clears and J.L. Philipps, the patron of St Clears (Lewis, 1833).

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

'St Cynin' is also found in the form 'St Cymyn' in the original dedication of the nearby Eglwys Gymyn, Carmar..

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**ST CEINWR,
LLANGYNWR,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 1736

RB No. 3526

NGR SN 4301 2027

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south chapel/vestry, 2 bays; south aisle, 4 bays; west porch; all medieval. Vestry (south), 1 bay, later 19th century. Coalhouse/boilerhouse (east of vestry), early 20th century. Limestone and ORS rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs' boilerhouse with slate lean-to roof. Medieval chancel arch, arcades, and rebuilt doors; rebuilt medieval window openings?; medieval porch vault. Western single bellcote, (re)built in post-medieval period. Early 19th century window openings and Classical arcade. Mid 19th century window tracery, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings.
(Early 19th century box pews.)

Roofs and floors: early 19th century. Finishes: 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential -good-very good. External cutting around 100% of church, deep around 50%, primary; ?shallow external drain around 100% of church.; underfloor void and ?burial vaults; external memorials significantly close to 15% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 80% medieval core fabric; medieval arcades, rebuilt doors and ?windows.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church in hilltop location; large churchyard; ?ECM.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - South aisle, C13?

Phase 2 - South chapel/vestry, C14?

Phase 3 - Nave, early C15?

Phase 4 - Chancel west bay, west porch, later C15?

Phase 5 - Chancel east bay, C16

Phase 6 - Restored early C19, high impact, nave/aisle arcade rebuilt.

Phase 7 - Restored 1840s, low impact.

Phase 8 - restored late C19, medium impact; vestry built

Phase 9 - Boilerhouse, early 20th century.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Ceinwr, Llangynwr, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 80% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel (formerly north chapel), a 3-bayed nave (formerly north aisle), a 2-bayed south chapel/vestry (formerly chancel), a 4-bayed south aisle (formerly nave), a west porch, a single-bayed transeptal vestry south of the chancel east bay and a coalhouse/boilerhouse east of the vestry. Construction is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble throughout; dressings are mainly grey oolite and from the 1840s but there was extensive use of brick heads in c.1816. Pointing is mainly cement-ribboned and from the 20th century; the interior is plastered except in the west porch. Roofs are slated gables; the coalhouse/boilerhouse has a slated lean-to roof.

The chancel east window opening has a 2-centred brick head from c.1816; the cusped, 3-light window is from the ?1840s when the lower half of the opening was blocked. There is an uncusped 2-light window, and a double-lancet window, in the north wall; both are from the later 19th century but may use earlier openings. The arcade into the south chapel/vestry is from 2 phases; the west bay is a chamfered 4-centred arch from the earlier 15th century while the east bay is a plain segmental arch from the later 15th century when the chancel (originally a north chapel) was extended. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is medieval. The roof timbers were not seen but the plaster ceiling, of 4 cants, is from the early 19th century. The artificial flag floor is later 20th century.

The nave walls have a slight external batter and there is a shallow, medieval buttress at the north end of the east wall. The 3 north wall windows have openings like the chancel east window, from c.1816, with 2 cusped lights from the 1840s; the west window tracery is like the chancel east window but within a masonry-headed opening, all from the 1840s. The arcade into the south aisle is of 3 bays, with Classical columns on square bases supporting a plain pediment, all from the early 19th century. Ceiled as the chancel, early 19th century, but with a semicircular profile. The passages are flagged as the chancel, later 20th century; the suspended board floors are presumably contemporary with the early 19th century seating.

The south chapel/vestry has an east window like the chancel east window, but of 2 lights and similarly in an opening of c.1816. The south wall features the vestry door which may be a medieval priest's door; it appears to be pre-19th century. In the same wall is a window like the 2-light chancel north wall window, from the later 19th century. The arch into the south aisle is like the chancel arch, medieval. Ceiled as the chancel. The quarry tile floor may be later 19th century.

The south aisle is lit by 4 windows in the south wall, like the nave windows but with simple Y-tracery from the 1840s. The west door has a chamfered 2-centred surround, in Old Red Sandstone, of 14th century appearance but probably rebuilt in the 19th century. There is a large, gabled, single bellcote at the west end

with a semicircular headed opening, rebuilt from a double bellcote after the 16th century. Ceiled and floored as the nave.

The west porch is medieval. The doorway is similar to the nave west door but re-uses a voussoir of definite medieval date; there is an external square recess above, medieval?. There is a cusped single-light window in each side wall, mid-late 19th century but possibly in medieval openings. The gabled roof lies above a semicircular-profile barrel-vault, medieval. There are no internal finishes. The flagged floor lies directly on the substrate and is 20th century.

The vestry is later 19th century and has an external oolite basal offset. There is a double lancet window in the south, gable wall like that in the chancel north wall. The west wall doorway has a concrete surround from the 1990s. The lean-to boilerhouse lies against its east wall and has a plain square doorway in its south wall; it is all from the early 20th century.

The entire church lies within a cutting through the shale bedrock, which is very deep and wide in the west half and along the north wall; the cutting is primary but the present concrete and breeze-block revetment is later 20th century. A shallow, covered external drain runs around the church. There is no evidence for changes in floor level. There is an underfloor void and the suggestion of burial vaults below. External memorials lie significantly close to the east walls.

Structural development

The south aisle (former nave) may be 13th century but lacks detail, the south chapel/vestry (former chancel) possibly an addition of the 14th century. The nave (former north aisle) was probably added in the earlier 15th century though all detail has now gone. The west porch and chancel (former north chapel) west bay may also be 15th century; the east bay of the chancel being an addition of the 16th century.

Griffiths & Griffiths, 1992, state that 'the church is dated from 1661' but do not cite their source. There were 2 bells, presumably within a double bellcote, in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii); the present bellcote is single.

The church was in 'sufficient repair' in 1672 (Anon., 1919, 213). Windows were repaired in 1810 and the west porch door was replaced in 1813 (Carms. R. O., CPR/3/22). A lime-house apparently adjoined the church and was rebuilt in 1827 (ibid.); it has now gone.

The demolition of the arcade between the nave and aisle and its replacement with Classical columns may belong to what appears to have been a major building campaign in 1815-28 (ibid.). A mason was paid for 'putting up the pillar' in 1828, while 'bricks' were used in 1816, possibly representing the refenestration of the church with the present brick-headed windows, which were then timber-framed. The present ceilings were in place by at least 1849 (Carms. R. O., CPR/3/23).

'Rebuilding' is referred to in accounts from the 1840s (ibid.), and the provision of 'centres for the gothic windows' when the present window surrounds were inserted.

The vestry appears to have been added rather later in the 19th century, which appears to represent the date that the nave and chancel were moved to the north half of the church, the south chapel was refloored and the organ introduced (see below). There was some refenestration in the chancel and south chapel

The passages and chancel were refloored with artificial flags in the later 20th century.

The early 19th century bow-pews have been retained, along with the contemporary ceilings, commandment plaques and creed, *temp.* the nave arcade (Yates, 1974, 66, 73). The large pipe-organ is from 1890. The pulpit is dated 1969.

The limestone font has a square bowl and base, with a cylindrical stem, and is 13th century in date.

A stone with an incised Greek cross has been reset in a recess in the west porch; it may be post-Conquest.

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Ceinwr, Llangynwr, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Kidwelly. According to Rees, 1932, the advowson was in the hands of the Lord of Maenor Cunnor, but in 1833 the patron was the Bishop of St Davids, the living being a discharged vicarage rated in the king's books at £3, endowed with £200 private benefaction and £200 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Ceinwr, Llangynwr, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Cwmffrwd (Benefice no. 686) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Carmarthen (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Sheet XXXIX.7.

NLW, Parish of Llangynwr, Tithe Map, 1841.

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

Church in Wales Records

Griffiths, W.H., & Griffiths, W., 1992, Quinquennial Report, Llangynwr.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/376, Faculty - Memorial tablet, 1918.

NLW, SD/F/377, Faculty - Stained glass window, 1919.

NLW, SD/F/378, Faculty - Stained glass window, 1921.

**ST CYNOG,
LLANGYNOG,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 2174

RB No. 3703

NGR SN 3384 1472

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 75% pre-19th century core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; medieval. South chapel, 1 bay; south aisle, 4 bays; 17th century?. South porch; vestry (north of chancel), 1 bay, c.1880. Coal-cellar (north of nave), 20th century. Limestone and ORS rubble construction; remains of pre 19th century external pointing and internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Blocked west door, medieval. South aisle arcade (and chancel and chapel arches?), 17th century?. Other openings mainly from the mid 19th century and from c.1880, neo-Gothic, with yellow and grey oolite dressings. Western bellcote, elaborate, c.1880.

Roofs and floors: c.1880. Finishes: ?18th - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Slight, regular earthwork platform beneath 25% of church, primary, shallow, concrete external drain around 10% of church; slight cutting around 5% of church; below-ground floor in 5% of church; suspended floors over a void in 60% of church; external memorials significantly close to 20% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 75% pre-19th century core fabric; blocked medieval door; ?17th century arcades.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church, in hilltop location; circular churchyard; associated cropmark enclosures.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13?

Phase 2 - Chancel, C14?

Phase 3 - South aisle and south chapel (west half?), C17.

Phase 4 - Restored mid C19, low impact.

Phase 5 - Restored c.1880, high impact; vestry and south porch built.

Phase 6 - Coal-cellar, early-mid C20.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Cynog, Llangynog, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 75% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed south chapel, a 4-bayed south aisle, a south porch, and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay. There is also a below-ground coal-cellar north of the nave. Construction is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble. There are some medieval openings but dressings are mainly from the mid-19th century and from c.1880, neo-Gothic, in yellow and grey oolite. The nave retains some pre-19th century pointing but the exterior is mainly ribbon-pointed from c.1880, with some 20th century repointing; the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables throughout. There are good late Victorian finishes in the south chapel.

The chancel east gable was rebuilt above eaves level in c.1880. The east window is all from c.1880 and has 3 lights with elaborately cusped 'curvilinear' tracery beneath a 2-centred drip-mould. The north wall is pierced by a 2-light window with simple 'curvilinear' tracery and a hoodmould on ballflower stops, all similarly from c.1880. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is without detail but may be 17th century? or a rebuild of the mid 19th century? (see below). The simple, softwood collar-rafter roof is matchboarded above, all c.1880. The floor has good patterned tiles, from 1880.

The nave north wall is in very random rubble with pre-19th century pointing. It is lit by three 2-light windows with segmental outer arches; the eastern 2 are in brick while the western is in stone, but all are probably mid 19th century, with infill. Each contains a simple, uncusped 2-light window with sunk spandrels in a segmental surround, all probably contemporary with the openings and mid 19th century. Between the eastern windows is a tall, rectangular area of blocking, in cement, which may represent the repointing of an older blocked opening. In the nave west wall is a blocked doorway with a plain, rounded, 2-centred head but no surround, from the 13th century?. Much of the west gable was rebuilt in c.1880 with a contemporary elaborate bellcote; the bellcote is in yellow oolite ashlar, with stepped corbels from the west wall, and coped back to a gabled 'turret' with a 2-centred opening in all 4 faces, partly cusped. The nave is roofed as the chancel, and at the same level, c.1880. The passages are quarry-tiled over a void, with suspended board floors, all c.1880.

The south chapel communicates with the chancel via a depressed, segmental-pointed arch with a wide, chamfered section, from c.1880; its eastern respond is a plain stop, but to the west it lies upon a massive, double-cylindrical oolite pier, from c.1880 and with a simple abacus and torus. It also communicates with the south aisle, through a plain, 2-centred arch very like the chancel arch, also 17th century?, or rebuilt?; the northern respond is represented by the double-pier described above, which is here an insertion. Externally, the chapel displays very large quoins. The eastern gable was largely rebuilt in c.1880 like that in the chancel, with a similar, 2-light window. The south wall is pierced by a single, cusped lancet, also from c.1880; to the east a large, segmental-headed, blocked window is visible externally, possibly from the mid-19th century and blocked in c.1880. There appears to be a vertical joint in the centre of this wall,

corresponding to the east end of an external earthwork platform (see below). Roofed and floored as the chancel.

The south aisle communicates with the chancel west bay, and with the nave, through an arcade of 4 plain, depressed, segmental-pointed arches on equally plain square piers, with slight chamfers. They may be post-medieval, 17th century?. The south wall is pierced by 3 windows like those in the nave, mid 19th century. In the west bay is the south door, which has a chamfered 2-centred surround probably from c.1880; the west window is like that in the south chapel but with ogival heads and also from c.1880.

The south porch was added in c.1880 and is in snecked, 'rustic' limestone rubble. The 2-centred doorway has a contemporary, double-chamfered surround and there is an uncusped, wide single lancet in each of the side walls. The softwood roof lacks trusses and is matchboarded, also from c.1880 as is the quarry-tiled floor laid directly on the substrate. The vestry is of similar construction and is contemporary. It is lit by 2 cusped single-lancets in its north wall, and entered from the churchyard through a doorway in its west wall with a semicircular surround, in chamfered oolite, which may be later. Roofed and floored as the porch.

There is a slight, regular earthwork platform beneath both the chancel and south aisle. A shallow, concrete external drain runs along the south aisle south wall. The external coal cellar against the nave north wall is entirely below ground, with low masonry walls and a concreted flat-roof with iron doors; a slight cutting leads away westwards. Floors are suspended over a void in the nave and south aisle. External memorials, including a family tomb, lie significantly close to the east and west walls.

Structural development

The church is difficult to date precisely in the absence of detail. The nave, however, may be 13th century, along with its blocked west door. The long chancel may have been added or extended in the 14th century. The south aisle arcade may be 17th century, and there is no joint between the aisle and the south chapel suggesting that both may be 17th century; however, the east half of the chapel may be a later extension lying beyond a possible joint and the terminus of the external platform. Both the aisle/chapel arch, and the chancel arch, may also be 17th century, or rebuilds of the mid 19th century. The vestry and south porch are 19th century.

There was some restoration in the mid 19th century when the nave and aisle received their present fenestration.

The church was restored again c.1880 (RCAHM, 1917, 171-2) but the exact date, and the architect responsible, are unknown. The south porch and vestry were added. The chancel and end walls were refenestrated, and the south chapel arch was rebuilt. The south door was probably rebuilt. the bellcote was (re)built. The church was reroofed, refloored, reseated and replastered. The external vestry door may be later.

The coal-cellar was excavated in the early-mid 20th century.

The chancel fittings, the softwood pews and pulpit are all probably from c.1880. The south chapel, known as the 'Coombe Chapel', is decorated with a combination of painted tiles with a mosaic infill forming a distinctive mural, from the late 19th century. This was in rather poor condition 16/5/96 but it was understood that grant-aid for its restoration had been applied for.

The font has an octagonal bowl and stem, and is modern, probably from c.1880.

The church was not listed in 1998.

RCAHM, 1917, Inventory: Carmarthenshire.

Salter, M., 1994, The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales.

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