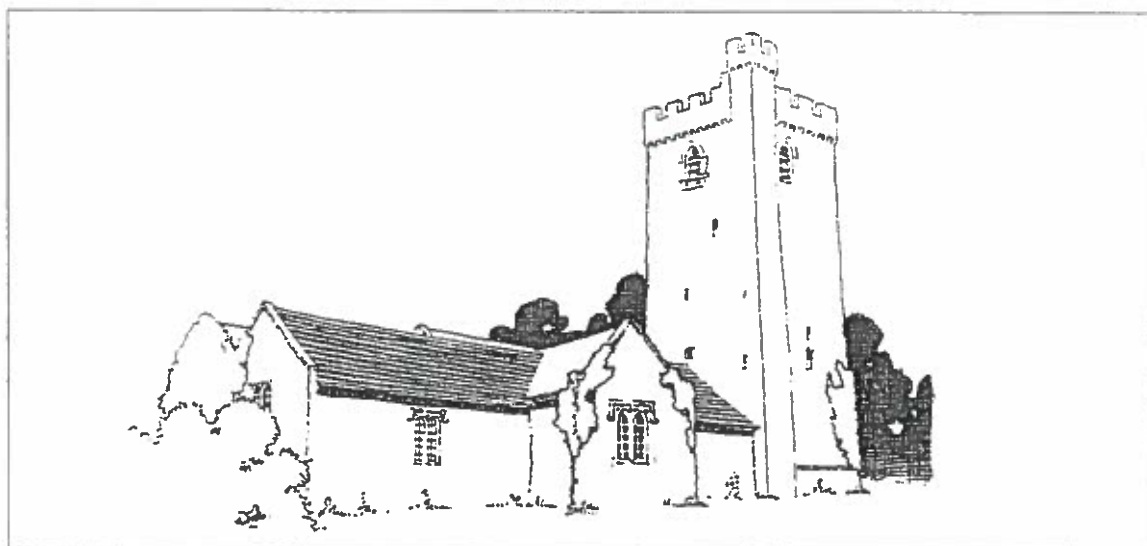


THE WELSH HISTORIC
CHURCHES PROJECT

01/09/98

CARMARTHENSHIRE CHURCHES, 1996-7
(DAT 48)

PART 4: LLANLLAWDDOG - LLANYCRWYS



Llanstephan, Carmarthenshire

Reports prepared for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments
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THE WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

CARMARTHENSHIRE CHURCHES, 1996-7 (DAT 48)

PART 4: LLANLLAWDDOG - LLANYCRWYS

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**ST LLAWDDOG,
LLANLLAWDDOG,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 5367

RB No. 3496

NGR SN 4578 2942

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and in same location as, medieval church (PRN 12685).

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; vestry (north), 1 bay; all 1848-9. West porch, 1940s. Construction is in local rubble. Slate gable roofs. Openings mainly from 1848-9 and neogothic, in limestone; western single bellcote, 1848-9.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1848 - 1940s.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Very shallow external cutting around 30% of church; suspended floors in 60% of church?; external memorials lie significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-1848 core fabric.

Group value - medium. C19 landmark church; large churchyard with good memorials; associated pound.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave and vestry, 1848-9.

Phase 2 - West porch, 1940s.

DESCRIPTION

St Llawddog, Llanllawddog, is 3-celled church, of small size. It was (re)built in 1848-9, on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor (PRN 12685), but retaining nothing from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a west porch and a transeptal, single-bayed vestry north of the chancel. Construction is in roughly coursed local rubble; the interior is plastered. All dressings are in limestone and from 1848-9, except in the west porch; the openings are neo-gothic. A simple, gabled single bellcote lies on the west end, from 1848-9. The roofs are slated gables.

The earlier church was described in 1796 as 'small and simple, the door and windows of good freestone... but of rude masonry' (Anon., 1921, 20). There was a western gallery reached by an external staircase, and the walls were whitewashed within and without (Williams, 1915, 81). A bell was present in 1705 (Evans, 1917(i), 32). In 1720 the floor was uneven, but the roof and windows were in 'good repair' (Evans, 1921, 13).

The church was entirely rebuilt in 1848-9, to the designs of the architect Collard (Williams, 1915, 81). The chancel was refitted in 1910 (NLW, SD/F/401) and the west porch was added in the 1940s (Griffiths & Lewis, 1992, 1). There appear to have been no subsequent major alterations.

The octagonal font may be 17th century (RCAHM, 1917).

There is a very shallow external cutting along the north wall of the nave. Floors may be suspended in the nave and vestry. Many external memorials lie significantly close to all walls.

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 Llawddog, Llanllawddog, was not a parish church during the medieval period but a chapelry of Abergwili parish in the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen which was appropriated to St Davids Cathedral. It is mentioned 1148-76 (Williams, 1915, 81).

Llanllawddog was a parish by 1787 (ibid.) but 1833 the living was still in the patronage of the Vicar of Abergwili (Lewis, 1833). The living was a perpetual curacy endowed with £800 royal bounty.

In 1998 St Llawddog, Llanllawddog, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanpumsaint (Benefice no. 682) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Carmarthen (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST MARY,
LLANLLWCH,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 5241

RB No. 3704

NGR SN 3585 1878

Listed Building No. 9495

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 70% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. North aisle, 3 bays, 1860. Vestry (transeptal, south of chancel), 1 bay over below-ground heating chamber, 1924. Remains of 18th century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; west tower roof not seen. Tower openings, blocked south door and chancel south door, medieval. Early 19th century chancel arch?, and blocked openings in chancel. Other openings mainly from 1860 and neo-gothic, an arcade and windows with yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs: mainly 1860. Floors: mainly 1924. Finishes: 18th century - later 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Revetted cutting around 20% of church, primary; floors lowered in 50%-60% of church; floors suspended over a void in 50% of church; below-ground floor in 10% of church; external memorials lie significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 70% medieval core fabric; medieval tower openings and blocked south doors.

Group value - medium-high. Medieval landmark church with tower; lych-gate.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, C13-14

Phase 2 - West tower, later C15.

Phase 3 - Restored 1860, high impact; north aisle and vestry built.

Phase 4 - Vestry rebuilt 1924.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Mary, Llanllwch, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 70% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 3-bayed north aisle, a 3-storeyed west tower, and a single-bayed transeptal vestry, over a below-ground heating chamber, south of the chancel. Construction is in limestone rubble, the 19th century work snecked; dressings are in yellow oolite, neo-gothic and largely from 1860. There are remains of 18th century external render in the chancel, and pointing from both 1860 and the later 20th century. The interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen..

The cusped, 3-light chancel east window is all from 1860, with infill, and has simple curvilinear tracery. The south wall features a single cusped lancet, also from 1860 including infill but possibly occupying a medieval embrasure; to the west is a low, 2-centred doorway, medieval, but now leading to the vestry. Beneath the east window is an area of blocking between brick stops, descending to ground level and inserted through the render; former door? (doubtful in this location?), early 19th century. A blocked window in the north wall has a 2-centred brick head also inserted through the render, early 19th century. The chancel arch is plain and 2-centred but probably not medieval, early 19th century?. The chancel has a softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling, with matchboarding, all from 1860. The passages are tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1860.

The nave is lit by 2 windows in the south wall, both like the chancel east window but with 2 lights and a dripmould, all from 1860. The western of the 2 windows interrupts a blocked medieval south door. The nave roof is concealed behind a flat, moulded plaster ceiling, from 1860. The passages are fully carpeted, but probably woodblocked and from 1924, with suspended board floors.

The west tower is from the later 15th century, comprises 3 storeys but is rather smaller than the majority in the region. There is an external batter up to a string-course, but the spiral stair is housed in a turret that lies on a corbel-table over the string-course and on the east side of the north wall, barely projecting beyond the wall face. The west door is plain, square-headed and late 15th century but partly rebuilt. The ground floor communicated with the nave through a plain 2-centred arch, late 15th century, which has been blocked and now features a plain, square doorway, 20th century. A recess to the north, high in the nave west wall, represents the doorway to the tower staircase, formerly reached by a timber stair. It now has a suspended timber ceiling, and a quarry-tiled floor possibly from 1924. The second storey was lit by a large, 2-centred light in the west wall, blocked after 1913 (Milner, 1914), and a slit-light in the south wall. The belfry stage has large, single, square openings with simple surrounds, from the later 15th century, in all 4 walls but the western opening has been blocked. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table, all from the later 15th century but the crenellations have 20th century copings.

The north aisle was added in 1860, in snecked rubble with oolite quoins and a low, external oolite offset. It communicates with the nave via an arcade of 3 moulded, 2-centred arches in cylindrical piers; to the west is a narrower, lower arch also from 1860. The east and west walls are pierced by windows like those in the nave but uncusped, while there are 2 similar windows in the north wall, single-light and 3-light respectively; all are from 1860. The softwood aisle roof has arch-braced, king-post trusses, from 1860. The passages are woodblocked, with suspended board floors, from 1924.

The vestry is a 1924 replacement of a slightly smaller vestry built in 1860 and includes a below-ground heating chamber. There is a doorway in the east wall with a concrete lintel, from 1924, and a window in the south wall with a similar lintel but a housing a re-used 2-light neo-Perpendicular window from 1860. A blocked fireplace in the north-west corner leads to a plain, square chimney, also from 1924. The gabled roof is concealed behind a matchboard ceiling, from 1924.

A revetted cutting runs around the west end of the church and around the north-west corner, probably primary. The nave and north aisle (and tower?) floors were lowered in 1924, and are suspended over a void in the nave and aisle. The heating chamber is below ground. External memorials lie significantly close to the east and south walls.

Structural development

The chancel and nave may be 13th or 14th century, but cannot be closely dated. The west tower is late 15th century. The north aisle was added in 1860, along with a vestry that was taken down in 1924 and replaced with the present vestry and heating chamber.

The church had apparently become disused at some point prior to 1710, when it was reported that the roof was 'intirely destry'd' (Lodwick and Lodwick, 1994, 395). The following year it was ordered that £30 be given to repairing the church (Evans, 1912, 21) and it has been suggested that there was considerable further 18th century rebuilding (RCAHM, 1917, 260). The church had been brought back into use by 1833 when Samuel Lewis described it as 'not distinguished by any remarkable architectural features'; there are a number of blocked early 19th century openings.

The church was restored in 1860 (RCAHM, 1917, 260) when the north aisle was built. A vestry was added on the site of, but smaller than, the present vestry. The church was refenestrated, reroofed and refloored.

The vestry was rebuilt to a larger plan, over a heating chamber, in 1924 (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/61). At the same time, the nave and aisle (and tower?) floors were lowered.

The softwood stalls are from 1860. The reredos and panelled dado in the chancel may be early 20th century. The organ and pulpit are from 1935 (Carms. R. O., CPR/16/61). The oak stalls are mid 20th century.

The font has a small octagonal bowl on a tall octagonal stem, all post-medieval.

The church was Grade II* listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Mary, Llanllwch, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapel-of-ease to the Parish of Carmarthen St Peter, in the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen.

The church was 'disus'd' in 1710 (Lodwick and Lodwick, 1994, 395). In 1833 the living was a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the Vicar of Carmarthen St Peter (Lewis, 1833). Llanllwch was elevated to parish church status in 1843 (James, 1980, 54).

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

The dedication appears always to have been to St Mary; the 'llwch' element of the place name probably referring to the nearby tract of bog (Yates, 1972, 52).

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**ST LUKE or ST LLONIO,
LLANLLWNI,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 1833

RB No. 2742

NGR SN 5496 3470

Listed Building No. 9378

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; west tower, 4 storeys; medieval Vestry (north of chancel), 2 bays, later 19th century. Local rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; west tower with a flat lead roof. Chancel arch and rood-loft door, chancel brackets and aumbry, west tower vault and openings (including doors), blocked nave window, medieval. All other openings later 19th century and neo-gothic, mainly windows with yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs: mainly 1934. Floors: later 19th century. Finishes: ?post-medieval and 1934.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Made-up ground beneath 20% of church, secondary; deep, wide external cutting around 10% of church exposing footings; shallow-medium external cutting around 60% of church; floor secondarily raised in 40% of church?; above underfloor heating chamber and flues; few external memorials significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% medieval core fabric; medieval chancel arch and openings, tower openings and vault, blocked windows; remains of post-medieval internal finish?.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower, in hilltop location above steep valley; very large churchyard; lych-gate; boundary wall 'turret'; associated masonry buildings; adjacent cist cemetery; adjacent motte.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, C13-14

Phase 2 - West tower, early C16.

Phase 3 - Nave south wall rebuilt 1811.

(Phase 4 - Schoolroom on site of vestry, 1827)

Phase 5 - Restored later 19th century, medium-high impact; vestry built.

Phase 6 - Restored 1934, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Luke or St Llonio, Llanllwni, is a 3-celled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 80% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 4-storeyed west tower, and a 2-bayed transeptal vestry north of the chancel. Construction is in local Silurian rubble throughout (Clive-Powell, 1996, 1); dressings are sandstone and yellow oolite, largely from the later 19th century. Pointing is from the late 19th century, extensively repointed in the 20th century, 1934?. The interior is plastered, and there are the remains of earlier (post-medieval?) plaster. Roofs are slated gables; the tower has a flat lead roof.

The 3-light chancel east window is uncusped, beneath a square, 'Tudor', moulded dripmould, from the later 19th century. There is a square, deeply splayed medieval light in the north wall, 13th -14th century, unblocked in 1827; the western half of this wall is entirely open to the vestry, opened in the later 19th century. There are 2 windows in the south wall; both may have medieval openings but the surrounds are later 19th century, comprising a simple square surround in the east window and a 2-light 'Tudor' surround in the west window. The east wall displays internal stone brackets either side of the window, medieval, for a former altar beam or statuary, and there is a simple, square medieval aumbry in the south wall; there is no evidence for the two stone 'credences' noted in the north wall by RCAHM, 1917. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is medieval, 13th -14th century; immediately to the north is a high, narrow 2-centred doorway that led to the former rood-loft; the steps up from the east were removed when the vestry was constructed in the later 19th century. A ?softwood collar-rafter roof, probably from 1934, is concealed by a pitch-pine ceiling from 1934. The flagged floor and tiled sanctuary may both be later 19th century, flags re-used?.

The nave south wall was rebuilt in regular rubble in 1811, and the whole was heightened in the later 19th century. There is a plain raking buttress at the east end of the north wall, medieval. There are 2 windows in the north wall and 3 in the south wall, all plain, single lancets from the later 19th century; there is the outline of a blocked, 2 -centred window in the west end of the north wall, ?medieval. The softwood king-post roof trusses have collars braced from wall corbels, all from 1934. The floor is flagged as the chancel, re-used in the later 19th century?, and includes an underground chamber for a former 'Porritt's' stove.

The vestry is from the later 19th century but occupies the site of a schoolroom from 1827. There are wide, plain single lancets in the east wall, a blocked fireplace with a square chimney in the north wall and a plain 2-centred doorway in the west wall, all later 19th century. The west wall projects westwards to form a small annexe with a window like those in the east wall. The softwood gabled roof is without trusses and from the later 19th century. The concrete floor is late 19th century.

The west tower is from the earlier 16th century, comprises 4 storeys and is rather larger than the majority in the region (but cf. Llanwenog and Llanybydder). A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a simple, square, 16th century doorway and lit by simple square slits of similar date. There is an external batter up to a string-course. The west door is 2-centred, 16th century; above it lies a cusped 2-light window beneath a square dripmould of similar date. The ground floor has a 2-centred barrel-vault with 2 bellports. It communicated with the nave through a blocked, plain 2-centred arch, 16th century; a segmental doorway and a 2-centred window have been inserted through the blocking, blocking and openings also 16th century?, the window blocking has an inserted circular opening, 19th century?. It is floored as the nave. The second and third storeys are lit by few simple 16th century slit-lights. The belfry stage has 16th century, uncusped single-light openings, with semicircular heads, in the east, west and south walls, and a square-headed opening in the north wall; the southern opening has been blocked, and there is a Caernarfon headed surround in the eastern opening from 1934.. The parapet lies on an external corbel table, at a higher level around the turret .

There is made-up ground to the north of the church, and beneath the vestry, secondary? contemporary with vestry/former schoolroom?. Deep, wide external cutting around east end of church, partly primary, secondarily deepened (but pre-vestry) exposing footings. Shallow earth-cut external cutting along north wall, medium depth along south wall with shallow drain. The nave floor may have been raised in the 19th century. There is an underfloor heating chamber and flues. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the south wall.

Structural development

The chancel and nave may be 13th or 14th century. The west tower is early 16th century. The vestry is from the later 19th century. There were 2 bells in the tower in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii), there is now only one.

In 1705 the windows and bell (singular) were 'out of repair' (Evans, 1918, 25); in 1710 the chancel roof was to be slated, the church walls to be rendered, the floor made even and the windows to be glazed (Evans, 1908, 54). In 1720 the (west) door, tower windows and chancel were all in disrepair (Evans, 1921(i), 13). Later in the century the roof was 'shortly to be repaired' (Evans, 1917, 14) but otherwise the church was 'cleanly and decently kept'. A Faculty to reseal the church was sought in 1782 (Evans, 1919, 45).

There was some rebuilding/restoration in 1811 when the nave south wall was rebuilt, apparently removing a former south door (Clive-Powell, 1996, 2); this work may represent the £200 recorded, in 1837, as having been spent 'long ago' (Evans, 1908, 61). A western gallery was erected in 1825 (Evans, 1908, 55) and a schoolhouse was built on the site of the present vestry in 1827 (RCAHM, 1917); it is shown on the tithe map of 1842 (NLW, Llanllwni, 1842).

The church was further restored in the later 19th century (ibid.), shortly before 1878 (Anon., 1878, 345). The restoration was of medium-high impact; the schoolhouse was demolished and the present vestry constructed, removing the former rood-loft stair. It was refenestrated, refloored (with a heating chamber and 'Porritt's' stove) and probably reroofed.

The church was sympathetically restored in 1934 (Yates, 1974, 73), in an 'Arts & Crafts' manner to the designs of the architect W. E. Ellery Anderson, of Cheltenham (NLW, SD/F/404). The restoration was low-impact; the western gallery was removed, the present roofs were installed, and the present finishes introduced. In addition, the tower windows were renewed.

In 1917 the medieval, cross-incised altar-slab was reinstalled, having previously been used as a seat outside the west door (Anon., 1917, 81; RCAHM, 1917). The softwood, free-standing stalls and pews are later 19th century, along with the wainscot dado in the nave. The pulpit may be from 1934.

The limestone font has an square bowl and stem from the 13th- 14th century.

A carved fragment of alabaster ?reliquary, representing an angel, was apparently found in the church and exhibited in 1855 (Philipps, 1855, 311; Wray, 1870, 137)

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

A cist cemetery was apparently discovered within the area occupied by the present, extended cemetery in 1877 (Anon., 1878, 345).

SITE HISTORY

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

St Luke or St Llonio, Llanllwni, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. The church and living were possessions of the Bishops of St Davids, but in 1291 the parishioners assigned their portion of the parish and glebe to the Augustinian Priory of St John at Carmarthen (Anon., 1915, 14), licensed by Edward II in 1308 (ibid.). The church was fully alienated to the priory by Bishop Gower in 1333 (ibid.). After the dissolution the tithes were obtained by the Bishop of Lincoln and were not restored to the parish until 1883 (Evans, 1908, 54).

By 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage, with the chapelry of Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn annexed, 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 Luke or St Llonio, Llanllwni, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanybydder and Llanwenog (no Benefice no.) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication was given as 'St Llwni' (St Llonio) in 1786 (Evans, 1908, 54), traditionally a follower of St Illtud.

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Map Evidence

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(CPR/105 - Llanllwni)

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**ST NON,
LLANNON,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 664

RB No. 2748

NGR SN 5397 0847

Listed Building No. 11871

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 60% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south aisle (united with nave), 3 bays, west tower, 3 storeys; all medieval. Vestry (south), 1 bay and 2 storeys (inc. boilerhouse) later 19th century. Local rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster from 1841. Slate gable roofs; vestry with a slate lean-to roof; tower roof not seen. Medieval arcade gone, bases below floor level. West tower including openings, west window, chancel arch and tomb recess, medieval. Angle buttresses and ceiling, 1841. All other openings mainly later 19th century. 18th - early 19th century burial vaults.

Roofs and floors, 1841 - 20th century. Finishes, later 19th century.

Condition - fair-good. Damp; internal plaster actively falling (20/8/1996).

Archaeological potential - very good. Shallow cutting around 15% of church, primary?; floors raised by 1m over earlier surfaces; burial vaults below 85% of church, below churchyard ground level; external memorial significantly close to 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 60% medieval core fabric; medieval west tower, chancel arch, window and tomb recess.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower; central village location; large churchyard with good memorials; good C19 boundary wall and entries.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, C13-14?

(Phase 2 - Former north and south transepts, C14-15?)

Phase 3 - South aisle, c.1500.

Phase 4 - West tower, early C16.

Phase 5 - Restored 1841, high impact; transepts and arcade removed, church partly rebuilt.

Phase 6 - Restored later C19 (before 1863?), high impact; vestry built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Non, Llannon, is a multicell church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 60% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 3-bayed south aisle, a single-bayed, 2-storey vestry/boilerhouse south of the chancel west bay, and a 3-storey west tower. North (and south) transept(s) were formerly present. Construction is in local rubble throughout. The external pointing is 19th century; there has been some later repointing. The interior is plastered, some of it from 1841 and over re-used roofing slate. The arcade between the nave and south aisle was removed in 1841. Roofs are slated gables, the nave and south aisle roofed as one unit; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof; the west tower roof was not seen.

The chancel east wall has an angle buttress at each corner, from 1841. The 3-light east window has Perpendicular tracery from the later 19th century; the lower half was blocked in 1929 when the reredos was installed. A single lancet into the roof space above may be from 1841. There may be a blocked (?medieval) window in the north wall. There is a 20th century doorway into the vestry in the south wall. The plain 2-centred chancel arch may be medieval; a low chimney above leads from underfloor flues probably belonging to the 20th century like the boilerhouse. The 4-centre profiled ceiling is defined by timber framing from 1841; the roof above apparently has king-post trusses, also from 1841? (Griffiths & Griffiths, 1995, 3). The floor is from the 1970s renovation; the level was raised by 1m in 1841 and lies above 18th-19th century burial vaults.

The nave eastern gable, above eaves level, was entirely rebuilt, with a lancet into the roof space, in 1841 when the south aisle was absorbed and the former arcade was removed. The north wall has angle buttresses like the chancel, from 1841, and 3 windows like the chancel east window but with 2 lights and transoms, inserted, with infill, in the later 19th century. The nave and south aisle are roofed as one, with a king-post roof? (Griffiths & Griffiths, 1995, 3) and a flat plaster ceiling on tie-beams, from 1841; the former nave roof-line is visible within the tower (Rev. T. Hewitt, pers. comm.). The nave is floored as the chancel, 1m above burial vaults and the truncated bases of the former arcade piers.

The south aisle east wall may originally have been the side wall of a transept, later absorbed; an external string-course occupies its southern end and may have extended further south into a longer transept. A medieval tomb recess can be seen internally, partly obscured by the raised floor. There is a window in the east wall, and 3 in the south wall, all as the nave windows and later 19th century. The cusped, 2-light west window is Perpendicular and 16th century, restored in the 1970s. The external corners are angle-buttressed as the nave and chancel, from 1841. There is a low external entry into an 18th century burial vault in the south wall, and a second, former entry. The interior has been plastered over former roofing slates embedded in the render, in 1841?. The suspended board floor is later 19th century and lies 1m above burial vaults.

The west tower is from the early 16th century and comprises 3 storeys. A spiral stair rises in the thickness of the south wall, entered through a 16th century doorway and lit by simple square slits of similar date. There is a slight external batter up to a string-course at first floor level. The door into the nave was rebuilt in 1841, but the west door, with its 4-centred surround, is 16th century. The barrel-vault is 15th century and is squinched over the internal corners to form a dome. The ground floor interior is whitewashed and is floored as the nave. There are 16th century loops in the north and south walls of the second storey, a blocked light in the east wall and a later 19th century lancet in the west wall. The belfry stage has a large, 4-centred light in each wall, 16th century, and a string-course below a crenellated parapet from 1841.

The lean-to vestry was constructed before 1873. It has 2 storeys, the lower of which is occupied by a boilerhouse entered through a 20th century door in its east wall, above which lies a lancet, also 20th century. The vestry floor is suspended above the boilerhouse; a late 20th century WC and sink now occupy the space. The lean-to roof is plastered internally.

There is a shallow cutting around the west end of the church, possibly primary. The floors were raised by 1m in 1841 and are suspended over the earlier surfaces. There are 18th-19th century burial vaults below the chancel, nave and south aisle; they may not lie below churchyard ground level. The boilerhouse floor is above ground level. An extensive external memorial lies significantly close to the south aisle east wall.

Structural development

The chancel and nave are medieval, but cannot be closely dated. Both north and south transepts appear to have been formerly present (see below); the bulk of the latter appears to have been absorbed within the south aisle which was added c.1500. The west tower is early 16th century.

It is traditionally held that 'certain figures or images' were removed from the church at the Reformation and burnt in a neighbouring field (RCAHM, 1917).

There were 2 bells in the 16th century (Wallcott, 1871, ii), which were 'out of repaire' in 1672 (Anon., 1919, 212). The floor and windows were 'out of order' in 1705 (Evans, 1918, 25) but along with the bells had been repaired by 1710 (Evans, 1917, 14). The nave roof-timbers were 'decay'd' in 1749, the nave and 'chappel' (south aisle?) floors were to be tiled and the bells recast (Evans, 1921, 50); the bells were eventually recast in 1753 (Evans, 1919, 45) by Rudhalls of Gloucester (Rev. T. Hewitt, Llannon, pers. comm.).

A plan of 1841 shows the church as it then existed (NLW, SD/F/405). In plan, it was rather different to its present form. There was a north transept, to the west of which was a shallower, square projection possibly relating to a rood-loft stair. There was no vestry. There appears to have been a south transept, possibly partly absorbed by the (?later) south aisle but projecting beyond it. In 1833 the church had been described as being 'not distinguished by any remarkable architectural detail' (Lewis, 1833).

The church was restored under the architect Edward Haycock in 1841 (Yates, 1974, 73); the restoration was high-impact and in the Non-conformist idiom. Both transepts, and the ?projecting stair, were removed and much of the church was rebuilt, or at least refaced. The nave and south aisle were united by the removal of the arcade (cf. Llanarthne) and the chancel was refurbished in 'Gothick' style. Internal floor surfaces were raised by 1m. The external corners were given their present angle buttresses. The tower was given its present parapet, the original parapet apparently having been crenellated but gabled as a kind of saddleback (King, 1887). The vestry may have been constructed; it was certainly present by 1873 (NLW, SD/F/406).

Further restoration had been proposed in 1887 when the architect Charles R. Baker King drew up plans for its re-gothicisation to high Victorian taste (King, 1887). The restoration was not undertaken. However, most of the present fenestration dates to the later 19th century as may be the south aisle floor.

The reredos is of oak, dated 1929, and partially interrupts the east window which was correspondingly partially blocked. The altar table is of similar date. The softwood stalls are 20th century and may too be from 1929, as may be the pews which are fixed to freestanding boards. The oak pulpit is from 1930.

The font is 20th century.

The church was renovated, largely using local labour, in the early 1970s, during which the 18th century south aisle vaults were rediscovered and the west window was unblocked and restored (press cutting provided by Rev. T. Hewitt, Llannon). The present nave and chancel floors were probably installed, and the vestry may first have been furnished as a WC.

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Non, Llannon, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Kidwelly. It had become a parish church by 1833 when the living, a perpetual curacy, was endowed with £800 royal bounty and £1200 parliamentary grant and in the patronage of Rees Goring Thomas, Esq (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Non, Llannon, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage (Benefice no. 205) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Cydweli (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**SS CELYNNIN, CEITHO,
GWYN, GWYNO & GWYNORO
LLANPUMSAINT,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 17380

RB No. 3494

NGR SN 4186 2905

Listed Building No. 9403

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 70% medieval core fabric.

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of Chancel/Nave (without real structural division), 6 bays, medieval; 7th (west) bay, 20th century. Vestry (south), 1 bay, 1882. South porch, 20th century. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout, with some Old Red Sandstone. All internal walls are rendered/plastered. No real Chancel Arch. All openings 1882 and/or 20th century except medieval lancet in north wall.

Roofs and floors: ?pre-19th century - 20th century. Finishes: 1882 - 20th century.

Condition - good. Dressings fair-poor

Archaeological potential - good. External drain cuttings around 60% of church; below floor excavation and void in 60% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 70% medieval core fabric; medieval lancet, pre-19th century roof timbers?.

Group value - high. Medieval church, in central village location; large churchyard with good memorials; scheduled ECM (SAM Cm165).

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13-14?

Phase 2 - Chancel, C14-15?

Phase 3 - Restored 1874; vestry built.

Phase 4 - Restored C20, west bay and south porch built

DESCRIPTION

The present church

SS Celynnin, Ceitho, Gwyn, Gwyno & Gwynoro, Llanpumsaint, is a 2-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 70% medieval core fabric.

A primarily single-celled church of small size, medieval but partly rebuilt. It consists of Chancel/Nave of seven bays now roofed as one. However, the Nave is on a different alignment to, and slightly wider than the Chancel, the north wall dog-legging at the junction, and two building phases may be represented. The Chancel Arch is a timber dummy inserted in 1882 (NLW SD/F/409), and the west bay and South Porch were added during the earlier 20th century, after 1917 (RCAHMW, 1917, 409). Construction is in limestone rubble throughout, with some Old Red Sandstone. Much external work is ribbon pointed in areas, some in cement. All internal walls are rendered/plastered.

It is not possible to closely date the core fabric but a lancet in the east bay north wall has a cusped sandstone head and may be 15th century; it was reopened during the 1882 restoration (NLW SD/F/409). There is no evidence of any further early openings, blocked or otherwise. All openings east of the west bay and South Porch are, in their present form, from the 1882 restoration (except the medieval lancet), and have neo-gothic chamfered oolite surrounds in newly-cut embrasures (NLW SD/F/409). The west extension and South Porch have been executed in a similar style; in fact, the ashlar bellcote may be a re-use of the 1882 bellcote. The west wall is massively buttressed and the three-light brick window here is a later 20th century replacement. The transeptal Vestry was added south of the chancel in 1882; a plain chimney may lead from a heating system flue, now disused (not observed). The present weather tabling and crosses, all in oolite, were added in 1882. All oolite dressings are in poor condition and actively weathering.

The Chancel/Nave is gable roofed, as one, with a softwood wagon roof of four cants, framed and matchboarded. The visible portion is all 1882 work but the architects' specifications recommended the old trusses be retained (NLW SD/F/409); it is not known whether this happened. The roof was continued in an identical style into the west bay when it was added. The Vestry and South Porch are both gabled, and both have softwood collar-rafter roofs, the latter beneath plaster panelling. Slate coverings throughout.

The entire church was refloored in 1882 and raised 0.5m above the ground level; nevertheless, the floor level is still two steps lower than the exterior on the south side. Polychrome tiles were laid in the two east bays, and glazed tiled passages between suspended boarded floors in the remainder; iron wall ventilators lead to the voids beneath, 1882. There is a tiled floor in the Vestry, of 1882. The South Porch floor comprises two wide concrete steps laid directly on the substrate.

Structural development

The pre-restoration church was described by Archdeacon Tenison in his Visitation of 1710 when it was a chapelry of Abergwili parish (Evans, 1912, 67). It needed repairing and the windows glazing, and the Chancel floor was of earth and uneven. To the north of the church (but at an unknown distance - within the yard?) was 'a little Chappell', roofless and out of use 'except for dancing'. The chapel had gone by 1841 (Tithe Map) and no physical evidence for it can now be discerned, but during the 1882 restoration 'a stone altar slightly raised above the ground on four supports' stood north of the church (RCAHMW, 1917, 409). The stone was removed to the present altar-table. In 1768 the church was apparently in good repair, glazed, plastered and whitewashed, and the floor 'plain and even' (Evans, 1921, 47). By 1783, at least, there was a bell; one was raised that year (Evans, 1912, 67). £4 was spent on flagging 'the south part of the church' in 1809; churchwardens' accounts for the period 1802-1829 record little further expenditure beyond maintenance and it appears that the church did not suffer the frequent Carmarthenshire early 19th century rebuild (Carms. Record Office, CPR/60/9). It appears from the restoration drawings that by 1882

at latest, the church had more-or-less assumed its present form (NLW SD/F/409); there were three or four windows in the south wall but apparently none in the north wall. It was entered via a west door, and a typical (18th century) west gallery was present, reached by external steps and a door in the west wall; all were removed in 1882 (NLW SD/F/409).

The church was restored in 1881-2 by Middleton & Son, Westminster and Cheltenham, when the alterations noted above were made (NLW SD/F/409). The estimated cost was £760 but the restoration practically amounted to a rebuild. In summary, the church was refloored with suspended floors, re-fenestrated, with new embrasures for windows and the old ones blocked (except the medieval lancet which was opened up), the Vestry was built, the west wall was almost rebuilt, the west gallery and stairs being removed, and the west door replaced with a new one, the bellcote at the west end was rebuilt, the present wagon roof was installed along with the timber Chancel Arch, the entire church was re-seated, the font was moved, and the church interior replastered. Disturbance was caused by the excavation of 0.2m beneath the church for concrete laying.

The post-1917 early 20th century extension has been described above; neither the exact date nor architect are known. The medium/deep cutting along the north wall, and the buried drain along the south wall may have been excavated at the same time.

The plain octagonal limestone font bowl and cylindrical stem are probably 13th century (Evans, 1912, 67).

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

An ECM (Dyfed PRN 1715), an incised cross, lies in the yard south of the church (SAM Cm165).

SITE HISTORY

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

SS Celynnin, Ceitho, Gwyn, Gwyno & Gwynoro, Llanpumsaint, was not a parish church during the medieval period but a chapelry of the parish of Abergwili (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen.

It was still a chapelry in 1710 (Evans, 1912, 67) but had become a parish church by 1833, recently separated by Act of Parliament (Lewis, 1833) when the living was a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the Vicar of Abergwili endowed with £1000 royal bounty.

In 1998 SS Celynnin, Ceitho, Gwyn, Gwyno & Gwynoro, Llanpumsaint, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanllawddog (Benefice no. 682) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Carmarthen (St Davids, 1997-8).

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Map Evidence

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**ST SADWRNEN,
LLANSADWRNEN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 17352

RB No. 2989

NGR SN 2816 1026

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric?. On site of, and same location as, medieval church (PRN 3910).

A multicell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel, 3 bays; nave, 4 bays; south porch; south-west tower, 3 storeys; all 1859 but possibly containing some earlier core fabric. Vestry/boilerhouse (north of nave east bays), 2 bays, 1919. Construction is in ORS rubble, some limited limestone. Neo-gothic. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to roof and tower with slate pyramidal roof. Niche in chancel, 14th century, re-used?. All other openings and detail, except in vestry, 1859. Vestry openings, 1919.

Roofs and floors, 1859 and 1919. Finishes, 1859 and 1919.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Oval earthwork platform beneath 100% of church; no drain or cutting around church; heating chamber beneath 15% of church; suspended flooring, with underfloor heating ducts, in 40% of church; is no evidence for any below-ground crypt/vault; external memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair. 14th century niche in chancel, re-used?.

Group value - medium. C19 landmark church with tower, in hilltop location; large churchyard with cross-base and early sundial; former ECM?.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, south porch, south-west tower, 1859.

Phase 2 - Restored 1919, medium impact; vestry/boilerhouse built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Sadwrnen, Llansadwrnen, is a multicell church, of medium size. It was rebuilt in 1859 possibly retaining some of the core fabric from its predecessor (PRN 3910); a niche in the chancel was either retained or re-used.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a south porch, a 3-storeyed tower west of the porch, and a lean-to vestry and boilerhouse north of the nave. Construction is in Old Red Sandstone rubble; there is some limestone in the vestry/boilerhouse. A late-Decorated niche in the chancel east wall, north of the altar, has been retained or re-used from the medieval church - it is 14th century. All other dressings are in grey oolite; the openings are neo-gothic and comprise single, cusped lancets and cusped 2-light windows with simple tracery. They are from 1859 with the exception of those in the vestry/boilerhouse which are from 1919. There is a plain chimney from the boilerhouse heating chamber also from 1919. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry/boilerhouse has a slated lean-to roof while the parapetted tower has a slated pyramidal roof. The floors are suspended except in the porch.

Neither the form of the pre-1859 church, nor the extent to which any of its core fabric may have been retained, is known. The medieval church is said to have been vaulted 'like Eglwyscymun' in Carmar. (Williams, 1923, 2). It did not have a tower (Evans, 1923, 5) but there were 2 bells, presumably within a western double bellcote, in the 16th century (Wallcott, 1871, ii); by 1790 there was only 'one small bell' (Evans, op. cit.).

In 1720 the church 'was not in good repair, ye roof being in decay', the church 'wants pointing' and the floor was 'uneven' - not paved? (Evans, 1917, 15).

The church was rebuilt in 1859 to the designs of the architect E. Godwin (Jones, 1994, 1). The plan, if not some of the core fabric, of the medieval church may at least have been retained along with the 14th century niche in the chancel. Otherwise all was new built. It was restored in 1919 to the designs of the architect E. V. Collier of Carmarthen (NLW, SD/F/417) when the vestry/boilerhouse and heating chamber were constructed, and heating ducts inserted beneath the 1859 flag floor.

The limestone font is 19th century. An altar table in 'Queen Anne' style, from the late 17th or early 18th century, stood within the church in 1919 (NLW, SD/F/417), present whereabouts unknown.

The church stands upon a pronounced, oval earthwork platform, primary? or 1859 demolition debris?. There neither an external drain or cutting around the church. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the vestry/boilerhouse. The flooring is suspended in the nave, with underfloor heating ducts. There is no evidence for any below-ground crypt/vault. Some external memorials lie significantly close to the east end.

The church was not listed in 1998.

An inscribed stone is said to have lain within the porch (Williams, 1923, 2); its present whereabouts are unknown. There is a cross-base in the yard (PRN 7423); it now supports a sundial dated 1805.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Sadwrnen, Llansadwrnen, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. The medieval patronage is unknown.

The living was a rectory annexed to the vicarage of Laugharne in 1833 (Lewis, 1833), rated in the king's books at £6.

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

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(CPR/40 - Llansadwrnen)

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**ALL SAINTS,
LLANSAIN, CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 2118

RB No. 2768

NGR SN 3846 0804

Listed Building No. 9414

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 70% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. North transept, 1 bay; vestry (south), 1 bay; 1862. Generator house, 1928. Mixed local rubble construction. 90% of internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs, generator house with slate lean-to roof. West tower with openings and vault, chancel recesses and blocked nave south door, medieval. Blocked chancel windows, 17th century and early 19th century. All other openings from 1862 (some rebuilt 1937) and neo-gothic, including chancel arch, windows and rebuilt doors; yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs and floors: 1862 and 1934. Finishes: Early 19th century and 1920s.

Condition - good; west tower fair.

Archaeological potential - very good. External below ground drain around 740% of church; floor levels unchanged; underfloor void in 80% of church; external memorials lie significantly close to 50% of church.

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

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower, in hilltop location; central within village; 2 ECMs.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, C13-14?

Phase 2 - West tower, later C15.

(Phase 3 - Partly? refenestrated C17).

(Phase 4 - Partly? refenestrated early C19).

Phase 5 - Restored 1862, high impact; north transept and vestry built.

Phase 6 - Generator house, 1928.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

All Saints, Llansaint, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 70% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed north transept, a 3-storeyed west tower, a single-bayed transeptal vestry south of the chancel west bay, and a generator house between the vestry west wall and the nave. Construction is mainly in limestone, Old Red Sandstone and shale rubble throughout; dressings are mainly yellow oolite, from 1862 and 1937. Pointing is largely pre-1862 but with extensive, ribboned repointing from the 1920s; the interior is plastered except in the west tower. Roofs are slated gables; the generator house has a slated lean-to roof.

The uncusped, triple lancet chancel east window is from 1862 and there is a single uncusped lancet in the south wall, with infill, also from 1862. The jamb of a blocked window is visible in the sanctuary north wall, and a similar blocked window with a square surround lies in the south wall; both appear 17th century. The west bay north wall exhibits a further blocked window with a 2-centred head, partly in brick, from the early 19th century. A door in the south wall, from 1862, leads to the vestry. A plain square internal recess north of the east window may be medieval, and there is a similar crude recess beneath the south window, for a medieval piscina?. The full-width chancel arch is from 1862. The roof lies at the same level as the nave roof; it is without trusses, all common rafters being scissors-braced. The floor is quarry-tiled, from 1862; the sanctuary was polychrome-tiled in 1934.

The nave is lit by 2 uncusped double-lancet windows in the south wall, (re)built in 1937?, in openings from 1862. There is a window at the west end of the north wall like the chancel south window including infill and similarly from 1862. A blocked door lies opposite in the south wall; it has a segmental head of medieval date. The softwood, queen-post roof is arch-braced from a wall-plate, from 1862. Passages are quarry-tiled as the chancel floor; the boarded floors are suspended.

The west tower is from the later 15th century, comprises 3 storeys but has only a slight external batter while lacking the string course and projecting stair turret typical of the region. The west door was rebuilt with an oolite surround in 1862, as was the nave west door. The ground floor has a 2-centred barrel-vault offsetted from the side walls, with 2 small bellports, 15th century. It is floored as the nave passages. The second storey is lit by 15th century slit lights in the north and south walls; it communicates with the belfry via a stair in the thickness of the south wall which is entered, from the churchyard, through a simple, square 15th doorway. The belfry stage has single, square, 15th century (rebuilt?) openings in all 4 walls. The crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table. The tower is in fair condition only.

The north transept is from 1862, and communicates with the nave through a contemporary segmental arch. It is lit by a double-lancet window in the north wall like the nave south wall windows but from 1862. Roofed as the chancel and floored as the nave, both from 1862. The transeptal vestry is also from 1862. It has a single uncusped lancet in the gabled south wall, and a blocked fireplace leading to a square, corbelled, shouldered stack, all from 1862. The plaster ceiling may be 20th century. The floor is fully carpeted and not seen.

The generator house was built in 1927, in limestone blockwork. There is a plain lintelled door in the west wall. The lean-to roof continues the vestry roof slope.

There is an external below ground drain along the nave north (and south?) walls. Floor levels appear to be unchanged. There is an underfloor void. External memorials lie significantly close to the south walls, and the north transept west wall.

Structural development

The chancel and nave are medieval but cannot be closely dated. The west tower is from the later 15th century. The north transept and vestry were added in 1862. The generator house was built in 1928.

There is structural evidence for the refenestration of the chancel, at least, in the 17th century, and the early 19th century; the latter were presumably blocked in 1862.

The church was restored in 1862 (RCAHM, 1917, 245). The restoration was high impact. The north transept and vestry were added (not shown on NLW, Parish of St Ishmaels, Tithe Map, 1840). The church was reroofed, refenestrated, refloored and reseated, while the west doors and chancel arch were rebuilt. The tower was repaired in 1883-4 (Carms. R. O., CPR/41/4/1).

There were a number of repairs through the 1920s including repointing, and reslating the roofs in 1924 (Carms. R. O., CPR/41/4/2). The generator house was built in 1928 (Carms. R. O., CPR/41/4/2; NLW, SD/F/605).

There were minor alterations to the chancel in 1934 when the sanctuary steps were extended (Carms. R. O., CPR/41/4/2). The nave south window surrounds were (re)built in 1937 (Carms. R. O., CPR/41/4/3).

The free-standing softwood stalls are from 1862, as are the softwood pews and pulpit. The oak sanctuary fittings are from the 1950s.

The oolite font has a moulded octagonal bowl, stem and base, probably from 1862..

The bell was cast by Thomas Bayley of Bridgewater in 1770 (RCAHM, 1917, 244).

Two ECMs, both Latin-inscribed stones (PRNs 2119 and 2120) were apparently retrieved from the wall fabric during the restoration of 1862 (RCAHM, 1917, 245). They were rebuilt in the south wall of the church.

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
2 ECMs.

All Saints, Llansaint, was not a parish church during the medieval period but a chapelry of St Ishmaels in the medieval Deanery of Kidwelly. It is first mentioned in 1115 when, as a chapel of St Ishmaels, it was granted to Sherborne Abbey in Dorset (Stephens, 1939, 66) of which the Benedictine Priory of St Mary at Kidwelly was a cell; the grant was confirmed in 1303 although it appears that in 1141 the churches had been granted to Gloucester Cathedral (ibid.). The advowson of St Ishmaels and Llansaint were granted to the Bishop of St Davids by John of Gaunt in 1368 (ibid.).

At the dissolution, the advowson of the churches appears to have fallen to the crown; the vicarage was in the tenure of Oliver Godfrey in 1609 (ibid.) but in 1833 Llansaint was a formal chapel-of-ease to St Ishmaels parish, which was a discharged vicarage in the patronage of the king, rated in the king's books at £7 (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 All Saints, Llansaint, was a chapel-of-ease to St Ishmaels parish. The living was a vicarage, held with St Ishmaels and Ferryside (Benefice no. 223) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Cydweli (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST YSTYFFAN,
LLANSTEPHAN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 2208

RB No. 3007

NGR SN 3500 1070

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay; south porch; west tower, 3 storeys; all medieval. North chapel, 2 bays, early 18th century. Boilerhouse beneath porch, 1872-5. Limestone rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; west tower with flat roof. West tower with vault and openings, chancel windows, chancel and transept arches, squint, piscina, stoup, doorways (some rebuilt), medieval. North chapel arcade, early 18th century. Chancel door and rebuilt window, 1829-30. All other openings (windows) from 1872-5 and neo-gothic with grey oolite dressings. Wall paintings, medieval?

Roofs: 1822-3?, with 1872-5 ceilings. Floors: 18th century - 1872-5. Finishes: Medieval internally; 1829-30 and 20th century externally.

Condition - good; plaster fair in areas.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. No external cutting nor drain; slight external earthworks, debris?, from 19th century restorations?; no evidence for floor level changes; burial vaults beneath 15% of church; boilerhouse beneath 5% of church; suspended floors over heating ducts in 70% of church; external memorials lie significantly close to 70% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% medieval core fabric; medieval west tower, arches, some windows and doors, piscina, squint and stoup; early 18th century arcade.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower; central village location; large churchyard with good boundary wall; associated masonry building; amenity value.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C12-13?

Phase 2 - Chancel west bay and south porch, C14.

Phase 3 - Transepts, C15.

Phase 4 - West tower, early C16.

Phase 5 - North chapel, early C18.

Phase 6 - Restored 1822-30, medium impact.

Phase 7 - Restored 1872-5, medium impact; boilerhouse inserted beneath porch.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

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

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 2-bayed north chapel, single-bayed north and south transepts, a south porch over a below-ground boilerhouse, and a 3-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout; dressings are limestone and medieval, or grey oolite and from 1872-5. There are extensive remains of external render, mainly from 1829-30; the tower was repointed in 1995. The interior is plastered, medieval. Roofs are slated gables; the flat tower roof was not seen.

The chancel east window is 16th century, comprising 2 uncusped lights in a square surround. There is a doorway in the south wall, rebuilt in 1829-30 with a raised plaster surround; a single lancet to the west is medieval, but has a similar surround from 1829-30. A piscina in the south wall has a 2-centred head and a small circular bowl, 15th century?. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is medieval but the head was lowered by 0.5m in 1872-5 when the ceilings were introduced; there is a plain, square squint into the north transept, from the mid 15th century. The roof is concealed by an arched plaster ceiling, from 1872-5 (Anon., n.d.). The passage is flagged, from 1829-30?, reused 1872-5?; incorporates memorial slabs; the board floors are suspended.

The nave is lit by 2 windows in the north wall and one in the south wall; the openings are from 1829-30 but contain cusped, 2-light windows in square surrounds from 1872-5. The medieval south door is plain and 2-centred, 14th century?; to the east is an external stoup with a 2-centred head and a crude bowl, also 14th century. The nave is ceiled and floored as the chancel.

The south porch was added in the 14th century; the plain, 2-centred south door is contemporary. The south wall was thickened, in 1872-5?. The west wall is thickened internally at the north end, function unknown. Ceiled as the transepts, 1872-5. The flagged floor is from 1872-5, re-using some earlier flags. There is a disused boilerhouse below, now disused, inserted in 1872-5 and reached by a trapdoor.

The north and south transepts are from the mid 15th century (Anon., n.d.), and communicate with the nave via arches like the chancel arch, but all medieval. The north transept formerly communicated with the north chapel through a 2-centred arch, early 18th century, blocked in 1829-30 with a 2-centred, brick-headed door. It is lit by window in the north wall like the nave windows, 1829-75. The west wall features a wall-painting, medieval?. The roof is concealed by a 3-canted, plaster ceiling with a central medallion, 1872-5. Floored as the nave.

The south transept is similar, including the roof and floor. There is a blocked 16th century window in the east wall, blocking inscribed '1801', and a 16th century window opening in the south wall with a surround like those in the nave, 1872-5. The west wall features a wall-painting, medieval?.

The west tower is from the earlier 16th century, comprises 3 storeys and is rather more massive than the majority in the region, having affinities with eg. Begelly and Lawrenny in Pembs. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, lit by simple square slits. There is an external batter up to a string-course. The west door is 2-centred, 16th century; above it lies a plain 3-light window dated 1869 beneath a triangular slate dripmould rebuilt in 1996. The ground floor communicated with the nave through a plain 2-centred arch, 16th century; blocked in 1872-5 when a 2-centred doorway was inserted. To the south of, and cut by the original arch is a blocked semicircular-headed window, a 12th - 13th century original west window, pre-tower?. There is a plain quadripartite 2-centred barrel-vault with 2 bellports; the floor is flagged, 1829-30?. The second storey east wall displays the creasing for an original, higher nave roof; above it is, in turn, a small, square single-light window from 1872-5, a simple 16th century slit-light and a rebuilt 16th century lancet with a 4-centred head. The north wall has a cusped lancet from 1872-5 in an earlier opening, much altered. There are 16th century slit lights in the other 2 walls, and a similar window to the east wall in the west wall, 1872-5. The belfry stage has 16th century, segmental single-light openings in all 4 walls, 16th century, but 2-centred surrounds were inserted in 1872-5 while the west wall opening was constricted, in the earlier 20th century?. The parapet lies on an external corbel table, at a higher level around the turret.

The north chapel ('Lloyd Chapel') communicates with the nave through a 2-bayed arcade of depressed, 2-centred arches in square piers with plain chamfered imposts, early 18th century. The east window is like the chancel east window but all from 1872-5; the north wall exhibits a window like those in the nave, but all 1872-5?. The collar-rafter roof trusses may be oak, from 1822-3?; corbels for earlier roof trusses survive on the south wall. There are a number of 18th century memorials within the chapel; the flagged floor may be 18th century but was relaid when the tombs were lowered to floor level in 1983 (Anon., n.d.)

There is no real external cutting nor a drain around the church, but a slight cutting around the tower was excavated in 1829-30 (Carms. R.O., CPR/82/39). Slight earthworks are banked against the external walls in areas, debris?, from 19th century restorations?. There is no evidence for changes in floor level. Burial vaults lie beneath the north chapel. A boilerhouse lies beneath the porch. There are heating flues beneath the suspended floors in the chancel nave and transept. External memorials lie significantly close to the south and east walls, and the north chapel north wall.

Structural development

The nave may be from the 12th - 13th century and may feature a semicircular-headed, blocked west window. The chancel west bay and south porch may be 14th century. The chancel east bay and transepts were added in the mid 15th century (Anon., n.d.); the south transept butts against the south porch. The west tower is from the earlier 16th century. The north chapel was added in the early 18th century (Yates, 1974, 73).

There were 3 bells in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, ii), but apparently only one in 1672 when it was 'out of repaire' (Anon., 1919, 212); it still was in 1684 and the church 'wanted tileing' (Evans, 1917, 15). The chancel was in poor condition in 1710 (Evans, 1912., 33) and 1720 when the windows 'wanted glazing' (Evans, 1921, 14); it still was in 1790 (Evans, 1923, 5) and 1814 (Carms. R.O., CPR/82/39) when the church was apparently not whitewashed. A west gallery had been fitted during the 18th century but was taken down in 1794 (Evans, 1919, 45).

Repairs were undertaken in 1822-3 (Carms. R.O., CPR/82/39), concentrating on the roof; the north chapel roof (and the remainder behind the ceilings) may belong to this period. present roofs. The church was extensively restored in 1829-30, including the present nave and transept windows, which were enlarged from earlier openings, and rebuilding the chancel south door (Anon., n.d.); the church was also resealed, the tower ground floor was flagged and the transept floors reflagged (Carms. R.O., CPR/82/39). The blocking of the arch from the north transept to the chapel is probably contemporary.

The church was apparently further restored in the 1860s (Anon., n.d.); the extent of this work is unknown.

The church was restored again in 1872-5 (Anon., n.d.; Yates, 1974, 73), including the blocking of the tower arch, reseating, the insertion of the boilerhouse beneath the porch, and the insertion of the ceilings. The windows received new surrounds.

The church was renovated (particularly the tower) in the 1920s (Carms. R.O., CPR/82/34), and a new 'Musgrave' heating apparatus was installed in the boilerhouse. Further renovations have been undertaken during 1995-7; all roofs have been reslated, the tower has been repointed and some of its openings rebuilt.

The softwood stalls and pews are from 1872-5; the pulpit may be later. The organ is from 1887 (Anon., n.d.). There are a number of portable fittings from the late 20th century in both chancel and north chapel (Anon., n.d.); some are good quality.

The medieval wall-paintings were rediscovered in 1972 (Anon., n.d.), and the piscina was re-exposed in 1990 (ibid.). The north chapel tombs were lowered flush with the floor in 1983 (Anon., n.d.)

The limestone font has a square scalloped bowl and an octagonal stem, all from 1869 (Anon., n.d.); the original font lies loose in the south chapel and has a similar bowl, in oolite, with a square stem and moulded base, c.1300.

The peal of 8 bells is from 1875 (Anon., n.d.)

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Ystyffan, Llanstephan, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. It had been granted c.1170 to the Knights Hospitaller at Slebech Commandery by Geoffrey Marmion (Rees, 1897, 204); the grant included a fishery and ferry across the Afon Taf, and was confirmed 1231-47. In 1290 Bishop Bek of St Davids (re)granted the church to the Prior of the Knights Hospitaller in England (Evans, 1907, 183) and this grant was confirmed in 1328.

At the dissolution, the advowson fell to the crown but found its way into private patronage. In 1833 the living was a perpetual curacy in the joint patronage of William Lloyd Esq. of Laques Mansion, Llanstephan, and a firm of Carmarthen bankers; it was rated in the king's books at £8 13s 4d, endowed with £200 private benefaction, £600 royal bounty and £1500 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Ystyffan, Llanstephan, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanybri and Llandeilo Abercywyn (Benefice no. 538) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Carmarthen (St Davids, 1997-8).

St Ystyffan is said to have been a follower of St Teilo (Anon., n.d.); the original dedication may have been post-conquest and to St Stephen. The 'discovery of the tombstone of Hywel Dda' at the church, reported in 1876 (Westwood, 1876, 41; see also RCAHM, 1917, 197) is of course entirely spurious.

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**ST GWYNIO,
LLANWINIO,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 17353

RB No. 3358

NGR SN 2611 2646

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, ?and same location as, medieval church (PRN 3942).

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 1 bay; nave, 2 bays; 1845-6. Vestry (north), 1 bay, 1926-7. Construction is in slate rubble. Neo-gothic. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to roof. All openings, except in vestry, from 1845-6; western single bellcote, 1845-6; vestry windows and door from 1926-7.

Roofs and floors, 1845-6 and 1926-7. Finishes, 1922 and 1927.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. No physical evidence of earlier church; no external cutting or drain; suspended floors in 50% of church, without heating ducts; no evidence for any further internal vault/crypt; external memorials lie significantly close to 50% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-1845 core fabric.

Group value - high. C19 landmark church; large churchyard comprising former circular churchyard and concentric outer enclosure; associated masonry building; ECM; remains of churchyard cross.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, 1845-6.

Phase 2 - Vestry, 1926-7.

DESCRIPTION

St Gwynio, Llanwinio, is a 2-celled church, of small size. It was (re)built in 1845-6, apparently on the same site, and in the same location, as its predecessor (PRN 3942) but retaining nothing from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a single-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel. Construction is in local slate block rubble; the interior is plastered and the bellcote is rendered. All dressings are in grey oolite and from 1845-6; the openings are neo-gothic comprising simple 2- and 3-light windows with simple tracery; the vestry windows, from 1926-7, have timber frames. The exterior is buttressed throughout. There is a gabled single bellcote at the west end, from 1845-6. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof. The chancel and vestry floors are suspended.

Something of the form of the pre-1845 church can be gleaned from the sources. It may be the church depicted on the tithe map, which was not published until 1848 (NLW, Llanwinio, 1848); the map is very vague showing merely a rectangle which appears to lie in the same location as the present church. A porch is mentioned in 1672 (Evans, 1919(ii), 213) when it was 'out of repair'. There was 'noe stiple or tower' to the church in 1705, the bell(s) presumably always having been hung in a bellcote. There were 2 bells in the 16th century (Wallcott, 1871, ii), but only one in 1683 when it was taken to Pembroke for recasting (Evans, 1919(i), 44); there were some minor repairs in the same year. In 1720 the church was in 'indifferent good repair', the windows needed glazing and the roof needed repairing (Evans, 1921, 15). The present church was (re)built in 1845-6 (Anon., 1893, 139-142; Rhys, 1877, 139-40).

The church was altered in 1926-7 to the designs of W S P Cottrell, architect and surveyor for the Coomb & Kilsant Estate Office (NLW, SD/F/432). The vestry was built and the chancel floor was raised to the same level, while the church interior was partly reseated and new altar and panelling were installed. The church had been 'painted' both inside and out in 1922 (Carms. R. O., CPR/25/10).

There is no physical evidence of the pre-1845 church. There is neither an external cutting nor a drain. The floors are suspended only in the chancel and vestry, without heating ducts. There is no evidence for any internal vault or crypt. Some external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The church was not listed in 1998.

An ECM was discovered during the 1845-6 rebuild, whilst excavating for the new foundations (Francis, 1877, 74-5). It bore a Latin and Ogam inscription (Anon., 1893, 139-142; Rhys, 1877, 139-40); it is now in private hands.

There are the remains of a churchyard cross.

SITE HISTORY

There is very good evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site - Celtic dedication; former circular churchyard and concentric outer enclosure; ECM.

St Gwynio, Llanwinio, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. It was a possession of the Cistercians of Whitland Abbey.

At the dissolution, the advowson fell to the crown but found its way into private patronage; in 1833, when it was a perpetual curacy endowed with £400 royal bounty and £1600 parliamentary grant, the patron was one Mrs Howel (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Gwynio, Llanwinio, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Trelech a'r Betws, Abernant and Eglwys Fair a Churig (Benefice no. 658) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Carmarthen (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST PETER,
LLANYBYDDER,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 738

RB No. 3154

NGR SN 5188 4393

Listed Building No. 9381

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 70% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel, 3 bays; nave, 3 bays; west tower, 4 storeys, medieval. South porch; vestry (north), 1884-5. Coalhouse/store (north), earlier 20th century. Limestone rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; coalhouse/store with slate lean-to roof, tower with concrete flat roof. Nave lancet, west tower openings and vault, medieval. All other openings (except in coalhouse/store) from 1884-5 and neo-gothic, including chancel arch, windows and doors; yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs and floors: 1884-20th century. Finishes: 1884 - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Shallow, external earth-cut cutting and ?drain around 100% of church; ?footings exposed in 20% of church; suspended floors over heating flues in 80% of church; underground heating chamber in 5% of church; external memorials lie significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 70% medieval core fabric; medieval west tower and nave lancet.

Group value - medium-high. Landmark medieval church with tower; central village location; churchyard formerly circular.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, C14?

Phase 2 - West tower and nave west bay, earlier C16.

Phase 3 - Restored 1884-5, high impact; south porch and vestry built.

Phase 4 - Coalhouse/store, earlier 20th century.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Peter, Llanybydder, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 70% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a south porch, a 4-storeyed west tower, a single-bayed transeptal vestry, north of the chancel west bay, with a coalhouse/store to its west. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout; dressings are mainly yellow oolite and from 1884-5. Pointing is from 1885; there has been some 20th century repointing and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof; the west tower has a concrete flat roof. Floors lie above a void in the chancel, nave, west tower and vestry.

The 2-centred chancel east window has 3 cusped lights and simple, Geometric tracery, from 1884-5. There are 3 cusped single lancets in the south wall, and one in the north wall, also from 1884-5; the moulded vestry doorway is of the same date. A square recess (aumbry?) in the south wall is medieval. The moulded chancel arch is from 1884-5. The softwood chancel roof is from 1884-5 and has a matchboarded 'wagon-roof' ceiling. The chancel passages and altar dais are tiled, from 1884-5, with suspended board floors over a void.

There is a stepped buttress against the south-west corner of the nave, from 1884-5, when the present nave windows were inserted; they are all cusped double-lancets and there are 3 in the north wall and 2 in the south wall. In the north wall of the east bay is a single uncusped lancet of medieval (14th century?) date, set low down, to light the rood stair?. In the centre of the same wall is the western jamb of a possible blocked window, and there is a similar square area of blocking in the south wall of the west bay, both medieval?, post-medieval?. The moulded south doorway is from 1884-5. The western quarter of both north and south walls is of a different build from the remainder, separated by a full-height vertical joint. The softwood nave roof is from 1884-5 and is without trusses, all rafters having arch-braced collars. The passages are tiled over heating flues, with a chamber for a former Porritt's heating apparatus, with suspended board floors; all from 1884-5.

The west tower is from the earlier 16th century and comprises 4 storeys, rather larger than the majority in the region (but cf. Llanllwni and Llanwenog). A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a simple, square, 16th century doorway and lit by simple square slits of similar date. There is an external batter up to a string-course. The west door is 2-centred, 16th century; above it lies an uncusped 2-light window beneath a square dripmould of similar date. The ground floor has a 2-centred barrel-vault, and communicates with the nave through a plain 2-centred arch, 16th century; it is floored as the nave. The second and third storeys are lit by 16th century loops. The belfry stage has uncusped 2-light openings in all four walls, 16th century but largely rebuilt in 1884-5 except in the south wall. The parapet lies on an external corbel table, and now lacks crenellations.

The south porch is all from 1884-5 and is in snecked rubble and oolite ashlar; the doorway is moulded. The gabled roof is softwood and the floor quarry-tiled, all 1884-5. The vestry is of the same date but of similar construction to the medieval church. There is a doorway in the east wall and a cusped 2-light window in the south wall, from 1884-5. The softwood gabled roof lacks trusses; the floor is woodblock over a void, all 1884-5.

The coalhouse/store is a lean-to building against the vestry west wall, with a cut-out around the medieval nave lancet. It is all earlier 20th century and pebbledashed externally. There is a door in the north wall and a window in the east wall, both simple square openings.

The church is surrounded by a shallow, external earth-cut cutting containing a concrete 'plinth' (over a drain?), from the 20th century; west tower footings exposed?. There is no evidence for changes in floor

level. The flooring lies over a void (and flues) in the chancel, nave, west tower and vestry; there is an underground heating chamber in the nave. External memorials lie significantly close to the east wall, and burial earthworks lie alongside the nave north wall.

Structural development

The nave and chancel are medieval but cannot be closely dated; a lancet in the nave is probably 14th century. The nave west bay appears to have been added, with a joint to the rest of the nave, in the earlier 16th century when the west tower was built. The tower contained a single bell in the 16th century (Wallcott, 1871, ii); there is still just the one bell, inscribed 'T. Rudhall, Gloucester, fecit 1818' (Clive-Powell, 1994, 2). The vestry and south porch were *de novo* additions of 1884-5, and the coalhouse/store was added in the earlier 20th century.

In 1672 the windows were 'out of repair'; they still were seven years later when they 'wanted glazing' and the bell was also out of repair (Anon., 1919, 213). In 1705 the chancel needed repair, but 'the workmen are dayly about it' (Evans, 1918, 31). A more severe situation is suggested in an account of 1710 (Evans, 1912, 37); there was a large void and crack in the west tower, whose parapet (then crenellated) needed repair, the north roof slopes of both nave and chancel were decayed, and the floor needed to be made even. The walls required rendering and the windows glazing. There was a buttress against the north wall (removed by 1833) which supported tree-cover. There was a doorway in the chancel south wall. A datestone from 1732 set near the churchyard entrance may refer to a restoration of the church building (RCAHM, 1917, 205).

The church had recently undergone 'thorough repair' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833), the results of which are shown in the drawings accompanying the faculty submission of 1884 (NLW, SD/F/447). The church comprised just chancel, nave and west tower. The main entrance was through the west tower but the chancel south door, noted in 1710, is shown with a small, low-pitch gabled porch which may have been early 19th century. There was a chancel arch. The north walls were blind, but there were 2 neo-gothic, single-light windows in the nave south wall with timber tracery and a 24-pane sash-window in the east wall. The roof trusses were simple 'A'-frames. The west tower parapet had lost its crenellations. A description made just before the 1884-5 restoration noted the presence of the medieval window in the nave north wall (not shown in the faculty drawings) and that the font was broken and lay on the floor, its place taken by a stoup mounted on a substructure of rubble (Anon., 1878, 344).

The church was restored in 1884-5 to the designs of the architect J. Middleton, of Cheltenham (NLW, SD/F/447). The restoration was high impact; the chancel south door was blocked and its porch removed, and the present south door and porch were inserted. The church was refenestrated, reroofed and refloored. The present vestry was built.

The coalhouse/store was added west of the vestry in the earlier 20th century; the tower was roofed with a concrete and steel filler beam flat roof at about the same time (Clive-Powell, 1994, 1). The remainder of the roofs were reslated in 1990.

The softwood stalls and pews may be from 1884-5. The pulpit and altar table are 20th century.

The octagonal font is dated 1933; there is now no trace of the old font mentioned in 1878.

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Peter, Llanybydder, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. The advowson appears originally to have been in royal hands but was granted to the Augustinians of Carmarthen Priory by Edward, the Black Prince, in 1362 (Anon., 1915, 35). There was a subordinate chapel at Abergorlech (Rees, 1932; Lewis, 1833), where there is still a church.

At the dissolution, the advowson fell to the crown in whose patronage it remained in 1833 when the living, a discharged vicarage, was rated in the king's books at £4, endowed with £600 royal bounty and £1200 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Peter, Llanybydder, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanllwni and Llanwenog (no Benefice no.) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Parish of Llanybydder, Tithe Map, 1840.

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

Church in Wales Records

Clive-Powell, R., 1994, Quinquennial Report, Llanybydder.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/446, Faculty - Removal of cottage, 1884.

NLW, SD/F/447, Faculty - Restoration of church, 1884.

NLW, SD/F/448, Faculty - Stained glass window, 1930.

Parish Records, Carmarthenshire Record Office, Carmarthen

(CPR/89 - Llanybydder)

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**ST DAVID,
LLANYCRWYS,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 1917

RB No. 3144

NGR SN 6451 4531

Listed Building No. 15637

- listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 50% medieval core fabric.

A 2-cell church, small. medium-sized. Consists of chancel/nave, without structural division, 4 bays; medieval. West porch, c.1900. Vestry, 1 bay; coalhouse (east of vestry), c.1920?. Local rubble construction. 80% of internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs, vestry and coalhouse with slate lean-to roofs. Rood-loft stair doorways, medieval. Western single bellcote, post-medieval?. All other openings from the mid 19th century, 1891-2 and c.1920?, neo-gothic, windows and rebuilt doors; sandstone dressings.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1891-2 - c.1920?.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. 20th century gravel soakaway around 100% of church; floors raised?; suspended over heating ducts in 80% of church; below ground floor in 10% of church?.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 50% medieval core fabric; medieval rood-loft stair doorways.

Group value - low.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, C14?

(Phase 2 - Much rebuilt C18-early C19?)

Phase 3 - Restored 1891-2, low-medium impact.

Phase 4 - West porch, c.1900.

Phase 5 - Vestry and boilerhouse, c.1920?

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St David, Llanycrwys, is a 2-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 50% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 4-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division, a west porch, a vestry north of the central bays, and a lean-to coalhouse east of the vestry. Construction is in local rubble throughout; dressings are sandstone, from the mid 19th century, 1891-2, and c.1920. Pointing is from 1892 and c.1920; the interior is plastered except for the west wall, porch and coalhouse. Roofs are slated gables, the vestry and coalhouse have slated lean-to roofs.

The chancel/nave walls are battered externally. The east window is of 3 uncusped lancets from 1891-2. There is a cusped single lancet in the north and south walls of the east bay, from the mid 19th century. A 2-light window in the centre of the south wall was rebuilt with cusps and simple tracery in 1891-2. The west bay features a single light window with a simple square surround in the north wall, from the mid 19th century, and a single lancet in the south wall new in 1891-2. The north wall formerly featured a central square projection housing a straight rood-loft stair, of medieval date (cf. Llanwnnw and Mwnt, Cer.); The doors both survive and are simple, square openings. The moulded west door was rebuilt in 1891-2, the single lancet above is from the mid 19th century. A gabled, single bellcote lies on the west gable, shouldered, with a semicircular-headed opening, all post-medieval?. The softwood roof lacks trusses but all rafters are collared, from 1891-2. The floor is quarry-tiled in the east bays; elsewhere the passages are flagged, over heating ducts, with suspended board floors, all from 1891-2.

The west porch is from c.1900. It has solid side walls; the west end is open. The gable and roof are of oak, without trusses, but the gable end has a tie-beam queen- and princess-posts with plaster panelling. The floor is flagged as the nave passages.

The vestry is from c.1920. There is a fireplace in the east wall with an octagonal oolite stack with a moulded chimney, and a window of 2 square lights in the east wall. The lean-to roof continues the nave roof slope. The floor is flagged as the nave. The coalhouse may be of similar date and is entered from the churchyard through a door with a brick head; there is a simple square window in the east wall. The slated lean-to roof lies against the vestry east wall. Below-ground floor?.

The church is surrounded by a gravel soakaway from the later 20th century. Floors may have been raised; they are suspended over heating ducts in the chancel/nave. The coalhouse floor may be below ground. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The chancel/nave is medieval but cannot be closely dated; it may have been largely rebuilt in the post-medieval period, the rood stair exhibiting large basal rubble which is also seen in the south-west corner and perhaps represents the medieval core fabric. The west porch was added c.1900 and the vestry and coalhouse were built ?c.1920.

The church wanted 'plaistering within' in 1672 (Anon., 1919, 213). It was 'out of repair' in 1720 (Evans, 1917, 16). It was proposed that the 'chancel' floor be raised in 1822 (Evans, 1919, 15). In 1833 the church was described as 'not distinguished by any architectural details of importance' (Lewis, 1833).

It is apparent that there had been some restoration work in the mid 19th century when most of the present windows were inserted, and the church was floored in concrete.

The church was restored again in 1891-2 to the designs of the architect Ewan Christian, of London (NLW, SD/F/458). It was entirely reroofed, refloored and reseated, the east window was rebuilt, the nave south wall was partly refenestrated and the west door was rebuilt. At a later period, but before 1908, the present west porch was added (NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Sheet VIII.8); later still (c.1920?), the present vestry (and coalhouse?) was added removing the rood-loft stair.

In the vestry is a part of a beam, not *in situ*, bearing the date 1663 (RCAHM, 1917, 209). All other internal fittings, including stalls, pews, altar table and pulpit, are from the 1891-2 restoration (Clive-Powell, 1993, 3).

The limestone font has a square bowl of medieval date; the square stem and base are 20th century.

The church was - listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St David, Llanycrwys, appears to be a medieval church; 'Lanecros' was a grange of Talley Abbey during the post-Conquest period (Owen, 1894, 235) worth £0 11s 6d in rents. However, the church is not included as a medieval church by Rees, 1932, and does not appear in a list of churches compiled in 1552 (Wallcott, 1871, i-iii).

It had become a parish church by 1833 when the living was a perpetual curacy endowed with £600 royal bounty and £200 parliamentary grant, in the patronage of John Bowen Esq. who was the impropiator of the tithes (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St David, Llanycrwys, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Pencarreg (Benefice no. 619) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Sheet VIII.8.

NLW, Parish of Llanycrwys, Tithe Map, 1840.

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(CPR/101 - Llanycrwys)

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