

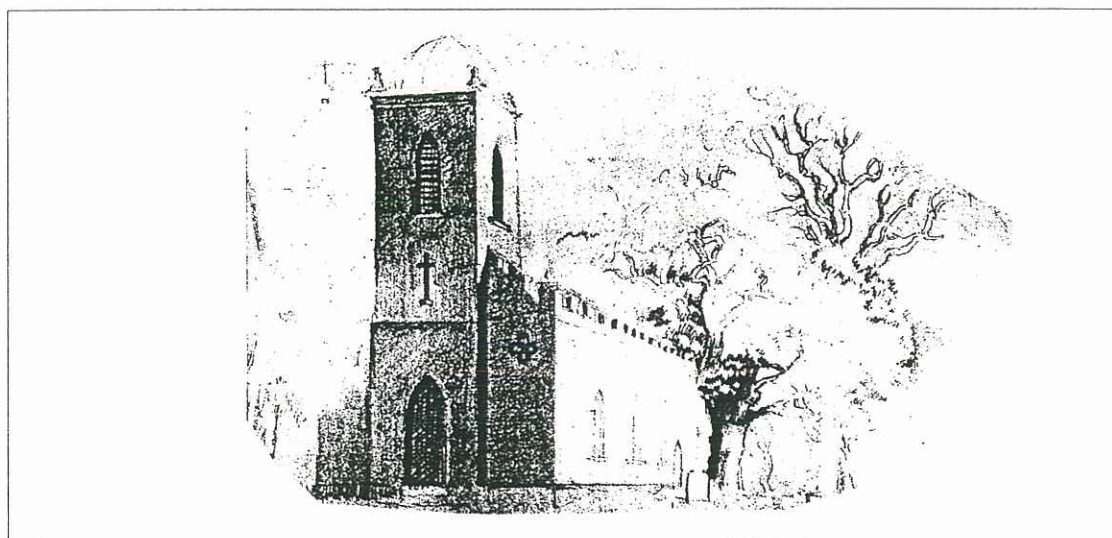
THE WELSH HISTORIC  
CHURCHES PROJECT



01/09/98

CEREDIGION CHURCHES, 1996-7  
(DAT 48)

PART 1: ABERPORTH - CILIAU AERON



*Llanerchaeron, Ceredigion*

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



# **THE WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT**

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

## **PART 1: ABERPORTH - CILIAU AERON**

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**ST CYNWYL,  
ABERPORTH,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 5235**

**RB No. 3256**

**NGR SN 2560 5106**

**Listed Building no. 16079**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and on foundations of, medieval church.

A 3-cell church, small-medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south porch, vestry (north), 1 bay; all 1855-7. Boilerhouse (east of vestry), earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century. Construction is in squared sandstone rubble, boilerhouse rendered, in brick? Slate gable roofs; vestry and boilerhouse with slate lean-to roofs. All openings are from 1855-7, neo-gothic and in yellow oolite; external buttressing, 1855-7; western single bellcote, 1855-7.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1855-7 and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Condition - good..

Archaeological potential - very good. External platform around 50% of church, constructional?, primary? 1855-7?; no external cutting or drain; floor levels raised; suspended over heating ducts in 50% of church; external memorials significantly close to 75% of church.

Structural value (pre 19<sup>th</sup> century) - poor. 0% pre 1855 core fabric.

Group value - medium-high. C19 rural landmark church; churchyard with good early memorials.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, south porch and vestry - 1855-7.

Phase 2 - Boilerhouse, earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **DESCRIPTION**

St Cynwyl, Aberporth, is a 3-celled church, of small-medium size. It was entirely (re)built in 1855-7 on the same site, and on the foundations of its predecessor, but nothing was retained from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a south porch, a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel east bay, and a boilerhouse east of the vestry. Construction is in squared Pwntan sandstone; the boilerhouse is rendered externally and may be of brick. All dressings are in yellow oolite and from 1855-7; the 2- and 3-light windows are cusped, with simple tracery. The exterior is buttressed throughout. There is a simple, shouldered gabled single bellcote at the west end. The boilerhouse has a simple chimney. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry and boilerhouse have slated lean-to roofs. The floors are suspended except in the porch and boilerhouse.

The earlier church was described as 'a small plain structure of great antiquity' (Lewis, 1833), of the 'commonest Welsh type' (Glynne, 1898, 354). It comprised a chancel and nave of the same general dimensions as the present church, without external structural division but with a 'pointed' chancel arch. The windows were 'modern' but the west door was medieval. There appears to have been a tomb recess in the north wall, described as a 'sepulchral arch' by Glynne. The roof was open and of 'not bad timber work'. A large bellcote (with a spire?) lay at the west end.

The church was entirely rebuilt in 1855-7 to the designs of the architect R. J. Withers, of London (Cadw, 1996, 3). The boilerhouse, and heating flues were added in the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century. There appear to have been no major further alterations.

The font is 19<sup>th</sup> century. The font present in 1833 had a square bowl on a cylindrical stem (Lewis, 1833) and is undoubtedly represented by the font now mounted in the churchyard next to the south porch, of late medieval date (Anon., 1914, 19).

A slight external platform runs along the north wall, with a square angle around the north-east corner, probably constructional, primary? 1855-7?. There is neither an external cutting nor a drain. Internal floor levels raised above ground level; floors are suspended over heating ducts in the nave and vestry. External memorials lie significantly close to the north, west and east walls.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

St Cynwyl, Aberporth, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron, in the possession of the Premonstratensians of Talley Abbey. It had become a parish church by the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1833 the living, as a discharged rectory, was in the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids, and rated in the king's books at £5 13s 9d, endowed with £200 royal bounty and £800 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Cynwyl, Aberporth, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Blaenporth, Tremain and Betws Ifan (Benefice no. 833) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Cemais and Sub-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Parish of Aberporth, Tithe Map, 1839.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Bartosch & Stokes, 1995, Quinquennial Report, Aberporth.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

### **Printed Accounts**

Anon., 1859, 'Cardigan Meeting', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. V, Third Series.

Anon., 1914, 'Cardiganshire Fonts', *Transactions of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society* Vol. I.

Cadw, 1996, *Buildings of Special Architectural Interest (Aberporth and Penbryn, Ceredigion)*.

Crossley, F. H., and Ridgway, M. H., 1946, 'Screens, Lofts and Stalls situated in Wales and Monmouthshire: Part 8', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. XCVIII.

Evans, G. E., 1906, 'Cardiganshire: Its Plate, Records and Registers', *Archaeol. Cambrensis* Vol. VI, Sixth Series.

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*.

Owen, E., 1894, 'The History of the Premonstratensian Abbey of Talley', *Archaeol. Cambrensis* Vol. XI, Fifth Series.

Price, D. L., 1879, 'Talley Abbey, Carmarthenshire', *Archaeol. Cambrensis* Vol. X, Fourth Series.

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

Various, 1994, 'The Church in Ceredigion in the Early Middle Ages', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), *Cardiganshire County History* Vol. I.

**ST DAVID,  
BANGOR TEIFI,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 5283**

**RB No. 3583**

**NGR SN 3763 4032**

**Not listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

20th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, ?but not in same location as, medieval church.

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; west porch; vestry/boilerhouse (north of chancel), 1 bay; all 1930-32 (nave retaining some 19<sup>th</sup> century core fabric?). Construction is in snecked sandstone rubble throughout. Slate gable roofs; vestry/boilerhouse with a slate lean-to roof. All openings are from 1930-32, neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings. Western small, square bell-turret, 1930-32.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1930-32.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Physical evidence for earlier church beyond 40% of church?; no external cutting or drain; below-ground floor in 15% of church; suspended floors over heating ducts in 70% of church.

Structural value (pre 19<sup>th</sup> century) - poor. 0% pre-19<sup>th</sup> century core fabric.

Group value - medium. C20 landmark hilltop church.

Phasing:

(Phase 1 - Nave retains some 19<sup>th</sup> century core fabric?).

Phase 2 - Chancel, nave, west porch, vestry/boilerhouse, 1930-32.

## DESCRIPTION

St David, Bangor Teifi, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It was originally built in 1812 on the same site, but possibly not in the same location as the medieval church, and retaining nothing from the earlier fabric. This church was substantially rebuilt in 1855, and then entirely rebuilt in 1930-32.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a west porch, and a single-bayed vestry over a boilerhouse north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in snecked Ffostrasol sandstone throughout (Clive-Powell, 1993, 1). Pointing is from 1932; plastered within. Openings are from 1930-32 and neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings; the windows are mainly plain single and double lancets but the east window has 3 lights with Geometric tracery. The vestry lies over a below-ground boilerhouse reached by an external flight of steps along its east wall, and carries a plain square chimney, 1930-32. The west end carries a small, square bell-turret on an internal buttress and has a string-course, 4 single-light openings and a low, stone spire, all 1930-32. The roofs are slated gables. Floors are suspended in the nave and vestry.

The medieval church may have occupied a different location within the yard to that of the present structure. An extensive area of amorphous surface irregularities lies immediately south of the church, within an area without burials, and may represent an earlier church location.

A church was erected on the present site in 1812 (NLW, SD/F/30) and is depicted as a simple chancel and nave on the tithe map of 1841 (NLW, Bangor Teifi, 1841). This building was apparently substantially rebuilt in 1855 (Clive-Powell, 1993, 1).

The 1812/1855 church was demolished in 1930, with the possible exception of its west wall, and a new one erected in its place to the designs of the architect D. Davies (NLW, SD/F/30). The new building apparently followed the plan of its predecessor but was given a west porch and vestry. Work was complete by 1932; there has been no major subsequent alteration.

The fine, Transitional font has an octagonal bowl with fluted mouldings alternating with dog-tooth ornament, an octagonal stem and a square base, all from c.1200 (Anon., 1913, 15).

There is possible physical evidence for the earlier church in the form of earthworks immediately south of the church. Neither an external cutting nor drain is present. The boilerhouse floor is below-ground, with an external stairwell. Floors are suspended over heating ducts in the nave and vestry. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The church was not listed in 1998.

## SITE HISTORY

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

St David, Bangor Teifi, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. It appears to have been a possession of the Bishops of St Davids from an early date.

In 1833 the living was a discharged rectory with that of Henllan annexed, in the patronage of the Bishop, rated in the king's books at £5 6s 8d and endowed with £200 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St David, Bangor Teifi, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Henllan, Llanfair Orllwyn and Llangynllo (Benefice 693) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Emlyn (St Davids, 1997-8).

There is the suggestion that the original dedication may not have been to St David (Various, 1994, 390)



## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

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

NLW, Parish of Bangor Teifi, Tithe Map, 1841.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Clive-Powell, R., 1993, Quinquennial Report, Bangor Teifi.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/30, Faculty - Rebuilding church, 1930.

### **Printed Accounts**

Anon., 1913, 'Cardiganshire Fonts', Transactions of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society Vol. I.

Evans, G. E., 1906, 'Cardiganshire: Its Plate, Records and Registers', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. VI, Sixth Series.

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

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

Various, 1994, 'The Church in Ceredigion in the Early Middle Ages', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), Cardiganshire County History Vol. I.

**ST BLEDRWS OR ST MICHAEL,  
BETWS BLEDRWS,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 9462**

**RB No. 3075**

**NGR SN 5959 5200**

**Not listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A multicell church, small-medium sized. Consists of south-west tower, 2 storeys, 1831. Chancel, 2 bays; nave, 2 bays; vestry/organ chamber (south of chancel), 2 bays; all 1886. Construction is local, mainly Llanddewi rubble. Slate gable roofs; vestry/organ chamber with a slate lean-to roof; tower with an octagonal slate 'spire'. All openings, except in the tower, are from 1886, and neo-gothic with yellow oolite dressings. Limited external buttressing, 1886.

Roofs, floors and finishes, 1886.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Very shallow external depression around 100% of church, secondary; suspended floors over heating ducts in 90% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; some external burial earthworks significantly close to 80% of church.

Structural value (pre 19<sup>th</sup> century) - poor. 0% pre 1831 core fabric.

Group value: high. Landmark, valley floor estate church with early C19 tower; central village location; large churchyard.

**Phasing:**

Phase 1 - South-west tower and nave west wall, 1831.

Phase 2 - Chancel, nave, vestry/organ chamber, 1886.

## DESCRIPTION

St Bledrws or St Michael, Betws Bledrws, is a multicell church of small-medium size. It was entirely (re)built in 1831 on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, but nothing was retained from the earlier fabric. The church was substantially rebuilt in 1886.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, a 2 storeyed tower south-west of the nave, and a 2-bayed vestry and organ chamber south of the chancel. Construction, including the boilerhouse, is in local, chiefly Llanddewi Brefi rubble; external pointing is largely from 1886 and the interior is plastered. All dressings are in yellow oolite and from 1886; the openings are neo-gothic single, double and triple lancets. There is limited external buttressing from 1886. The south-west tower is from 1831 and retains single lancet belfry openings, without dressings, from 1831; The belfry stage has broached chamfers into an octagonal summit, with an octagonal, fish-scale slated 'spire' (re)built in 1886 when angle buttresses were added to the tower. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry/organ chamber has a slated lean-to roof.

The form of the pre-19th century church is not known. It was 'altered and repaired' in 1831 (Lewis, 1833) as a 'very neat and well-built edifice... with a tower surmounted by a well-proportioned spire cased with slate'. The work may have been undertaken to the designs of the architect C. R. Cockerell, responsible for the nearby mansion of Derry Ormond (Clive Powell, 1993, 1).

With the exception of the tower and nave west wall, the church was entirely rebuilt in 1886 to the designs of the architect D. Edward Thomas, of Haverfordwest (NLW, SD/F/35).

The limestone font, from c.1200, has a square, deeply chamfered bowl with a band of incised rosette mouldings, almost identical to that at Henfynyw, Cer., and similar to that at Llansantffraed, Cer. (Anon., 1914, 15).

The church is surrounded by a tarmac path in a very slight depression, secondary. Floors are suspended over heating ducts. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. A number of external burial earthworks lie significantly close to the north, south and west walls.

The church was not listed in 1998.

## SITE HISTORY

There is no firm evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-  
Celtic dedication secondary?.

St Bledrws or St Michael, Betws Bledrws, was a parish church during the post-Conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. It appears to have always been in the patronage of the Bishop of St Davids.

In 1833 the living, a discharged rectory, was rated in the king's books at £4 7s 8½d , endowed with £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Bishop (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Bledrws or St Michael, Betws Bledrws, was a parish church. The living was a rectory (Benefice 78) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication is given as St Bledrws by Lewis, 1833, but was apparently to St Michael in the medieval period (Rees, 1932).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Parish of Betws Bledrws, Tithe Map, 1844.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Clive Powell, R., 1993, Quinquennial Report, Betws Bledrws.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/35, Faculty - Restoration of church, 1886.

### **Printed Accounts**

Anon., 1861, 'Correspondence', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. VII, Third Series.

Anon., 1914, 'Cardiganshire Fonts', Transactions of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society Vol. I.

Evans, G. E., 1906, 'Cardiganshire: Its Plate, Records and Registers', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. VI, Sixth Series.

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

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

Various, 1994, 'The Church in Ceredigion in the Early Middle Ages', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), Cardiganshire County History Vol. I.

Willis-Bund, J. W., 1888, 'Church Restoration', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. V, Fifth Series.

**ST JOHN,  
BETWS IFAN,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 17491**

**RB No. 3272**

**NGR SN 3017 4770**

**Not listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 1 bay; nave, 2 bays; west porch, vestry (north), 1 bay; all new built in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Construction is in squared limestone rubble throughout. Neo-gothic. Slate gable roofs; vestry with a slate lean-to roof. All openings are later 19<sup>th</sup> century; western single bellcote, later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Roofs, floors and finishes, later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Condition - good..

Archaeological potential - good. No physical evidence for earlier church; no external cutting or drain; floors suspended over void; few memorials significantly close to 40% of church.

Structural value (pre 19<sup>th</sup> century) - poor. 0% pre 19<sup>th</sup> century core fabric.

Group value - low.

Phasing:  
All later 19<sup>th</sup> century

## DESCRIPTION

St John, Betws Ifan, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It was entirely (re)built in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, but nothing was retained from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a single-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, a west porch and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel. Construction is in squared limestone rubble throughout. All dressings are in yellow oolite and from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century; the 2-centred openings are neo-gothic and the 2-light windows are cusped, with simple tracery. There is a simple, gabled single bellcote at the west end.. 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 described by Lewis, 1833, as having been 'recently repaired' and having received an additional 250(?) sittings. The 'repairs' may have amounted to a total rebuild. The tithe map of 1841 shows a rectangular building with a large, transeptal structure leading from the west end of the north wall, a schoolroom? Of earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century date? (of. Llanboidy, Carms. and Eglwyswrrw, Pembs.). The church was entirely rebuilt in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The font is 19<sup>th</sup> century.

There is no physical evidence for the earlier church. There is neither an external cutting nor a drain. Floors are suspended over a void. Few (remaining) memorials lie significantly close to the north and east walls.

The church was not listed in 1998.

## SITE HISTORY

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

St John, Betws Ifan, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of Penbryn parish in the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron, which was in the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids. Betws Ifan had become a parish by 1833 but the living, a perpetual curacy, was still annexed to the vicarage of Penbryn (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St John, Betws Ifan, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Aberporth, Blaenporth and Tremain (Benefice no. 833) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Cemais and Sub-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The 'St John' dedication may represent an early example of the cult of St John the Apostle (Various, 1994, 392) although it has been suggested that the surrounding lands may have been granted to the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech (Rees, 1897, 85-108, 262-285).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Parish of Betws Ifan, Tithe Map, 1841.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Bartosch & Stokes, 1994, Quinquennial Report, Betws Ifan.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

### **Printed Accounts**

Evans, G. E., 1906, 'Cardiganshire: Its Plate, Records and Registers', *Archaeol. Cambrensis* Vol. VI, Sixth Series.

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

Rees, J. R., 1897, 'Slebech Commandery and the Knights of St John', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. XIV, Sixth Series.

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

Various, 1994, 'The Church in Ceredigion in the Early Middle Ages', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), *Cardiganshire County History* Vol. I.

**ST LUCIA,  
BETWS LEUCU,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 5130**

**RB No. 3619**

**NGR SN 6071 5821**

**Not listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; south porch; vestry (south), 1 bay; all 1870s. Construction is in coursed local rubble. Slate gable roofs. All openings are from the 1870s, neo-gothic, with yellow brick surrounds; western bell-turret, small, with low spire, 1870s.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1870s.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. No physical evidence for earlier church; no an external cutting or a drain; floor levels raised?, with non-intrusive void?.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-1870 core fabric.

Group value - low.

Phasing:  
All 1870s.



## **DESCRIPTION**

St Lucia, Betws Leucu, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It was (re)built in the 1870s on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, but retaining nothing from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a south porch and a single-bayed vestry south of the chancel. Construction is in local, roughly coursed rubble. There is no dressed stone; the openings are neo-gothic and the lights are all simple lancets, normally single but with a triple-lancet east window, with yellow-brick surrounds, all from the 1870s. There is a small, square bell-turret over the west end, rendered, with a low slated spire, from the 1870s. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof. The floors are suspended except in the porch.

The form of the earlier church is not known. It is shown on the tithe map of 1845 as a simple rectangular structure in the same location as the present church (NLW, Betws Leucu township, Tithe Map, 1845). The present church was built in the 1870s and appears to be more-or-less unaltered.

There is no physical evidence for the earlier church. There is neither an external cutting nor drain. Floor levels may be raised above the substrate, with a non-intrusive void. There are no external memorials.

The church was not listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

St Lucia, Betws Leucu, was not a parish church during the medieval period but a chapelry of Llanddewi Brefi parish (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. Still a chapelry in 1833, the living was a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the Perpetual Curate of Llanddewi Brefi (Lewis, 1833), endowed with £1000 royal bounty.

In 1998 St Lucia, Betws Leucu, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llangeitho, Gartheli and Blaenpennal (Benefice no. 697) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8). It is without burial rights.

'St Lucia' is a corruption of the Celtic deity 'Lleu', and is not equivalent to St Lucy (Various, 1994, 393).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Betws Leucu township (Llanddewi Brefi parish), Tithe Map, 1845.

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

**Church in Wales Records**

Clive-Powell, R., 1991, Quinquennial Report, Betws Leucu

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

**Printed Accounts**

Evans, G. E., 1906, 'Cardiganshire: Its Plate, Records and Registers', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. VI, Sixth Series.

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

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

Various, 1994, 'The Church in Ceredigion in the Early Middle Ages', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), Cardiganshire County History Vol. I.

**ST DAVID,  
BLAENPENNAL,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 5162**

**RB No. 3617**

**NGR SN 6248 6397**

**Not listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south porch; vestry (north, transeptal), 1 bay; all late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Construction is in coursed local rubble. Slate gable roofs. All openings are from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings; western single bellcote, late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Roofs, floors and finishes: late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Shallow external drain around 100% of church; slight external earthwork around 50% of church, constructional?; suspended floors over heating ducts in 70% of church.

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

Group value - low.

Phasing:  
All late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## DESCRIPTION

St David, Blaenpennal, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It was new built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, c.200m to the west of its predecessor (PRN 5225). Nothing was retained from the earlier fabric

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a south porch and a single-bayed transeptal vestry north of the chancel. Construction is in local, roughly coursed rubble. All dressings are in yellow oolite and late 19<sup>th</sup> century; the openings are neo-gothic, the lights all being simple lancets, normally single but with double-lancet east and west windows. There is limited external buttressing. There is a gabled single bellcote at the west end. The roofs are slated gables throughout. The floors are suspended except in the porch.

The earlier church is shown on the tithe map of 1842 (NLW, Blaenpennal township, Tithe Map, 1842). The church lay within a churchyard that was considerably smaller than at present, comprising only the south-eastern quarter of the present yard, which may have formed an outer enclosure. The church itself lay c.200m east of the present building, in a sloping area of the churchyard which is densely occupied by memorials but very overgrown in 1996; no physical evidence for the earlier church was apparent.

The present church was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century within the former ?outer enclosure of the yard, c.200m west of the old church. It appears to be more-or-less unaltered.

There is a shallow, concrete external drain all around the church. A slight external, oval earthwork lies along the north and east walls, constructional?. 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 no firm evidence for any pre-conquest religious use of the site.

St David, Blaenpennal, was not a parish church during the medieval period but a chapelry of Llanddewi Brefi parish (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. Blaenpennal was an episcopal grange of St Davids.

Still a chapelry in 1833, the living was a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the Perpetual Curate of Llanddewi Brefi (Lewis, 1833), endowed with £800 royal bounty and £200 parliamentary grant. Burial rights had been acquired by the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1998 St David, Blaenpennal, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llangeitho, Gartheli and Betws Leucu (Benefice no. 697) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication to St David may result from its subordination to Llanddewi Brefi and St Davids rather than suggesting a pre-conquest origin.

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Blaenpennal township (Llanddewi Brefi parish) , Tithe Map, 1842.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/37, Faculty - Removal of cottage, 1905.

### **Printed Accounts**

Anon., 1878, 'Lampeter Meeting', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. IX, Fourth Series.

Evans, G. E., 1906, 'Cardiganshire: Its Plate, Records and Registers', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. VI, Sixth Series.

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

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

**ST DAVID,  
BLAENPORTH,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 5224**

**RB No. 3257**

**NGR SN 2627 4878**

**Listed Building no. 16086**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A 3-cell church, small-medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south porch, vestry (north of chancel), 1 bay; all 1864-5. Boilerhouse (north of nave), earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century. Construction is in squared sandstone rubble throughout, with some Caerfai granite. Slate gable roofs; vestry and boilerhouse with slate lean-to roofs. All openings, except in the boilerhouse, are from 1864-5, and neo-gothic with yellow oolite dressings. Western octagonal bell-turret, on buttress, with spire, 1864-5.

Roofs, floors and finishes, 1864-5 - earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good - very good. Irregular external earthwork platform around 40% of church, debris from earlier church?; shallow, earth-cut external drain around 100% of church; suspended floors over heating ducts; below-ground floor in 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19<sup>th</sup> century) - poor. 0% pre 1864 core fabric.

Group value - medium-high. C19 rural landmark church; churchyard with good memorials.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, south porch, vestry, 1864-5

Phase 2 - Boilerhouse, earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## DESCRIPTION

St David, Blaenporth, is a 3-celled church, of small-medium size. It was entirely (re)built in 1864-5 on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, but nothing was retained from the earlier fabric. A boilerhouse was added in the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a south porch, a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel east bay, and a small boilerhouse, partly below ground, north of the nave. Construction, including the boilerhouse, is in squared Pwntan sandstone rubble but the north wall features much Caerfai granite. All dressings are in yellow oolite and from 1864-5; the 2-centred openings are neo-gothic and the 2-3-light windows are cusped, with simple tracery. There is an elaborate bell-turret at the west end, supported on a broad buttress and in the form of a low oolite spire with 4 openings in gablets, from 1864-5. The boilerhouse has a plain, square brick chimney-stack, earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry and boilerhouse have slated lean-to roofs. The floors are suspended except in the porch.

The earlier church was described by Lewis, in 1833, as consisting of a chancel, a nave and a south porch which extended to the west end of the nave (NLW, Blaenporth, Tithe Map, 1839). It lacked a bellcote, the bell being 'suspended at the west end of the roof' (Lewis, 1833). There was a 'square hole running right through the north wall' of unknown function (Anon., 1862, 66).

The church was entirely rebuilt in 1864-5 to the designs of the architect R. J. Withers (Cadw, 1998). The boilerhouse was added in the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century; there appear to have been no further major alterations.

The octagonal, limestone ashlar font is from 1864-5 (Bartosch & Stokes, 1991, 2).

There are 2 bells (*ibid.*).

A pronounced but irregular earthwork platform runs along the north side, debris from earlier church?; a detached earthwork lies south-west of the nave. There is a shallow, earth-cut external drain. Floors are suspended over heating ducts. The boilerhouse floor is below-ground. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

## SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-  
Subcircular churchyard; Celtic dedication late/secondary?.

St David, Blaenporth, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry, of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron, which was in the possession of the bishops of St Davids as a prebend of the collegiate church of Llanddewi Brefi rated in the king's books at £6 (Lewis, 1833).

Blaenporth had become a parish by 1833 when the living was a perpetual curacy endowed with £800 royal bounty and £800 parliamentary grant, in the alternate patronage of the Earl of Lisburne and J. V. Lloyd Esq., the impropiators of the tithes (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St David, Blaenporth, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Aberporth, Tremain and Betws Ifan (Benefice no. 833) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Cemais and Sub-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The St David dedication may not be medieval (Various, 1994, 390); the 16<sup>th</sup> century chalice carries no dedication (Evans, 1906, 328).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Parish of Blaenporth, Tithe Map, 1839.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Bartosch & Stokes, 1991, Quinquennial Report, Blaenporth.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/38, Faculty - Removal of weathercock, 1917.

### **Printed Accounts**

Anon., 1862, 'Blaenporth Church', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. VIII, Third Series.

Cadw, 1996, Buildings of Special Architectural Interest (Aberporth and Penbryn, Ceredigion).

Evans, G. E., 1906, 'Cardiganshire: Its Plate, Records and Registers', *Archaeol. Cambrensis* Vol. VI, Sixth Series.

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

Owen, E., 1894, 'The History of the Premonstratensian Abbey of Talley', *Archaeol. Cambrensis* Vol. XI, Fifth Series.

Price, D. L., 1879, 'Talley Abbey, Carmarthenshire', *Archaeol. Cambrensis* Vol. X, Fourth Series.

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

Various, 1994, 'The Church in Ceredigion in the Early Middle Ages', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), *Cardiganshire County History* Vol. I.



**ST MARY,  
BRONGWYN,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 5230**

**RB No. 3274**

**NGR SN 2875 4367**

**Not listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

?Medieval church; 60% pre-19th century core fabric.

A primarily single cell church, small. Consists of a chancel/nave, without structural division, 3 bays; medieval?. West porch/vestry, with structural division, 2 bays; later 20<sup>th</sup> century. Local rubble construction. External render, 18th-early 19<sup>th</sup> century; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Blocked windows, medieval? post medieval?; west door, 18<sup>th</sup> century?. Windows mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, except in porch/vestry, neo-gothic, without dressings. Western single bellcote, mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Roofs and floors: mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and later 20<sup>th</sup> century. Finishes: external render, 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century; internal finishes mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. Regular earthwork platform, natural but artificially enhanced, primary, beneath 80% of church; church originally longer?, structural evidence to east; shallow - medium depth external cutting around 70% of church, secondary, footings exposed; suspended floor over an underfloor void in 60% of church; external memorials lie significantly close to 70% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair-good. 60% pre-19th century core fabric.

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

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, medieval?.

Phase 2 - Restored mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, low-impact.

Phase 3 - West porch/vestry, later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Mary, Brongwyn, is a primarily single-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 60% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a three-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division, and a 2-bayed west porch/vestry with an east-west structural division. Construction is in limestone rubble; the west porch is from the later 20<sup>th</sup> century and in roughly coursed slate rubble. Openings, except in the west porch/vestry, are neo-gothic and from the mid-19th century but lack dressings. There are the extensive remains of external render from the 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with mid 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century repointing in areas; the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables.

The chancel/nave east window is a plain, 2-centred single-light opening inserted through the early render, from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century with a rebuilt timber-framed transomed 3-light window; the window interrupts a blocked, earlier window. The upper courses of the side walls were (re)built in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century; there are 2 windows in the south wall and 1 in the north wall, like the east window but 2-light, and also mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The west door has a plain, semicircular head that is probably 18<sup>th</sup> century. The west gable carries a plain, ashlar gabled single bellcote from the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century. At the east end of the north wall, beneath the external render, are 2 areas of blocking; that to the east lying within the jambs and lintel of a window, possibly medieval, while the second area is amorphous. A third area of blocking in the centre of the south wall also lies beneath the render and within the crude jambs of a large window, probably post-medieval. The softwood roof is from the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century and has arch-braced, queen-post trusses, matchboarded above. The passages are quarry-tiled, with suspended board floors, from the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The gabled west porch/vestry is an addition of the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, and is divided into two by an east-west wall, the porch itself occupying the southern half, with the vestry to the north. There are 2 plain single-light windows, with 2-centred heads, in the west wall, and a similar door in the south wall; the communicating door has a simple square head. The roof structure is concealed by a plasterboard ceiling; the floor is concrete.

The church lies upon a very well-defined, regular earthwork platform, with a steep scarp slope along the north and west sides, running out to the east along the south side; the core of the platform is natural but has been artificially enhanced, primary. There is structural evidence east of the east end. A shallow - medium depth external earth cutting lies along the south, north and east walls, secondary, exposing footings throughout. The floor is suspended over an underfloor void in the nave. Many external memorials lie significantly close to the south, north and east walls.

### *Structural development*

Brongwyn is the probable site of a medieval church, but the present structure cannot be closely dated. The chancel/nave fabric, however, is demonstrably pre-19th century, and at least one of the blocked windows may be medieval; a further blocked window may be 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century, while the west door is probably 18<sup>th</sup> century rather than any earlier. The original building may have been longer; a truncated north-south wall 2m east of the east wall may represent an earlier east end wall.

The church was restored in the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century when it received its present fenestration and the wall-tops were heightened or rebuilt. The present roofs, floors, internal finishes and seating are probably contemporary. The panelled dado, desk and pulpit are also mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The west porch/vestry was added in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The oolite font has a circular bowl, a cylindrical stem and octagonal base, all 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The church was not listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

St Mary, Brongwyn is shown as the site of a possible medieval chapel by Rees, 1932, of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. It had certainly been established by the 17<sup>th</sup> century and is shown by Blaeu, 1648.

Brongwyn had become a parish by 1833 but the living, a perpetual curacy, was still annexed - with Betws Ifan - to the vicarage of Penbryn (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Mary, Brongwyn, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Newcastle Emlyn Holy Trinity, Llandyfriog and Troed-yr-Aur (Benefice 834) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Emlyn (St Davids, 1997-8).

The church was formerly known as Betws Ithel, with a possible earlier dedication to a St Ithel (Various, 1994, 192).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Parish of Brongwyn, Tithe Map, 1846.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Bartosch & Stokes, 1995, Quinquennial Report, Brongwyn.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/56, Faculty - 2 new chancel chairs, 1930.

### **Printed Accounts**

Evans, G. E., 1906, 'Cardiganshire: Its Plate, Records and Registers', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. VI, Sixth Series.

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

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

Various, 1994, 'The Church in Ceredigion in the Early Middle Ages', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), Cardiganshire County History Vol. I.

**ST CYNON,  
CAPEL CYNON,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 5276**

**RB No. 3692**

**NGR SN 3830 4938**

**Not listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

19th century church; some medieval core fabric?.

A 3-cell church, small-medium sized. Consists of nave, 3 bays, 1820 but retaining some medieval core fabric?. Chancel, 2 bays; organ chamber (north of chancel), 1 bay; vestry (south of nave), 1 bay, late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Construction is in limestone and shale rubble. Continuous slate gable roof; vestry and organ chamber with slate lean-to roofs. All openings, except in the vestry, are from, or were altered, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century; neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings. Western single bellcote, 1820? earlier?.

Roofs, floors and finishes, late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Condition - fair-good; dressings weathered.

Archaeological potential - good. Shallow external cutting around 25% of church; very shallow earth drains around 30% of church; internal levels lowered?; suspended floors over void; external memorials significantly close to 15% of church.

Structural value (pre 19<sup>th</sup> century) - poor-fair. Some pre-1820 core fabric?.

Group value - low.

**Phasing:**

(Phase 1 - Nave, some medieval core fabric?).

Phase 2 - Nave, 1820.

Phase 3 - Chancel, organ chamber and vestry, 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## DESCRIPTION

St Cynon, Capel Cynon, is a 2-celled church, of small size. It was rebuilt 1820 on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, possibly retaining some of the earlier core fabric. The chancel, vestry and organ chamber were added in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed organ-chamber north of the chancel west bay and a single-bayed vestry south of the nave east bay. The nave is constructed from local shale rubble while the remainder is in roughly coursed limestone rubble. External pointing is from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century; plastered within. The openings are largely from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, including the chancel arch, the west door and gabled 'porchlet', the triple cusped lancet east window, the 2-light neo-Perpendicular windows in the south wall, and the single square lights in the west wall and in the vestry and organ chamber; dressings are in yellow oolite. Two plain circular windows, in the nave north and west walls, are from 1820 with late 19<sup>th</sup> century surrounds. The crude, gabled single bellcote at the west end is probably from 1820 but may be earlier. The chancel and nave have a continuous, slated gable roof; the vestry and organ chamber have slated lean-to roofs. Floors are suspended except in the chancel

The church had been allowed to fall into decay prior to 1820 when it was largely rebuilt (Lewis, 1833), but possibly retaining some of the earlier core fabric. The present chancel, organ chamber and vestry were added in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the church was refenestrated, the west door was rebuilt, and the interior was reroofed, refloored and resealed.

The font is late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

There is a very shallow external earth cutting around the north-east corner and chancel north wall, late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Very shallow earth-cut drains run along the nave north and south walls. Internal levels lower than external levels; floors are suspended over a void. External memorials lie significantly close to the chancel and vestry east walls.

The church was not listed in 1998.

## SITE HISTORY

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

St Cynon, Capel Cynon, is not shown as a medieval chapel site by Rees, 1932, but the area lay within the grange of Sinod (Synod), a possession of Talley Abbey. It had certainly been founded, as a chapel of Llandysiliogogo parish, whose vicar was the patron (Lewis, 1833), by the 17<sup>th</sup> century and is shown by Blaeu, 1648.

It was still a chapelry in 1833 when the living was a perpetual curacy in the patronage of one Major Parry, who had endowed the chapel with £200 benefaction; it was also endowed with £2000 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Cynon, Capel Cynon, was a chapelry. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanarth, Talgarreg and Gwenlli St Mark (Benefice 802) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Glyn Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Sheet XIV.4

NLW, Parish of Llandysiliogogo, Tithe Map, 1841.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Hook Mason, 1994, Quinquennial Report, Capel Cynon.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

### **Printed Accounts**

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

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

Various, 1994, 'The Church in Ceredigion in the Early Middle Ages', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), Cardiganshire County History Vol. I.

**ST DAVID,  
CAPEL DEWI,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 18244**

**RB No. 2741**

**NGR SN 3017 4770**

**Listed Building no. 10585**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A multicell church, small-medium sized. Consists of chancel/nave, without structural division, 4 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay; west tower (partly within nave), 3 storeys; all new built in 1835. Vestry (north), 1870s. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout. Neo-gothic. Slate gable roofs; vestry with a slate lean-to roof; west tower with a slate pyramidal roof. West tower openings, nave windows, and crenellated parapet, are from 1835, neo-gothic. All other openings are from 1886, neo-gothic.

Roofs, floors and finishes, all 1870s?.

Condition - good..

Archaeological potential - good. No physical evidence for earlier church; no external cutting or drain; floors suspended over void; external memorials lie significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19<sup>th</sup> century) - poor. 0% pre 1835 century core fabric.

Group value - medium. Earlier C19 village church with medieval tower; large attractive churchyard with good memorials; lych-gate.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, transepts, west tower, 1835.

Phase 2 - Restored 1886, high impact; vestry built.

## DESCRIPTION

St David, Capel Dewi, is a multicelled church, of small-medium size. It was entirely (re)built in 1835 on the same site, and probably in the same location as its predecessor, which in turn was (re)built before 1813 on the site of a ruined medieval church; nothing was retained from any of the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 4-bayed chancel/nave without structural division, single-bayed north and south transepts, a 3-storeyed west tower (partly within the nave) and a single-bayed vestry north of the east bays. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout. The west tower has simple dressings, uncusped and untracied, and a corbelled, crenellated parapet, all from 1835; 1- and 2-light nave windows with 'Y' tracery, 1835; external angle buttressing throughout, 1835; other windows are in yellow oolite and from 1886; the 2-centred openings are neo-gothic and the 3-light windows are cusped, with simple or complex Perpendicular tracery. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof while the tower has a slated pyramidal roof. The floors are suspended.

The earlier church was described by Lewis, 1833, as 'in ruins' and it may have become disused very early in the post-medieval period, not being shown on Blaeu's map of Cardiganshire of c.1600

The site, and probably the location of the medieval church was re-used when a new church was constructed before 1813; nothing is known of this building.

The present church was built in 1835 by Rees Davies of Llandysul (Cadw, 1996, 12), commemorated in a date-stone on the tower.

It was apparently 'ruinous' in 1870 (Clive-Powell, 1995, 1) and the church was extensively restored in 1886, to the designs of the architects Middleton, Prothero and Phillott of Cheltenham (Cadw, 1996, 12); the work included the construction of the vestry, and the refenestration of much of the church (in the 1835 openings?). The church was reroofed and refloored.

There has been no major subsequent alteration but the tower was reroofed 1985-90 (ibid.) and there has been extensive later 20<sup>th</sup> century repointing.

The font is 19<sup>th</sup> century. The fittings are mainly early 20<sup>th</sup> century including pews from the 1930s (ibid.).

There is no physical evidence for the earlier church. There is neither an external cutting nor a drain. Floors are suspended over a void. External memorials lie significantly close to all walls.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

## SITE HISTORY

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

St David, Capel Dewi, occupies the site of one of the seven medieval chapels-of-ease to Llandysul parish (Hughes, Howells and John, 1978, 7; Rees, 1932). The chapel may have become disused very early in the post-medieval period; it is not shown on Blaeu's map of Cardiganshire of c.1600 and was 'in ruins' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St David, Capel Dewi, was a chapel within the ecclesiastical parish of Llandysul but had been united with Llanfihangel-ar-arth (Benefice no. 188) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Cardigan (St Davids, 1997-8).



## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Parish of Llandysul, Tithe Map, 1846.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Clive-Powell, R., 1995, Quinquennial Report, Capel Dewi.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

### **Printed Accounts**

Cadw, 1996, Buildings of Special Architectural Interest (Llandysul, Ceredigion).

Hughes, I. T., Howells, A., and John, I. D., 1978, St Tysul's Church, Llandysul: A Short History and Guide.

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

Various, 1994, 'The Church in Ceredigion in the Early Middle Ages', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), Cardiganshire County History Vol. I.

**ST MARY,  
CARDIGAN,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 5302**

**RB No. 2960**

**NGR SN 1810 4604**

**Listed Building no. 10476**

**Grade II\* listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A multicell church, large. Consists of chancel, 3 bays, medieval. South porch, rebuilt 17<sup>th</sup> century. Nave, 5 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; rebuilt 18<sup>th</sup> century. Vestry (north of chancel), 2 bays, later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Organ chamber (transeptal, north of chancel), 1 bay, c.1877. Local slate rubble construction; some pre-19th century external pointing?, internal walls without render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; chancel with slated half-hipped roof; vestry with slated lean-to roof; west tower roof not seen. Medieval chancel with 14<sup>th</sup> century chancel arch, piscina, rood stair door, buttresses, spiral stairs, parapet, rebuilt pinnacles?, mouldings, and 16<sup>th</sup> century windows with some pre-19th century glazing. Remainder of openings mainly 18<sup>th</sup> century ?rebuilt, gothic. Vestry and organ chamber openings later 19<sup>th</sup> century, neogothic, yellow oolite surrounds. (Some pre-19th century glass in east window?, pre-19th century timbers above nave ceiling?, 18<sup>th</sup> century nave ceiling.)

Roofs: Later 19<sup>th</sup> century - 1926; some pre-19th century timbers?. Floors: Later 19<sup>th</sup> century - 1926. Finishes: ?Medieval - 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Condition - good. Facework fair in areas.

Archaeological potential - good. Below-ground evidence for conventual buildings beyond 15% of church?; no external cutting or drain; below-ground oil tanks and piping beyond 25% of church; burial vaults beneath 20% of church; floor levels lowered in 80% of church; suspended floors over void; below-ground heating chamber in 10% of church; external memorials significantly close to 15% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - excellent. 90% pre 19<sup>th</sup> century core fabric. Medieval windows, chancel arch, piscina, rood stair door, buttresses, spiral stairs, parapet, rebuilt pinnacles?, mouldings, and glazing. 18th century windows and tower, with openings.

Group value - medium-high. Unrestored church; former monastic site; large churchyard with urban amenity value; early 19<sup>th</sup> century gatepiers.

Phasing:  
Phase 1 - Chancel, C14.  
Phase 2 - South porch, 1639.  
Phase 3 - Nave, 1703.  
Phase 4 - West tower, 1711 and 1748.  
Phase 5 - Vestry, later 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
Phase 6 - Organ chamber, c.1877.  
Phase 7 - Restored 1923-6; low impact.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

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

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 5-bayed nave, a south porch, a 3-storeyed west tower, a 2-bayed vestry north of the chancel east bays, and a single-bayed transeptal organ chamber north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in local slate rubble throughout, squared in the chancel and tower; the organ chamber uses much brick. There are many medieval openings, the windows largely 16<sup>th</sup> century but rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the nave and tower; Decorated chancel with many 14<sup>th</sup> century features including the chancel arch; remainder of openings are mainly 18<sup>th</sup> century rebuilds and gothic. Vestry and organ chamber openings are later 19<sup>th</sup> century, neogothic, with yellow oolite surrounds. The chancel and tower exteriors retain early pointing but the nave and porch have poor quality incised pointing from the later 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the chancel has a slated half-hipped roof, the vestry has a slated lean-to roof while the west tower roof was not seen.

The chancel is 14<sup>th</sup> century and a fine example of Decorated architecture. Externally, the side walls feature stepped buttresses reflecting its division into bays, those on the north side with pinnacles (re)built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, those on the south side with plain 14<sup>th</sup> century finials. A clasping buttress at the north-east corner contains a spiral stair up to the crenellated parapet which lies on a bold, moulded string-course, all substantially restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the stair is entered through a door from the chancel with a 4-centred surround from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, and is lit by square slit-lights with yellow oolite surrounds, 14<sup>th</sup> century. A similar, but rebuilt doorway lies at the south-east corner, function? The fine, 5-light east window has Perpendicular tracery and a 2-centred dripmould, from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century but substantially restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; it apparently contains some 'old glass', pre-19th century? (NLW, SD/F/78). There are 3 similar, but 3-light, windows in the south wall and 2 in the north wall. The east bay south wall features an area of blocking or patching; internally, a piscina with an elaborate 14<sup>th</sup> century ogee-headed, crocketed and pinnaced surround, lies beneath the window. Below the southern window in the central bay is the outline of a blocked, 16<sup>th</sup> century priest's door with a 4-centred head. The tall, wide, 2-centred chamfer-moulded chancel arch is 14<sup>th</sup> century and has simple imposts; in the angle with the nave north wall is (spiral?) rood-loft stair reached through a doorway with a 4-centred, 16<sup>th</sup> century surround. A moulded-head corbel, from 1923?, is inserted into the northern arch soffit, function?. Above the arch, the external face exhibits an earlier roof-crease. The roof is hipped at the east end; the softwood, 'wagon-roof' ceiling is elaborately carved, with bosses at the frame intersections, largely from 1923. The passages are marble-flagged, with suspended woodblock floors all from 1923 when the level was lowered.

The nave north wall is pierced by three 3-light windows, and one 2-light window, uncusped with square oolite surrounds; all were built in 1703 re-using and/or copying the original dressings (see below), and have been subsequently partly rebuilt. There are 3 similar windows in the south wall, but a similar 4-light window in the east bay is more complete and was (re)built in 1847. The south wall has external stepped buttresses from 1703; there is a similar buttress against the north wall. The south door has a chamfered, 4-centred arch from 1703 but probably copying a 16<sup>th</sup> century original, which features a drawbar-socket. The south wall here has

an internal corbel table at eaves level, presumably associated with the adjoining porch and from 1639. In the north wall opposite is a blocked, semicircular headed doorway from 1703; to the east is a contemporary internal stoup with a triangular, moulded head. The nave has a 5-canted, plaster ceiling on a Bolection-moulded 'wall-plate' and with similarly moulded central panel with medallions, from 1798 and restored in 1926. The passages are fully carpeted; the woodblock flooring is from 1926 when the level was lowered.

The south porch end wall was entirely rebuilt/refaced in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, with a doorway in a 2-centred moulded oolite surround; at the same time a stepped buttress was added to the end of each side wall, and a cusped single lancet was inserted through the west wall. The softwood roof lacks trusses, the common rafters being scissors-braced and matchboarded above, all later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The flagged floor may be pre-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The 3-storeyed west tower was rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in 2 stages, the ground and second storeys displaying different facework from the belfry stage. It is most atypical of the region. Stepped angle buttresses at the north-west and south-west corners, and a similar cross-buttress at the south-east corner, rise through the entire height of the tower. There is a basal offset, a string-course lies halfway up the external face, and there is a second string-course on the square spiral stair turret which projects from the eastern half of the north wall, is lit by simple square lights and entered through a 2-centred doorway. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch from 1711, and features the main west door to the church which has a moulded 2-centred surround, also from 1711. The ground floor has a suspended timber ceiling and the floor is quarry-tiled, from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century?. The second storey is lit by a single lancet in the west wall, similar to the west door and also from 1711; the east wall exhibits creasing for an earlier roof-line. The belfry stage was completed in 1748 and has a similar opening in all 4 faces; at a lower level, the east wall is also pierced by a semicircular-headed single-light window. The crenellated parapet lies on a bold, moulded string-course, from 1748.

The lean-to vestry was added in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and has an external angle buttress at the north-east corner, and a plain, uncrenellated parapet defined by 2 string-courses. It is entered from the chancel through a 2-centred doorway from the centre bay north wall; to the east a contemporary open arch was later blocked, in 1923?; a 2-centred doorway in the north wall leads into the churchyard. The vestry is lit by a cusped, 2-light window with a 2-centred surround in the east wall, and a cusped, 4-light window with a square surround in the north wall, both later 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a 19<sup>th</sup> century piscina in the south wall. The east half is separated from the west half by an internal wall breeze-block wall from the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, and is now an oil-fired boilerhouse. The softwood, lean-to roof is later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The floor is quarry-tiled above a former heating chamber, which led to a cylindrical chimney converted from the adjacent chancel buttress in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The transeptal organ chamber was added somewhat later in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, c.1877, and communicates with the chancel west bay through a chamfered, 2-centred arch inserted through the north wall; the vestry west wall was removed when it was added, and the gap given a segmental head. The external walls have an external basal offset; the quoins are in brick, there is a brick buttress in the centre of the north wall, with a blind medallion at the summit, and brick courses within the rubble facework. A triple lancet window lies either side of the buttress, with brick surrounds. The softwood collar-rafter roof is from c.1877; the woodblock floor may be from 1923.

The below-ground remains of conventual buildings may lie beyond the chancel south wall. There is neither an external cutting nor drain, but external below-ground oil tanks and piping lie adjacent to the chancel and vestry. Burial vaults may lie beneath the chancel floor. Floor levels were lowered in 1923-6; the floors are suspended over an underfloor void. There is a disused heating chamber below the vestry. External memorials lie significantly close to the nave south wall.

### *Structural development*

The chancel was the monastic church for the Benedictine priory of Cardigan. An inset sketch on the Blaeu map of 1648 purports to show Cardigan St Mary, in 1548, as a cruciform church with a west tower, and also a central tower; both towers are shown with spires. However, there is no physical evidence to suggest that the fundamental layout of the church was ever any different from that at present, and the illustration can be dismissed as fanciful.

Chancel features such as the piscina are in the Decorated tradition suggesting a late 14<sup>th</sup> century date; it is of high-quality construction and only paralleled within South-west Wales at Carew Church, S. Pembs. The chancel windows are Perpendicular and were inserted in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century when the parapet and buttress pinnacles were added (NLW, SD/F/82). The blocked south door was presumably associated with the former conventual buildings (ibid.).

The medieval nave, west tower and south porch were later largely rebuilt, beginning with the south porch in 1639 (Lewis, 1833). The nave was partly rebuilt in 1703 (ibid.) but much of the original fabric may have been retained (NLW, SD/F/82 - see also below). The west tower fell down in 1705 and was partly rebuilt in 1711, and completed in 1748, the junction between the 2 builds being visible (Lewis, 1833; Evans, 1906, 330). If the 18<sup>th</sup> century rebuild is a copy, then the original tower was from c.1500 and built in the West Country Perpendicular tradition represented elsewhere in South-west Wales only at Carew, S. Pembs..

The eastern half of the nave north wall may have been rebuilt around 1798 (NLW, SD/F/78). The chancel buttresses and pinnacles appear also to be 18<sup>th</sup> century rebuilds (ibid.). The nave windows re-use 16<sup>th</sup> century dressings; however, an engraving of 1810 (Cadw, 1996, 15) shows early 19<sup>th</sup> century style windows in the nave south wall, accurately?; were the present window dressings imported from another site?. In 1833 the church comprised the chancel, nave, west tower and south porch (Lewis, 1833).

The nave south wall east window was rebuilt in 1847 (Cadw, op. cit.), and some alterations including reseating were undertaken in 1855 (ibid.). The vestry and organ chamber are late 19<sup>th</sup> century, had both been constructed by 1888 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Sheet XXXVIII.5 First Edition) but are not contemporary, the vestry being earlier. The organ chamber may have been erected in 1877, the date of the organ itself. Small sums were expended during 1882-6, and some restoration occurred in 1904-6 under L. Lewis of Cardigan (Cadw, op. cit.).

The chancel was restored in 1923, to the designs of the architect W. D. Caroe, of Westminster (NLW, SD/F/82). The present roof panelling was installed, and the fittings were replaced. The restoration continued into the nave in 1926 (NLW, SD/F/83). The floor was lowered and refloored, and the internal finishes were replaced.

A boilerhouse was converted from the vestry east bay in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Lying loose in the church is a clock mechanism dated 1759. The organ is dated 1877. The oak-panelled reredos, stalls and pulpit are from 1923 (NLW, SD/F/82). The softwood pews and tower screen are probably from 1926 and the pulpit is dated 1927.

The font has an octagonal bowl, stem and base, the bowl with arcaded and quatrefoil mouldings, medieval?

There were formerly several bells, recast in 1745 (Edmunds, 1861, 158n.); the 'small bell' seen in the belfry by the architect in 1990 was no longer present in 1996 (Bartosch & Stokes, 1995, 18) and may be represented by the bell lying loose in the south porch.

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, Cardigan, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. It also served as the priory church for an establishment of Benedictines, founded during the medieval period as a cell of Chertsey Abbey in Surrey (Anon., 1859, 346). The conventual buildings appear to have occupied the site of the present Cardigan and District Hospital to the east of the church. At the dissolution, the revenue of the priory was valued at £32 (Lewis, 1833).

At the dissolution, the priory and church fell to the crown. The church remained in use as the parish church, while the conventual buildings were granted firstly to Bisham Abbey and then to William Cavendish, becoming a private residence (Lewis, 1833).

In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage (*ibid.*), in the patronage of the king, rated in the king's books at £9 15s 10d, endowed with £400 royal bounty and £200 private benefaction.

In 1998 St Mary, Cardigan, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Mwnt and Y Ferwig (Benefice 510) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Cemais and Sub-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Sheet XXXVIII.5.

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Sheet XXXVIII.5.

NLW, Parish of Cardigan St Mary, Tithe Map, 1839.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Bartosch and Stokes, 1995, Quinquennial Report, Cardigan.

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NLW, SD/F/77, Faculty - Setting churchyard in order, 1903.

NLW, SD/F/78, Faculty - Restoring and enlarging church, 1905 (not undertaken).

NLW, SD/F/79, Faculty - Stained glass window, 1909.

NLW, SD/F/80, Faculty - Memorial tablet, 1920.

NLW, SD/F/81, Faculty - Memorial tablet, 1922.

NLW, SD/F/82, Faculty - Chancel restoration , 1923.

NLW, SD/F/83, Faculty - Nave restoration , 1926.

#### **Printed Accounts**

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**ALL SAINTS,  
CELLAN,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 17335**

**RB No. 2594**

**NGR SN 6135 4975**

**Listed Building no. 9759**

**Grade II\* listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 75% medieval core fabric.

A 3 cell church, small. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 2 bays; medieval. South porch, early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Vestry (north), 1908. Limestone rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Chancel arch, south and porch doors, western double bellcote?, blocked north and west doors, blocked ?rood-loft door and window, and blocked slit light - medieval; porch roof-timbers (and in nave and chancel?), early 17<sup>th</sup> century. All other openings from 1908.

Roofs and floors, 17<sup>th</sup> century - 1908. Finishes, 1908 - later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Condition - good. Some internal plaster fair only.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. Bronze age round barrow beneath 100% of church?; external concrete plinth around 100% of church, drain below?; footings exposed in 60% of church; no evidence for floor level changes; floors not suspended, no underfloor void?; no evidence for any below-ground crypt/vault; external memorial against 5% of church; memorials significantly close to a further 25% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 75% medieval core fabric; medieval doorways, blocked openings, and ?bellcote; early 17<sup>th</sup> century roof timbers.

Group value - medium. Medieval church; circular churchyard; bronze age barrow beneath church?.

**Phasing:**

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, C13-14?

Phase 2 - South porch, early 17<sup>th</sup> century?

Phase 3 - Restored 1908, low-medium impact; vestry built.



## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

All Saints, Cellan, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 75% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, a south porch and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout. The external pointing is from 1908 and is poor in areas; there has been some later repointing. The interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables throughout; all may possess early timbers.

The east window is a double lancet in blue engineering brick from 1908, and there is a similar window in the chancel south wall. Opposite the latter is the vestry door, similarly from 1908. The chancel arch may be medieval, or at least pre-19th century; it is plain and 2-centred. The creasing for an earlier chancel roof-line survives on the exterior. The roof may comprise pre-19th century trusses; it is concealed behind a matchboard ceiling from 1908. The floor is quarry-tiled, from 1908.

The nave is lit by 2 windows in the north wall like those in the chancel but single light; the western of the two is inserted into an area of blocking representing the former north door. At the far west end of this wall is an internal recess - a possible further blocked doorway? to rood loft?; a square area of 19th century brickwork blocking above may represent a former window. A stepped structure against this wall appears to represent two chest tombs. There is a window in the south wall like those in the north wall and a blocked medieval slit light. The plain south door is probably medieval and there is a large medieval stoup internally. There is a blocked medieval west door with a low head. The plain double bellcote has a flat top and unequal square openings, all medieval? The nave roof is similar to that in the chancel. The passages are tiled, pre-1908?, with woodblock flooring which is not suspended, from 1908.

The south porch has stone benching and a plain, 2-centred arch. The oak roof has collar-rafter trusses of early 17th century date with notching for wagon-roof panelling. The floor is of slate slabs laid directly on the substrate, from the late 20th century.

The lean-to vestry is from 1908 and is entered through a door in its west wall; a window like those in the chancel lies in the north wall. The roof is softwood and the floor is woodblock, all from 1908.

The church stands upon a slight mound, a bronze age round barrow?. There is an external concrete plinth all round the church, beneath which may run a drain. Footings are extensively exposed, particularly in the north and west walls. There is no evidence for changes in floor level. The flooring is not suspended and there may be no underfloor void. There is no evidence for any below-ground crypt/vault. An external memorial is built against the north wall, and some further memorials lie significantly close to the walls.

### *Structural development*

The chancel and nave are medieval, but cannot be closely dated; they may be 13th - 14th century and the south porch was probably added during the early 17th century, contemporary with its roof timbers (Cadw, 1996, 1). The vestry is from 1908.

An account by Meyrick in 1810 mentions the 'ancient' porch, within which there were apparently 'two sacristories (sic) to hold holy water' (Crossley and Ridgeway, 1946, 49), presumably meaning stoups; they have now gone. Also gone is the rood-loft 'formerly present, the door leading to which' still remained in 1810 (ibid.). Lewis' description of 1833 is similar (Lewis, 1833).

Clive-Powell asserts that there were restorations in 1668, 1797, 1799 - when the thatched roof was apparently replaced - 1834 and 1865, but does not indicate his sources (Clive-Powell, 1992, 1). There was certainly a

restoration in 1861-2 (Anon, 1861, 312) but the extent of the work is not known - in an account of 1878 the church was described much as it exists today (Anon., 1878, 326).

The church was again restored in 1908 (NLW, SD/F/107) to the designs of the architect Herbert L. North of Llanfairfechan, Bangor; the restoration was low-medium impact and in the 'Arts & Crafts' tradition. The church was refloored (except the nave passages?) and refenestrated but the southern doorways were retained; the nave and chancel roof timbers may also have been retained and concealed beneath matchboard ceilings. The vestry openings are in the same style as the openings in the rest of the church and it is unlikely that it was added in the 1930s as suggested by Clive-Powell (Clive-Powell, 1992, 1).

The altar table is 20<sup>th</sup> century and has a limestone top. The oak reader's desks are also 20<sup>th</sup> century. The softwood chancel screen dates from the 1908 restoration, as do the plain softwood pews.

The limestone font bowl is square with vertical roll-mouldings, probably early 13<sup>th</sup> century, on a rebuilt stem and base. Until the restoration of 1908, the bowl had been built into the nave south wall serving as a dustbin (Evans, 1915, 25).

The bell is said to date from c.1730 (Raven, 1878, 266).

The church was Grade II\* listed in 1998.

(Documentary sources for the medieval church have the separate PRN 5120)

## **SITE HISTORY**

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site -  
Circular churchyard; bronze age barrow beneath church?.

All Saints, Cellan, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. It was in the patronage of the Bishop of St Davids.

The patronage was unchanged in 1833 when the living, a discharged rectory of the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, was rated in the king's books at £5 7s 6d and endowed with £200 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 All Saints, Cellan, was a parish church. The living was a rectory held with Llanddewi Brefi, Llanbadarn Odwyn, Llanfair Clydogau and Llangybi (Benefice no. 820) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

There is a tradition that the church was originally dedicated to St Callwen (Various, 1994, 387).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

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### **Printed Accounts**

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**HOLY TRINITY,  
CILCENNIN,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 4823**

**RB No. 3625**

**NGR SN 5205 6016**

**Not listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of chancel/nave, without structural division, 3 bays, earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century, rebuilt 1889-91?. West porch, vestry and bier-house, 1889-91, divided by internal walls. Construction is in local rubble throughout. Slate gable roofs, west porch with slate hipped, 'mansard' roof. Openings are from 1889-91, neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings; limited external buttressing, 1889-91. Gabled single bellcote at west end, 189-91.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1889-91.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, wide external cutting around 30% of church, primary?, secondarily deepened and extended; floor levels raised; suspended floors in 100% of church; external memorials lie significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19<sup>th</sup> century) - poor. 0% pre 19<sup>th</sup> century core fabric.

Group value: low-medium. C19 landmark church; hillslope location.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Phase 2 - West porch, vestry and bier-house (and chancel/nave rebuilt?), 1889-91.

## DESCRIPTION

Holy Trinity, Cilcennin, is a 2-celled church, of small size. It was entirely (re)built in the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century, and substantially rebuilt in 1889-91, on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, but nothing was retained from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division, a west porch with a transeptal vestry and bier-house leading off to the south. Construction is in local rubble throughout; external pointing is mainly from 1889-91, and the interior is plastered. Openings are from 1889-91 and neogothic, with yellow oolite dressings, the windows representing a number of styles. The exterior has limited buttressing, from 1889-91. The porch, vestry and bier-house are divided by internal walls. There is a gabled single bellcote on the nave west wall, from 1889-91. Roofs are slated gables; the porch has a slated, hipped, 'mansard' roof.

The church had been 'recently rebuilt' in 1833, 'in the later style of English architecture' (Lewis, 1833). The rebuild was apparently total (Willis Bund, 1888, 318). The rebuilt church is shown in drawings of 1889 (NLW, SD/F/111) as a single cell lit by an east window, 3 windows in the north wall and one in the south wall, all with 2-centred heads and timber, 'Y'-tracery frames. Above the plain, 2-centred west door was a circular light and a tall, gabled, single bellcote. The passages were flagged, with board floors.

The church was substantially rebuilt in 1889-91, to the designs of the architect A. Ritchie of Chester (ibid.). It was extended to the west with the addition of the porch, vestry and bier-house, and the remaining fabric appears to have been rebuilt at the same time, or at least entirely refaced. At any rate, all the openings, and the bellcote, were rebuilt into their present form, and the church was reroofed, refloored and reseated.

A ?medieval font bowl lay loose in the porch in 1906 (Evans, 1906, 334).

A deep, wide external cutting runs along the south wall, possibly primary but deepened and extended in 1889-91. The floors were raised in 1889-91 and are suspended over a void. External memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The church was not listed in 1998.

## SITE HISTORY

There is no firm evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-  
Former Celtic dedication?

Cilcennin is not shown as the site of a medieval church by Rees, 1932; however, the chalice is from 1621 (Evans, 1906, 334), the church is shown on the Blaeu map of 1648 and it is probably an earlier foundation.

Cilcennin had become a parish by 1833 when the living was vicarial, being consolidated with the vicarage of Llanbadarn Trefeglwys (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 Holy Trinity, Cilcennin, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanfihangel Ystrad, Trefilan and Nantcwnlle (Benefice no. 698) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Glyn Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication was given as 'St Cenwyn' in 1810 (Evans, 1906, 334) and 'St Cannan' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

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

NLW, Parish of Cilcennin, Tithe Map, 1840.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Hook Mason, 1995, Quinquennial Report, Cilcennin.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/111, Faculty - Restoration of church, 1889.

### **Printed Accounts**

Evans, G. E., 1906, 'Cardiganshire: Its Plate, Records and Registers', *Archaeol. Cambrensis* Vol. VI, Sixth Series.

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

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Various, 1994, 'The Church in Ceredigion in the Early Middle Ages', in Davies, J. L., and Kirby, D. P. (eds.), *Cardiganshire County History* Vol. I.

Willis-Bund, J. W., 1888, 'Church Restoration', *Archaeol. Cambrensis* Vol. V, Fifth Series.

**ST MICHAEL,  
CILIAU AERON,  
CEREDIGION**

**Dyfed PRN 20737**

**RB No. 3684**

**NGR SN 5024 5814**

**Listed Building no. 9763**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

Mid 18th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and possibly in same location as, medieval church (PRN 4853).

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of chancel/nave, 5 bays, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. West porch, early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Local rubble construction. Slate gable roofs. Openings mainly from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, are without dressings and 'Romanesque' including windows, doors, angle buttresses and western single bellcote; east window from 1905; porch door, early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Roofs: mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, 1905 and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Floors: 1905. Finishes: 1905?.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. No physical evidence for earlier church; deep, wide cutting around 50% of church, primary; external drain around 100% of church, secondary; no underfloor void; few external memorials significantly close to 50% of church .

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 90% pre-C19 core fabric.

Group value - medium. 18<sup>th</sup> century church; large attractive churchyard with good memorials.

**Phasing:**

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Phase 2 - Restored 1905, medium impact.

Phase 3 - West porch, early C20.

## DESCRIPTION

St Michael, Ciliau Aeron, is a 2-celled church, of small-medium size. It was entirely (re)built in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century on the same site and in the same location as its predecessor (PRN 4853), but nothing was retained from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 5-bayed chancel/nave without structural division and a west porch. Construction is in local rubble throughout; dressed stone is confined to the east window where it is yellow oolite. The openings are mainly from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, semicircular-headed, semi-'Romanesque' and simple, the windows having timber frames; the east window is from 1905 and is a triple lancet. The simple west porch was added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, in similar style. There are stepped angle buttresses on the west end corners, and a similar buttress in the centre of both side walls. There is a simple, gabled single bellcote at the west end, with a semicircular-headed opening, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. Roofs are slated gables. The mid 18<sup>th</sup> century collar-rafter roof still survives in the western half of the church; the eastern half was replaced in 1905. The tiled and flagged floors are from 1905 re-using earlier flags, and are not suspended. The internal panelling is pre-1905 (*ibid.*).

Nothing is known of the pre-18th century church; it apparently occupied the same site and location as the present church.

The present church was (re)built in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, at the expense of David Davies of Foelallt (d.1768) and recorded on his memorial in the churchyard. The floors were of wood and flags in 1905 (NLW, SD/F/118).

The church was restored in 1905 to the designs of the architect E. V. Collier, of Carmarthen (*ibid.*). The restoration was medium impact. The east wall and south-east corner were taken down and rebuilt, with a new east window. The east half of the church was reroofed. The church was refloored. A buttress was built against the north wall to match that on the south wall. A chimney was built at the west end (now gone) leading from a free-standing 'Musgrave' stove. The windows were repaired. The interior was reseated and plastered, and the panelling was repaired.

The west porch is apparently later (*ibid.*), but early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The bell is medieval (Cadw, 1996, 48).

There is a no physical evidence for the pre-18th century church. There is a deep, wide cutting around the east half of the church, primary, revetted at the east end in 1905 (NLW, SD/F/118). An external drain runs all around the church, from 1905 (*ibid.*). There is no underfloor void. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the western half of the church.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

## SITE HISTORY

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

St Michael, Ciliau Aeron, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. The benefice appears to have been a rectory (Anon., 1882, 201) belonging to St Davids Cathedral.

Ciliau Aeron had become a parish by 1833 when the living, a discharged rectory in the patronage of the Bishop of St Davids, was rated in the king's books at £5 and endowed with £400 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).



In 1998 St Michael, Ciliau Aeron, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Llanerch Aeron, Dihewyd and Mydroilyn (Benefice 801) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Glyn Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The cult of St Michael has pre-conquest origins within Ceredigion; however, the Ciliau Aeron dedication may be later (Various, 1994, 393).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

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

NLW, Parish of Ciliau Aeron, Tithe Map, 1843.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

Hook Mason, 1994, Quinquennial Report, Ciliau Aeron.

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### **Printed Accounts**

Anon., 1882, 'Historical MSS Commission', Archaeol. Cambrensis, Vol XIII, Fourth Series.

Cadw, 1996, Buildings of Special Architectural Interest (Dyffryn Arth and Ciliau Aeron, Ceredigion).

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