

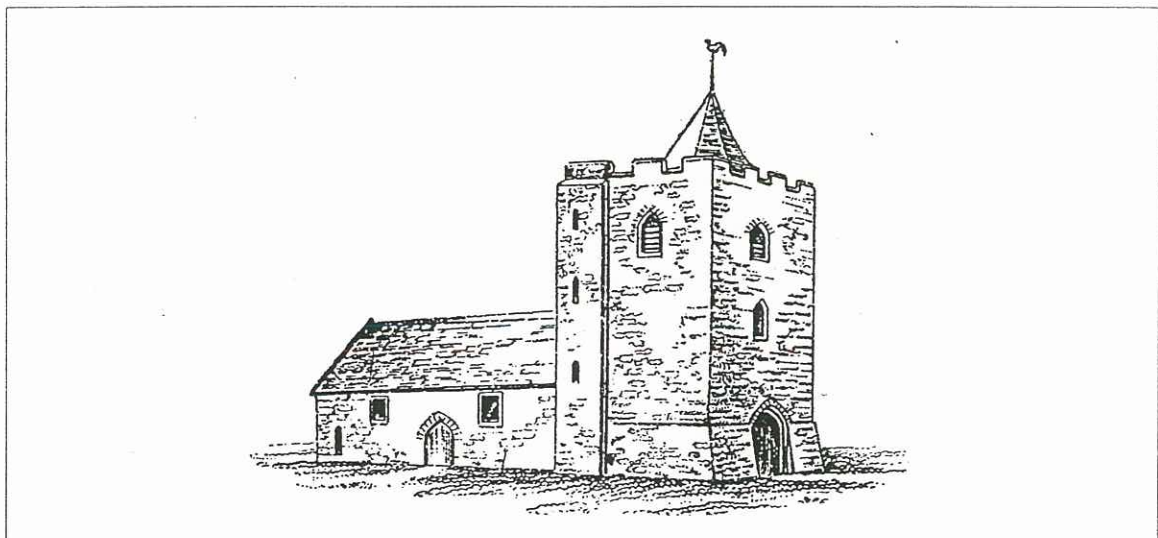
THE WELSH HISTORIC
CHURCHES PROJECT



01/09/98

CEREDIGION CHURCHES, 1996-7
(DAT 48)

PART 5: LLANWENOG - YSTRAD MEURIG



Llanilar, Ceredigion

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

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

PART 5: LLANWENOG - YSTRAD MEURIG

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**ST GWENOG,
LLANWENOG,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 5636

RB No. 3152

NGR SN 4938 4552

Listed Building no. 9187

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of a chancel/nave, 3 bays without structural division; south chapel, 2 bays; west tower, 4 storeys; medieval. Organ chamber (north of east bay), 1 bay, early 20th century. Local rubble construction; remains of external render, internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; west tower roof not seen. Medieval arcade, windows and doors, statuary, vault and ceilings; some openings from the early 20th century, neo-gothic.

Roofs: c.1500. Floors: early 20th century. Finishes: late 18th - early 20th century.

Condition - fair-good. Pointing and plaster weathered. Tower with full height cracks.

Archaeological potential - very good. Deep external cutting around 50% of church, mainly primary; suspended floors over heating ducts in the 90% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; burial vault beneath 5% of church; floor possibly lowered in 10% of church; external memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% medieval core fabric; medieval windows, doors, statuary, vault and ceilings.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower; large churchyard.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, C13-14?

Phase 2 - South chapel, C15.

Phase 3 - West tower, c.1500.

Phase 4 - Restored early C20, low-medium impact; organ chamber built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Gwenog, Llanwenog, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 90% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division past or present, a 2-bayed south chapel, a single-bayed transeptal organ chamber north of the east bay, and a 4-storeyed west tower. Construction is in local rubble throughout, with early 20th century pointing over the remains of earlier render, plastered within. Openings are in the main medieval, but the nave was partly refenestrated in the earlier 20th century. Roofs are slated gables; the west tower roof was not seen.

The chancel/nave walls have a slight external batter. The cusped, 3-light east window has Perpendicular tracery and dripmould, in limestone and from the 16th century but has been heavily restored. The north wall retains its quoins at the west end and is pierced by 2 windows with semicircular-headed embrasures, 12th century?; the present 2-light windows have simple tracery, dripmoulds and infill from the early 20th century. The scar from the flue of a former heating apparatus lies in the same wall. The south wall west bay is pierced by a window comprising 2 cusped, ogee-headed lights with a central quatrefoil, in limestone, Decorated, c.1400. Internally, the east bay north wall exhibits a socket and corbel possibly associated with a former rood screen. The oak-framed, 'wagon-roof' ceiling is from c.1500. The passages are tiled, with an underfloor heating chamber for a 'Porritt's' stove, and suspended woodblock floors, all early 20th century.

The south chapel communicates with the 2 east bays through an arcade of 2 depressed, 2-centred arches from the 15th century. The walls are also battered externally. The single lancet east window is 15th century, and there is a similar 2-light window in the south wall, largely rebuilt; the 2-centred south door has similarly been largely rebuilt. The exterior of the west wall features a small, weathered stone with a crucifix carved in relief, medieval, not in situ and not closely dateable. Ceiled as the chancel/nave, with bosses at frame junctions, c.1500. The woodblock floor, from the early 20th century, overlies a burial vault (churchwarden, pers. comm.).

The west tower is from c.1500 and comprises 4 storeys, rather larger than the majority in the region (but cf. Llanllwni and Llanybydder). A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a segmental-headed doorway from c.1500 and lit by simple square slits of similar date. There is an external batter up to a string-course. The west door has a moulded, 2-centred surround with a dripmould, from c.1500; above it lies a moulded shield with a portcullis device, in turn lying beneath an uncusped 3-light window with a square dripmould on Tudor Rose stops, with the arms of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, all c.1500. The ground floor has a 2-centred barrel-vault, with corbels at springer level, recently inserted; there is a stoup in the south wall, medieval, reset in a rebuilt recess. It communicates with the nave through a plain 2-centred arch, c.1500; the floor comprises 5 broad, flagged steps down to the nave. The second storey is lit by a slit light with a square surround in the north wall, and a 2-centred window in the south wall, c.1500. The belfry stage has a 2-light opening with a square dripmould in the east wall, c.1500, and a single-light opening in the west wall. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table. The east and west walls are cracked from top to bottom.

The organ chamber communicates with the east bay through a plain 2-centred arch, early 20th century. It is lit by a contemporary, uncusped 2-light window in the north wall. The ceiling is an early 20th century copy of that in the chancel/nave. The woodblock floor is early 20th century.

A deep external cutting runs along the north wall and west tower, mainly primary. The floors are suspended over heating ducts in the chancel/nave, south chapel and organ chamber. There is a heating chamber in nave, and a burial vault lies beneath the south chapel east bay. The west tower floor may have been lowered. External memorials lie significantly close to the east wall.

Structural development

The chancel/nave may be 14th century. The south chapel is probably 15th century. The west tower is said to have been built to the orders of Sir Rhys ap Thomas to commemorate the victory at Bosworth, 1485, and the chancel/nave and chapel ceilings are probably of a similar date.

The organ chamber was added in the early 20th century when the church was restored under W. D. Caroe. The nave was partly refenestrated, but overall the restoration was very low impact and openings were restored rather than rebuilt. The interior was refloored.

The organ is early 20th century. The oak chancel screen, stalls and pews are from 1919 as may be the lobby around the chapel south door. The pulpit is from c.1920. The reredos is from 1959 (Anon, 1990.).

The church was repaired in 1985, and reslated in 1993 (Cadw, 1996, 1).

The limestone font has a wide, circular bowl with moulded masks of the 12 apostles, from the 12th century; the stem and base are 20th century.

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Gwenog, Llanwenog, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. It was a possession of St Davids, as a prebend of the collegiate church at Llanddewi Brefi (Lewis, 1833). There were 4 dependent chapelries within the parish (ibid.).

In 1833 the living, a discharged vicarage, was rated in the king's books at £17 12s 11d, endowed with £600 parliamentary grant and in the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids (ibid.). The tithes were subject to a long standing division into two divisions, the 'Freehold' and the 'Grange', which in 1833 were divided between the Highmead, Crosswood and Peterwell estates and the vicar.

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

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**ST LUCIA,
LLANWNNEN,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 4766

RB No. 3153

NGR SN 5331 4727

Listed Building no. 18071

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 40% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 2 bays; medieval. West tower, 3 storeys, mid-19th century. Vestry (north of chancel), 1 bay, 1877. Local rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to roof; west tower with slate pyramidal roof. Medieval stoup and blocked door; remainder of openings, including chancel arch, from 1877, neo-gothic, with oolite dressings; crenellated tower parapet, 1877.

Roofs: 1877. Floors: mainly early 20th century. Finishes: 1877 and later 20th century.

Condition - good..

Archaeological potential - good. External surfaces truncated around 100% of church exposing footings; floors formerly suspended over heating ducts in 60% of church; former below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair-good. 40% medieval core fabric; medieval stoup and blocked door.

Group value - medium. Landmark medieval church with C19 tower, in valley floor location; churchyard with good monuments.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C12?

Phase 2 - Chancel, C13-14.

Phase 3 - West tower, mid C19.

Phase 4 - Restored 1877, high impact; vestry built, chancel and nave partly rebuilt.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Lucia, Llanwnnen, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 40% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, a 3-storeyed west tower and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in local rubble throughout, mainly with poor later 20th century repointing; plastered within. All present openings are from 1877, neo-gothic with yellow and grey oolite surrounds, but there is a blocked medieval door, and a stoup. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof and the west tower has a slated pyramidal roof.

The chancel east wall was entirely rebuilt/refaced above the footings in 1877, with the present plain, cusped 3-light east window. The upper halves of the side walls were also rebuilt. There is a 2-light neo-Perpendicular window in the south wall, from 1877, with a cusped double sedilia and a similar piscina to the east, both also from 1877. The 2-centred, moulded chancel arch is from 1877 and above it, the external face of the all exhibits the creasing for an earlier, higher chancel roof slope. The softwood ceiling is from 1877, with arch-braced queen-post trusses and open 'wagon-roof' framing. The tiled floor is also from 1877.

The nave side walls are very thick and have a pronounced external batter, but were substantially rebuilt in 1877 with 2 windows in the south wall and one in the north wall, of 2 and 3 lights and like the chancel south wall window. In the centre of the south wall is a blocked medieval door with a low, 2-centred head. The west door was rebuilt with a moulded 2-centred surround in 1877; to the north is a stoup with a moulded bracket bowl, from c.1500, in a plain square recess. The nave roof is from 1877 and like that in the chancel. The woodblock floor is probably early 20th century and overlies a disused below-ground heating chamber.

The west tower was added in the mid 19th century. It has a basal batter up to plain string-course partly rebuilt in 1877, and lacks a spiral stair turret. The west door has been rebuilt with a moulded yellow oolite surround, possibly post-1977. There is a single lancet in the south wall, inserted in 1877. The ground floor has a timber ceiling with a trapdoor and timber staircase up to the second stage. Floored as the nave. The second stage is lit by an 1877 lancet in the west face; below it is a small human figurine in a recessed stone, medieval but not in situ. There are cusped, 2-light openings in each face of the belfry stage, all from 1877 as is the corbelled parapet with crow-stepped crenellations. The tower carries a pyramidal slate roof, also 1877.

The vestry is from 1877 and lit by single lancets in square surrounds in the north and east walls. It is entered from the chancel through a contemporary 2-centred doorway, and from the yard through a 4-centred doorway in a square surround, also from 1877. A blocked fireplace lies in the south-east corner, its chimney now gone. The softwood lean-to roof continues the chancel roof northern slope.

Surrounding external surfaces were truncated in 1877 exposing footings throughout. Floors were formerly suspended over heating ducts, and there was a former below-ground heating chamber. No external memorials lie significantly close to church.

Structural development

The nave has markedly thick walls with a pronounced external batter and it may be 12th century, judging by the form of the original chancel arch. The chancel was probably rebuilt in the 13th - 14th century. The west tower appears medieval but was added in the mid-19th century, and the vestry is from 1877.

In 1810 the church was as 'consisting simply of nave and chancel' (Crossley and Ridgway, 1946, 55); this is repeated by Lewis, 1833 and no tower is shown on the tithe map of 1841 (NLW, Llanwnnen, 1841). In the chancel arch was a carved timber rood-screen 'like that at Llanafan' and the rood-loft steps were still visible.

The west tower had been added by 1875 (NLW, SD/F/437). Contemporary drawings show that it had a plain crenellated parapet, on a projecting string-course; there was a plain 2-centred opening in the east face of the belfry (other faces are not shown). The chancel arch was tall, semicircular and possibly the original arch, from the 12th century?. The nave was lit by 2 ?medieval 2-light windows in the south wall, and there was a 3-light window in the east wall. The nave west door was 2-centred and medieval. The nave was ceiled, with a semicircular profile and the chancel had a similar ceiling with a 2-centred profile. It has been suggested (doubtfully?) that the roofs were still thatched (Clive Powell, 1996, 1).

The church was restored in 1877 (ibid.) to the designs of the architect R. J. Withers of London. The vestry was built. The upper halves of the nave and chancel walls were rebuilt, the church was refenestrated and the chancel arch, and the nave west door, were replaced. The sedilia was inserted, and new windows inserted in the nave north wall and chancel south wall. The west tower string course and doorway were partly rebuilt, and new lights and openings inserted; the parapet was rebuilt with corbel table and crow-stepped crenellations. The church was reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated. A 'Porritt's' heating stove was installed, and the flue in the vestry east wall carried a moulded octagonal chimney.

The nave floor was relaid over the disused heating chamber, in the early 20th century?, and the vestry chimney was removed.

The mosaic reredos, free-standing softwood stalls, similar pews, and the pulpit are all from 1877 (Anon., 1878, 343).

The limestone font has an octagonal bowl, possibly the one seen in 1810 (Crossley and Ridgway, 1946, 55) but modern in appearance, and an octagonal stem and base.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Lucia, Llanwnnen, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. It appears always to have been a possession of the Bishop of St Davids.

In 1833 the living, a discharged vicarage with that of Silian consolidated, was rated in the king's books at £3 4s 9½d, endowed with £400 royal bounty and £400 parliamentary grant and in the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids (ibid.). The tithes were divided between the Bishop and the vicar.

In 1998 St Lucia, Llanwnnen, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage (no benefice no.) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The church was formerly dedicated to St Gwnnen (Various, 1994, 391), which is the dedication cited by Lewis, 1833.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

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**ST GWNNWS,
LLANWNNWS,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 5158

RB No. 3104

NGR SN 6851 6951

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 50% medieval core fabric.

A 2 cell church, small. Consists of a chancel, 1 bay; nave, 3 bays; medieval. West porch; medieval?. South tower (transeptal, south of nave east bay); later 19th century. Local rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower with a slate pyramidal roof. Truncated chancel arch and rood-loft stair, medieval; blocked window, medieval?. Remainder of openings later 19th century and include windows and doors, neo-gothic, yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs: later 19th century. Floors: later 19th century and late 20th century. Finishes: some external render, 20th century; later 19th century pointing and internal finishes.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Medium-depth, earth cutting around 75% of church; suspended floor over underfloor void 40% of church; many external memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair-good. 50% medieval core fabric. Truncated chancel arch and rood-loft stair, medieval; blocked window, medieval?.

Group value - high. Upland, hilltop landmark church with C19 tower; ECM; large subcircular churchyard; associated cropmark enclosure.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave (and west porch?), C13-15?

Phase 2 - 'Restored' 1829, walls partly rebuilt/refaced.

Phase 3 - Restored later 19th century, high-impact; tower built, west porch largely (re)built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

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

The present church consists of a single-bayed chancel and a 3-bayed nave, now without structural division, a west porch and a 3-storeyed transeptal tower south of the nave east bay. Construction is in local rubble throughout. Detail is largely later 19th century; openings are neo-gothic with yellow oolite dressings, from the later 19th century. Pointing is mainly from the later 19th century with some 20th century repointing; the nave west wall and west porch are rendered externally, 20th century. The interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the south tower has an overhanging pyramidal slated roof.

The chancel and nave display a plain, external offset, medieval? 1829?, while the upper ¼ of their side walls was (re)built in the later 19th century in regular rubble. The plain, triple lancet east window, with infill, is from the later 19th century. A plain, square medieval doorway set high in the chancel south wall leads to a stair in the wall thickness, formerly to the rood-loft (cf. Llanycrwys, Carms., and Mwent, Cer.) but truncated in the later 19th century to lead into the second storey of the south tower. There is a square aumbry in the north wall, from the later 19th century. The chancel is now open to the nave, but the plain responds for a former chancel arch survive on both walls (southern respond altered for tower). The softwood chancel roof is without trusses; the rafters lie on a corbelled wall plate and are matchboarded above, all later 19th century. The herringbone, quarry-tile floor is probably 20th century.

The nave is lit by 3 windows in the north wall, and 2 in the south wall. The eastern north wall window is a single uncusped lancet, with infill, from the later 19th century; the remainder are double lancets of the same date. The west door was rebuilt with a square surround in the later 19th century. The nave is roofed with the chancel but has king-post trusses with hammer-beam arch-braces from wall corbels, and strutted rafters, similarly later 19th century. The passages are unknown, fully carpeted, with suspended board floors, later 19th century.

The west porch may be a medieval structure but has been heavily rebuilt and rendered externally like the nave west wall; in the south wall is a 2-centred internal recess that may be medieval, a blocked window?. There is a doorway in the south wall like the nave west door, later 19th century, and a 20th century, 2 light window with semicircular heads in the west wall. The collar-rafter roof is concealed beneath 20th century matchboarding. The flagged floor may be later 19th century re-use of 1829 flags, laid directly on the substrate.

The 3-storeyed tower was built south of the nave east bay in the later 19th century. There are a number of external offsets. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred doorway, later 19th century, and lit by a contemporary single lancet; there is a fireplace in the north-west corner leading to a ceramic chimney-pot in the roof, all later 19th century. The ceiling is boarded and the floor is flagged as the west porch. The second storey is entered from the steps in the chancel south wall and lit by a lancet like the ground floor. The belfry stage has a similar, louvered lancet in the east and west walls; there is no parapet, the pyramidal slate roof overhangs the eaves.

There is a medium-depth, earth cutting along the north and south walls. The floor is suspended over an underfloor void in the nave. Many external memorials lie significantly close to all walls.

Structural development

The chancel and nave are medieval, but cannot be closely dated. The west porch may also be partly medieval. The tower was added in the later 19th century.

The church was heavily 'restored' in 1829 (Crossley and Ridgway, 1946, 55), commemorated in a datestone over the entrance, when the walls may have been partly rebuilt or at least refaced. The building was described by Lewis, 1833, as 'a small ancient edifice, consisting only of a nave and chancel'.

The church was restored again in the later 19th century, prior to 1878 when it was described as 'almost entirely new' (Anon., 1878, 350). The south tower was added, truncating the rood-loft stair, and the west porch was largely (re)built. The church was refenestrated and the doors rebuilt; the chancel arch was removed. The church was reroofed. The interior was refloored, replastered and reseated.

The west wall and porch were rendered in the mid 20th century, and chancel was refloored in the later 20th century.

The oolite reredos, altar rail, free-standing softwood stalls, pews, and pulpit are all later 19th century.

The octagonal oolite font is from the later 20th century. The small, cylindrical medieval bowl lying loose in the tower may belong to the original font.

The original church bell was apparently rediscovered in Llanwnnw bog in 1875 (Anon., 1878, 348), but rival claims to it have been made by Ystrad Meurig Church. It has not been rehung (Anon., 1875, 287).

The church was not listed in 1998.

In the west porch is a cross-incised ECM (PRN 1974), the 'Hirodil Stone', with an inscription dated to the 9th century, it formerly stood in the churchyard (Various, 1994, 416). The churchyard is associated with a cropmark enclosure (ibid., 404).

SITE HISTORY

There is good evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site -
Celtic dedication; ECM; subcircular churchyard; associated cropmark enclosure.

St Gwnnws, Llanwnnw, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but an upland chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Ultra-Aeron.

In 1833 the living was a perpetual curacy of the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, in the patronage of the Chichester family, endowed with £800 royal bounty and £1400 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Gwnnws, Llanwnnw, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage held with Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, Llanafan-y-Trawscoed and Ysbyty Ystwyth (Benefice no. 827) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Llanbadarn Fawr (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST LLWCHAIARN,
LLANYCHAEARN,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 4850

RB No. 3542

NGR SN 5850 7860

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 1 bay; nave, 3 bays; north porch; vestry (north of chancel), 1 bay; 1878. Organ chamber (extended west from vestry), c.1921. Construction is in local rubble throughout. Slate gable roofs; vestry/organ chamber with slate lean-to roof. All openings are from 1878 and neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings; some external buttressing, string-course, and roof finial, 1878. Western single bellcote, 1878.

Roofs, floors and finishes: mainly 1878.

Condition - good. Ivied externally.

Archaeological potential - good. no external cutting or drain; floors suspended over heating flues in 90% of church; burial vaults beneath 20% of church; external memorials significantly close to 50% of church.

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

Group value: low.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, north porch, vestry, 1878.

Phase 2 - Organ chamber, c.1921.

DESCRIPTION

St Llwchaiarn, Llanychaearn, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It was entirely (re)built in 1878 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 3-bayed nave, a north porch and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel with a small organ-chamber. Construction is in local rubble throughout; external pointing is mainly from 1878, and the interior is plastered. Openings are from 1878 and neogothic, with yellow oolite dressings, the windows comprising single lancets and 2- and 3-light windows with simple tracery. There is some external buttressing, and a string-course at the east end, all 1878. There is a gabled, single western bellcote also from 1878, and there is a contemporary oolite finial over the chancel arch. The chancel and nave have a continuous slated gable roof; the vestry/organ chamber has a slated lean-to roof.

The earlier church was described in 1833 as 'an ancient structure... being distinguished within by an air of neatness and comfort; the porch is a good specimen of Early English architecture' (Lewis, 1833). The tithe map of 1845 shows a small rectangular building apparently comprising a single cell and west porch (NLW, Llanychaearn, 1845).

Some rebuilding or restoration may have occurred before the middle of the century for in a contrasting account Sir Stephen Glynne described it as 'a small church, scarcely worthy of notice as the walls seem for the most part to have been rebuilt' (Glynne, 1897, 306-7). The west porch was termed 'rude', and had 'plain pointed doorways'. The windows had all been 'modernised', and the 'pointed' western bellcote contained 'an open arch'. The font was set in a recess in the west wall.

By 1878 the church demonstrably had lost its medieval character. Drawings of that year (NLW, SD/F/450) show a 3-bayed, single-cell nave and chancel, without structural division, and a west porch. The tall, narrow, tapering single bellcote was pierced by a 2-centred opening and the west porch entry was also 2-centred; the east window was a semicircular headed single light of 18th - early 19th century date, and the south wall exhibited segmental and square windows of 19th century, domestic character. A western gallery was entered through a similar doorway in the west wall north of the porch, reached by a flight of external steps. In the angle between the porch south wall and the nave west wall had been built a narrow vestry, entered from the nave, lit by a domestic window.

The church was demolished and entirely rebuilt in 1878 to the designs of the architect A. Ritchie, of Chester (ibid.). The new church was built on the foundations of the old but is longer, extending further west. The vestry and north porch are contemporary but the latter was extended to the west as an organ chamber in c.1921 (NLW, SD/F/454). The vestry and organ chamber were renovated in 1958 (not built in 1958 and claimed by Hook Mason, 1991, 2).

The small font has an octagonal bowl and stem, 13th - 14th century?

There is a single bell.

There is neither an external cutting nor a drain. Floors are suspended over heating flues in the chancel, nave and vestry. There are pre-1878 burial vaults below the chancel. External memorials lie significantly close to the north and east 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 Llwchaiarn, Llanychaearn, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the rectory of Llanbadarn Fawr in the medieval Deanery of Ultra-Aeron, and lay in that parish (Lewis, 1833).

The parishioners of Llanbadarn Fawr still contributed to the repair of the church in the 19th century (ibid.) but Llanychaearn had become a parish by 1833; the living, a perpetual curacy in the patronage of J. P. B. Chichester, Esq., was endowed with £600 royal bounty (ibid.).

In 1998 St Llwchaiarn, Llanychaearn, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanddeiniol Aberarth (Benefice no. 689) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Llanbadarn Fawr (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

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NLW, Parish of Llanychaearn, Tithe Map, 1845.

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

Church in Wales Records

Hook Mason, 1991, Quinquennial Report, Llanychaearn.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/450, Faculty - Rebuilding church, 1878.

NLW, SD/F/451, Faculty - Stone tablet, 1910

NLW, SD/F/452, Faculty - Stained glass window, 1912.

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Printed Accounts

Glynne, S.R, 1897, 'Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses', Archaeol. Cambrensis, Vol XIV, Fifth Series.

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HOLY CROSS, MWNT, CEREDIGION

Dyfed PRN 5324

RB No. 2959

NGR SN 1950 5202

Listed Building no. 15874

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 100% medieval core fabric.

A single-cell church, small. Consists of a chancel/nave, without structural division, 3 bays; medieval. Local rubble construction. Slate gable roof, medieval timbers; medieval east window, south door, rood-loft stair and bellcote; blocked medieval door. Remainder of openings (windows) from the 18th-early 19th centuries.

Remains of medieval oak rood-screen loose in church.

Roofs: 15th - early 16th century oak trusses and purlins. Floors: 1853. Finishes: external limewash and internal plaster renewed 1996.

Condition - good. Renovated 1996.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. Deep, wide, external cutting around 100% of church, primary, secondarily deepened exposing footings in 30% of church; bronze age round barrow beneath 25% of church?; floor lowered, with void?.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 100% pre-19th century core fabric. Medieval roof, rood-screen, east window, south door, rood-loft stair and bellcote; blocked medieval door.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with coastal clifftop location; prehistoric burial site; associated C19 masonry building.

Phasing:

All 13th - 14th centuries, with little alteration.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

Holy Cross, Mwnt, is a single-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 100% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division. Construction is in local rubble. The south door is medieval; windows are from the 16th and the 18th-early 19th centuries. The exterior is limewashed, re-washed in 1996; the interior is plastered, replastered in 1996. The roof is a slated gable with medieval timbers.

The 2-light east window is cusped, Perpendicular and 16th century. The centre of the external face of the north wall displays a broad, square projection housing a simply vaulted, straight stair to the former rood-loft; both lower and upper doors are square-headed and possibly 14th century (Cf. Llanwnnw and Llanycrwys, Cer.). Either side is a window; both have simple square openings from the 18th - early 19th century and are single light, but with mullioned timber frames replaced in 1996. The south wall has 2 similar windows but the easterly of the two was inserted through the blocking of a medieval chancel south door, blocked in the 1860s. The south door has a plain, 2-centred head, 13th - 14th century, with a weathered straight drip-mould above. The west bay has a low, crude external offset, possibly representing the medieval footings. On the west gable is a simple, gabled single bellcote, with a triangular-headed opening, all medieval. In the internal face of the north wall of the chancel is a square socket that formerly received the end of the medieval rood-beam. The oak roof is 15th-early 16th century, and has cusped, king-post trusses with arch-braces; the purlins may be contemporary. The common rafters and matchboarding are later. The passages are flagged, with woodblock flooring, all from 1853; void below?

A deep, wide, revetted external cutting surrounds the church, primary but secondarily deepened at the west end exposing footings. The south-west quarter of the church may be built over a bronze age round barrow. The floor was lowered in 1853; void below?. Memorials lie close to the south wall but are separated from the church by the cutting.

Structural development

The church is medieval, probably 13th-14th century in its present form including the rood stair and bellcote. It was never any larger. There has been little alteration but the chancel south door was blocked in the 1860s (Anon., 1913, 8).

A portion of the former timber rood-screen survived within the building adjacent to the yard in 1913 (Anon., 1913, 8); further sections were revealed when the rood-stair was unblocked in 1917 and lay loose within the church in 1996. The screen featured uprights and carved figurework, possibly pre-Perpendicular (Crossley and Ridgway, 1946, 55).

The floor was lowered in 1853 and the present softwood pews installed (Anon., 1913, 8). The pulpit is 20th century; an 18th-19th century triple-decker pulpit was present in 1913 (ibid.). The softwood vestry screen and reader's desk are similarly 20th century.

The font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, all 12th century.

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Prehistoric burial site.

Holy Cross, Mwnt, is (remarkably) not shown as a medieval ecclesiastical site by Rees, 1932. However, the church is medieval, of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron, and in 1546 was a free chapel within the parish of Llangoedmor (Jones, 1934, 141).

Mwnt was a parish by 1833 when the living, a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the impropriator of the tithes, was endowed with £1000 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

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

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

Church in Wales Records

Bartosch & Stokes, 1991, Quinquennial Report, Mwnt.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

Printed Accounts

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

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**ST CYNLLO,
NANTCWNLLE,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 17368

RB No. 3626

NGR SN 5762 5860

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and same location as, medieval church (PRN 4787).

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 2 eastern bays; early 19th century. Nave west bay; south porch; vestry (south), 1 bay; 1886. Construction is in local rubble. Neo-gothic. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate half-hipped roof. All openings are from 1886 except the early 19th century vestry door; western single bellcote, 1886.

Roofs and floors, 1886. Finishes, 1886.

Condition - fair. Infrequent usage.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. Platform beneath 50% of church, primary; deep, wide external cutting around 50% of church, primary, secondarily deepened; raised floor levels, earlier floors intact; external memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

.Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-C19 core fabric.

Group value - low-medium. Large, suboval rural churchyard with good memorials.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave east bays, early C19.

Phase 2 - Nave west bay, South porch, vestry, 1886.

DESCRIPTION

St Cynllo, Nantcwnlle, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It was probably rebuilt in the earlier 19th century, in the same location as its predecessor (PRN 4787) and was extended and restored in 1886 under the architect A. Ritchie of Chester (NLW, SD/F/509).

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave which was extended by one bay in 1886, a south porch and a single-bayed vestry south of the chancel west bay. Construction is in local rubble, refaced in 1886; plastered within. All dressings are in grey oolite and from 1886, including the chancel arch; the openings are neo-gothic comprising cusped double lancets and cusped 2- and 3-light windows with simple tracery. The north side is buttressed, 1886. There is an external string-course around the porch, 1886. The 1886 vestry fireplace is disused, its chimney gone. A simple, gabled single bellcote lies at the west end. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated half-hipped roof. Floors are suspended, but over solid infill, except in the porch.

The pre-1886 restoration church is shown in plan and elevation in the 1886 faculty bundle (NLW, SD/F/509) and in a pre-1886 drawing reproduced in Evans, 1915, 77. It appears to have been a construction of the early 19th century exhibiting no evidence of having retained any earlier fabric. It comprises a single cell, the chancel and nave without any structural division. It was entered through a semicircular headed west door with steps down to the nave floor; a similar door lay at the east end of the south wall. There was a window in the north wall, 3 in the south wall and one in the east wall; all had simple 2-centred heads and timber Y-tracery. A simple, single gabled bellcote with a semicircular-headed opening lay on the west end.

The church was restored in 1886 to the designs of the architect A. Ritchie of Chester (NLW, SD/F/509). The restoration was high-impact. The west wall was removed, the nave was extended west by one bay, with a new bellcote, and the south porch and vestry were built. It appears that the remainder of the walls were at least refaced if not rebuilt; the windows were infilled and only the south door was retained. The church was refenestrated and 2 buttresses were built against the north wall. The church was reroofed, refloored (the new floor 0.3m higher than the old), and reseated.

There is a deep, wide external cutting along the north side and a corresponding earthwork platform beneath the southern half of the church, possibly primary but the cutting was deepened and widened in 1886. The floor levels were raised in 1886, suspended over solid infill above the old floors. Some memorials lie significantly close to the east wall.

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

Celtic dedication; large suboval yard; association with nearby Pen-y-gaer hillfort (PRN 4791)? (Various, 1994, 403).

St Cynllo, Nantcwnlle, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Ultra-Aeron. It was a possession of the Bishop of St Davids, lying at the centre of an episcopal grange, as a prebend of the collegiate church at Brecon valued at £7 6s 8d (Lewis, 1833).

In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage in the patronage of the Bishop, rated in the king's books at £3 13 4d, endowed with £600 royal bounty and £600 parliamentary grant (ibid.) The tithes were divided between the prebendary and the vicar (ibid.).

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

The church has, since the early 1990s at least, only been used during the summer months.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Parish of Nantcwnlle, Tithe Map, 1843.

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

Church in Wales Records

Hook Mason, 1994, Quinquennial Report, Nantcwnlle.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

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Printed Accounts

Evans, G. E., 1915, 'Vanished and Vanishing Cardiganshire', Transactions of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society Vol. II.

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

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**ST MICHAEL,
PENBRYN,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 5397

RB No. 3275

NGR SN 2396 5211

Listed Building no. 9899

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 100% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, small-medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; medieval. West porch, 17th century. Local rubble construction. Slate gable roofs; medieval and 17th century timbers. Medieval chancel arch, west door, windows, blocked windows, piscina, tomb recesses, and double bellcote. Remainder of windows are from the early 19th century and one is from 1887.

Roofs: 15th - early 16th century, and 17th century oak trusses and purlins. Floors: 1887. Finishes: 1887 and 1957.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Terrace beneath 100% of church, with deep, wide cutting along the north wall and earthwork platform along the south wall, primary; floors were excavated beneath in 90% of church; few external memorials significantly close to 50% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 100% pre-19th century core fabric. Medieval roofs, windows, chancel arch, west door, tomb recesses, piscina and bellcote; blocked medieval windows; 17th century west porch with door.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church in coastal hillslope location; circular churchyard with good memorials; medieval churchyard cross-base; prehistoric cemetery site?.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13.

Phase 2 - Chancel, C14.

Phase 3 - West porch, C17.

Phase 4 - Restored early C19, low impact.

Phase 5 - Restored 1887, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Michael, Penbryn, is a three celled church, of small-medium size. It retains approximately 100% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, and a west porch. Construction is in local rubble, with pointing from 1887 and some 20th century repointing; plastered within. The chancel arch and west door are medieval; there are medieval windows in the chancel and nave north walls, a number of blocked windows, a piscina and tomb recesses in the chancel and nave, and a medieval double bellcote. Remainder of windows are from the early 19th century with timber frames, while the east window is from 1887. The nave (and chancel?) roof is a slated gable with medieval timbers; the gabled porch roof is 17th century.

The chancel markedly inclined to the north, and the north wall lies to the north of the nave north wall terminating at its west end as a pilaster. The east window may occupy a medieval opening but now contains a 3-light window from 1887. There is a single lancet with a square-headed surround in the north wall, 15th century, re-exposed in 1957. A similar window in the south wall was largely rebuilt in 1886; to the west lies an empty tomb recess with a plain 2-centred arch. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is 13th century and exhibits plain imposts. The ?collar-rafter roof is concealed by a matchboarded ceiling from 1887. The flagged floor may be late 18th-early 19th century, but relaid in 1887.

The nave north wall has a wide, basal offset, medieval. There is a 2-light, cusped Perpendicular window at the east end, in a square Old Red Sandstone surround, all 16th century. To the west are 2 plain, square slit lights, possibly 12th century, re-exposed in 1957. The south wall leans out markedly; it may have all been rebuilt in the 15th century. There are 4 windows in this wall with a segmental openings and infill from the earlier 19th century; the 2-light, cusped timber frames may have been rebuilt. The eastern window interrupts, to the east, part of the surround of a blocked 16th century window like that in the north wall but with a limestone surround and, to the west, a blocked semicircular-headed window, with squared voussoirs, from the 12th century and re-exposed in 1957. Towards the west end of the south wall is a blocked slit-light similar to those in the north wall, also 12th century; the wall terminates as a pilaster. The west wall has an external basal batter and carries a large, gabled double bellcote with depressed 2-centred openings, lying above a plain, slate string-course, all medieval. The 2-centred west door may be 13th century. Internally a tomb recess lies beneath, and is truncated by, the 16th century north wall window, and a plain, semicircular headed piscina recess of 12th century date lies in the nave south wall. The oak roof is from the 15th - early 16th century and has cusped, arch-braced king-post trusses re-exposed in 1957, when plasterboard was inserted above. Floored as the chancel.

The west porch is plain, and has a semicircular-headed doorway from the 17th century, with a possible blocked opening above. The oak roof has plain collar-rafters forming arches, also from the 17th century. The quarry-tiled floor is from 1887.

The church occupies a terrace with a deep, wide cutting along the north wall and corresponding earthwork platform along the south wall, all primary. The floors were excavated beneath, and lowered?, in 1887. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the south and east walls.

Structural development

The nave north wall is pierced by 2 slit lights that may be 12th century, while the south wall exhibits a similar, blocked slit-light and a blocked window and piscina of similar date (not therefore rebuilt in the 15th century as claimed by RCAHMW). The chancel is 13th century, but the north wall may have been rebuilt, and the chancel widened, in the 15th century; it occupies a line to the north of the nave north wall. The nave (and chancel?) roof is from the 15th - early 16th century and similar to the roof at Mwnt, Cer.. the west porch is probably all 17th century, including the oak roof.

The church was described in 1869 when the roofs had apparently been 'modernised' (Glynne, 1898, 355), presumably merely meaning the insertion of ceilings; the present nave south wall windows had been inserted. The piscina, and the tomb recess in the chancel, were noted. The interior was 'dreary and ill-kept'.

The church was restored in 1887 to the designs of the architect D. Davies of Penrhiwllan (Cadw, 1996, 13). Overall, the restoration was low-impact but the floors was partially excavated out and relaid, apparently disturbing many burials (Davies, n.d.). The interior was reseated, and the roof-trusses were matchboarded over. The chancel east window was rebuilt.

A renovation was undertaken in 1957, probably under A. D. R. Caroe (Cadw, 1996, 13). The roof matchboarding was removed exposing the trusses. At the same time the interior was refinished, exposing the medieval windows in the chancel and nave, which had been blocked.

There is a bier in the west porch dated 1835. The softwood, free-standing stalls and pews are from 1886. The pulpit is dated 1894. The softwood vestry screen is from the later 20th century, 1957?.

The limestone font has a square, cushioned bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, from c.1200. A loose font in the porch has a scalloped bowl and cylindrical stem, from the 12th century.

There are 2 bells.

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is good evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Circular churchyard; pre-Conquest Latin dedication; prehistoric cemetery?.

St Michael, Penbryn, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. It was a possession of the Premonstratensians of Talley Abbey, confirmed by Rhys Fychan in the 13th century (Price, 1879, 172) although the right to patronage was disputed by the Bishops of St Davids (Davies, n.d.). It was valued at £16 in 1291 (ibid.).

In 1833 the living, a vicarage with the perpetual curacies of Betws Ifan and Brongwyn annexed, was rated in the king's books at £15; the patron was the Bishop of St Davids (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael, Penbryn, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llangrannog and Llandysiliogogo (Benefice 830) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Glyn Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST SULIAN,
SILIAN,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 17375

RB No. 2586

NGR SN 5715 5124

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and same location as, medieval church (PRN 4796).

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; vestry (north), 1 bay; all new built in 1873. Construction is in split-shale rubble throughout. Neo-gothic. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to. All openings are from 1873; western belicote with spire, 1873. ECM built into external facework.

Roofs and floors, 1873. Finishes, 1873.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Built on foundations of earlier church; deep cutting around 40% of church, primary; slight platform beneath 50% of church, secondary?; no external drain; suspended floors over heating ducts.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor-fair. 0% pre 1873 core fabric; re-used ECM in facework.

Group value - high. Rural landmark church; central village location; circular churchyard, 2 ECMs.

Phasing:
All 1873.

DESCRIPTION

St Sulien, Silian, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It was entirely (re)built in 1873 to the designs of A. Withers, in the same location, and on the foundations as its predecessor (PRN 4796) but retaining nothing from the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a south porch and a single-bayed lean-to vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in local Silurian split-shale rubble throughout. All dressings are in grey oolite and from 1873; the openings comprise uncusped single lancets, with a triple-lancet east window. The west door has a raised, gabled surround from which a cylindrical column rises to the corbelled bellcote; the bellcote is octagonal, in grey oolite and features 4 openings beneath a spire with 4 lucarnes, all 1873. There is a date-stone marked '1873' on the west wall. The vestry features a disused fireplace; the chimney has gone. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof. The floors are suspended.

The earlier church was described by Lewis as 'an ancient edifice... not distinguished by any architectural details of importance', consisting of a nave and chancel (Lewis, 1833). It is shown as such on the tithe map of 1846 (NLW, Silian, 1846). There was a bellcote at the west end (Anon., 1878, 352).

The church was entirely rebuilt 1873 to the designs of the architect A. Withers of Chester (*ibid.*; Clive-Powell, 1996, 1). The new building closely follows the plan of its predecessor and appears to be built on the same foundations.

The font is from 1873. The old font bowl lies loose in the church; it is circular bowl with 4 human masks in relief (*cf.* Cenarth and Pencarreg, Carms.) and of late 12th - early 13th century date (Evans, 1913, 17).

An ECM is built into the facework of the church (PRN), with a Latin inscription (Allen, 1899, 4-11, 36-38; Various, 1994, 414, 420). There is a further knotwork-decorated ECM in the yard (PRN).

There is a deep cutting along the north side of the church, probably primary except around the vestry; a corresponding slight platform lies beneath the southern half of the building which may be secondary, derived from debris of the earlier church?. There is no external drain. Floors are suspended over heating ducts. No memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is good evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site - Celtic dedication; circular churchyard, 2 ECMs.

St Sulien, Silian, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. It was in the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids.

In 1833 the living was consolidated with the vicarage of Llanwnen (Lewis, 1833), which was in the patronage of the Bishop to whom two-thirds of the tithes were appropriated, the other third belonging to the vicar; it was rated in the king's books at £3 4s 9½d, endowed with £400 royal bounty and £400 parliamentary grant (*ibid.*).

In 1998 St Sulien, Silian, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Lampeter (Benefice 822) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

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- NLW, Parish of Silian, Tithe Map, 1846.
- Rees, W., 1932, South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century.

Church in Wales Records

- Clive Powell, R., 1996, Quinquennial Report, Silian.
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Printed Accounts

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**ST CARON,
TREGARON,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 5136

RB No. 3600

NGR SN 6799 5659

Listed Building no. 9909

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 25% medieval core fabric.

A 3-cell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel/nave, 5 bays, without structural division; vestry/boilerhouse (south of chancel), 2 storeys; c.1826-77. West tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Local rubble construction. Internal walls with render/plaster except in tower. Slate gable roofs; tower with a flat roof. Medieval vault and openings in tower; remainder of openings from 1877, neogothic, with yellow oolite surrounds.

Roofs and floors: 1877. Finishes: Late 19th - early 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. A possible bronze age barrow lies beneath 100% of church; no external drain or cutting; burial vault/crypt beneath 25% of church; internal floor levels raised in 65% of church; suspended floors over underfloor void in 65% of church; below-ground floor in 10% of church; external memorials lie significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair. 25% medieval core fabric; medieval openings and vault in tower.

Group value - high. Landmark church with medieval tower; central village location; 3 ECMs; circular churchyard with good memorials; lych-gate; historic tradition; bronze age barrow beneath church?.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - West tower, c.1500.

Phase 2 - Chancel/nave, c.1826.

Phase 3 - Restored 1877, high impact; vestry built, north wall rebuilt.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Caron, Tregaron, is a 3-celled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 25% medieval core fabric, confined to the west tower and the lowermost courses of the south and east walls. .

The present church consists of a 5-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division, a 3-storey west tower, and a transeptal 2-storey vestry/boilerhouse south of the chancel west bay. Construction is in local Llanddewi Brefi rubble throughout; dressings, except in the tower, are in yellow oolite, neo-gothic and from 1877. The external pointing is generally good and is later 19th - earlier 20th century; the interior is plastered except in the west tower. Roofs are slated gables; the west tower has a flat roof from the later 20th century.

The chancel is from c.1826 when it was rebuilt on the truncated remains of the medieval chancel and was substantially rebuilt, its north wall entirely rebuilt, in 1877. The east and south walls have an external basal batter up to a plain string-course, medieval but restored in 1877 when it was interrupted by a low gabled buttress. The 3 light east window has plain, uncusped Geometric tracery and is all from 1877 as is the circular light into the roof space above. There is a window in the north wall, of 3 uncusped and untraceryed lights, and a single lancet in the south wall; both are from 1877; the south wall also contains the 2-centred vestry door, from 1877. The chancel is roofed continuously with the nave; the softwood roof is from 1877. All rafters have collars, arch-braced from wall corbels, and queen-posts; matchboarded above. The chancel passages are tiled, with suspended board floors in the west bay, from 1877.

The nave has been rebuilt like the chancel. It is open to the chancel without a chancel arch, but with a stepped external buttress, from 1877, on the north wall at the junction between the two. There are 2 windows in the north wall like that in the chancel north wall and similarly from 1877; the three south wall windows are the same but the westernmost is only 2-light. Roofed and floored as the chancel.

The transeptal vestry was added in 1877. It comprises 2 storeys, the lower storey housing a boilerhouse that is partly below ground. The vestry is entered through its east wall up a flight of external steps and a Caernarfon-headed doorway; there is a 2-light window in the south wall like the chancel/nave windows, and a blocked fireplace in the north wall with a plain square chimney shared with the boiler, all from 1877. The softwood gabled roof is from 1877 and without trusses, all common rafters having collars; the floor is boarded. The boilerhouse is also entered through the east wall, a 2-centred doorway, from 1877, lying below the stair landing, and is lit by an 1877 lancet in the south wall.

The medieval west tower is from c.1500, comprises 3 storeys and is typical of the region, being battered externally up to a plain string-course. A square stair turret, entered through an elaborate, 2-centred doorway with a raised oolite surround from c.1500, projects from the eastern half of the north wall and is lit by simple slit-lights. The barrel-vaulted ground floor communicates with the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch from c.1500, and features the main west door to the church which has a 2-centred surround, also from c.1500. Above the west door is a 2-light window with cusped plate tracery, an 1877 copy of an original from c.1500?. The south wall displays a line of blocked internal sockets associated with the former gallery staircase and from the later 18th century. Floored as the nave. The second storey is blind. The third storey features 2-light openings, largely rebuilt in 1877, in all four walls; the crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table and occupies a higher level over the stair turret.

The church stands upon a possible bronze age barrow. There is neither an external drain nor cutting. A burial vault/crypt lies beneath the tower and nave west bay, its south wall forming a revetment beyond the south wall of the church. The chancel/nave floor level was raised in 1877; the floors are suspended over an underfloor void. The boilerhouse floor is below ground level. External memorials lie significantly close to the north wall.

Structural development

The west tower is from c.1500. The remainder of the church was entirely rebuilt in c.1826, but on the truncated remains of the medieval church, and again partly rebuilt in 1877. There is no physical evidence for any former component beyond the present building.

The church was repaired in 1788 and the exterior whitewashed (Evans, n.d., 11). Some renovation was undertaken in 1804 (Various, 1994, 414) but the extent of this work is not known. The church roof was evidently still thatched, having been rethatched in 1805 (Evans, n.d., 11). The tower, which had received a new 'pinnacle' in 1810, was thoroughly repaired in 1820 (ibid.), and the east window was replaced with a timber sash at about the same period.

A vestry decision to replace all the windows with sashes, in 1826 (ibid.), may have heralded the rebuild of the church that occurred during the first half of the 19th century. With the exception of the tower, the church was entirely rebuilt in the non-conformist tradition, but on the remains of the medieval walling, Glynne remarking c.1860 that 'it is doubtful whether any part of the walls is original; there is, however, the trace of an original stringcourse under the windows' (Glynne, 1897, 307). There was no distinction between nave and chancel and the whole was described as 'cheap and nasty' in 1861 (Anon., 1861, 311), and as a 'poor specimen of the debased Georgian type' (Anon., 1878, 350). The plan accompanying the faculty submission for the 1877 restoration (NLW, SD/F/658) shows a long, narrow chancel/nave, with 3 single-light sash windows in the north wall, 4 in the south wall and 1 in the east wall. The main entrance appears to have been through a door that lay at the west end of the nave south wall, with an internal lobby beneath a west gallery.

The core of the rebuilt church was fundamentally retained during the restoration of 1877, which was undertaken to the designs of the architect A. Ritchie of Chester (ibid.). The north wall was taken down and rebuilt a little to the north, the present vestry/boilerhouse was built, the south door was blocked and the church refenestrated. The tower openings were partly rebuilt. The church walls appear to have been generally rebuilt or at least refaced, and the building was reroofed, refloored, reseated and refinished.

The softwood pews are probably from the 1877 restoration. The oolite reredos and credence shelf are from 1886 (Evans, n.d., 5). The softwood chancel screen and freestanding stalls are from 1926 (NLW, SD/F/600), and the oolite pulpit may also be earlier 20th century.

The heptagonal font bowl has lobate angles, on a circular stem and square base, all from c.1200 (Anon., 1915, 23).

The 3 bells of Strata Florida Abbey were sold to Tregaron at the dissolution (Owen, 1896, 263-5); there is now only one bell, cast in Bristol in 1889 (Evans, n.d., 7); the previous bell itself only dated to 1859 (Anon., 1878, 350).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

An ECM was formerly built into the south wall of the church, with a 6th century Latin inscription (Various, 1994, 414). Three more ECMs, all cross incised, lay within the yard but have since been moved (ibid.).

SITE HISTORY

There is good evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site -
Celtic dedication; 3 ECMs; circular churchyard; bronze age barrow beneath church?.

St Caron, Tregaron, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Ultra-Aeron. A third of the tithes were appropriated to Strata Florida Abbey in 1339 (Evans, n.d., 3) and in 1406 the benefice, in the patronage of the Bishop of St Davids, was assigned as a prebend to the collegiate

church of Llanddewi Brefi (*ibid.*), rated in the king's books at £13 6s 8d (Lewis, 1833). In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage in the patronage of the Bishop, rated in the king's books at £8 (*ibid.*).

In 1998 St Caron, Tregaron, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Ystrad Meurig and Strata Florida (Benefice no. 695) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

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Church in Wales Records

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St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/658, Faculty - Alteration and restoration, 1877.

NLW, SD/F/659, Faculty - Stained glass window, 1922.

NLW, SD/F/660, Faculty - Memorial chancel screen, 1926.

Printed Accounts

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Soulsby, I., 1983, The Towns of Medieval Wales.

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**ST HILARY,
TREFILAN,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 17369

RB No. 3627

NGR SN 5496 5716

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and same location as, medieval church (PRN 4778).

A 3-cell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; partly from 1806. Nave, 4 bays; south porch; vestry (north), 1 bay; 1880-82. Construction is in local rubble. Neo-gothic. Slate gable roofs. All openings are from 1880-82; eastern single bellcote, 1880-82.

Roofs and floors, 1880-82. Finishes, 1994.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. No physical evidence for pre-1806 church; slight platform around 40% of church, 1880-82?; no external cutting or drain around church; suspended floors in 60% of church; external memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

.Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-1806 core fabric.

Group value - medium. Associated motte-&-bailey.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel south and east walls, 1806.

Phase 2 - Chancel north wall, nave, south porch and vestry, 1880-82.

DESCRIPTION

St Hilary, Trefilan, is a 3-celled church, of medium size. It was entirely (re)built in 1806 (Lewis, 1833), in the same location as its predecessor (PRN 4778) and was enlarged and almost entirely rebuilt in 1880-82 under the architect A. Ritchie of Chester (NLW, SD/F/657).

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a south porch and a single-bayed transeptal vestry north of the chancel. Construction is in local rubble, plastered within; all finishes from 1994. All dressings are in yellow oolite and from 1880-82, including the chancel arch; the openings are neo-gothic comprising simple single lancets; there is a simple rose window in the west wall and a simple 3-light east window. External buttressing is limited and from 1880-82. There is an external string-course around the chancel, 1880-82. The 1880-82 vestry fireplace is disused, but retains its simple chimney. A simple, gabled single bellcote lies at the east end of the nave over the chancel arch. The roofs are slated gables throughout. Floors are suspended in the nave and vestry.

The pre-1806 church was apparently considerably larger than its successor (Lewis, 1833). It was entirely demolished and rebuilt as 'a neat edifice, consisting of a nave and chancel' (ibid.).

The 1806 church is shown in plan and elevation in the 1880 Faculty bundle (NLW, SD/F/657). It comprised a 3-bayed chancel/nave without structural division. There were originally just 2 small, 2-centred neo-gothic windows, both in the south wall, and an east window. At some period prior to 1880 they had been blocked and 3 similar, but larger windows inserted in the south wall, with timber Y-tracery. The west porch shown in the drawings, with internal stone benching, was probably added at the same time. There was a simple, flat-top gabled, single bellcote at the west end.

The present church was erected in 1880-82 to the designs of the architect A. Ritchie of Chester (ibid.). Only the core of the chancel east and south walls were retained from the 1806 church, the new church extending considerably further north and west; the 1806 masonry was refaced. All structural detail, roofs, floors and fittings are from 1880-82.

The south porch east wall was rebuilt in 1987 (Hook Mason, 1995, 5). The church was superficially restored in 1994, repointed and replastered. (ibid.).

The old font was retained within the 1806 church (Lewis, 1833) but in 1914 lay 'neglected on the north side of the church' (Evans, 1914, 63). The square bowl had gone and only the cylindrical stem and square base remained, of late 12th - early 13th century date; they now lie loose in the church.

There is no physical evidence for the pre-1806 church. There is a very slight platform along the south wall of the church, probably relating to the 1880-82 rebuild. Neither an external cutting nor a drain runs around the church. The nave and vestry floors are suspended over an underfloor void. Some 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.

Trefilan was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Ultra-Aeron. It was mentioned in 1282 (Soulsby, 1983, 254) and may be coeval with the foundation of a small town at Trefilan in the 13th century (ibid.).

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

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

The 'Hilary' dedication may be derived from the place-name 'Ilan' (the hundred within which Trefilan lies) which was confused with Ilar, the Welsh form of Hilary (Various, 1994, 392). Rees, 1932, gives the medieval dedication as St Mary.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

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

NLW, Parish of Trefilan, Tithe Map, 1840.

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

Church in Wales Records

Hook Mason, 1995, Quinquennial Report, Trefilan.

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

Evans, G. E., 1914, 'The Old Font of Trefilan', Transactions of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society Vol. 1.

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

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

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**ST MICHAEL,
TREMAIN,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 5219

RB No. 3258

NGR SN 2353 4865

Listed Building no. 15871

Grade II 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 (north of nave), 2 bays; all mid-late 19th century. Construction is in squared sandstone rubble. Slate gable roofs. All openings are from the mid-late 19th century, neo-gothic and in limestone; external buttressing, mid-late 19th century; western single bellcote, mid-late 19th century.

Roofs, floors and finishes: mid-late 19th century

Condition - good..

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Earthwork platform beneath 50% of church, mid-late 19th century?; very shallow cuttings around 40% of church; no underfloor void?; few external memorials lie significantly close to 100% of church.

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

Group value - low-medium. C19 landmark church.

Phasing:

All mid-late 19th century .

DESCRIPTION

St Michael, Tremain, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It was partly rebuilt in 1810, and entirely (re)built in the mid-late 19th 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 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a south porch, and a 2-bayed vestry north of the nave east bays. Construction is in squared Pwntan sandstone. All dressings are in limestone and from the mid-late 19th century; the windows are plain, simple single lancets. The exterior is buttressed throughout. There is a simple, shouldered gabled single bellcote at the west end. The vestry chimney rises through a clasping buttress at the north-west corner, and has a fine, octagonal neo-Decorated ashlar stack with a small spire. The roofs are slated gables. The floors are suspended except in the porch.

The form of the pre-19th century church is not known. With the exception of the chancel, it was rebuilt in 1810 as a 'long, plain edifice composed only of a nave and chancel' (Lewis, 1833); it is shown in this form on the tithe map of 1840 (NLW, Tremain, 1840).

This church was itself demolished to make way for the present building in the mid-late 19th century. There appear to have been no further major alterations.

The font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, all 12th century.

The scarp of a massive external platform lies to the east of the church, representing a former churchyard boundary but possibly enhanced by demolition debris from the earlier church which forms a discrete, slight platform beneath the nave. There is no external drain, but very shallow cuttings run along the north and south walls of the church. There may be no underfloor void. A few external memorials lie significantly close to all walls.

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 Michael, Tremain, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of Aberporth parish, in the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron, which was a possession of the Premonstratensians of Talley Abbey.

Tremain had become a parish by 1833 when the living was a perpetual curacy endowed with £1200 royal bounty and £200 parliamentary grant, in the patronage of Philip John Miles, Esq. (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael, Tremain, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Aberporth, Blaenporth 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 Tremain, Tithe Map, 1840.

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

Church in Wales Records

Bartosch, P. M., 1991, Quinquennial Report, Tremain.

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**ST MICHAEL,
TROED-YR-AUR,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 5271

RB No. 3594

NGR SN 3270 4535

Listed Building no. 15651

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and same location as, medieval church (PRN 12664).

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of chancel/nave, without structural division, 5 bays; vestry/store, 2 bays with structural division, 2 bays; 1850-51. South porch, 20th century. Construction is in slate rubble, south porch in sandstone ashlar. Slate gable roofs throughout. Re-used 16th century door surround; all main openings from 1850-51 and neogothic, largely without dressings; western single bellcote, 1850-51. Porch door 20th century.

Roofs and floors, 1850-51. Finishes, 1850 - 20th century.

Condition - fair-good; vestry disused.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Church newly built in 1850-51, in same location as 1795 church; no external cutting or drain; earthwork platform beneath 50% of church, constructional?, debris?; suspended floors in 80% of church; large external memorial against 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor-fair. 0% pre 1850 core fabric; re-used 16th century door surround?.

Group value - low. C20 lych-gate.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/ nave, vestry/store, 1850-51.

Phase 2 - South porch, 20th century.

DESCRIPTION

St Michael, Troed-yr-Aur, is a 2-celled church, of small. It was entirely (re)built in 1850-51 on the same site, and in the same location, as its predecessor (PRN 12644) but nothing was retained from the earlier fabric apart from the re-used head of a 16th century door surround.

The present church consists of a 5-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division, a 2-bayed vestry/store with an internal dividing wall, south of the chancel, and a south porch added in the 20th century. Construction is in Cilgerran slate rubble, the south porch is in Pwntan sandstone rubble (Cadw, 1996, 36). The west door to the vestry/store is 4-centred, weathered, and possibly 16th century, re-used in 1850-51. There are few further dressings, but where they occur are in sandstone and from 1850-51, apart from in the porch; the openings are neo-gothic and comprise single-lights containing 1-, 2- and 3-light windows with carved timber tracery. There is a gabled, single bellcote on the west end, with shoulders and a string-course. The roofs are slated gables throughout. The floors are suspended except in the porch.

The form of the medieval church is not known. It was rebuilt in 1795, and a porch was added c.1830 (Lewis, 1833). This church was entirely rebuilt in 1850-51 by Charles Davies of Cenarth (Cadw, 1996, 36), retaining none of the earlier fabric (except for the re-used door head). The south porch is an addition of the 20th century.

There is neither an external cutting nor drain, but the west end of the church occupies an earthwork platform - construction?, debris?. Floors are suspended except in the porch. A large, formerly railed family memorial is built against the south wall of the vestry.

The font has a square bowl with attached shafts at the corners, a circular stem (Anon., 1915, 27) and is of 14th-15th century date.

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 Michael, Troed-yr-Aur, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron. It was a possession of the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech, having been granted by Earl Roger de Clare c.1158 (Rees, 1897, 98).

At the dissolution, the church fell to the crown and in 1833 the living was a discharged rectory, in the patronage of the king and rated in the king's books at £13 (Lewis, 1833).

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

The parish was formerly known as Llanfihangel Tref-Deyrn (Lewis, 1833; Rees, 1897, 98), but the St Michael dedication may be of later medieval origin (Various, 1994, 393).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Parish of Troed-yr-Aur, Tithe Map, 1840.

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

Church in Wales Records

Clive-Powell, R., 1993, Quinquennial Report, Troed-yr-Aur.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

Printed Accounts

Anon., 1915, 'Cardiganshire Fonts', Transactions of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society Vol. II.

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

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

Rees, J. R., 1897, 'Slebech Commandery and the Knights of St John', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. XIV, Fifth 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 JOHN THE BAPTIST,
YSBYTY CYNFYN,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 5479

RB No. 3117

NGR SN 7525 7909

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of chancel/nave, 3 bays; south porch; all 1827. Construction is in local rubble, rendered throughout externally and plastered within. Slate gable roofs. All openings are from 1827, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings; western single bellcote, neo-Classical, 1827.

Roofs and floors: 1827. Finishes: 1910.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, wide external earth cutting around 40% of church, primary; shallow drain runs around 40% of church, secondary; no underfloor void?; external memorials significantly close to 40% of church.

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

Group value - high. Rural upland landmark church; churchyard boundary incorporates stone circle or early C19 folly.

Phasing:
All 1827.

DESCRIPTION

St John the Baptist, Ysbyty Cynfyn, is a 2-celled church, of small size. It was entirely (re)built in 1827 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, and a south porch. Construction is in local rubble but is concealed beneath external render from 1910 and internal plaster. All dressings are in grey oolite and from 1827; the windows have plain 'Y'-tracery. There is a simple, neo-Classical flat-topped single bellcote at the west end. The roofs are slated gables.

The form of the pre-19th century church is not known. It was rebuilt in 1827 on the same site, but possibly to a larger plan than its predecessor (Hook Mason, 1993, 2). The church was restored in 1910 for a cost of £200, sufficient for superficial work (NLW, SD/F/684) during which the present external render was probably applied.

A deep, wide external earth cutting runs along the north wall, primary, where the church has been built into the hillside; a shallow drain runs along the south wall. There may be no underfloor void. External memorials lie significantly close to the south wall.

The church was not listed in 1998.

The churchyard boundary wall incorporates a number of standing stones, recorded as early 1833 and thought to represent a prehistoric stone circle. An alternative hypothesis has been proposed attributing the stones to the early 19th century as part of a folly (Various, 1994, 399).

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Churchyard formerly circular, incorporating stone circle?.

St John the Baptist, Ysbyty Cynfyn, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a formal, upland chapel-of-ease to Llanbadarn Fawr parish, serving the township of Llanbadarn y Creuddyn, of the medieval Deanery of Ultra-Aeron. It appears, from the dedication at least, to have been a possession of the Knights Hospitaller but the claim has been disputed and an alternative association with Strata Florida Abbey has been proposed (Roberts, 1848, 126).

In 1833 the living was a perpetual curacy endowed with £1000 royal bounty and £600 parliamentary grant, in the patronage of the local landowners who paid 6d in the pound towards the minister's stipend (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St John the Baptist, Ysbyty Cynfyn, was a chapel-of-ease. The living was a vicarage, held with Llantrisant and Eglwys Newydd (Benefice no. 828) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Llanbadarn Fawr (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

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

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

Church in Wales Records

Hook Mason, 1993, Quinquennial Report, Ysbyty Cynfyn.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/684, Faculty - Restoration of church, 1910.

Printed Accounts

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

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

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

Roberts, G., 1848, 'Strata Florida Abbey', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. III, First Series.

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 JOHN THE BAPTIST,
YSBYTY YSTWYTH,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 5489

RB No. 3105

NGR SN 7320 7151

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric?. On site of, and in same location as, medieval church. Replaced by present church, in different location, in later 19th century (Dyfed PRN 36239).

A single-cell church, small. Consists of chancel/nave, 2 bays; all early mid 19th century?. Construction is in local shale rubble, plastered within. Slate gable roof. All openings are from the early-mid 19th century, in domestic style and without dressings; western single bellcote, neo-gothic, early-mid 19th century; chimney, post-1872?.

Roofs and floors: early-mid 19th century. Finishes: mainly 20th century.

Condition - good. Now used as church hall.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, wide external earth cutting around 50% of church, primary; no underfloor void; few external memorials significantly close to 50% of church.

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

Group value - high. Associated with later C19 landmark church with tower; upland hilltop location; large churchyard with good memorials.

Phasing:

All early-mid C19?.

DESCRIPTION

A church has been present at Ysbyty Ystwyth since the medieval period. The site of the original church is represented by the building, low down in the churchyard at SN 7320 7151, now used as a church hall. In 1872-6 a new church, similarly dedicated to St John the Baptist, (Dyfed PRN 36239), was constructed approx. 100m to the east in an extension of the churchyard, at SN 7326 7152, to the designs of the architect R. J. Withers (Anon., 1872, 362). This report concerns only the old church which is a single-celled building, of small size. It was rebuilt in the early-mid 19th century on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, retaining little from the earlier fabric.

It consists of a 2-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division. Construction is in local shale rubble. Pointing is largely 20th century; the interior is plastered. Openings are from the early-mid 19th century and in domestic style, without dressings; the windows are square with timber frames, but the east window has a 2-centred head. There is a simple, gabled single bellcote at the west end, early-mid 19th century; the fireplace and square chimney on the north wall may be post-1872. The roof is a slated gable.

In 1833 the church was described as a 'small, ancient edifice, consisting only of a nave, divided by a screen to form a chancel'; this screen was apparently a medieval rood-screen 'like that at Llanafan' (Crossley and Ridgeway, 1946, 56). The roof was supported on 'octagonal pillars, in one of which there is a cavity for the purpose of a font' (Lewis, 1833).

This church appears to have substantially, if not entirely rebuilt soon afterwards, into its present form.

A deep, wide external earth cutting runs around the eastern half of the church, primary, where the church has been built into the hillside. There is no underfloor void. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the west, north and south walls.

The church was not listed in 1998; the 1872-6 church was a Grade II listed (Listed Building no. 9924).

SITE HISTORY

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

St John the Baptist, Ysbyty Ystwyth, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but an upland chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Ultra-Aeron. It appears to have been a possession of Strata Florida Abbey, of which it was a hospice chapel (Lewis, 1833), although alternative ownership by the Knights Hospitaller has been claimed (Anon., 1860, 247; Roberts, 1848, 126).

Ysbyty Ystwyth had become a parish by 1833 when the living, a perpetual curacy with that of Ystrad Meurig annexed, was endowed with £800 royal bounty and in the patronage of the Earl of Lisburne (ibid.).

In 1998 St John the Baptist, Ysbyty Ystwyth, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage held with Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, Llanwnnws and Llanafan-y-Trawscoed (Benefice no. 827) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Llanbadarn Fawr (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Sheet XVI.3.

NLW, Parish of Ysbyty Ystwyth, Tithe Map, 1848.

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

Church in Wales Records

Hook Mason, 1996, Quinquennial Report, Ysbyty Ystwyth.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

Printed Accounts

Anon., 1860, 'Notes and Queries', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. VI, Third Series.

Anon., 1872, 'Miscellaneous Notices', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. III, Fourth Series.

Anon., 1915, 'Carved Work in Cardiganshire Churches', Transactions of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society Vol. II.

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

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

Roberts, G., 1848, 'Strata Florida Abbey', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. III, First Series.

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 JOHN THE BAPTIST,
YSTRAD MEURIG,
CEREDIGION**

Dyfed PRN 19648

RB No. 3602

NGR SN 7035 6765

Not 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, 4 bays; west porch, vestry (north), 1 bay; all new built in the later 19th century. Construction is in coursed local rubble throughout. Neo-Perpendicular. Slate gable roofs; vestry with a slate hipped roof. All openings are from 1898; western single bellcote combined with chimney-stack, 1898.

Roofs, floors and finishes, 1898.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Shallow external cutting around 40% of church; underground heating chamber in 5% of church; floors suspended above heating ducts in 90% of church; external memorials significantly close to 40% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-1898 core fabric.

Group value - medium-high. Central C19 village church; good memorials; associated C19 school buildings; adjacent motte-&-bailey.

Phasing:
All 1898.

DESCRIPTION

St John the Baptist, Ystrad Meurig, is a 3-celled church, of small-medium size. It was entirely (re)built in 1898 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 4-bayed nave, a west porch and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in coursed local rubble throughout. All dressings are in red Forest of Dean sandstone (Clive Powell, 1993, 1) and from 1898; the openings are neo-Perpendicular, 4-centred or square-headed, the 1- and 2-light windows being cusped, with simple tracery. There is a combined chimney-stack and flat-topped single bellcote at the west end, 1898. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated hipped roof.

The earlier church was described by Lewis, 1833, as 'a small plain building, consisting only of a nave' and is shown as a plain rectangular structure on the tithe map of 1846 (NLW, Ysbyty Ystwyth, 1843). It had been used as a grammar school for some years prior to 1803 and was altered accordingly; the east window was blocked and replaced with a fireplace and chimney (Anon., 1878, 349). By 1878 the church was disused and ruinous, and was 'used chiefly as a playground (for the neighbouring Grammar School) in wet weather' (ibid.).

The church was demolished in 1898 and the present building was erected on its foundations to the designs of Arthur Baker, of Harold Hughes, Architects, of Bangor and London (NLW, SD/F/690). A west tower with a spire had been proposed but was never built. The church appears to have undergone no subsequent major alteration.

The octagonal font is from 1898.

The original church bell was apparently rediscovered in Llanwnnw bog in 1875 (Anon., 1878, 348), but rival claims to it have been made by Llanwnnw Church itself. It has not been rehung (Anon., 1875, 287).

There is a shallow external cutting along the south wall, where churchyard levels have been raised by the dense concentration of burials, which lie significantly close to the walls. There is an underground heating chamber, and floors are suspended above heating ducts except in the porch.

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 the Baptist, Ystrad Meurig, was a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Ultra-Aeron. It was granted, as the church of 'Stratmeuric' to the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech by Earl Roger de Clare, Lord of Cardigan, in c.1158 (Rees, 1897, 207) and had an annual value of £10.

Ystrad Meurig had lost its parochial status by 1833, when the church was a parochial chapelry of Ysbyty Ystwyth parish (Lewis, 1833). It had no separate endowment and was served by the incumbent of Ysbyty Ystwyth or his curate. The church had become disused and ruinous by 1878 (Anon., 1878, 349) but was restored to use in 1898 and later became a parish church once more.

A Grammar School was founded within the church in the early 19th century, but moved into a purpose-built schoolhouse built within the churchyard in 1803 (NLW, SD/F/689). The school served also as the church from the mid-19th century until 1898.

In 1998 St John the Baptist, Ystrad Meurig, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Tregaron and Strata Florida (Benefice no. 695) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Lampeter and Ultra-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The 'St John the Baptist' dedication probably dates to c.1158 and the acquisition of the church by the Hospitallers, for whom he was the patron saint (Various, 1994, 392).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

Blaeu, J., 1648, Map of Cardiganshire.

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Sheet XVI.14.

NLW, Parish of Ysbyty Ystwyth, Tithe Map, 1843.

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

Church in Wales Records

Clive-Powell, R., 1993, Quinquennial Report, Ystrad Meurig.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/689, Faculty - Ground for school house, 1803.

NLW, SD/F/690, Faculty - Pulling down and rebuilding church, 1897.

NLW, SD/F/691, Faculty - Stained glass window and tablets, 1920.

Printed Accounts

Anon., 1875, 'Correspondence', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. VI, Fourth Series.

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

Roberts, G., 1848, 'Strata Florida Abbey', Archaeol. Cambrensis Vol. III, First 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.

