

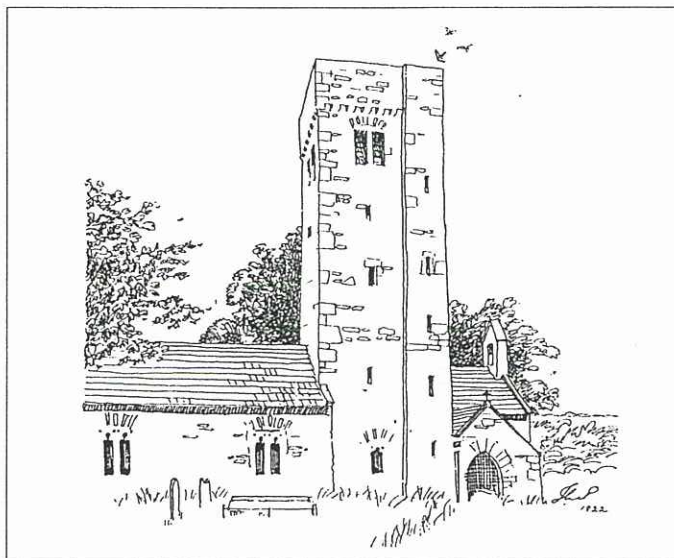
CADW WELSH HISTORIC
CHURCHES PROJECT



PRESELI PEMBROKESHIRE CHURCHES, 1997-8
(DAT 48)

31/03/99

PART 5: ROBESTON WEST-WISTON



Robeston West, Pembrokeshire

Reports prepared for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments
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A R C H A E O L E G
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THE WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE CHURCHES, 1995-6 (DAT 48)

PART 5: ROBESTON WEST - WISTON

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**ST ANDREW,
ROBESTON WEST,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 3028

RB No. 2935

NGR SM 8848 0959

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 95% pre-19th century core fabric; largely unrestored.

A 5-cell church, medium-large sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays, nave, 2 bays; north chapel, 2 bays; north tower (transeptal), 5 storeys; north porch; all medieval. Construction is in mixed rubble, predominantly Old Red Sandstone. 75% of internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs. Medieval chancel arch, north chapel arcade, remains of rood stair and corbels, windows with mullions in north chapel, piscina in chapel, vaulting and blocked window in nave, north and blocked. south doors, buttress, single bellcote on nave west wall, vaulting, benching, door and stoup in north porch. North tower with medieval rib-vault, and medieval (and early 17th century?) arches, blocked; medieval tower openings, spiral stair and parapet (uncrenellated). Few later openings, confined to nave and chancel, later 19th century.

(Effigy, loose, 14th century.)

Roofs: late 19th century - 1911. Floors: 18th century - later 19th century. Finishes: 18th century render on 10% of church; late 19th century - 1911.

Condition - fair-good. Roofs and plaster fair; some walls cracked; tabling and bellcote poor.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. Deep external cutting around 50% of church, primary; floor levels raised in 50% of church; no underfloor void; possible crypt/vault beneath 20% of church; known burials beneath 20% of church; no evidence for former components beyond.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 95% medieval core fabric; much medieval detail including arcades, windows and doors (open and blocked), vaulting (including rib-vaulting), corbelling, a piscina, stoup and effigy; possible early 17th century arch.

Group value - medium-high. Medieval landmark church with tower.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, 14th century.

Phase 2 - North chapel, 15th century.

Phase 3 - North tower, early 16th century.

Phase 4 - North porch, mid 16th century.

Phase 5 - Restored in later 19th century, low impact; no new components.

Phase 6 - Restored 1911, low impact; no new components.

DESCRIPTION

St Andrew, Robeston West, is a 5-celled church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 95% pre-19th century core fabric, being largely unrestored.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a wider 2-bayed nave, a 2-bayed north chapel projecting slightly beyond the chancel, a transeptal 5-storey tower north of the nave east bay, and a north porch. Construction is in medium-sized Old Red Sandstone rubble, with some limestone and conglomerate, unsquared and uncoursed, with medieval quoins in the north chapel, tower and north porch. Good 1911 external pointing survives; there are areas of possible 18th century render on 10% of the church, and much poor repointing of the later 20th century. 75% of internal walls are rendered/plastered; the north chapel is limewashed internally. Slated gable roofs, the chancel, north chapel and porch roofs having always lain at a lower level than the nave roof which, with the porch, has slating concreted during the 20th century. The tower roof was not seen.

The deep, wide external cutting around the east and south walls, now with a concrete lining, is primary and footings are not exposed; there is a shallower depression parallel to, but 1.5m away from, the north wall - function?. The nave and chancel floors have been raised. No suspended flooring, or underfloor void, is present, but there is a possible crypt/vault below the chancel and there are many known burials beneath the north chapel. There is no evidence for any former component beyond the present church walls.

The medieval church has survived more-or-less unchanged. The nave and chancel are the earliest components, both possibly 14th century though the nave is vaulted and not the chancel. The chancel retains many medieval features including side-wall corbels for the former roof-trusses, and lower corbels of uncertain function. The west bay south wall forms a squared external projection with medieval coping back to the wall face, with an internal recess characteristic of Pembrokeshire (seen at eg. Johnston and Herbrandston) and sometimes termed 'choir-recesses'. The recess is now lit by a later window. The chancel arch appears to be a later medieval insertion or rebuild; it is 2-centred, with deeply chamfered stops and plain imposts, of 15th century date. A low, plain raking external buttress against the nave south wall, of medieval date, supports the arch. Corbelling either side of the arch, on the west face, supported the former rood-loft.

The nave is vaulted with a 2-centred barrel-vault, and the side walls are battered. Both north and south doors are present, with 2-centred openings of 14th century date; the southern has been blocked, at an unknown date, but the open north door has retained its limestone surround. The blocked window visible beneath the sill of the present south window may be medieval. The western corners of the nave have square cot-outs, rising nearly to full height, but there is no indication that the wall has been rebuilt - function? There is a western bellcote, gabled, with a single square opening of plain construction, medieval (without bell). All other detail is from the later 19th century.

The north chapel was added in the 15th century; the 2-bayed arcade between the chancel and chapel is of 2-centred arches, supported on an octagonal pier with a plain impost and no base, very similar to the chancel arch and of the same date. The east and north walls feature 3 windows with 4-centred outer arches and square surrounds, with drip-moulds, and 3 lights, all of 16th century date (if partly restored). The south wall has a 15th century piscina with a semi-hexagonal bowl in a 2-centred recess. The large cross-incised stone within the chapel has been interpreted as a stone *mensa* or altar-table; its original position was said by W. D. Caroe in 1922 to be clearly marked on the wall, 'as well as one corbel for the altar beam' (Anon., 1922, 428). The north chapel contains the effigy of a lady, lying loose on the floor, which has been dated to the 14th century; it apparently formerly included a small canopy tomb, Decorated in style (Laws and Edwards, 1909, 351).

The tower, built in between the nave north wall, the north chapel west wall and the north porch east wall, is of 5 storeys, one of a group of Pembrokeshire towers (cf. Gumfreston and Hubberston) with multiple horizontal divisions. It has retained most of its medieval fabric, of earlier 16th century date; it is only

slightly tapered and lacks the basal batter and string course characteristic of the district. A square spiral stair turret projects from the north-west corner and is lit by simple slits. A corbel and half-arch support secondary thickening of the chancel west wall, to provide additional support for the tower. The tower ground floor has a fine octopartite ribbed (groined) vault, unusual for Pembrokeshire; it is pierced for the bell-ropes. It was open to the nave through a low, plain segmental arch possibly contemporary with the rest of the tower; however, the arch into the north chapel is 2 centred and deeply chamfered, while the nave arch was described by Caroe as 'semi-classical and probably Laudian' (Anon., 1922, 428). Both arches are now blocked. A lancet in the north wall lights the ground floor; it has a square surround of the early 16th century. There is also a slit light high in east wall, into the north chapel. A number of similar slit-lights open into the succeeding 3 storeys, all plain. The belfry stage had openings in all 4 walls, the east and north walls with 2 square lights each, beneath segmental outer arches, earlier 16th century; the similar, single lights in the other 2 walls are blocked. The parapet lies on a plain corbel table that stops at the stair turret, also 15th century; both the turret and parapet are finished at the same level, with coping but without crenellations. There are some remains of external render, possibly 18th century. The tower is in good condition.

The north porch may have been added at a somewhat later date in the 16th century; it appears to post-date the tower. It has very large medieval quoins, and is vaulted with a 2-centred barrel-vault. Both side walls feature internal stone benching of medieval date. The 2-centred doorway has a surround of very large, squared voussoirs. A stoup in the west wall has a 4-centred head, and a weathered bowl, from the 16th century.

There is no evidence for any real alteration prior to the later 19th century restoration. There is a possible post-medieval crypt or vault beneath the chancel; a low arch is visible at the foot of the east wall. The north chapel floor level has not been raised and the flooring is of 18th-early 19th century limestone flags which appear to be in situ; the flooring includes many memorial slabs. The arches into the tower ground floor were blocked at an unknown date; the door from the north chapel is a simple square opening of possible early 19th century date. The Arms of William and Mary, in oak, were mounted on the tower east wall in 1922 (Anon., 1922, 428)

The church underwent some low-impact restoration in the later 19th century, before 1897 (date of glass) but neither the date nor the architect are known. There was some refenestration including the 3-light chancel east window, of 3 plain lancets in an oolite 2-centred surround, the similar cusped, 2-light windows in the nave south and west walls, and the chancel south wall lancet with a trefoiled rear arch. The north chapel roof may belong to this restoration; of softwood, it comprises common rafters with bolted collars. The chancel floor was raised, and limestone-flagged, the flags possibly dating to the 18th century and re-used. The nave and north porch floors are similarly flagged and without suspended flooring. The church was replastered, though the extent of removal of the existing plaster is unknown. The north chapel is at present limewashed, and may not have been plastered. The softwood pews and wainscot dado were installed, and probably the altar rail and the similar rail to the chapel.

The church was restored again in 1911 (Anon., 1911, 155), again low impact and again the architect is unknown. It may be now that the chancel was reroofed, receiving a softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling, and the nave and porch roofs concreted. Weather tabling was fitted throughout, now in poor condition. The plain softwood reredos, the altar table and the pulpit appear to be of this date.

There has been little subsequent work on the church, although areas of the external stonework have poor repointing of the late 20th century. There has been much cement repair of the upstands and particularly the nave bellcote. The north chapel altar table and rail are post 1911.

The limestone font has a square bowl, slightly scalloped, and a cylindrical stem and square base of late 12th-13th century date.

The church was not listed in 1998.

The north chapel is traditionally known as the 'Roch Chapel'.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Andrew, Robeston West, was a not a parish church in the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Rhos. The living was a rectory appendent to the manor of Robeston, which, during the 16th century, was held by the Perrotts of Haroldston (Green, 1913, 260); upon the condemnation of Sir John Perrott in the early 16th century, the patronage probably fell to King Henry VIII (*ibid.*), and subsequent presentations were made by the crown.

The annual value of the rectory in 1536 was £6 6s 7d (*ibid.*), by which time Robeston West appears to have become a parish church in the Archdeaconry of St Davids. In 1786 the living was rated in the king's books at £6 6s 8d (*ibid.*), a situation unchanged in 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Andrew, Robeston West, was a parish church. The living was a rectory held with Walwyn's Castle (Benefice 376) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Roose (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication is given as both St Andrew and St James, according to the sources. In the will of Sir William Perrott, of 1503, it is St Andrew, as it is today; during the 19th and early 20th centuries the church was undedicated.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Parish of Robeston West, Tithe Map, 1843.

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

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Laws, E., and Edwards, E. A., 1908, 'Monumental Effigies of Pembrokeshire', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. I, Sixth Series.

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

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**ST MARY,
ROCH,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 2804

RB No. 2893

NGR SM 8811 2116

Listed Building No. 19080

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A 3-cell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; south porch; all medieval. Vestry (north of chancel), c.1904. Vestry annexe, under construction in 1997. Former south aisle, medieval. Construction is in limestone and rhyolite rubble. 98% of internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs, vestry with a slate lean-to. South aisle arcade, blocked; 2 chancel windows?, blocked; south porch rib-vault and benching; medieval. Chancel arch, 1798. Most windows; south door and south porch door; south porch buttresses; western single bellcote; 1861. Vestry and doors, c.1904. Chancel south window, 1920.
(altar rail, 1768.)

Roofs: 1868?. Floors: 1861-c.1904. Finishes: Remains of external render, c.1800; pointing 1861-20th century; internal plaster 1861-1968.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. Platform, primary, below 100% of church; shallow-medium depth cutting around 90% of church, some footings exposed; floors raised in 90% of church; suspended floors, with underfloor void; possible vault beneath chancel floor; good evidence for former south aisle beyond present church; former memorial close to 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair-good. 60% medieval core fabric; blocked medieval arcade and windows, medieval south porch rib-vault and benching. Chancel arch and altar rail, 18th century.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church; churchyard formerly subcircular; nearby medieval castle.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, 13th-14th century?.

Phase 2 - South porch (and former south aisle), earlier 16th century.

(Phase 3 - Alterations and restorations including chancel arch, late 18th-early 19th century.)

Phase 4 - Restored 1861, high impact.

Phase 5 - Vestry, c.1904

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Mary, Roch, is a 3-celled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 60% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a long, 2-bayed chancel, a wider 4-bayed nave, a single bayed lean-to vestry north of the chancel west bay, with an annexe under construction against its east wall, and a south porch. There was formerly a 2-bayed (medieval) south aisle south of the chancel west bay and the nave east bay. The medieval facework is largely in medium-large rhyolite rubble, unsquared and uncoursed, without quoining; 1861 work is in squared, coursed limestone rubble, with quoins. Good mortar pointing, 1861; the medieval work exhibits remains of render from c.1800, and there are areas of 20th century ribbon repointing. The internal walls are rendered/plastered, from 1861 with some 1968 replastering. Roofs are slated gables, the nave roofed at a higher level than the chancel; the vestry roof is a slated lean-to continuing the chancel northern roof slope.

The chancel was largely rebuilt in 1861, including the entire east wall with a plain basal offset, and much of the north wall. The east window has 3 cusped lights with simple Geometric tracery in a 2 centred oolite surround, all new in 1861. A recess in the south wall of the east bay was revealed during replastering in 1968; it has a segmental head and splayed reveals, apparently representing a former sedilia (Canon A. Craven, Roch, pers. comm.) but possibly a blocked window. The west bay north wall features a plain, 2-centred doorway into the vestry, from 1904, to the west of which a blocked medieval lancet with a robbed surround is visible externally, blocked by 1858. The south wall dog-legs out to create a wider west bay, where the east bay of the former south aisle butted against the chancel. The chancel arch is a plain, full-centred semicircular arch, from 1798; the walling is thicker either side of the arch than above it. The softwood chancel roof features scissors-braced trusses, from 1868. The floor was marble-flagged in 1976 (Canon A. Craven, Roch, pers. comm.); there is a possible vault beneath the east bay. The present wrought-iron altar rail is from 1768 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/2; 1859 according to Cadw, 1997, 4). The commandment tablets are late 18th century (Canon A. Craven, Roch, pers. comm.).

The nave north wall was largely refaced in limestone rubble in 1861. There was formerly a north door (Canon A. Craven, Roch, pers. comm.), but the structural evidence has been obscured; it had been blocked by 1858 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/86) and was represented by a recess, now gone. The south door has a 2-centred surround, rebuilt in 1861. There are 2 windows each side wall, each of 2 cusped lights with a trefoil-pierced spandrel in a 2-centred oolite surround, from 1861 and including infill in the south wall windows. The west window has 3 cusped lights with neo-Perpendicular tracery in a 2-centred oolite surround and drip-mould, possibly by W. D. Caröe in c.1920 (Cadw, 1997, 4). Above it lies the bellcote, on an external corbel-table from 1861; the upper sections have been truncated and the gable now lies at the same level as the roof apex, with a single, 2-centred opening, but 2 bells. The nave has a softwood princess-post roof, arch-braced from the wall-plate, from 1868. The passages are flagged in limestone, from 1861 but possibly re-using earlier flags, with suspended board floors.

The former south aisle comprised 2 bays that communicated with both chancel and nave through an arcade of 2 plain, 4-centred arches in their west and east bays respectively. The arches are visible externally and the eastern of the two is represented internally by a recess in the chancel south wall, plain, and with a similar profile; the octagonal pier between the 2 arches is still visible and, like the chamfered stops, has a plain impost. The arcade is early 16th century and was blocked when the aisle was removed in 1798; the blocking is in rhyolite and limestone rubble, and displays remnants of external render from c.1800. The chancel blocking is pierced by a window of 3 cusped lights in a 4-centred oolite surround, inserted in 1920 to replace a 2-light window of 1861 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/86); the nave blocking is pierced by one of the 1861 windows described above.

The south porch is vaulted with a transverse rib-vault, unusual for the region (but also seen at Nolton), Perpendicular in style and dateable to the earlier 16th century. The side walls feature internal benching. The south wall was rebuilt/refaced in 1861 along with the 2-centred doorway and the low, clasping buttresses. At the north end of the east wall is a large stone and an area of patching that may represent second, blocked door (again cf. Nolton). Floored, directly on the substrate, as the nave.

The church is built upon a platform, defined by a scarp slope parallel to, and 2m beyond the east and south walls. A shallow-medium depth earth-cut cutting surrounds the church except the east wall, exposing footings in areas; within it lies a 20th century concrete drain. Floors have been raised throughout, except the porch; they are suspended, with an underfloor void. There is a possible vault beneath the chancel floor. There was formerly a south aisle. A former external chest-tomb lies between the nave and the south porch west wall.

Structural development

The church has been much rebuilt from the 18th century onwards but the basic plan of chancel, nave and south porch follows the medieval arrangements. The medieval building was entered through north and south doors in the nave. A south aisle was formerly present, but has been removed. The chancel and nave are impossible to date closely, all openings, including the chancel arch, and much of the fabric itself having been rebuilt. The former south aisle communicated with both the chancel and nave through 4-centred arches of early 16th century date; the rib-vaulted south porch is also from the earlier 16th century and may or may not be contemporary. The church bears many similarities with that at nearby Nolton, whose history of patronage it largely shares; both have simple plans with former southern components, rib-vaulted south porches, north and south doors and 18th century rebuilt chancel arches (the porches are similar enough to be the work of the same hand). The vestry was added in c.1904.

There is a wealth of contemporary documentation regarding the post-medieval form and development of the church. Churchwardens' accounts from the early 18th century record the usual small scale repairs, including repairs to the bell, the pulpit and reading desk in 1720 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/1), when the 'south aisle window' was also mentioned. In 1767 the church was entirely re-seated, including the former south aisle, and the floors of the chancel and nave were raised and flagged (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/2). It was also proposed that a new window be inserted 'near the new pulpit', presumably in the nave south wall (see Fenton's account below). At the same time the present altar rail, and a new altar table were fitted; the manufacture of a new font bowl was also proposed but does not appear to have been carried out.

A west gallery was erected in 1795 (Green, 1913, 264), and was repaired in timber and masonry, with masonry steps, in 1835 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/18).

The south aisle was removed in 1798-9 and its seating moved into the chancel (Green, 1913, 264, and RCAHM, 1935, 311, both mistakenly give the date as 1698). The parish registers make it clear that the aisle had been gabled parallel with the nave and chancel as recently as 1767 but was, at the time of its removal, lean-to roofed. The chancel arch was rebuilt in its present form, higher than the original arch, and the chancel floor was raised, in 1799.

In c.1811 the church was described by the antiquary Richard Fenton in more-or-less its present form, as 'a plain building consisting of a nave and chancel'; the chancel arch was the present 'low unornamented round arch' and the vaulted south porch was noted, its 'very ancient doorway' since rebuilt (Fenton, 1903, 83). There was, apparently, only one window on the north side, 'wrought with stone tracery'. It was a 'plain, neat edifice' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

Entirely new roofs were constructed in 1837 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/18), but the church was described as 'dilapidated' in 1839 (ibid.). The Faculty bundle for the 1861 restoration (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/86), includes a plan in which some of the features of church as it existed were shown, including 3 (or possibly

4) single-light windows in the nave north wall, and 1 (or possibly 2) similar windows in its south wall, presumably inserted after 1811 along with the blocking of the traceried window mentioned by Fenton (see above). There was also a 2-light window in the west wall, but the form of the other openings cannot be discerned from the plan. The tithe map of 1837 (NLW, Roch, 1837) is unusually detailed and appears to show a north aisle the entire length of the nave, but there is no further evidence for this, either structural or documentary.

The church was restored in 1861 (Canon A. Craven, Roch, pers. comm.), to specifications submitted by the architect R. Kyrke Penson, of Swansea, for a Faculty granted in 1858 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/86). The restoration was high-impact. The west gallery, and all fittings were removed. The chancel was largely rebuilt and the nave north wall refaced. The church was entirely refenestrated disregarding existing openings. The south door and south porch door were rebuilt, and the porch was buttressed. A bellcote was erected, but was later truncated (Canon A. Craven, Roch, pers. comm.). The church was replastered, all the existing plaster presumably having been removed. The nave was received its present softwood pews. The present roofs were apparently not erected until 1868 (Canon A. Craven, Roch, pers. comm.), presumably with the tabling, to the specs. of 1858; the roofs were repaired in 1870 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/18).

The lean-to vestry, to the designs of D. E. Thomas (Cadw, 1997, 4) was built against the north wall of the chancel west bay in c.1904 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/87), in large limestone rubble. It is entered from the outside through a doorway with a Caernarfon-headed oolite surround in its east wall, and has a similar 2-light window, with a square surround. The floor may be suspended.

Much of the present glass is by Burne-Jones (Canon A. Craven, Roch, pers. comm.). The oolite, neo-Romanesque pulpit was fitted in 1916 (NLW, SD/F/583). The chancel south window was replaced in 1920 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/32/86).

The chancel was refloored in 1976 (Canon A. Craven, Roch, pers. comm.), when the oak stalls and desk were fitted.

A small, corrugated iron lean-to shed was built between the external north-east angle of the nave and the vestry west wall in the later 20th century. In October 1997, an annexe was under construction between the vestry east wall and the chancel north wall, with breeze-block foundation courses and a concrete floor.

The limestone font is medieval, with a square cushioned bowl, cylindrical stem, and square base, of late 12th-early 13th century date.

A weathered canopied cross-head lies loose in the porch (RCAHM, 1925, 311), with moulded figures on the 4 facets, including the Virgin, the crucifixion, and a mitred bishop; later medieval. It is probably the same 'stone which had recently been found in Roch churchyard bearing sculptured figures' in 1898 (Anon., 1898, 185).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site -
Churchyard formerly subcircular, raised.

St Mary, Roch, was a parish church in the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Rhos. It was granted, c.1200, to Pill Priory by Adam de Rupe (Roche), Lord of the Manor of Roch (Green, 1913, 263-5). In 1291 the church, as 'Ecclesia de Rupe', was assessed at £13 6s 8d for tenths to the king,

the sum payable being £1 6s 8d (ibid.). In 1536 the rectory had an annual value of £4 13s 9d). There were formerly 2 chapels-of-ease at Hilton and Trevran (ibid.).

At the dissolution the advowson fell to the crown, with whom it remained; in 1536-7 a 21 year lease of the rectory was granted to Edward Lloyd of the Royal Household (ibid.). In 1786 the benefice, as the discharged vicarage of 'Rupa alias Rock alias Roch' had an annual value of £17 (£30) rated in the king's books at £4 13s 9d (ibid.) and by 1833 was endowed with £200 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833), in the Archdeaconry of St Davids and in the patronage of the king.

In 1868 the livings of Roch and Nolton were united (ibid.), a union which persists into the 1990s.

In 1998 St Mary, Roch, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage held with Nolton (Benefice 357) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Roose (St Davids, 1997-8).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Parish of Roch, Tithe Map, 1837.

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

Church in Wales Records

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**ST ISMAEL,
ROSEMARKET,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 3194

RB No. 3377

NGR SM 9530 0814

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 70% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, small-medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; medieval. North transept/chapel, 1 bay, with skew-passage; north porch; c.1600. Limestone rubble construction. 18th - early 19th century external render; plastered within. Slate gable roofs. Medieval chancel arch and squints, north door, corbels, and ?re-used window dressings. Transept arch, tomb recess, ?altar recess, corbels, skew-passage arch, vault, blocked window, porch door?, western bellcote buttress?, from c.1600. Other openings mainly from 1856, neo-Gothic, with yellow oolite dressings. Western single bellcote, 1856.

Roofs: 1856 and 1891. Floors: 1891. Finishes: 18th century - 20th century.

Condition - good. Some plaster fair; some external ivy.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Platform around 60% of church; external drain around 100% church, exposing footings in 30% of church, in primary cutting around 20% of church; floor raised in 20% of church; suspended floors in 60% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; external memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 70% medieval core fabric; medieval chancel arch, squints, door, corbels, window dressings. Tomb recess, ?altar recess, corbels, arches, vault, blocked window, door?, bellcote buttress?, from c.1600

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church, in centre of village representing former medieval borough; early 19th century masonry building in churchyard; adjacent hillfort (and castle) site; nearby dovecote visible from church.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, late C12?

Phase 2 - Chancel, C14-15?

Phase 3 - North transept and skew-passage (and north porch?), c.1600.

Phase 4 - Restored 1856, high impact; walls partly rebuilt.

Phase 5 - Restored 1891, medium impact.

DESCRIPTION

St Ismael, Rosemarket, is a multicelled church, small-medium sized. It retains approximately 70% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed north transept with a skew-passage, and a north porch. Construction is in limestone rubble, with much rebuilding/refacing from 1856 and 1891. The chancel arch and squints, the north door, ?rood-loft corbels, and ?re-used window dressings are medieval. The transept arch, tomb recess, ?altar recess, corbels, skew-passage arch, vault and blocked window, and the porch door and western bellcote buttress?, are from c.1600. Other openings are mainly from 1856, in neo-Gothic (early English) style, with yellow oolite dressings; the western single bellcote is also from 1856. There are remains of 18th - early 19th century external render; pointing is mainly from 1891, slightly ribboned, with some poor 20th century cement repointing. The interior is plastered except in the transept and skew-passage. Roofs are slated gables.

The east and south walls of the chancel, and the upper quarter of the east bay north wall, were largely refaced in 1891, with a triple-lancet east window in brick. The remainder of the east bay north wall is medieval, with extensive remains of 18th - early 19th century external render, and the eastern jamb of a possible blocked window is visible externally; the west bay is entered from the north transept skew-passage (see below), above which is an internal, weathered ?medieval corbel probably associated with a former roof. A narrow, full-height internal recess, with a medieval 2-centred head, at the west end of the south wall may be associated with the former rood-loft (but a mid-19th century description places the stair on the north side of the chancel - see Structural Development below). The low, plain, full-centred semicircular chancel arch may be from the later 12th century; either side is a plain square squint from the later medieval period, while above the apex, near the summit of the gable, is a small square recess, probably medieval and possibly associated with the rood itself. A flue rises through the interior of the wall to the south of the arch, to emerge in the gable-slope as a limestone ashlar stack with a ceramic pot, from 1891. The softwood roof has scissors-braced trusses from 1856, arch-braced from contemporary wall-corbels; the matchboarding was added in 1891. The passage and sanctuary are polychrome-tiled, from 1891 when the floor was raised, with contemporary woodblock flooring.

The upper three-quarters of the nave south wall were rebuilt in roughly squared and coursed rubble in 1856; the lowest quarter exhibits external render like that in the chancel. There are 3 windows in the south wall, all from 1856; the eastern two have 2 uncusped lights and a plain, circular-pierced spandrel, in 2-centred surrounds of chamfered yellow oolite. The westernmost is a single uncusped lancet in yellow oolite. At the east end of the south wall is an external stepped buttress from 1891. The north wall is original and unfenestrated but is pierced by a north door with a segmental surround possibly from the late 12th century. In the west bay, the external face of this wall exhibits, midway up, a weathered, ?medieval corbel - function? *in situ*?. The west wall is also original and features a large, central external buttress, double-shouldered; it carries a gabled single bellcote with a triangular-headed opening, rebuilt in 1856, but is pierced by a single, segmental-headed light without a surround, probably from c.1600. The softwood nave roof has queen-post trusses from 1856, arch-braced from wall-plates; the matchboarding was added in 1891. Floored as the chancel, with a below-ground heating chamber for a former 'Porritt's' stove, from 1891; the flue led to either the chancel arch chimney (see above) or to that above the north transept arch (see below).

The long north transept is entered from the nave through a plain, full-centred semicircular arch, probably from c.1600; above it, the south face exhibits 4 medieval corbels associated with the former rood-loft. Emerging through the roof above the arch is a second chimney with a cylindrical stack in limestone ashlar from 1891. The upper two-thirds of the east wall, the western half of the north wall and the uppermost courses of the west wall were rebuilt/refaced like the nave south wall in 1856. The transept is lit by a window in the east and north walls. The east window has 2 uncusped, semicircular-headed lights in a square, ovolo-moulded surround in yellow oolite from 1856, replicating an original from c.1600. the north window may re-use some repositioned dressings from the 13th century; it has 2 uncusped lights and a

plain-pierced spandrel in a 2-centred surround of double cavetto-moulded yellow oolite and a dripmould on stiff-leaf stops, (re)built in 1856. Internally, the north wall exhibits an empty tomb-recess with a plain, segmental head, and a small, square recess in the angle with the east wall, possibly associated with an altar; both features are also seen at St Ishmael's, Pembs., where they are dateable to c.1600. There is also a small, square recess in the west wall. All features indicate that the transept was used as a chapel. The softwood roof has scissors-braced trusses and matchboarding from 1891. Floored as the chancel and nave. The transept was dedicated as a Lady Chapel in 1942 (Nicolle, 1983, 5).

A plain, segmental arch in the east wall of the transept southern bay, from c.1600 and with a deeply chamfered southern stop, leads into a skew-passage; either side of the arch are 2 contemporary internal corbels possibly associated with the transept altar-beam, or statuary. The passage features an unusual, unquoined right-angled return to the chancel north wall, again similar to that at St Ishmael's, also dateable to c.1600; a slight external squinch at the junction with the chancel is of unknown function. The passage has a nearly flat, segmental barrel-vault from c.1600, sloping down to the south, over which is a slated lean-to roof to the chancel north wall. It emerges in the chancel as a 'segmented' semicircular arch, and was lit by a window in the outside wall, blocked with masonry, and internal breeze blocks from the later 20th century.

The north porch entry is through a plain, semicircular-headed arch that may be from c.1600; the gable above was rebuilt in 1856. The side walls have internal masonry benching with 20th century paved seating, and an original corbel possibly associated with the former roof. The softwood roof has scissors-braced trusses and matchboarding from 1891. The tiled floor is either from 1856 or 1891 and laid directly on the substrate.

A possible earthwork platform is visible around the north, south and west sides of the church; it is very uneven to the north and may be enhanced by, or even comprise, building debris. A concreted external drain of variable depth surrounds the church, exposing footings around the south side; to the north-west, it lies within a cutting that is at least partly primary. The chancel floor has been raised. Floors are suspended in the nave and transept. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. External memorials lie significantly close to the east wall.

Structural development

The nave facework is in large rubble; the small semicircular-headed chancel arch and the segmental north door may date it to the late 12th century. The chancel is in smaller rubble and it may be a late-medieval replacement an earlier short chancel, with contemporary squints. The long north transept and skew-passage, with a plan and detail similar to the south transept and passage at St Ishmaels, Pembs., are from c.1600. The porch door is also semicircular-headed but may be late rather than early, possibly dating the porch also to c.1600; the bellcote buttress may too be contemporary.

The church was in a 'ruinous state' in 1640 (Nicolle, 1983, 5), and in 1674 the patron, Sir John Stepney of Prendergast, was ordered to repair the chancel; 7 years later it was recorded that the church roof was good and no faults were reported in the general condition (ibid.).

The church was in 'good order' in 1807 (ibid.). In 1833 it was described as 'not distinguished by any architectural details of importance' (Lewis, 1833). An engraving from c.1855, reproduced in Nicolle, 1983, purports to represent the west end of Rosemarket Church but shows a *west* door with a full-centred semicircular head of plain, and decidedly Romanesque character, and a massive, single bellcote pierced by a similar opening, but not on a buttress. Further doubt may be cast on the subject being Rosemarket Church in that the building is shown in a state of semi-ruin, and almost completely overgrown, a condition which is suggested by none of the other sources.

An account of 1856 (Glynne, 1885, 215-6) describes the church, in general form, as at present. The chancel arch was 'low, rude and obtuse', and the transept arch was similar. The chancel side walls exhibited internal stone benching which continued either side of the chancel arch. The rood-loft steps survived on the north side of the chancel arch. The north door was 'ill-shaped' and 'obtuse', while the north porch doorway had a 'deformed' arch. The bellcote was described as a double bellcote and the present buttress is suggested. The windows were 'mostly wretched', but the north transept was lit by a 2-light window in its north wall, with a square head 'of Perpendicular character', which has survived. The skew passage, north transept internal corbelling and porch benching were noted. The west end of the nave was not floored, 'only the bare earth', and the west window was ivied.

The church was restored later in 1856 (Nicolle, 1983, 7). The yard build-up around the church was removed and a drain was excavated. The nave south wall was almost completely rebuilt, and the transept walls were partly rebuilt/refaced, while the church was refenestrated. The nave roof was restored. The bellcote was rebuilt in its present form and the 'miserable and decayed' seats for 135 worshippers were replaced by new pews for 248. A plan accompanying the restoration (ibid.) shows the nave and north transept both seated, stalls in the chancel, a triple-decker pulpit and a free-standing stove in the nave. It was intended to block the skew passage off from the chancel, but this was not undertaken.

A second restoration was undertaken in 1891 (Green, 1913, 267; Nicolle, 1983, 5). The chancel was partly rebuilt/refaced, with a new east window in brick. The north transept and porch were reroofed, and the nave and chancel roofs were matchboarded. The church was refloored, the chancel floor being raised (Anon., 1898, 182) and a heating-chamber being inserted in the nave, with flue(s) to chimney(s). A buttress was built against the nave south wall at the junction with the chancel arch. The remains of the rood-stair, and the chancel benching were removed (RCAHM, 1925, 313). The church was again reseated. The chancel arch, north door and porch door were intended to be rebuilt (Nicolle, 1983, 5) but this was not carried out.

The simple softwood stalls, with bookboards and a reader's desk, the softwood and iron altar rail, the softwood pews and the pulpit are from 1891. The panelled oak altar table and similar reredos are from the mid 20th century. The softwood altar table in the north transept is from 1942.

The oolite font has a square, deeply-cushioned bowl from the 13th century, the square stem and base are 'modern' (RCAHM, 1925, 313).

There is a bell in the bellcote.

A late medieval tombstone was discovered within the church during the 1856 restoration (Nicolle, 1983, 5); the present whereabouts are unknown.

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site - Celtic dedication; adjacent hillfort (and castle) site.

St Ismael, Rosemarket, was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Rhos (Rees, 1932). It was granted to the Knight Hospitaller of Slebech Commandery by the knights William FitzHait, Robert FitzGodebert and Richard FitzTancard, before 1176 (Rees, 1897, 98) and probably c.1145 (Anon., 1898, 183), as 'Ecclesie de Rosmarche'. There is no separate valuation of the church in the 'Taxatio' of 1291 (Green, 1913, 266-7), but in 1338 the Commander of Slebech received £24 from Rosemarket church and glebe (Anon., 1898, 183). In 1535 the church was returned £8 annually to

Slebech (Rees, 1899, 287) and the vicar, collated by the Preceptor, received a stipend of £4 out of which he paid a tithe of 8s (Anon., 1898, 183). In 1536 the church had an annual value of £4 (Green, op. cit.).

At the dissolution Slebech Commandery, and all its appurtenances including the patronage of Rosemarket, fell to King Henry VIII. It remained in royal hands, but in 1625 the rectory was held by Sir John Stepney of Prendergast (ibid.). In 1656 Rosemarket was united with Llangwm and Freystrop (ibid.), a union which persisted into the 20th century.

In 1786 the discharged vicarage had an annual value of £15 (£30), rated in the king's books at £4 (ibid.), and it was endowed with £200 royal bounty by 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Ismael, Rosemarket, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Burton (Benefice 666) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Roose (St Davids, 1997-8).

An original dedication to St Ismael may have been changed to St Leonard in the early post-conquest period (Nicolle, 1983, 3); it later reverted to St Ismael.

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**ST MICHAEL,
RUDBAXTON,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 2455

RB No. 3099

NGR SM 9602 2056

Listed Building No. 12009

Grade A listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, medium-sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south aisle, 4 bays; south porch; west tower, 2 storeys; medieval. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in porch and tower. Medieval windows including high quality tracery, blocked windows, arcade, door, blocked door, stoup, re-used medieval corbels with mouldings. Blocked window from c.1600. Other openings, including the chancel arch, rebuilt in 1892 in neo-Gothic/neo-Perpendicular style, mainly as replicas of the originals, with yellow oolite dressings. (Late 17th century monumental tomb; 17th century floor slabs)

Roofs and floors: 1892. Finishes: 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Deep cutting around 100% of church, exposing footings; suspended floors in 30% of church; floor lowered in 15% of church; burials beneath 30% of church; no external memorials lie significantly close to church

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 100% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval windows including high quality tracery, blocked windows, arcade, door, blocked door, stoup, re-used medieval corbels with mouldings. Blocked window from c.1600.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower; associated spring; adjacent motte; adjacent farm buildings.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, late C13?

Phase 2 - Chancel, south porch, C14-15.

Phase 3 - South aisle, c.1500.

Phase 4 - West tower, earlier C16.

Phase 5 - Restored 1892, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Michael, Rudbaxton, is a multicelled church, medium-sized. It retains approximately 100% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 4-bayed south aisle, a south porch and a 2-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone rubble. The south porch and tower are barrel-vaulted. Many windows including some high quality tracery, and blocked windows, the south aisle arcade, the south door and blocked north door, the vaults, the stoup, 2 re-used medieval corbels with mouldings, are medieval. There is a blocked window from c.1600. The chancel arch is from 1892, as are some of the windows which were rebuilt in neo-Gothic/neo-Perpendicular style, mainly as replicas of the originals, with yellow oolite dressings. Pointing is mainly good and from the 20th century, but there is some poor cement pointing in areas; the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables, the nave and chancel being roofed as one; the tower roof was not seen.

There is a fine, late 17th century monumental tomb, and 17th century floor slabs.

The chancel east window is from 1892 but appears to occupy a medieval, 2-centred embrasure. It has 2 cusped lights with a central hexafoil, in a 2-centred surround with a drip-mould on out-turned stops, all in chamfered yellow oolite. The north wall was pierced by 2 windows, both now blocked; that to the east is visible externally as a rectangular area of rubble, inserted before 1727, the date of an internal memorial tablet over the site of the window supported on a limestone bracket. The western blocked window is visible externally as a segmental arch, medieval?, 2 lights with 2-centred heads and sunk spandrels in a square surround of chamfered yellow oolite, from 1892, probably blocked in the 20th century. The simple chamfered chancel arch is from 1892; there are 2 re-used medieval corbels in the arch at springer level, featuring moulded human masks from the 15th - 16th century. The softwood, collar-rafter roof is from 1892 and arch-braced from contemporary wall-corbels, with matchboarding; the collars are dentilled. The sanctuary and passages are limestone-flagged, from 1892, with oolite memorial slabs from the 17th century, *in situ*?, and limestone slabs from the 19th century; suspended board flooring from 1892. The floor level has been lowered.

The nave fabric comprises larger, more rounded rubble than is seen in the chancel. There are 2 windows in the north wall, both rebuilt in 1892. They have segmental outer arches, with infill, and square surrounds with cavetto-moulded drip-moulds on out-turned stops, and feature 3 lights with cusped 2-centred heads and sunk spandrels, in chamfered oolite, and are replicas of original openings from the 16th century. The south door has a very rounded, plain 2-centred surround, in limestone, that may be 13th century; to the east, the external face features a medieval stoup with a plain circular bowl that cannot be closely dated. In the opposite wall are visible the jambs of a blocked, former north door. The nave is roofed as the chancel, the roof-line of which it continues. The floor is paved with limestone flags from the 18th - early 19th century (pre-1845 - see Structural Development below), re-laid in 1892 with suspended board flooring.

The south aisle fabric contains some large shale; the upper courses of the south wall were rebuilt in 1892. The aisle communicates with the chancel via a 2-bayed arcade of segmental, chamfered arches, from c.1500. The east and west stops are chamfered and lie on crude square bases beneath which the chancel floor has been lowered, and lack capitals, while the central pier is cylindrical, with a simply-moulded abacus and a similar square base. Above the arcade, the south face of the wall is offset as a continuous 'corbel'. The 2-bayed arcade from the nave is identical but the pier/stop sub-bases are only slightly exposed, and the western stop is a deep chamfer extending into the nave south wall. The aisle east window is like the nave windows but from the 16th century; it was blocked in 1685 by a massive, elaborate memorial built against the internal face of the wall, featuring members of the Howard family in a Classical, triple arcade with a pediment, on a panelled chest, all recently repainted. There are 3 windows in the south wall, like those in the nave but retaining the dripmoulds, sills and part of the mullions and

jambos from the 16th century, restored in 1892. Between the easternmost two is a smaller, blocked window, which lacks an outer arch and has 2 uncusped square-headed lights in ovolo-moulded oolite from c.1600; it was blocked before 1892 (NLW, SD/F/587). In the west gable is a further blocked window, with an irregular, segmental-headed splayed embrasure; it has a single, cusped, ogival light with sunk spandrels, in a chamfered limestone surround, from the 15th century and not *in situ* (see Structural Development below). The softwood aisle roof is like that in the chancel and nave, and similarly from 1892. The floor appears to be fully flagged, as the nave passages, without an underfloor void. The east bay has 20th century chapel fittings.

The south porch entry is medieval and has a plain 2-centred head with large voussoirs and no surround. The medieval barrel-vault has a 2-centred profile. The floor is flagged as the south aisle, laid directly on the substrate.

The west tower is not typical of the region being small, narrow and comprising just 2 storeys; it also lacks an external basal batter or string-course, and appears to be from the first quarter of the 16th century. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a doorway with a plain, rounded 2-centred surround from the earlier 16th century and lit by simple slits; it slopes back to the north wall, and the nave west wall, in the second stage. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch from the earlier 16th century, and is lit by a large west window with a 2-centred surround and 2 lights with high-quality Perpendicular tracery in chamfered oolite from the earlier 16th century. The segmental barrel-vault is contemporary and pierced by 2 original, square rope-holes. The floor is concreted. The belfry stage features openings at 2 levels; at a lower level, the north, south and west faces are pierced by large, square-headed single lights with deeply plunging sills, which in style appear later, from the 17th century?. The upper level openings are all different. In the east face is a plain, single light with a segmental head from the 16th century. In the west face is a 2-light opening with rounded 2-centred heads and sunk spandrels, in a square surround of chamfered yellow oolite from the later 16th century; the south face features a similar, single-light opening, now blocked, which may have been cusped in 1892 (see Structural Development below). In the north face is a blocked, plain square opening which was inserted in 1892. The parapet is not crenellated; it lies on an external corbel table which appears to be an original 16th century feature.

A deep cutting surrounds the church, partly primary but secondarily deepened exposing footings throughout, and now lined with breeze-blocks. Floors are suspended in the nave and chancel west bay. The chancel floor has been lowered. Burials lie beneath the chancel and south aisle east bay. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The nave south door may be 13th century. The nave fabric comprises larger rubble than seen in the chancel which may be a later rebuild, from the 14th-15th century?. The south aisle terminates at a pre-existing south porch which may also be from the 14th-15th century. The south aisle itself can be dated by its arcade to c.1500. The west tower tracery is from the first quarter of the 16th century, giving the tower an earlier date than the rest of its features would tend to suggest. The church was largely refenestrated later in the 16th century.

The Howard monument was described by Fenton in 1810, incorrectly, as 'grotesque human figures coarsely painted on the stucco of the wall' (Fenton, 1903, 180).

A gallery was installed at the west end of the church in 1845 (NLW, SD/F/587) blocking the tower arch. The tower ground floor was converted into a vestry and a fireplace and chimney were inserted in the spiral stair shaft. The floors at this time were flagged.

A plan and elevations of the church before its restoration in 1892 (*ibid.*) shows it to have been much as today; the openings, both open and blocked, reflected the present arrangements, and it is clear from the drawings that the 1892 windows are copies of the original openings, except for that in the chancel west bay which is shown as a small, 2-light window with triangular heads, and the blocked south aisle west window which is shown with a square-headed surround and drip-mould entirely unlike the present ogival surround. The tower belfry openings are depicted in a rather different form than at present, the northern opening in particular being shown as a square-headed, 2-light opening of early 17th century style.

The church was visited by Glynne in 1869, who remarked that the roof 'seems to be new' (Glynne, 1888, 132). However, he noted that 'there is a single lancet on the north of the chancel' for which there is no further evidence and which was not shown in 1892. The 2-light east window was 'new'. The stoup, and the rood-loft corbels which may at this time have been in situ, were noted, and a very detailed description made of the Howard monument.

The church was restored in 1892 (NLW, SD/F/587) to the designs of the architect Reginald A. Pinder, of Bournemouth. The chancel arch, east window and nave north windows were rebuilt, as close copies of the originals. The gallery was removed and the tower was reopened, some of the belfry openings being unblocked. The flagged floor was taken up for re-use, and the chancel floor may have been lowered at this time. The church was reroofed, replastered and reseated.

The western of the 2 chancel north windows was again blocked in the 20th century.

An oak chair now in the south aisle is 18th century. The oak panelled altar table, oak altar rail, softwood stalls with trifoliate bench ends, the simple softwood pews and tower screen are from 1892; the organ in chancel may be contemporary. The softwood pulpit is dated 1940. The south aisle pews are dissimilar and appear to have been derived from another church; the aisle altar fittings are 20th century.

The limestone font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, from c.1200.

There are 2 bells in the tower, one pre-Reformation with the inscription 'SANCTA MARIA ORA PRO NOBIS' (Phillips, 1925, 390) and the other inscribed 'Give thanks be to God : 1610' (Anon., n.d.).

The sundial on the exterior of the south-east corner of the south aisle is dated 1689 (RCAHM, 1925, 316); its gnomon has gone.

The church was Grade A listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Associated spring; dedication originally Celtic?.

St Michael, Rudbaxton, was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Rhos (Rees, 1932). It was granted to Worcester Cathedral by Wizo the Fleming, founder of Wiston Castle, in c.1112 (Murphy, 1997, 73-74). A rival claim was made by Gloucester St Peter and the ensuing dispute was not finally settled, in Worcester's favour, until 1152 (*ibid.*). In the meantime, c.1145, the church had been granted, as 'Ecclesia de Rudepagotonia', to the Knights Hospitaller at Slebech (Green, 1913, 269; Rees, 1897, 99, 206), a gift later confirmed by 'Alexander Rudepac'. A motte castle was founded just to the east of the church.

The church, as 'Ecclesia de Rudepac', was assessed at £10 13s 4d in 1291, the sum payable being £1 1s 4d (Green, 1913, 269). In 1535 the Hospitallers received their annual pension of 8s from the church, of

which Thomas Lloid was rector 'by collation of the Preceptory of Slebech' with a stipend of £15 4s, less the tithe of £1 10s 5d (Anon., 1898, 280). There were 3 subordinate chapelries within the parish, dedicated to St Catherine, St Margaret and St Leonard (*ibid.*), the former 2 in 'ruins' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833); all have now gone.

At the dissolution, the advowson fell to the crown and in 1810 the rectory was in royal hands (Fenton, 1903, 180). In 1833 the living was a rectory, rated in the king's books at £15 4s 2d, in the patronage of the king (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael, Rudbaxton, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Prendergast (Benefice 601) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Daugleddau (St Davids, 1997-8).

A spring (Dyfed PRN 2456), just east of the churchyard boundary, is called St Madoc's Well, and may preserve an earlier church dedication (RCAHM, 1925, 315).

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**ST BRIDGET,
ST BRIDES,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 3131

RB No. 3365

NGR SM 8026 1085

Listed Building No. 19397

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 85% pre-19th century core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-sized, formerly cruciform. Consists of chancel, 3 bays; nave, 4 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south porch; all medieval. Vestry (north), 1868, adapted from medieval skew passage. Former south transept, medieval.

Construction is in limestone rubble. 100% of internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs, vestry with a slate lean-to. Medieval chancel arch, and transept and vestry arches, open and blocked. Medieval lancets in chancel and north transept. Medieval rood-loft door and corbels. Medieval south door and south porch door. Medieval double bellcotes on nave east and west walls. Medieval piscina. 17th century benching in nave. All other windows, with infill, 1868. Buttress, 1868. (Fragment of oak rood screen, loose, 15th century; effigies, loose, medieval.)

Roofs and floors: 1868. Finishes: 30% external render, 18th century?; 1868-20th century pointing.

Condition - good; few cracks; some ivy.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Shallow-deep external cutting around 100% of church, primary, secondarily deepened exposing footings; floor levels lowered; suspended floors and underfloor void; crypt/vault beneath 15% of church; good evidence for former components beyond 15% of church, with earthwork platform.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair-good. 85% medieval core fabric; medieval arcades, windows and doors; blocked medieval arcade; medieval rood-loft door and corbels; medieval bellcotes; 17th century benching; medieval timberwork, loose, and effigies, loose.

Group value: high. Landmark medieval church in coastal clifftop location; adjacent cist cemetery and possible vallum enclosure; associated rectory; nearby late-medieval manor-house and village green.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, north transept and south porch (and former south transept), 14th century.

Phase 2 - Restored 1868, low-medium impact; vestry built from former skew passage.

DESCRIPTION

St Bridget, St Brides, is a multicelled church, of medium size, and formerly cruciform. It retains approximately 85% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a wider 4-bayed nave, a single bayed lean-to vestry north of the chancel east bay, and a south porch. There was formerly a (medieval) south transept; a fragment of oak rood-screen has been preserved, but not *in situ*. Construction is in small-large limestone rubble throughout, with a small percentage of Old red Sandstone, unsquared and uncoursed, with large medieval quoin. Fair mortar pointing, 1868, over extensive areas of 18th century render, and some poor 20th century repointing. The internal walls are rendered/plastered. Roofs are slated gables, the always nave roofed at a higher level than the chancel, transept and porch; the vestry roof is a slated lean-to.

The basic plan of chancel, nave, north transept and south porch follows the medieval arrangements. The vestry has been modified from a skew-passageway, and a south transept was formerly present, but has been removed.

A wide, shallow-deep cutting surrounds the church, except the south porch, and is deeper on the south side, mainly primary but secondarily deepened and exposing footings in areas, particularly the chancel north wall; it is concrete-lined. The chancel and nave floors may have been lowered; the medieval door sills lie above present floor level. A crypt/vault formerly lay beneath the north transept. The nave floor is suspended. An external pipe trench from the detached boilerhouse runs below ground and into the nave east bay south wall. A south transept formerly existed, and a substantial earthwork scarped 'platform' occupies its site, cut by 19th century burials.

The chancel, nave and north transept are similar in construction, and all feature a basal external offset. They may all be contemporary and possibly built, along with the former south transept, as a deliberately planned cruciform church in the 14th century, when similar plans were being undertaken elsewhere. The south porch may not, on stylistic grounds, be much later. The church has retained much of its medieval layout, and a substantial number of medieval features.

The chancel exhibits a plain lancet in the east bay south wall, of broadly medieval date, and beneath it a piscina with a 2-centred head and a square bowl, later restored. The centre bay was entered through a 'priest's door' in the north wall, with a squared segmental head visible internally but blocked early on and no longer visible externally. A similar blocked door lies in the west bay south wall, west of a rebuilt medieval square-headed light. The west bay north wall is occupied by the plain, segmental arch into the former skew passage (now vestry) with deeply chamfered stops. The 2 centred chancel arch is plain, with plain chamfered imposts, and 14th century. The rood-loft door to the north of the arch is still open, and has a 14th century surround with a head rebuilt as a 4-centred arch in the 15th-16th centuries; the west face, and the nave east bay side walls, display 5 rood-loft corbels. The wall supports a gabled, plain sanctus bellcote with 2 segmental openings, more-or-less unrestored; there are now no bells.

The main entry has always been in the nave south wall, and has a 2-centred sandstone surround of the 14th century (partly restored). The west wall carries a square double bellcote, finished with flat coping which forms the head of the 2 simple square openings, all substantially medieval. A plain, 2-centred arch leads from the nave east bay into the north transept. The south wall of this bay exhibits, on its external face, the west half of an infilled 2-centred arch, the east half obscured by a later buttress; the arch led into the former south transept. The infill lies beneath external render of the ?18th century and is pierced by a window; all windows in the nave are from 1868 and are in de novo embrasures, with infill.

Lying loose in the nave is a fragment of carved rood-screen. It comprises 2 traceried heads and fragments of standards, a muntin and a rail made up into modern wainscoting (Crossley and Ridgeway, 1956, 12, 26) and is placed against the east wall, having apparently been recovered from the yard in 1868 (see

below). It constitutes one of the very rare pieces of medieval worked timber in Pembrokeshire, and is possibly of 15th century date.

The arch into the vestry, ie. the former skew passage, through the north transept east wall is plain and segmental; to the north is a single plain lancet of possible 15th century date. There is a medieval corbel in the east wall of the transept, of unknown function. All other windows are again of 1868, in de novo embrasures, with infill. In the transept are the fragments of 4 effigies, all weathered, of 14th-15th century date. One appears to represent a cleric (Allen, 1893, 249) and may have been the effigy seen in c.1811 outside the transept (see below); the other 3 were recovered from the yard in 1868 (see below) and only the heads only survive.

The south porch door has a 2-centred surround of chamfered limestone, stylistically also 14th century.

The porch side walls have internal sandstone benching of possible 17th century date. Otherwise, little succeeding work (apart from the Reformation stripping of liturgical timberwork - see below) appears to have been performed at the church prior to 1868; the south transept was removed, however, before the 18th century external rendering. The north transept was, at some time during the post-medieval period, walled off as a family vault (Pembs. R. O., HPR/63/15).

In c.1811 the church was described as 'a building of a very dignified appearance, having a tower and side aisles', with 'the effigy of a priest' outside the north transept (Fenton, 1903, 97; Allen, 1893, 249). Samuel Lewis, however, described the church in 1833 as 'not distinguished by any architectural features of importance' (Lewis, 1833). Both descriptions are somewhat flawed; it is highly doubtful if there ever was a tower, or even that the south transept was still standing in 1811.

The pre-restoration church was described more credibly in 1856 (Glynne, 1885, 209), when the plan was it is at present (without the vestry), as were most of the details. The two double bellcotes are described as they exist at present, as is the chancel arch, rood-loft door and north transept arcade. The windows, apart from the 'mutilated' chancel east window (medieval?) and chancel south wall lancet, with its piscina, were 'mostly modernised' (probably sashes) and 'fortified with shutters'. The blocked chancel north door was noted. The entire church was whitewashed externally.

The church was restored in 1868 (Green, 1913, 273; RCAHM, 1925, 318), under C. Buckeridge, architect (Glynne, 1885, 209). The restoration was low-medium impact. The north transept arch blocking was removed (Pembs. R. O., HPR/63/15). The church was refenestrated, with neo-gothic windows, the window openings mainly having been built new and lying within infilled areas; the chancel east window is a triple-lancet window with oolite surrounds, the remainder similar single lancets. A coped buttress was built against the nave south wall. The internal walls were replastered, but the extent of removal of the existing plaster is unknown. The church was re-roofed in oak, the chancel with a roof of arch-braced, king-post trusses and scissors-braced common rafters, while the nave roof is all of scissors-braced common rafters. The north transept common-rafters all have scissors-braces and king-posts. In the south porch the common rafters are collared. Weather tabling was provided. The church was refloored, and the nave and chancel floors may have been lowered. The chancel, north transept and south porch floors are tiled, and the nave passages are tiled with suspended board floors. The church was reseated, with oak stalls free-standing on the chancel floor and softwood pews. An altar table and rail, chancel screen and pulpit were installed.

A vestry was adapted from the former skew passage between the chancel east bay north wall and the transept east wall; the skew passage was possibly removed at an earlier date and, as in the transept (see above), its arches may have required unblocking. It is of roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble with a similar window to those elsewhere in the church. It has a softwood lean-to roof, of common rafters, continuing the chancel roof northern slope.

During the restoration, the three almost defaced effigies in the north transept (see above) were brought into the church from 'a corner of the churchyard' (*ibid.*), and a fragment of carved oak featuring Sheba and King Solomon, formerly painted and gilt. The present fragment of rood screen was also found and refixed in the nave (*ibid.*).

There has been some further work. A detached boilerhouse was built in the south of the yard, with below ground heating pipes into the nave, during late 19th century/early 20th century. There has been considerable repointing of general 20th century date. The oak reredos, arcaded, with turned shafts, is earlier 20th century.

The limestone font is medieval, with a square scalloped bowl and cylindrical stem of 12th-early 13th century date; the octagonal limestone base is later medieval.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There good evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site -
Celtic dedication; adjacent cist cemetery; possible vallum enclosure.

St Bridget, St Brides, was a parish church in the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Rhos. The original patronage of the rectory is not known, but in 1536 it was held by John Wogan of Wiston, Pembs. (Green, 1913, 272-3) who sold it, in 1577, to Francis Laugharne of St Brides. It remained in the patronage of the Laugharne family; by 1833 the patronage was held alternately by W. P. Laugharne, Esq., Charles Phillips, Esq. and John Nash, Esq. (Lewis, 1833).

As 'Ecclesia de Sancta Brigida', the church was, in 1291, assessed at £13 6s 8d, the sum payable being £1 6s 8d (*ibid.*). In 1536 the rectory had an annual value of £15 12s 11d (*ibid.*). In 1786 the annual value of the discharged rectory was £35, rated in the king's books at £15 12s 11d (*ibid.*).

In 1998 St Bridget, St Brides was a parish church. The living was a rectory held with Dale and Marloes (Benefice 664) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Roose (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST DOGFAEL,
ST DOGWELLS,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 2406

RB No. 3548

NGR SM 9008-3563 9688 2800

Listed Building No. 12011

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, medium-sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south aisle, 4 bays; medieval. South porch, c.1878. Limestone and slate rubble construction, partly refaced c.1878; limited remains of 18th-early 19th century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Medieval chancel arch, south aisle arcade and mouldings, western double bellcote, south door, window embrasure(s) and tomb recess. Other openings from c.1878, in neo-Gothic style, with yellow oolite dressings.

(Two good 18th century monuments.)

Roofs and floors: c.1878. Finishes: 18th - 20th century.

Condition - good. Limited external ivy growth; one window badly weathered.

Archaeological potential - excellent. Shallow, concreted external drain around 30% of church; internal floor levels raised in 25% of church; floors not suspended; no underfloor voids; burials beneath 15% of church; external memorials lie significantly close to 75% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch, arcade and mouldings, double bellcote, door, window embrasure(s) and tomb recess.

Group value - high. Medieval church; churchyard with many irregularities (natural?, earthwork evidence?), good memorials, boundary railings dated 1870 and ECM (not *in situ*); adjacent vicarage building.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, late C13-C14?

Phase 2 - South aisle and nave west bay, c.1500.

Phase 3 - Restored c.1878, high impact; partly refaced, south porch built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Dogfael, St Dogwells, is a multicelled church, medium-sized. It retains approximately 90% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 4-bayed south aisle and a south porch. Construction is in limestone and slate rubble; the chancel and south aisle east wall were refaced with squared quoins in c.1878. The chancel arch, the south aisle arcade and mouldings, the western double bellcote, the south door, window embrasure(s) and a tomb recess are medieval. Other openings were rebuilt in c.1878, in neo-Gothic style, with yellow oolite dressings. There are some remains of late 18th-early 19th century external render; pointing is mainly from c.1878, with fair later 20th century repointing, and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables.

There are 2 good 18th century monuments.

The chancel was largely refaced in roughly coursed limestone and slate rubble in c.1878. The 3-light east window has cusped, curvilinear tracery in a 2-centred surround with a drip-mould on medallion stops, all in chamfered yellow oolite from c.1878. A window in the west bay north wall is also from c.1878 and features 2 cusped, ogival lights in a square surround of chamfered yellow oolite. The low, plain 2-centred chancel arch, with square stops and offsets at springer level, is medieval, probably from the late 13th - 14th century. The softwood, queen-post roof is from c.1878 with arch-braces from contemporary wall-corbels. The floor is carpeted but is probably tiled throughout like the sanctuary, from c.1878.

The nave east wall features a substantial basal 'plinth', while the north wall has a considerable external batter; both features are medieval as is the random facework. The nave is lit by 2 windows in the north wall, both comprising 2 plain lights with independent 2-centred surrounds of chamfered yellow oolite, from c.1878 with infill; that in the east bay lies beneath an earlier outer arch that may be medieval. Internally, the north wall exhibits a chamfered offset at sill level, medieval?, function?. The west bay is defined by an external vertical joint, and is in larger limestone rubble than the rest of the nave; it may represent an extension added when the south aisle was built in c.1500 (see Structural Development below). The west bay south wall retains some late 18th-early 19th century external render, while the west (gable) wall is pierced by a window like those in the north wall, from c.1878 with infill, but with 3 lights. A gabled, double bellcote, medieval, from c.1500?, lies on the west wall; it has simple limestone coping and the openings have plain, 2-centred heads. The softwood nave roof is from c.1878 and like that in the chancel but without the wall-corbels. The quarry-tiled floor, with limestone-flagged passages, is also from c.1878 and without an underfloor void.

The south aisle communicates with the chancel via a 2-bayed arcade of cavetto-moulded, 4-centred arches, from c.1500. The eastern stop is deeply chamfered, features a capital with moulded grotesques, possibly re-used, and the base is concealed beneath chancel floor level; the western stop is similar but without the grotesque, while the central pier is cylindrical, with a chamfer-moulded capital featuring moulded shields, one of which bears a St Andrew's Cross, and a concealed base. The 2-bayed arcade from the nave is similar, but without the mouldings; the central pier instead features a cable-moulded capital on a plain base. The aisle east wall was refaced in c.1878 like the chancel; a very large stone beneath the south-east corner represents part of the medieval footings. The aisle is lit by a window in the east wall, like the chancel east window and similarly from c.1878 but 2-light. There are 2 windows in the south wall, both from c.1878 with 2 uncusped lights in square surrounds, with sunk spandrels, of cavetto-moulded yellow oolite. A fourth window in the west, gable wall has 2 cusped lights with a central quatrefoil, in a 2-centred surround and a drip-mould like that on the chancel east window, in chamfered yellow oolite from c.1878 that is in very poor condition, badly weathered; the 2-centred embrasure may be medieval. The plain south door is from c.1500 and has a rounded, 4-centred head. Internally, the east bay south wall features an empty tomb recess with a plain, depressed segmental head and plain square stops, from c.1500; the recess

and the arcade mouldings suggest that the east bays were intended as a mortuary chapel. The softwood roof is like that in the nave and similarly from c.1878. Floored as the nave.

The south porch is from c.1878 partly with facework like that in the chancel. The entry is through a contemporary doorway with a 2-centred surround in chamfered oolite, and a drip-mould like the chancel east window. The side walls exhibit masonry benching, from c.1878. The softwood roof is like that in the nave, from c.1878. the quarry-tiled floor is from c.1878 and laid directly on the substrate, incorporating 4 steps down to the church interior.

Shallow, concreted external drains run along the east and west walls of the church. Internal floor level has been raised in the chancel. Floors are not suspended and there are no underfloor voids. Burials probably lie beneath the south aisle east bay. External memorials lie significantly close to east, west and south walls of the church.

Structural development

The nave and chancel cannot be closely dated but the chancel arch may be late 13th - 14th century. The arcade and detail provide a date of c.1500 for the addition of the south aisle; the nave west bay is defined by an external vertical joint, and of a different build from the rest of the nave, and it may represent an extension added, with the present bellcote?, when the south aisle was built. The south porch is 19th century.

The church was described by Fenton in 1810 as consisting of a chancel, nave and south aisle; at the east end of the latter was a 'plain stone canopy which I presume might have once covered an effigy, probably that of Sir Richard Symond, a recorded benefactor...' (Fenton, 1903, 186). There was also a memorial slab, with a cross fleury, in the aisle floor (ibid.). Fenton noted that it was 'kept with great neatness, and most charmingly situated'. No south porch is mentioned, and a porch does not appear to be depicted on the tithe map of 1846 which is, however, vague (NLW, St Dogwells, 1846).

The church was restored in 1872 according to Jones, 1997, 1, but Evans, 1917, 8 gives the date as 1878. Neither the details of the restoration, nor the architect responsible, are known. The chancel and south aisle east wall were refaced, with squared quoins. The church was refenestrated, reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated. The south porch was added.

The simple, free-standing softwood pews, the softwood pulpit, and the softwood altar rail are from c.1878. The neo-Perpendicular carved oak altar table, and the similar reredos, are from c.1900.

The limestone font has a square, scalloped bowl and a cylindrical stem from c.1200; the square base is from the 19th-20th century.

There are 2 bells in the bellcote.

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

In the churchyard is an ECM (Dyfed PRN 2402), a Latin and Ogam inscribed stone formerly used as a gatepost but moved to its present location between c.1900 and 1925 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/50/3; RCAHM, 1925, 364).

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; *Dewi* connection; ECM (not *in situ*).

St Dogfael, St Dogwells, was not a parish church during the post-conquest period, but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Pebidiog (Rees, 1932). The rectory was granted, as 'St Dogmael de Llanlledewy' to the canons of St Davids Cathedral by Bishop Gervase between 1215 and 1230 (Green, 1913, 283). The church was assessed at £10 in 1291, the sum payable being £1 (*ibid.*).

The tithes were leased to Thomas Edwards of St Davids in 1580 (*ibid.*), and to John Edwards in 1717 and 1731. The rectorial tithes were, by 1810, held by the Chapter of St Davids ((Fenton, 1903, 186), who also held the manor of St Dogwells which had been granted to them by Richard Symond, Knight, in 1329 for the maintenance of two priests in the cathedral to say mass for his soul and that of Eleanor, his wife (*ibid.*).

In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage, rated in the king's books at £4 16s 10½d and in the patronage of the Upper Chapter in the Cathedral (Lewis, 1833). St Dogwells was united with Little Newcastle parish in 1845 (Green, 1913, 284).

In 1998 St Dogfael, St Dogwells, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Spittal, Trefgarn and Ambleston (Benefice 819) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Daugleddau (St Davids, 1997-8).

St Dogwells is also known as 'Llan Ty Ddewi' (Fenton, 1903, 186, *et al.*).

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HPR/50/2 - Correspondence re: chancel repairs, building a car park and planning regulations, 1959-64.

HPR/50/3 - Copy of 1:2500 map showing proposed location of inscribed stone, n.d..

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**ST ISHMAEL,
ST ISHMAELS,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 2999

RB No. 2801

NGR SM 8302 0674

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, medium-sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; north transept, 2 bays, with skew-passage; south porch; medieval South transept, 1 bay, with skew-passage, c.1600. ORS rubble construction with extensive remains of 18th-early 19th century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Medieval chancel arch, transept arch, skew-passages, window, piscina, stoup, ?aumbry, and blocked north door. Western double bellcote, windows and tomb-recess, c.1600. South door and porch doors later 18th - early 19th century. Other openings mainly from the 1850s, neo-Gothic, with yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs: 1850s. Floors: 1884. Finishes: 18th - 20th century.

Condition - good. Some external ivy growth; damp.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Deep, wide cutting around 20% of church; medium-depth cutting around 25% of church, exposing footings; floor levels raised in 100% of church?; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; formerly suspended floors, with heating ducts, in 60% of church; burial vault beneath 15% of church?; no external memorials significantly close to church

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 100% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch, transept arch, skew-passages, window, piscina, stoup, ?aumbry, blocked north door; bellcote, windows and tomb-recess, c.1600. Doors, late 18th century?

Group value - high. Medieval church; large rectangular churchyard containing a stream and featuring a good masonry pillared bridge, and good memorials; 3 ECMs, *in situ*?; associated vicarage building

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13-14?

Phase 2 - Chancel and south porch, C14?

Phase 3 - North transept and skew-passage, later C15?

Phase 4 - South transept, skew-passage and bellcote, c.1600

Phase 5 - Restored 1850s, low impact.

Phase 6 - Restored 1884, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Ishmael, St Ishmaels, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 100% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 2-bayed north transept with a skew-passage, a single-bayed south transept with a skew-passage, and a south porch. Construction is in Old Red Sandstone rubble. The chancel arch, transept arch, skew-passages, a window, the piscina, stoup, ?aumbry, and blocked north door are medieval. The western gabled double bellcote and buttress, some windows, and a tomb-recess, are from c.1600. The south door and porch doors are later 18th - early 19th century. Other openings are mainly from the 1850s, in neo-Gothic style, with yellow oolite dressings. There are extensive remains of 18th-early 19th century external render, with much poor 20th century repointing, some of it ribboned; the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables.

The chancel is not quite regular in plan, narrowing to the east wall, which is quoined. The east window has a 2-centred embrasure that may be medieval; the cusped 2-light window with a central quatrefoil has a 2-centred surround in chamfered yellow oolite, with infill, from the 1850s?, in imitation of a 14th century original (see Structural Development below). The east bay side walls each feature a window. That to the north is has a segmental, medieval embrasure and Old Red Sandstone lintel; the cusped, single lancet itself is in chamfered yellow oolite from the 1850s. The window in the south wall has a similar embrasure and 2 lights, with cusped 4-centred heads in a square surround of cavetto-moulded oolite from the 1850s. Beneath this window sill is a piscina consisting of a plain, semicircular bowl, medieval, with drainage. The plain 2-centred chancel arch is medieval, probably from the 14th century; the square stops each feature a wide, plain offset towards the base of the arch, probably associated with a former rood-screen, and there is an overhanging offset just above the head of the arch on the east face. The softwood, collar-rafter roof is from the 1850s and is arch-braced from contemporary, timber wall-'corbels', with matchboarding. The quarry-tiled floor is from 1884 and may have been raised.

The nave is lit by 2 windows in the north wall and 3 in the south wall, in square embrasures, medieval?, early post-medieval?; the windows all have 2 cusped lights with sunk spandrels, in square surrounds with cavetto-moulded labels in yellow oolite, from the 1850s, imitating the original openings?. The north wall windows, and the west bay south wall window, have surrounding infill from the 1850s. The south door has a medieval, segmental rear-arch and a rounded segmental outer arch, in brick, from the later 18th - early 19th century; internally, to the east, is a stoup with a plain, semicircular recess and an octagonal limestone bowl from the 15th century. In the opposite wall is a blocked north door with a similar, contemporary rear-arch and a plain, rounded, 2-centred head from the 13th-14th century. The west, gable wall carries a large, gabled double-bellcote on a deep buttress, and corbelled out from the internal face; The 2 openings have one-piece semicircular heads in limestone from c.1600. A window pierces the buttress at a high level, with a semicircular embrasure from c.1600; the 2-centred surround and plain 'Y'-tracery, in chamfered oolite, are from the earlier 19th century. Either side of the buttress, at a lower level, is a plain lancet in yellow oolite, with concrete embrasures, from the 20th century. Internally, The south wall of the east bay, east of the transept arch (see below) features an offset at window-sill level, becoming vertical along the western jamb and probably associated with a former rood-screen/loft. The nave is roofed as the chancel, also from the 1850s. The passages are quarry-tiled as the chancel, with an underground chamber for a former 'Porritt's' stove, from 1884, with 20th century quarry-tiles beneath the seating, over blocked heating ducts.

The unquoined, 2-bayed north transept is entered from the nave through a plain, full-centred semicircular arch from the 15th century?. It is lit by a 2-light window in the north wall, like the chancel east window but without the drip-mould and similarly from the 1850s. There is also a single lancet in each of the side walls, like the nave windows but single-light and also from the 1850s. The eastern window interrupts the southern half of a blocked window whose segmental head, medieval?, is visible externally. Stones,

projecting from the external face of the south end of the west wall, may be associated with a former rood-stair 'turret'. The softwood, collar-rafter roof is from the 1850s, with matchboarding, Floored as the nave. Small, semicircular-headed openings at the foot of the side walls, blocked to the east, may have led to a burial vault.

A plain, full-centred semicircular arch in the east wall of the transept southern bay, from the 15th century?, leads into a skew-passage. The passage has an irregular 'corbelled' barrel-vault, over which is a slated lean-to roof to chancel eaves level. It emerges in the chancel as a similar plain, full-centred semicircular arch, and is lit by a single, uncusped lancet in a chamfered limestone surround and square embrasure from the later 15th century? in the outside wall; immediately to the east is a plain, square, splayed recess, an aumbry?. over a deep chamfer rather than as a 'real' arch.

The south transept is smaller and narrower than the north transept. It is open to the nave, spanned by a masonry lintel that rests on a corbel in the eastern stop. It is lit by a 3-light window in the south wall, like the chancel east window and similarly from the 1850s. The east wall is pierced by a window, from c.1600, of 2 square-headed lights in a square surround in chamfered limestone; a similar window, also from c.1600, lies in the west wall but is single-light and lies in a contemporary full-height, segmental-headed recess. Internally, a square recess occupies the south-west corner, from c.1600 and possibly associated with an altar, as a mortuary chapel; an empty tomb-recess, with a plain segmental head from c.1600 lies, beneath the south window. Roofed as the chancel and nave, from c.1850. Floored as the nave.

A plain segmental arch in the east wall of the transept, from c.1600, leads into a skew-passage. The passage is unvaulted and features an unusual, unquoined right-angled return to the chancel south wall, similar to that at Rosemarket, Pembs. It emerges in the chancel as a similar plain, segmental arch and is lit by a single, square-headed light in a square surround of chamfered limestone from c.1600. It has a slated lean-to roof to chancel eaves level, with softwood rafters.

The south porch entry is like the nave south door, in brick from the later 18th - early 19th century. Internally, a medieval stoup with a square, chamfered bowl lies in a plain recess in the north-east corner, not closely dateable. The softwood roof is like those in the chancel and nave, from the 1850s. The polychrome-tiled floor is from 1884 and laid directly on the substrate.

A deep, wide cutting, from the 1850s, runs around the north-west side of the church; a medium-depth, narrower cutting, partly stone-lined, runs around the north-eastern side, exposing footings to the east. Floor levels may have been raised throughout. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. The nave and transept floors were formerly suspended over heating ducts. A burial vault may lie beneath the north transept. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

Much of the church cannot be closely dated. The nave may be 13th or 14th century. The chancel appears to have featured a Decorated east window (see below) and may have been rebuilt in the later 14th century when the south porch may also have been added. The transepts appear to be late, post-dating main period of transept construction in the region. The north transept may be later 15th century (or even later); the south transept detail is all from c.1600 when it appears to have been added as a mortuary chapel; the western bellcote may be contemporary.

The south door, and south porch doorway, were rebuilt in the late 18th -early 19th century. The church is depicted with the same ground-plan as at present on early 19th century maps (NLW, St Ishmaels tithe map, 1839, *et. al.*).

The church was restored in the 1850s (Glynne, 1885, 210-211) when it appears to have been refenestrated, reroofed and refloored; the floors may have been during this period. The restored church

was visited, in 1856, by Glynne who called the restoration 'not quite satisfactory' (ibid.); he described the east window as 'Decorated', and it may have undergone subsequent restoration. Glynne noted 'square recesses either side of the altar' for which there is now no evidence; he may have been referring to the south transept. All other details were as today.

It was again restored in 1884. The Diocesan records suggest that the faculty, SD/F/606, was not granted, but the sources are agreed that it went ahead (Anon., 1903, 279; Glynne, 1885, 211). The restoration, to the designs of the architect D. Thomas of Haverfordwest, was very slight; under the terms of the faculty 'the whole of the church is to be repaired, with a new pulpit and reading desk, and that the chancel and aisles should be paved with tessellated tiles' (NLW, SD/F/606). It appears that the church was re-seated (Glynne, 1885, 211).

There are 2 Jacobean chairs in the chancel, from the early 17th century. The softwood altar rail is from the 1850s or from 1884. An elaborate, wrought-iron stove jacket lying loose in the nave may be from the 1850s. The oolite pulpit, with Purbeck marble shafts, and the softwood pews, are from 1884 (NLW, SD/F/606); the glazed, oak vestry screen in the north transept is probably contemporary. The panelled oak altar table is later 20th century.

The oolite font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem with a cable-moulding, and a square base, from c.1200.

Lying loose in nave is an ECM (Dyfed PRN 3000), comprising the interlace-decorated shaft of a former cross, probably from the 11th century; 'it was found about the year 1884, half buried in rubbish and grass, when the church was being restored' (Anon., 1903, 278-9). Two more ECMs, *in situ*?, also lie in the nave (Dyfed PRN 3001).

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; 3 ECMs; strong tradition.

St Ishmael, St Ishmaels, was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Rhos (Rees, 1932). It was a possession of the Augustinians at Haverfordwest Priory (Green, 1913, 294). The church was assessed in 1291 at £8, the amount payable being 16s (ibid.). The church paid an annual pension of 2s to Monkton Priory (Laws, 1909, 194).

At the dissolution, the church fell to the crown (Green, 1913, 294). In 1536-7 the rectory was leased to Edward Lloid of the king's household (ibid.).

In 1833 the living was a vicarage rated in the king's books at £6 12s 8¹/₂d, endowed with £200 royal bounty and in the patronage of the king (Lewis, 1833). The tithes were divided into 3 equal portions, one of which was appropriated to the corporation of the borough of Tewkesbury, the second to the incumbent of Tewkesbury parish, and the third to the vicar of St Ishmaels (ibid.). The livings of St Ishmaels and Hasguard were united in 1877 (Green, 1913, 295).

In 1998 St Ishmael, St Ishmaels, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage held with Herbrandston and Hasguard (Benefice 823) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Roose (St Davids, 1997-8).

St Ishmaels was reputedly the final refuge of Caradog of Llanccarfan (Lewis, 1833; Wray, 1870, 122).

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(HPR/23 - St Ishmaels)

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**ST LAWRENCE,
ST LAWRENCE,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 2391

RB No. 3213

NGR SM 9336 2751

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south porch; all medieval. Vestry (north), 1889-1907. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout. All internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs; vestry with slated lean-to. Medieval chancel arch, 14th century. South door and south porch door, medieval, 15th century. Medieval bellcote, with 2 openings, 14th century? Medieval rood-loft corbel and blocked rood-loft door. Medieval vault and stoup in porch. Medieval benching in chancel. Remainder of openings (windows), 1877; windows and doors in vestry 1889-1907.

Roofs and floors, 1877; in vestry 1889-1907. Finishes; 1877-later 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Platform beneath 25% of church, primary; medium depth external cutting around 30% of church, secondary; shallow external drain around 70% of church, secondary; raised floor levels; underfloor void and flue; possible crypt/vault below 10% of church; no evidence of former components beyond church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 75% medieval core fabric; medieval chancel arch; 2 medieval doors; medieval bellcote; medieval vault and stoup (south porch); medieval rood corbel and blocked door; medieval benching. ECM in chancel wall.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church; 2 ECMs; large churchyard with good memorials.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, 13th century.

Phase 2 - Chancel, 14th century

Phase 3 - South porch, 15th century

Phase 4 - Restored 1877, low-medium impact; no new components.

Phase 5 - Vestry built 1889-1904.

DESCRIPTION

St Lawrence, St Lawrence, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a south porch and a vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in medium-sized limestone rubble throughout, with some Old Red Sandstone and shale, unsquared and uncoursed, with medieval quoins in the nave. Good 1877 external pointing survives; some poor repointing of the later 20th century. All internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs, the chancel and porch roofs having always lain at a lower level than the nave roof; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof up to chancel eaves level.

A massive platform lies beneath the north-east quarter of the church, where the ground falls away steeply to the towards the north-east. The platform is probably at least partly natural, but its regular outline suggests that it has been artificially enhanced, presumably as a primary feature forming made ground for the chancel. The medium-depth earth-cut cuttings along the north and south walls are secondary, but possibly pre-19th century; the shallow drains around the remainder of the church, on the other hand, probably date from the 1877 restoration, or to 1889-1907 when the vestry was built. Memorials suggest a possible below-ground crypt/vault beneath the chancel east bay. The floors were raised by c.0.5m in 1877; the flooring is suspended throughout, and the passages overlie a heating duct from 1877.

In its basic form of chancel, nave and south porch the church has changed little since the medieval period. The nave may be the earliest component; it is quoined, unlike the remainder of the fabric, and may be 13th century. The unquoined chancel is possibly 14th century; the 2-centred chancel arch is plain but exhibits crude imposts. A plain corbel on its east face, north of the arch, may relate to the rood-loft, the former presence of which is demonstrated by the outline of a blocked door still visible beneath the internal plaster. Masonry benching on the chancel east wall is contemporary. The nave west wall carries a large square bellcote of rather crude construction; the shoulders, gable and two 2-centred openings are possibly also 14th century. The nave south wall continues beyond the west wall as a crude, square buttress, but there is nothing to suggest that the nave ever extended any further west than at present. The battered south porch lies beneath a 2-centred barrel vault; its 2 centred doorway is probably original and a possible 15th century date is suggested for the structure, a period when many of the region's porches were added. The nave south door is similar, but partly rebuilt in 1877; immediately to the east the external wall features a shallow bowled stoup that is probably contemporary. A recess is shown in the nave north wall in a plan of 1877 (NLW, SD/F/613); it has now been blocked and its function is unknown, but may represent a medieval tomb recess. All other openings and detail date from 1877, and 1889-1907.

There is now no evidence for any real alteration prior to the 1877 restoration. A plan of 1877 (NLW, SD/F/613) depicts the church on the eve of restoration, with the ubiquitous single light, timber-framed (sash?) windows in the locations occupied by the present windows; no west window, however, is shown. steps down from the porch into the nave demonstrate that the floors have been raised. Box pews lay in the southern half of the nave, and a 2-decker pulpit was present. In 1833 the church was described as 'not distinguished by any architectural details of importance' (Lewis, 1833).

The church was restored in 1877 (Evans, 1917, 8), to the specifications of the architect E. H. Lingen Barker, of London, Hereford and Swansea. A Faculty application had been submitted in 1876 but was apparently rejected (NLW, SD/F/613); the accompanying plan, however, shows the restoration much as it was carried out (with the exception of a proposed flight of steps to the south porch). The restoration was of low-medium impact and was limited largely to refenestration and the provision of new roofs and floors. The windows are single lancets in the nave side and west walls, in oolite, and a 3-light window in the chancel east wall with oolite plate tracery; the embrasures were entirely rebuilt while the west wall embrasure was built new. The south door was partly rebuilt. Floors were raised by approximately 0.5m. The chancel was floored with polychrome tiles and the nave passages were flagged; the flags appear not to be re-used, and a heating duct runs beneath them. Suspended board floors were inserted beneath the new

seating. The south porch was flagged directly on the substrate. The chancel and nave received entirely new softwood roofs, the former roof with collared common rafters, the nave with collar-rafter trusses arch-braced from new wall-corbels. New upstands and weather tabling were built, and the nave north wall recess blocked (see above) but there is no evidence for any real wall rebuilding. The interior was replastered but the extent of removal of the old is unknown. Most fittings are from this restoration, and include the pews and stalls, the altar rail, desk and pulpit. The font was moved from the north-west corner of the nave to its present position by the south door, and restored (see below).

The lean-to vestry was added north of the chancel west by between 1889 and 1907, it is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 of 1907. In detail it resembles the 1877 work, and has a 2-light neo-gothic window. The door to the chancel, and the outside door both have oolite surrounds. The softwood roof is of common rafters, and the floor is tiled and suspended.

There has been little subsequent work on the church, although areas of the external stonework have poor repointing of the late 20th century. The altar table is also 20th century.

The square, limestone font bowl is probably from 1877; the cylindrical stem and square base are medieval (in contrast to the RCAHM account, 1925), but not closely dateable.

The church was not listed in 1993.

Built into the chancel south wall was a wheel-cross with interlace design (Dyfed PRN 2392); it was observed in 1925 (RCAHM, 1925, 376-7) but not in 1997. A second, cruder wheel-cross lies loose in the chancel (Dyfed PRN 2391); it is said to have come from the churchyard (*ibid.*).

SITE HISTORY

There is good evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site - two ECMs (Dyfed PRNs 2391 and 2392), *in situ*?

St Lawrence was a parish church in the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), in the medieval Deanery of Pebidiog. It was granted, as 'Ecclesia de Vado Patricii', to the Knights Hospitallers of Slebech, by Philip le Poer in 1130 (Rees, 1897, 206). At the dissolution of Slebech Commandery, the advowson fell to the crown (Green, 1913, 300).

The benefice was a rectory with, in 1536, an annual value of 78s 7d, tenths to the king, 7s 10½d (*ibid.*). By the 18th century the clear yearly value was £18 (or £30), and rated in the king's books at £3 18s 9d (*ibid.*). In 1833 it was a discharged rectory endowed with £400 royal bounty and in the patronage of King William IV, as Prince of Wales.

In 1998 St Lawrence was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Camrose, Ford and Hayscastle (Benefice 636) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Roose (St Davids, 1997-8).

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(HPR/47 - St Lawrence)

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**ST NICHOLAS,
ST NICHOLAS,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 2524

RB No. 3320

NGR SM 9008 3563

Listed Building No. 12990

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, small. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south transept, 1 bay, with skew-passage; medieval. North porch, 1865. Limestone and slate rubble construction, partly rebuilt/refaced in 1865; remains of 18th-early 19th century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Transept and skew-passage vaulted. Medieval chancel arch, transept arch and vault, skew-passage arches and vault, and bellcote buttress. Other openings rebuilt 1865, in neo-Gothic style, with yellow oolite dressings; western single bellcote, 1865.

Roofs: 1865. Floors: 1835 and/or 1865. Finishes: 18th - 20th century.

Condition - good. Some external ivy growth; north door surround slightly damaged..

Archaeological potential - excellent. Extensive, rectangular earthwork platform beneath 100% of church; shallow soakaway around 20% of church; very shallow cutting around 20% of church; medieval footings exposed in 2% of church; floors not suspended; no underfloor voids; no external memorials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 70% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch, transept arch and vault, skew-passage arches and vault, and bellcote buttress.

Group value - high. Medieval church in central village location; large square churchyard with good memorials; 3 ECMs, one of them *in situ*?

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, south transept and skew-passage, all C14?.

Phase 2 - Restored 1835, medium impact; rebuilt/refaced?

Phase 3 - Restored 1865, high impact; rebuilt/refaced?, north porch built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Nicholas, St Nicholas, is a multicelled church, small. It retains approximately 70% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed south transept with a skew-passage, and a north porch. Construction is in limestone and slate rubble, partly rebuilt/refaced in 1835 or 1865. The transept and skew-passage are barrel-vaulted. The chancel arch, transept arch, skew-passage, vaults and bellcote buttress are medieval. Other openings, including the north door, were rebuilt in 1865, in neo-Gothic style, with yellow oolite dressings; the gabled single western bellcote itself is also from 1865. There are some remains of 18th-early 19th century external render; pointing is mainly from 1865, with poor 20th century repointing in the nave and transept, and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables.

The chancel east wall was largely refaced in roughly squared and coursed, small and large, limestone and slate rubble in either 1835 or 1865 (see Structural Development below); a stone projecting from the base of the south-east corner represents part of the medieval footings. The east window has 2 cusped lights with a central quatrefoil in a 2-centred surround in chamfered oolite from 1865. The side walls are blind; the north wall has been refaced like the east wall, but the south wall retains earlier random rubble facework and the remains of 18th-early 19th century external render. The plain 2-centred chancel arch, with square stops and plain, square-sectioned imposts, is medieval, probably from the 14th century. The softwood, collar-rafter roof is from 1865 with arched scissors-braces and herringbone matchboarding. The quarry-tiled floor in the east bay is also from 1865; the west bay has large limestone flags that may date from 1835, re-used in 1865?

The lower half of the nave north wall facework is in random rubble, medieval, with early render, while the upper half has been rebuilt with facework like that in the chancel; the junction between the 2 builds is marked by an internal offset. A stepped external buttress at the junction with the chancel, in squared and coursed rubble, was added in 1865. The south wall has probably been similarly rebuilt but the facework lies beneath poor 20th century repointing. The nave is lit by a window in each side wall, both with 2-centred surrounds and simple 'Y'-tracery in chamfered oolite from 1865. The north doorway has a segmental rear-arch, possibly medieval, and a 2-centred surround in chamfered oolite, slightly damaged, from 1865. The west, gable wall is in random medieval rubble with remains of early render and is largely occupied by a massive square medieval buttress with deep cut-outs at the corners; midway up is a medieval string-course above which the whole slopes back to the wall face to form a broad, shallow buttress, rising above roof-apex level and defined by 2 further medieval string-courses. A gabled, single bellcote, from 1865, lies on the upper string-course; in limestone rubble and oolite ashlar, it has a 2-centred opening, and replacing a double bellcote (see Structural Development below). The softwood roof is from 1865 and has queen-post trusses arch-braced from wall-plates. Floored as the chancel west bay.

The upper halves of the south and west walls of the south transept were refaced, like the chancel and nave, in 1835 or 1865. The transept is entered from the nave through a plain 2-centred arch reflecting the profile of its vault, which is contemporary with the chancel arch (see below) ie. from the 14th century; above it lies a medieval offset corbel facing the nave, probably associated with a former rood-loft. It is lit by a 2-light window in the north wall, like the nave windows and similarly from 1865. The medieval barrel-vault has a plain, 2-centred profile. Floored as the nave and chancel west bay. A skew-passage is entered from the northern end of the transept east wall through an arch that reflects the profile of its depressed, 2-centred vault. The chancel arch impost extends into this arch suggesting that the chancel arch and skew-passage, and therefore also the transept, are contemporary. The passage emerges in the chancel as a half-segmental arch over a deep chamfer rather than as a 'real' arch. It has a slated lean-to roof to chancel eaves level. The transept is termed 'chapel' by various authors, reflecting its function (Glynne, 1888, 131; RCAHM, 1925, 379).

The north porch was entirely rebuilt in 1865, in large, roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble. The entry is through a contemporary doorway with a 2-centred surround in chamfered oolite. The softwood roof, also from 1865, lacks trusses, all rafters having collars and ashlar-posts. The floor is flagged as the nave etc. and again may represent the 1865 re-use of earlier flags, laid directly on the substrate.

The church appears to lie upon an extensive, rectangular earthwork platform slightly raised above churchyard level. A shallow soakaway runs along the eastern half of the north side of the church, and there is a very shallow cutting along the western half of the south side. The medieval footings are exposed in areas. Floors are not suspended and there are no underfloor voids. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The chancel arch impost extends into this arch suggesting that the chancel arch and skew-passage, and therefore also the transept, are contemporary (see above); the nave may also be contemporary but in the absence of surviving original detail it is not possible to apply close dates. The main period of transept construction in the region, however, was the 14th century, a date consistent with such features as are present. The south porch was entirely rebuilt in 1865.

The church was described in 1833 as 'not remarkable for any architectural details' (Lewis, 1833). It was 'heavily restored' in 1835 (Menter Preseli, n.d.) when the nave walls may have been partly rebuilt and the chancel and transept partly refaced; the present flooring flags may also have been introduced. The building itself is not shown on the tithe map of 1839 (NLW, St Nicholas, 1839); however, it was subject to a detailed description by Glynne in 1850 (Glynne, 1888, 131-2) when it featured a sanctus bellcote and western double bellcote, both now gone. The present chancel and transept arches are described, but the windows were 'all abominable modern inventions, and the interior very dirty and damp' (ibid.); the windows may have been from the 1835 restoration.

St Nicholas was again restored in 1865 (Green, 1913, 302; RCAHM, 1925, 379) when the rebuilding/refacing may have occurred if not in 1835. The work was undertaken to the designs of the architect R. Kyrke Penson (Cadw, 1993, 13) and the church was refenestrated, the north doorway and bellcote were (re)built and the interior was reroofed, replastered and resealed. The sanctus bellcote was removed and the north porch was entirely rebuilt, on the site of an earlier porch mentioned in 1695, and still present in 1810? (Fenton, 1903, 17).

The simple, free-standing softwood pews, and the softwood pulpit, are probably from 1865. The oak altar table, simple reredos and rail are later 20th century.

The limestone font has a square bowl, a cylindrical stem and square base, from the 14th century.

There is one bell in the bellcote.

Three ECMs are fixed to the chancel west wall, either side of the arch. One, a rectangular stone with a complete Latin inscription from the 7th - 9th century (Dyfed PRN 2525) was, in 1695, located on the east side of the porch (Fenton, 1903, 17), but by 1810 was used as a stile in the churchyard boundary (ibid.) as it was in 1856 (Westwood, 1856, 49-50). The other two (Dyfed PRNs 9641 and 9642), from the 6th - 7th century, are not *in situ*, having formerly served as gateposts at Llandrudian farm nearby (RCAHM, 1925, 379).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
3 ECMs, one of them *in situ*?; strong tradition; proximity to St Davids.

St Nicholas, St Nicholas, was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Pebidiog (Rees, 1932). The living, as 'Ecclesia de Villa Camerarii' (Chamberlain's town), was appropriated to the subchanter of St Davids Cathedral by Bishop Thomas Bek in 1287 (Green, 1913, 302), but the advowson was retained by the Bishop. The church was assessed in 1291 at £6 13s 4d, the amount payable being 13s 4d (*ibid.*).

The living had become united with that of Granston prior to 1536 (Green, 1911, 302), probably under some arrangement between the Abbot of St Dogmaels and the Bishop of St Davids; the Abbot was the rector of the united churches (*ibid.*). In 1536 the annual value of 'Grandeston and Sancti Nicholai' was £6 8s 11d (*ibid.*).

The churches remained united after the dissolution, in the patronage of the Bishop, but Granston rectory was appendent to the crown while St Nicholas was appendent to the Cathedral as the Prebend of St Nicholas (*ibid.*).

Between 1672 and 1827, the two livings were annexed to the vicarage of Mathry (Green, 1913, 302; Lewis, 1833). The church constituted the only prebend of St Davids to which a residence in the city was attached, and was known as 'St Nicholas Pen y Voes' (Lewis, 1833); it also gave its name to a prebendal stall in the cathedral (Fenton, 1903, 17), the prebendary owning the rectorial tithes. In 1833 the prebend was rated in the king's books at £5 4s 6½d and was in the patronage of the Bishop (Lewis, 1833). The living was a discharged vicarage held with Granston (*ibid.*); the union with Granston continues into the 1990s.

In 1998 St Nicholas, St Nicholas, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Mathry, St Edren's, Granston and Jordanston (Benefice 655) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Dewisland and Fishguard (St Davids, 1997-8).

St Nicholas is locally known as 'Trefarchog' or 'knight's town' (RCAHM, 1925, 379).

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**ST MARY,
SPITTAL,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 2472

RB No. 3552

NGR SM 9758 2292

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, small-medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 4 bays; south porch; medieval. Vestry (south of chancel), 1 bay, 1897-8. Former north transept and ?south chapel Limestone rubble construction, internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slated lean-to and gabled. Medieval chancel arch, squints, south door, blocked north door, double bellcote, and tomb recess/Easter sepulchre; medieval dressings in some windows; blocked ?17th century arch. Other openings mainly from 1861, in neo-Gothic style, with yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs: ?1861. Floors: 1897-8. Finishes: 1897-8 - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Shallow external drain around 100% of church, exposing footings in 25% of church; former components beyond 20% of church; suspended floors in 60% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; external memorials against 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch, squints, door, blocked door, double bellcote, tomb recess/Easter sepulchre; medieval dressings; blocked ?17th century arch.

Group value - high. Medieval church in central village location; ECM; large churchyard with possible earthworks and good memorials.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, C14?

Phase 2 - South porch, c.1500.

(Phase 3 - Former north transept, C17?).

Phase 4 - Restored 1861, low impact.

Phase 5 - Restored 1897-8, high impact; vestry built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Mary, Spittal, is a multicelled church, small-medium sized. It retains approximately 90% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a single-bayed vestry south of the chancel west bay, and a south porch. A north transept, and possibly a south chapel were formerly present. Construction is in limestone rubble. The chancel arch and squints, the south door and blocked north door, the western double bellcote, and a tomb recess/Easter sepulchre, are medieval. The chancel side windows may retain some medieval dressings. There is a blocked arch, from the 17th century?. Other openings are mainly from 1861, in neo-Gothic (early English) style, with yellow oolite dressings; the sanctus bellcote is contemporary. Pointing is mainly from 1897-8, slightly ribboned, with limited 20th century repointing, and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof with a central gablet.

The chancel east wall gable, and the upper courses of the side walls, were rebuilt in roughly coursed rubble in 1861. The east window has 2 cusped lights with a central quatrefoil, in chamfered yellow oolite from 1861. There are 2 windows in the north wall, and one in the south wall; all single cusped lancets also in chamfered yellow oolite from 1861 but probably re-using some medieval dressings; the southern window-sill incorporates a circular piscina bowl from 1861. A possible blocked light lies between the 2 northern windows, above an attached, undated external chest tomb. Internally, a recess in the north wall occupies this central bay; it is plain, with a near-semicircular segmental head, and is probably from the 15th century, and may represent either an Easter sepulchre or a tomb recess. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch, with square stops deeply chamfered to the west, is medieval, probably from the 14th century; either side is a tall, plain 2-centred squint, the southern of which is smaller and square-headed to the east, but which are probably contemporary and also 14th century. A sanctus bellcote lies on the gable above; the bellcote is single, gabled and shouldered, with a 2-centred opening, all in oolite ashlar and from 1861. The softwood roof is from either 1861 or 1897-8 and lacks trusses, all rafters being collared and braced. The passage and sanctuary are polychrome-tiled, from 1897-8 with contemporary woodblock flooring.

The nave is lit by 2 windows in the north wall and 3 in the south wall; all are single lancets like those in the chancel, but entirely from 1861, with infill. Visible externally in the north wall of the east-central bay is a blocked arch, with a plain semicircular head, which may represent the arch to a former north transept; its form suggests that it may be late, 17th century?, while the blocking is in thin, coursed limestone rubble from before 1838 (see Structural Development below). The south door has a plain, 2-centred head without a surround, but deeply chamfered to the south and probably, like the chancel arch, from the 14th century. In the opposite, north wall is a similar blocked doorway but without the chamfer and interrupted by one of the windows from 1861; between it and the blocked arch is an attached, undated external chest tomb. The west wall has a pronounced, but irregular external basal batter. It is pierced by a 2-light window like the chancel east window but with a cavetto-moulded drip-mould on out-turned stops, in grey oolite from either 1861 or 1897-8, with infill. A gabled, double bellcote lies above, medieval, from the 14th century; the openings have plain, 2-centred heads. The softwood nave roof is probably from 1861, with collar-rafter trusses braced from contemporary timber wall 'corbels'. The nave is floored as the chancel, from 1897-8, with a contemporary, below-ground heating chamber for a former 'Porritt's' apparatus.

The south porch has very large quoins. The entry is through a plain, medieval segmental arch, without a surround, probably dating from c.1500. The side walls are each pierced by a single, cusped lancet, in chamfered yellow oolite from 1861. The softwood roof is probably from 1861 and lacks trusses. The tiled floor is either from 1861 or 1897-8 and laid directly on the substrate.

The lean-to vestry was added against the south wall of the chancel west bay in 1897-8, and is open to the chancel beneath wall-plate level. The southern, side wall has a central gablet and a contemporary window of 2 lights with individual 2-centred, cusped surrounds in chamfered yellow oolite. In the west wall is a fireplace, also from 1897-8, with a 4-centred head; the chimney has gone. The softwood, lean-to roof, and the woodblock floor, are also from 1897-8. Against the east end of the nave south wall is a very slight, plain, low external raking buttress which is associated with a full-height, vertical joint; it may represent the truncated west wall of a former component on the site of the present vestry, a medieval south chapel? (see Structural Development below).

A shallow, concreted external drain surrounds the church, exposing the footings of the east and west walls. A north transept, and possibly a south chapel were formerly present but are not represented by any physical evidence beyond the present church. Floors are suspended in the chancel, nave and vestry. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. External memorials lie against the north walls of the chancel and nave; a further memorial lies significantly close to the vestry.

Structural development

The chancel arch, squints, south door, blocked north door, and rebuilt chancel windows are all of a style consistent with a 14th century date; the western bellcote may be original and contemporary. The south porch has very large quoins and is secondary; the segmental doorway suggests a date of around 1500. The sanctus bellcote is 19th century but may occupy the site of an earlier structure - it is known locally as the 'priest's bell' (RCAHM, 1925, 385). The presence of a former north transept is suggested by a blocked arch in the nave; the opening is unusual in being both set back 1 bay from the chancel arch, and in having a full-centred semicircular head in possible neo-Classical tradition, suggesting a late, perhaps 17th century date.

The vestry is a 19th century addition but may occupy the site of an earlier north chapel (see above). The earliest reliable map evidence examined is the tithe map of 1838 (NLW, Spittal, 1838), on which only the chancel, nave and south porch are shown, indicating that any south chapel - and north transept - had already been removed.

The church was restored in 1861 (RCAHM, 1925, 385) but neither the details, nor the architect responsible, are known. However, it appears from comparison with the specifications for the second restoration (see below) that the church was refenestrated and probably reroofed. The rebuilding of the sanctus bellcote appears also to have formed part of this work.

A second restoration was undertaken in 1897-8 (RCAHM, 1925, 385), to the designs of the architects Messrs. Pinder & Fogarty (NLW, SD/F/618). The specifications list the proposed work as 'general repairs, new seating, new floor, new vestry, panelling round nave walls, heating apparatus and chamber etc.' (Ibid.). It was intended that the chancel arch be altered, and that the nave and chancel roofs be matchboarded, but these works appear not to have been carried out.

The fine, neo-Gothic oak stalls, with bookboards and reader's desks, the similar pews, and the pulpit, are from 1897-8 (NLW, SD/F/618). The neo-Gothic carved oak altar table is probably contemporary with the similar panelled reredos, with a central alabaster frieze of the Last Supper, which is dated 1919. The softwood altar rail is probably late 19th century, but was installed in 1986.

The font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, from a single block of limestone dateable to c.1200.

There are 2 bells in the bellcote.

In the south porch is an ECM (Dyfed PRN 2473), a Latin inscribed stone formerly lying in the churchyard near the porch and moved into the porch between 1883 and 1898 (Anon., 1883, 339; Anon., 1898, 281; RCAHM, 1925, 385).

The church was not listed in 1998.

'A small enclosure' adjacent to the church (presumably to the south-west), 'with a few indications of other walls' which were demolished c.1870, was thought to represent the site of a medieval hospice from which the church and settlement derived their name (Anon., 1883, 339).

SITE HISTORY

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

St Mary, Spittal, was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Rhos (Rees, 1932).

The church has been said to have been granted to the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech in the 12th century (Anon., 1883, 339) but there is no confirmation of this supposition within the primary sources (see also Structural Development above).

In 1224 Bishop Gervase of St Davids established the office of a precentor at the Cathedral and endowed it with the prebends of Spittal (as 'the hospital') and Llandrudion, with all their appurtenances (Green, 1914, 204), the precentor becoming the rector of Spittal, to which he appointed a curate. 'Frowlyn Church', mentioned in the Black Book of St Davids in 1326, has been equated, by one authority, with Spittal (Owen, 1895, 105). In 1291 the church was assessed at £8 13s 4d, the sum payable being 17s 4d (Green, 1914, 204).

The tithes of the prebend and parsonage were, in 1567, leased by the precentor Thomas Huett, to Nicholas Goddard of Rudbaxton, Pembs., for 40 years at £13 6s 8d per annum, the lessee to provide a curate for the church (ibid.). In 1668 the rectory was granted to James Haward of Rudbaxton for his life and those of his children, at the same annual rent and a fine of £50, the tenant to find meat for the precentor, and a horse when he came to preach at Spittal (ibid.).

The advowson was in private hands in 1786, but patronage was still vested in the precentor (ibid.). By 1833 the living was a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of John Lort Philipps Esq. and William Edwards Tucker Esq., the former of which had 2 turns and the latter one turn (Lewis, 1833); it was endowed with £800 royal bounty and £200 parliamentary grant. By 1896 presentations were being made by the Bishop (Green, 1914, 204).

In 1998 St Mary, Spittal, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with St Dogwells, Trefgarn and Ambleston (Benefice 819) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Daugleddau (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**SS CEWYDD AND PETER,
STEYNTON,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 3180

RB No. 2815

NGR SM 9177 0782

Listed Building No. 12934

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, large. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays, with choir-recess/organ chamber; nave, 3 bays; north aisle, 3 bays; south aisle, 3 bays; north porch; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Limestone and ORS rubble construction; internal walls with roughcast render. Slate gable roofs; aisles and choir-recess/organ chamber with slated lean-to roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in tower. Medieval windows including tracery (partly rebuilt), chancel arch, aisle arcades, north door, porch door, tower openings, ?rood-loft offsets, and corbels; medieval sanctus bellcote rebuilt in 1882-3. Other openings from 1882-3 in neo-Perpendicular style, with yellow oolite dressings.

Roofs and floors: 1882-3 and 1965. Finishes: 1882 - later 20th century.

Condition - good. Some external ivy.

Archaeological potential - good. Possible earthwork platform beneath 100% of church; medium-depth external cutting around 50% of church; deep, narrow external cutting around 50% of church; suspended floors in 60% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; burials beneath 25% of church; external memorials significantly close to 50% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 75% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval vaulting, windows including tracery (partly rebuilt), chancel arch, aisle arcades, north door, porch door, tower openings, ?rood-loft offsets, and corbels.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, widely visible; ECM.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, c.1300?

Phase 2 - West tower lower storey, C14?

Phase 3 - North and south aisles, earlier C15.

Phase 4 - North porch, choir-recess/organ chamber, later C15.

Phase 5 - West tower upper stages, early C16.

Phase 6 - Restored 1882-3, medium impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

SS Cewydd & Peter, Steynton, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 75% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel with a choir-recess or organ chamber on the north side, a 3-bayed nave, 3-bayed north and south aisles, a north porch and a 3-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble. The tower is barrel-vaulted. There are medieval windows, including some tracery, in the chancel, one of which has been rebuilt; many tower openings are also medieval but some have been re-used/rebuilt; the chancel arch, aisle arcades (altered in 1882-3), the north doorway, the porch doorway, the rood-loft offsets, and the chancel corbels, are medieval. A medieval sanctus bellcote was rebuilt, and raised, in 1882-3. Other openings are from 1882-8, in neo-Perpendicular style, with yellow oolite dressings. Pointing is mainly from 1882-3, some of it ribboned; the interior was roughcast in the later 20th century. Roofs are slated gables; the aisles and choir-recess/organ chamber have slated lean-to roofs and the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel east wall exhibits a vertical joint towards the north end, suggesting that it may have been secondarily widened. The 3-light east window is from 1882-3 and features cusped, curvilinear tracery in a 2-centred surround with a drip-mould on Acanthus stops, in chamfered yellow oolite with contemporary infill. The window is flanked internally by a crude limestone corbel to the north and south, medieval, possible associated with a former altar-beam or statuary. There is a 2-light window in the north wall and 2 similar windows in the south wall. The north wall window was moved to the west in 1882-3 and given a new square oolite surround including a cavetto-moulded label; the 2 lights, with 2-centred heads with sunk cusps and spandrels are original, re-used early 16th century work, in chamfered yellow oolite. The 2 south wall windows are similar but entirely from the 16th century including the drip-moulds, lightly restored in 1882-3. The west bay north wall is thrown out as a square projection or chamber, entered from the chancel through a plain, segmental arch with square stops, that to the east deeply chamfered, and entered from the north aisle through a segmental-headed doorway skewed to the south, rebuilt in 1882-3; the component is lit by an uncusped single lancet, in chamfered oolite from 1882-3, in the north wall, and has a contemporary softwood lean-to roof below chancel eaves level, but it is fundamentally medieval and appears to represent a choir-recess, as seen at a number of nearby churches including Johnston and Herbrandston, or possibly an organ chamber, doubling as a skew-passage/squint. The simple chancel arch, with plain square stops, is medieval, from c.1300; the deep offset above the west face of the arch apex may be associated with a former rood-loft, like the medieval limestone corbel at half height in the angle with the chancel south wall. Externally, a simple, gabled sanctus bellcote lies on this wall, with a plain, square, single opening; it is medieval, not closely dateable, but was entirely rebuilt, with coping, in 1882-3. The softwood, 'wagon-roof' ceiling is from 1882-3 on wall-plates carried on contemporary wall-corbels. The pattern-tiled floor is also from 1882-3, with marked burials beneath.

The nave side walls are both pierced by inserted arcades (see below). The west wall exhibits external joints to the aisles and tower, and features a sloping offset midway up the external face. The oak roof is from 1882-3 and features scissors-braced trusses arch-braced from contemporary, moulded wall-corbels. The passages are tiled, from 1882-3, with a below-ground heating chamber for a 'Porritt's' stove or similar apparatus, and suspended board flooring.

The north and south aisles are contemporary with each other and communicate with the nave through 3-bayed arcades of plain, 2-centred arches, with square piers and stops, probably from the early 15th century; the north and south faces of the piers were cut back in 1882-3. The east bay of the southern arcade features an overhanging offset towards the south which is medieval and may have been associated with a rood-loft. The aisles were formerly gabled but were reduced in height and rebuilt with lean-to roofs in 1882-3, when each side wall was given internal brick buttresses and was pierced with 3 windows; the latter have 3 lights, similar to the chancel windows, in square surrounds with ovolo-moulded labels, all in oolite from 1882-3; the central north wall window has only 2 lights. The end walls are also pierced by windows, the north aisle east window being circular and cusped into a hexafoil, with a semicircular drip-mould on Acanthus stops, all in chamfered oolite from 1882-3, while the south aisle east window is a smaller, 2-light version of the side windows and also from 1882-3. Both west windows have 2 cusped lights with a central quatrefoil in a 2-centred surround and drip-mould on Acanthus stops, all in oolite similarly from 1882-3. The north door lies in the centre of the north wall of the north aisle and has a chamfered limestone surround with a bobbin moulded decoration, from the earlier 15th century but restored in 1882-3. The east wall of the north aisle features an internal offset at sill level which becomes vertical before sloping back to the nave near the summit, and which may represent a former nave buttress. The softwood aisle lean-to roofs are from 1882-3 and feature principal rafters with arch-braces to contemporary wall-corbels; the south aisle roof is matchboarded. The aisles are floored as the nave.

The north porch exhibits an external joint to the north aisle. It has medieval, large square quoins, a contemporary chamfered external offset and the side walls feature internal masonry benching; the upper courses of the side walls were (re)built in 1882-3. The entry is also medieval and has a chamfered, 2-centred arch with no surround. The softwood roof, from 1882-3, lacks trusses, all common rafters being scissors-braced. The plain-tiled floor is from 1882-3 and laid directly on the substrate.

The west tower has 3 storeys, predominantly in Old Red Sandstone; a square spiral stair turret projects from the west half of the north wall. The lowest storey may be earlier than the upper storeys and spiral stair turret (Carøe, 1917, 125); the latter belonging stylistically to the early 16th century; a possible 14th century date may be suggested for the former. The tower is tapered and, except the turret, exhibits the basal batter and string-course characteristic of the region. The stair turret is entered from the nave through a doorway with a 2-centred surround with a hoodmould on Acanthus stops, all in chamfered oolite from 1882-3; it is lit by simple slit-lights. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a similar doorway, also from 1882-3, inserted through the earlier blocking of a plain, 2-centred arch from the ?14th century; it is lit by a window in the west wall similar to the chancel windows but moved from the south aisle, and rebuilt, in 1882-3. The 2-centred barrel-vault may be early 16th century or earlier; it is pierced by 2 bellrope-holes. The floor has ceramic tiles from 1965. The second stage is lit by a simple, square-headed light in the north wall, from the early 16th century, and by a single cusped lancet with an oolite surround, from 1882-3, in the west wall. The belfry stage is lit by large, good-quality 2-light Perpendicular openings in all 4 faces, which are cusped, quatrefoiled and occupy 2-centred yellow oolite surrounds with dripmoulds; the western is original, the eastern and northern were partly rebuilt in 1883 but retaining some tracery, while the southern is entirely from 1883 (Carøe, 1917, 125). The openings are identical with those in the neighbouring church at Johnston, and may have been the product of the same architect. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table that does not continue around the stair turret; it is fundamentally from the early 16th century though restored, with rainwater chutes, in 1882-3 (Carøe, 1917, 126).

The church stands upon a possible, but slight earthwork platform. A medium-depth, brick-lined external cutting runs around the north and east sides of the church, becoming very deep, but narrow, around the south and west sides. Floors are suspended in the nave and aisles. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. Burials lie beneath the chancel. Some external memorials lie significantly close to the north side of the church.

Structural development

The foundations of a smaller church, 'containing nave only' (Laws, 1896, 354), were apparently revealed during restoration of the church in the late 19th century (see below). No part of these foundations was followed by the present church.

The chancel arch suggests that both nave and chancel may be from c.1300, but cannot be closely dated; the chancel east wall exhibits a vertical joint towards the north end, suggesting that it may have been secondarily widened. The nave exhibits external joints to both the aisles and tower; the ground floor of the latter appears to be earlier than the upper stages and may be from the 14th century. The aisles were probably added during the earlier 15th century, a date consistent with the detail of the north door. The north porch exhibits external joints to the north aisle and, along with the choir-recess/organ chamber (cf. the choir-recesses in the neighbouring church at Johnston), may have been added during the later 15th century. The tower upper stages are from the early 16th century, when the church appears to have undergone a complete refenestration; the belfry openings are identical with those at Johnston Church, and may have been the product of the same architect. The (rebuilt) sanctus bellcote cannot be closely dated.

Glynne visited the church in 1851, and noted 'the ordinary amount of mutilation and destruction of original windows, most of which are square-headed, with sashes' (Glynne, 1885, 216). The chancel had been 'much modernised'; the two east wall corbels were noted but there was also a piscina, with a slate shelf, at the east end of the south aisle, which has gone. The exterior was whitewashed, 'except parts of the tower' (ibid.). The church was briefly mentioned by Freeman in 1852, who noted the Perpendicular belfry openings, and the arcades which he described as 'very rough, but not devoid of a rude majesty' (Freeman, 1852, 171-2).

A photograph, taken from the south-east, shows the pre-restoration church to have been very different from its present form (Carøe, 1917, 124). The aisles were gabled, and similar in height to the nave. The nave and chancel roofs were low-pitched gables. Two medieval, 3 light, traceried windows survived in the south aisle, and the 2 present chancel south wall windows, but the east window was a square sash of domestic form and late 18th - early 19th century date. The chancel south windows lay either side of a square-headed doorway (18th - early 19th century?) for which there is now no structural evidence. The fabric had been somewhat neglected. A plan of the church from 1882 (NLW, SD/F/621) shows the 2 south aisle windows, 2 windows in a similar position in the north aisle, and a north aisle west window. The present chancel south wall windows are shown, and a window east of its present location in the chancel north wall (see below). The tower arch had already been blocked, as had the choir-recess/organ chamber. An internal recess (presumably not the piscina noted by Glynne - a blocked south door?) lay in the middle of the south aisle, and a small niche lay at the east end of the north aisle; both have now gone. A west gallery had been installed (ibid.), and a vestry with a screen was situated in the choir-recess/organ chamber; an organ was fitted in the 1850s (Pembs. R. O., HPR/3/5); all were removed during the restoration of the 1880s.

Restoration began in 1882 and was, in the main, complete by 1883 but minor work continued until 1893 (NLW, SD/F/621; Pembs. R. O., HPR/3/7), to the designs of the architect E. H. Lingen Barker. The aisle outer walls were lowered by 2m and the arcades raised, raising the nave roof line and creating lean-to aisles in place of the former gables (Carøe, 1917, 124). The north and south sides of the arcade piers were cut back (NLW, SD/F/621). The medieval chancel windows were rebuilt, one in the north wall being

moved slightly to the west, and the tower openings were restored; one of the medieval south aisle windows was moved to the tower ground floor (NLW, SD/F/621). The north door was partly rebuilt. The aisles were refenestrated and given internal brick buttressing (ibid.), and the tower doorways were rebuilt. The sanctus bellcote was demolished and rebuilt (ibid.). The choir-recess/organ chamber arches were rebuilt (ibid.). The chancel south door was, curiously, referred to as an 'ancient blocked up doorway' (ibid.). The church was reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated (ibid.). The external buttresses added to the east wall were removed at some period after 1917, when they were said to be causing structural damage (Carøe, 1917, 127).

The tower ground floor was refloored in 1965, commemorated by a plaque. The church interior was roughcast at a similar date.

The free-standing softwood stalls with medallioned bench ends and bookboards, the similar reader's desks, the simple softwood pews, and the oolite pulpit with Purbeck marble shafts, are from 1882-3; the organ in the south aisle, by Henry Jones & Son of South Kensington, may be contemporary. The glazed, softwood lobby around the north door is from c.1900. The plain softwood altar table is from the early 20th century, as may be the oak altar rail. The softwood altar table and rail in the north aisle are dated 1985. The chancel east wall features a panelled frieze forming a reredos, dated 1986.

The oolite font has a square bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, from c.1200 (Carøe, 1917, 124). A loose, circular ?font bowl lies in the north aisle, possibly the font discovered in 1882-3 (see below).

There is one bell in the tower, inscribed 'recast by J. Warner & Sons, London, 1883', in an 18th century frame for 3 bells (Carøe, 1917, 127).

Lying loose in the nave is an ECM with both the Latin and Ogam inscription 'GENDILI', from the 5th-6th century, and a later wheel-cross design (Dyfed PRN 3369). It was apparently brought from the churchyard, where, 'it would appear, (it) has been utilised several times over (last in 1876) as a gravestone...' (Anon., 1922, 434).

The church was Grade II* listed in 1998.

A number of finds were made during the 1882-3 restoration (Laws, 1896, 354). 'A human skull, 3 horses skulls, and a pike-head were found under the second chancel-step... it is stated that Cromwell made a stable of this church during the Civil War' (see Site History below). 'In each pillar of the arcades a cavity was found, and in each cavity a human thigh bone. These were probably relics. A handsome 13th century (sic) window was found in the south wall; also a font from the same period, in four pieces, which was restored. The foundation of a smaller church, containing nave only, was found (ibid.) Also discovered were 'two large cromlechs (sic), in the centre of the nave, about 4ft from the surface' (ibid.), presumably representing foundation stones or possible early altars.

SITE HISTORY

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

SS Cewydd & Peter, Steynton, was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Rhos (Rees, 1932). It was granted, as the church of 'St Kewit de Steynton', to the Tironians at Pill Priory by one of the co-founders of that house, Adam de Rupe (Roch), in c.1200, 'with the consent of his wife Blandina, and his heir' (Green, 1914, 211). It was assessed at £18 in 1291, the sum payable being £1 16s (ibid.).

A chantry had been founded within the church before 1546 (Jones, 1934, 146-7; RCAHM, 1925, 391). There were formerly 2 medieval subordinate chapelries within the parish, dedicated to St Catherine and St Thomas the Martyr (*ibid.*); St Catherine, Milford Haven, erected in 1808, was formerly a chapel-of-ease to Steynton parish (Lewis, 1833).

At the dissolution, the advowson fell to the crown. In 1536-7 the rectory was leased by the crown, for 21 years, to John Wogan (Green, 1914, 211).

During the Civil War, the church tower is said to have been 'garrisoned with twenty musqueteers, and some horse collected about it to cut off the communication between the Pill fort and the town of Haverfordwest' (Fenton, 1903, 108).

In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage, with the rectory of Johnston consolidated and in the patronage of the king (Lewis, 1833); it was endowed with the great and small tithes of a portion of the parish, the remainder being appropriated to Mrs Anne Wright whose family had sold another portion to become a part of the income of the curacy of St Mary, Haverfordwest. The vicarage of Steynton had been united to Johnston rectory from the 17th century (Green, 1914, 212), and remained as such until 1996.

In 1998 SS Cewydd & Peter, Steynton, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage (no benefice 601) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Rhos (St Davids, 1997-8).

The 'Peter' component of the dedication appears to be secondary, and it may be significant that Pill Priory also had a joint Celtic/non-Celtic dedication, to the Blessed Virgin and St Budoc. St Cewydd was the Welsh 'rain-saint' (Anon., 1922, 435), presumably the reason why the church was ascribed to St Swithun in a document of 1497 (*ibid.*).

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HPR/3/5 - Correspondence and receipts re: organ, 1853, 1873.

HPR/3/7 - Note on restoration of church, 1883-93.

HPR/3/24 - Vestry minutes, 1855-1921.

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HPR/3/27 - Vestry minutes, 1738-1804.

HPR/3/28 - Vestry minutes, 1820-24.

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HPR/3/30 - Vestry minutes, 1826-27.

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HPR/3/55 - Churchwarden's accounts, 1799-1854.

HPR/3/56 - Churchwarden's vouchers, 1863-66.

HPR/3/57 - Churchwarden's vouchers, 1893-1916.

HPR/3/61 - Letter from Bishop and E. H. Lingen Barker, Architect, re: restoration of church, 1878.

HPR/3/64 - Licence to use intended additional burial ground, 1850.

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**ST MARY,
TALBENNY,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 3143

RB No. 3065

NGR SM 8438 1220

Listed Building No. 12014

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 50% pre-19th century core fabric.

A 2-cell church, small-medium sized. Consists of nave, 4 bays, medieval. Chancel, 2 bays, (re)built 1893. Former south chapel?, medieval. Construction is in limestone rubble. 100% of internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs. Medieval chancel arch, and rood-loft doors. Medieval north door. Medieval buttress with double bellcote and blocked window on nave west wall. Medieval benching in chancel, and re-used corbels. All windows, 1869-93. North and south buttresses, 1869.

Roofs: 1869-93. Floors: 1869-20th century. Finishes: 1869-93, some 20th century repointing.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Shallow-medium depth external cutting around 40% of church, primary, secondarily deepened exposing footings; shallow external drain around 40% of church; floor levels lowered?; former suspended floors and underfloor void?; no crypt/vault evident; evidence for possible former component beyond 15% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair. 50% medieval core fabric; medieval chancel arch and rood loft door; medieval door; medieval buttressed bellcote and blocked window; medieval benching; medieval corbels not in situ.

Group value: medium-high. Landmark medieval church in coastal hilltop location.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave (and former chancel?), 13th-14th century.

(Phase 2 - ?South chapel, gone, 14th-16th century?).

Phase 3 - Western bellcote, 16th century.

Phase 4 - Restored 1869, medium-high impact; no new components.

Phase 5 - Chancel (re)built 1893.

DESCRIPTION

St Mary, Talbenny, is a 2-celled church, of small-medium size. It retains approximately 50% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a long 2-bayed chancel and a 4-bayed nave that is slightly wider but not much longer; for its width, the church is remarkable for its length. A south chapel may formerly have been present. Construction is in small-medium sized mixed rubble, predominantly limestone rubble, the medieval work unsquared and uncoursed and without quoins. Good 1869 pointing and 1893 ribbon pointing. The internal walls are rendered/plastered. Roofs are slated gables, the nave probably always roofed at a higher level than the chancel. The church is entered through a north door.

A medium depth, earth-cut external cutting runs along the north walls, mainly primary but exposing footings at the west end; it is concrete-lined. The south and east walls have a shallow concrete external drain. An internal offset in the nave may represent floor level, and suggests that the nave floor has been lowered. An underfloor void may have been present. No internal crypt/vault is evident. A south chapel may have formerly been present, south of the chancel west bay.

The basic plan of chancel and nave follows the medieval arrangements but documentary sources suggest that a south chapel may formerly have been present, and was removed between 1839 and 1856 (see below). The chancel, apart from its west wall, was almost entirely rebuilt in 1893 removing most of its medieval walling (and any structural evidence for a former south chapel). The internal stone benching around the west bay was retained, however, and extended around the west wall (NLW, SD/F/643); two medieval corbels higher in the side walls may be re-used.

The nave and the chancel may originally have been of a similar 13th-14th century date, but it is impossible to date the nave more closely in the absence of medieval detail. The chancel arch has survived restoration, however, and is a plain, eccentric 2-centred arch with internal offset impost, and a cut-out in the southern limb associated with the rood-loft. A plain triangular-headed doorway to the north led onto the former rood-loft.

An 'ancient tombstone' was found in the chancel floor in 1893, and 'other ancient worked stones' were found buried in the north wall (Davies, n.d., 12). Dyfed SMR records that there are in existence medieval tiles that came from the church, including 3 late 15th century Malvernian heraldic tiles, wall tiles resembling some from Whitland Abbey, 'brilliantly-coloured' tiles of foreign manufacture, and one native tile from 1275-1375 with a carving of a 4-leafed clover.

The nave retains few original features. It was entered through both north and south doors, but the south door was blocked in 1869 and no structural evidence can now be seen. The north door has a rounded 2-centred arch, but no surround, and can only be given a broad 13th-14th century date. The west wall has a pronounced external basal batter, and a massive, central raking buttress continuing as a bellcote; the latter has a squared top and 2 openings with plain segmental heads, of 16th century appearance; there is one pre-Reformation bell (see below). Within the buttress at a lower level are 2 square sockets which may be associated with the former bellropes; a splayed, segmental-headed internal recess represents a blocked medieval window. All windows are later, but possibly occupying earlier sites. A weathered stoup bowl lies loose in the nave.

The tithe map of 1839 (NLW, Talbenny, 1839) is unusually faithful in its representation of buildings, and appears to show the church as at present, but with a large transeptal structure south of the chancel west bay - a south chapel?. When the (pre-restoration) church was described in 1856 (Glynne, 1885, 209) the plan, as at present, comprised just nave and chancel, but an indication of capitals in the south (and north) wall of the chancel suggested that there 'had been an aisle or chapel', of which all structural evidence has been lost (see above). Two medieval windows survived in the chancel north wall, a trefoil-headed lancet and a square-headed slit light. The nave north door was noted, as 'obtuse'; the opposite south door was

still open and had a 'rudely pointed' head. The windows were 'mostly modern', presumably the typical sashes of the later 18th-early 19th centuries, 'and closed by shutters'. The rood-loft door and western bellcote were as at present. The exterior walls, and the roof, were whitewashed; the church was apparently 'neglected'. The seats were 'old square pews' (Davies, n.d., 14).

The church was restored in 1869 (Davies, n.d., 14) apparently at a cost of £77, but the architect is unknown. The restoration only affected the nave but was medium-high impact. The south wall was rebuilt almost from footings level, in squared and coursed limestone rubble. The 6 present oolite lancets were inserted in the nave, and the 'entrance was removed to the north side', the site of the former south door being lost in the rebuild of the south wall. The nave side walls were heightened or rebuilt, with internal corbels for roof-trusses. Two coped buttresses were built against the side walls for the chancel arch. The nave east wall carries a flue and a square chimney on the northern upstand slope, of limestone ashlar; the flue led from a free-standing stove (NLW, SD/F/643). The nave was reroofed with softwood collar-rafter trusses, arch braced from the wall corbels, with weather tabling. The nave was refloored, and the floor may have been lowered, but the 1869 surfaces have possibly been replaced (see below). The softwood seating has been replaced, as has the pulpit. The simple softwood vestry screen fitted in the south-west corner of the nave is still present.

Another church re-opening in 1887 may indicate some further work in the nave (Davies, n.d., 14).

The chancel was almost entirely rebuilt in 1893 (NLW, SD/F/643) at a cost of £371 and to the specification of the architect D. Edward Thomas, of Haverfordwest. The east, north and south walls were truncated, retaining the side wall benching which was extended, and rebuilt in squared and coursed limestone rubble. The interior was plastered. All detail was based on the 1869 work in the nave; the side walls were given 2 lancets each, and the east wall a 3-light window, with a central octofoil, in a 2-centred oolite surround and drip-mould. The side wall interiors were corbelled for the roof trusses. The roof follows that in the nave, and the floor is polychrome tiled. The present altar rail was fitted, and possibly the altar table.

There has been some further work. The nave appears to have possibly been refloored; the softwood pews are all free-standing, and from the later 20th century, while the pulpit is dated 1959. Some external repointing has taken place in the 20th century.

The limestone font bowl, square and scalloped, is 12th-early 13th century; the cylindrical stem and square base were (re)built in the 19th-20th centuries.

The bell is of pre-Reformation date, weighs 2 cwts and carries the inscription 'SANCTE MARTEINE ORA PRO NOBIS' (RCAHM, 1925, 394; the inscription reads 'SANCTA MARIA REGINA COELI ORA PRO NOBIS' according to Phillips, 1925). The 'St Martin' of the RCAHM transcription led them to interpret the bell as that which was removed from the friars' church of St Martin, Haverfordwest, at the dissolution, as recorded by the Court of Augmentations (RCAHM, 1925, 394). The bell was rehung in 1939 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/52/12) and again in 1984 (Davies, n.d., 10).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Mary, Talbenny, was a parish church in the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Rhos. The patronage of the rectory appears always to have been appendant to the Manor of Talbenny, in the Lordship of Rhos (or Haverford), and held by the de la Rupe family in the early 14th century (Green, 1914, 213-4; Hunter and Traherne, 1852, 265). From them it passed to the Devereux earls and then to the Owens of Oriellton (Green, 1914, 213-4).

In 1291 the church was assessed at £6 13s 4d, the sum payable being 13s 4d (ibid.). In 1536 the rectory had an annual value of £9 12s 5d (ibid.). The annual value of the discharged rectory in 1786 was £35, rated in the king's books at £9 12s 6d, and in the patronage of the Owen family (ibid.), as it was in 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

The rectories of Talbenny and Walton West were united in 1864 (Green, 1914, 214), a union which continues into the 1990s.

In 1998 St Mary, Talbenny, was a parish church. The living was a rectory held with Walton West and Haroldston West (Benefice 578) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Roose (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST MICHAEL,
TREFGARN,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 37116

RB No. 3554

NGR SM 9570 2370

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% pre-19th century core fabric. On site of, and in same location as, medieval church (Dyfed PRN 4582).

A 2-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 1 bay; nave, 2 bays; all (re)built in the later 19th century. Construction is in limestone rubble. Neo-gothic. All internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slate gable roofs. All openings are later 19th century and include the south doorway and chancel arch. Western single bellcote, later 19th century.

Roofs and floors, later 19th century. Finishes, later 19th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Church entirely rebuilt in the later 19th century, in same location as earlier church; no structural or physical evidence for earlier church; medium-deep external cutting around 50% of church; shallow-medium depth external drain around 40% of church; no evidence for floor level changes; underfloor void; no crypt/vault evident; no evidence of former components beyond church, memorials significantly close to 25% of church.

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

Group value - low-medium. 19th century church in medieval churchyard.

Phasing:

All later 19th century.

DESCRIPTION

St Michael, Trefgarn, is a 2-celled church, of small size. It was (re)built in 1881 (Jones, 1994, 1) but the architect responsible is not known. The church was built in the same location as its predecessor, 'probably upon the foundations' (RCAHM, 1925, 401) but it is apparent that the rebuild was total, retaining none of the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel and a 2-bayed nave, both of the same width.

Construction is in limestone rubble throughout, with roughly squared quoins. The external pointing is good quality, from 1881. All internal walls are rendered/plastered. All dressings are in oolite; the detail is all from 1881 and neo-gothic. It includes the chancel arch, the windows, with plain 2-centred surrounds, and the 2-centred south entry door. The nave west wall carries a simple gabled bellcote, with a single 2-centred opening, from 1881. Both roofs are slated gables from 1881; the nave may not always have been roofed at a higher level. The floors are possibly suspended except in the porch, and from 1881.

There is no structural or physical evidence for the earlier church. A medium-deep earth-cut cutting runs around the north and west walls, primary? (re)excavated in the late 19th century?. An external drain runs along the south wall, late 19th century?. There is no evidence for internal floor level changes. There is probably an underfloor void beneath the suspended floors, but no vault or crypt is evident. Memorials lie significantly close to the chancel south wall.

The form of the earlier church is not known. It is depicted, in the same location as the present building, on the tithe map of 1843 (NLW, Treffgarne, 1843) but as a cross symbol. The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 of 1889 (NLW, OS First Edition 1:2500, 1889) shows a structure of the same dimensions and plan as the present church, but the plan is too simple for any conclusions to be drawn. The earlier church, unusually, was not described by Samuel Lewis in 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

The font has an octagonal bowl and circular shaft, of probable 14th-15th century date. The base was 'modern' in 1925 (RCAHM, 1925, 148). A fragment of a crude stoup within the present church was presumably also recovered from the earlier building.

The present church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Michael, Trefgarn was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Rhos (Rees, 1932). The rectory appears always to have been in private patronage (Green, 1914, 226), by the late 16th century appendent to the Manor of Trefgarn. In 1536 - as 'Tref Garn' - its annual value was 33s 7d, the sum payable being 3s 4½d.

In 1786 the annual value of the discharged rectory was £14, rated in the king's books at £1 13s 9d. By 1811 the advowson had been purchased by a Dr Evans; the rectory was described as 'of small value' (Fenton, 1903, 182).

In 1998 St Michael, Trefgarn, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Spittal, Ambleston and St Dogwells (Benefice 819) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Daugleddau (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST ISMAEL,
UZMASTON,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 3357

RB No. 3043

NGR SM 9691 1439

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 30% pre-19th century core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; north aisle east bay (former north transept) and skew-passage; medieval. North tower, 2 storeys, c.1600. Nave, 4 bays; 2 north aisle west bays; vestry (south of chancel west bay); south transept; south porch; 1870. Boilerhouse (below-ground; north of north aisle central bay), late 19th century. Timber-framed shed (north of tower), mid 20th century. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; south transept with slate lean-to roof; tower roof not seen. Tower and ?skew-passage vaulted. Medieval chancel arch and squint, 3 windows (partly re-used and repositioned), blocked doorway and corbels. Tower vaulting and openings from c.1600. Other openings rebuilt in 1870 in neo-Gothic style, with yellow and grey oolite dressings.

Roofs: 1870. Floors: 1991-92. Finishes: 1870-1996.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, wide external cutting around 15% of church; medium-depth, external earth-cutting around 10% of church; below-ground boilerhouse against 5% of church; floors formerly suspended in 70% of church; external memorials significantly close to 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good-very good. 30% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch and squint, 3 windows, blocked doorway and corbels; tower vaulting and openings from c.1600.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, in hilltop location above river; large churchyard.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, chancel and transepts, originally C14?.

Phase 2 - Tower, c.1600.

Phase 3 - Restored 1870, high impact; chancel, nave and transepts rebuilt, north aisle, vestry and south porch built.

Phase 4 - Boilerhouse, late C19.

Phase 5 - Shed, mid C20.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Ismael, Uzmaston, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 30% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 3-bayed north aisle absorbing a former north transept with a skew-passage, a 2-storeyed 'saddleback' tower north of the north transept, a small, single-bayed, lean-to south transept, a south porch, a transeptal, single-bayed vestry south of the chancel west bay, a below-ground, lean-to boilerhouse north of the north aisle, and a timber-framed lean-to shed north of the tower. Construction is in limestone rubble. The tower, and possibly the skew-passage, are barrel-vaulted. The chancel arch and squint, the skew-passage window, some of the east window dressings?, the re-used and repositioned vestry window, the north aisle eastern stop, a blocked doorway and some internal corbels are medieval, with limestone and yellow oolite dressings. The tower is from c.1600 with contemporary openings, stairway and vault. The remainder of the openings are from 1870, in neo-Gothic style, with yellow and grey oolite dressings. Pointing is mainly good and from 1870, but the tower has poor cement repointing from the earlier 20th century and there is limited repointing from 1996; the interior was replastered in 1991-2. Roofs are slated gables; the south transept has a slated lean-to roof.

The chancel east window is from 1870 but appears to occupy a medieval, 2-centred embrasure, and may re-use some medieval dressings. It has 3 cusped lights with Perpendicular tracery, in a 2-centred surround of chamfered yellow oolite. The east bay side walls were entirely rebuilt in 1870, the joint with the pre-19th century northern skew-passage being visible in the west bay, and the upper section of the east bay south wall was rebuilt/refaced in the 20th century. Internally, this wall exhibits a piscina with a trefoil-headed recess beneath a plain, 2-centred hood-mould on stiff-leaf stops, all from 1870, the circular bowl, which lies on a contemporary Acanthus-moulded corbel, possibly being a re-used domestic mortar with 4 lugs, from c.1600 (RCAHM, 1925, 403). The west bay south wall is open to the vestry (see below) but retains, as does the west bay north wall, a medieval corbel midway up the internal face, possibly associated with a former rood-loft. The chancel arch is markedly off-centre to the north; it has a plain, 2-centred profile and may be 14th century. To the south is a plain, square squint that may be later medieval, replacing a possible southern skew passage (see below). The gable above the chancel arch is pierced by a single lancet in chamfered yellow oolite from 1870. The softwood, 'wagon-roof' chancel ceiling is from 1870 with wall-plates on contemporary, cavetto-moulded wall-corbels. The floor is fully carpeted but may be concreted like the nave, from 1991-2.

The nave was entirely rebuilt in 1870. It is lit by 2 windows in the south wall, one in the north wall and one in the west wall. The south and west wall windows have 2 cusped lights with central quatrefoils in 2-centred surrounds of chamfered grey oolite, from 1870; above the west window is a contemporary single lancet like that above the chancel arch, blocked with cement during the 20th century. The north wall window is a contemporary, cusped single lancet with a quatrefoil above. The plain, 2-centred south door is also from 1870 and chamfered, but lacks a surround. The softwood nave roof is from 1870 and features king-post trusses arch-braced from contemporary, double-chamfered wall-corbels, and is matchboarded. The concrete floor is from 1991-2.

The north aisle is from 1870 but the east bay absorbed a former north transept. The aisle communicates with the nave through a 3-bayed arcade of plain, 2-centred arches from 1870, on cylindrical piers with plain bases but with square, Acanthus-moulded capitals; the plain, square easternmost stop is medieval. The lower third of the east, end wall is medieval, retained from the former north transept and featuring the jamb of a blocked ?medieval doorway and what appears to be a 2-centred relieving arch with no visible evidence of any blocking; the upper two-thirds were rebuilt in 1870 with a 2-light window and upper lancet like those in the nave. The north wall is pierced by 2 single lancets like those in the nave north wall, and the west wall features both a 2-light window and an upper lancet like those in the nave west wall, the lancet similarly blocked. The aisle is roofed and floored as the nave. The east bay has

chapel fittings introduced in 1952. A 2-centred arch in the east wall of the aisle, rebuilt in 1870, leads into a skew-passage. The outer wall of the passage is entirely pre-19th century and comprises random, medium-sized limestone and shale rubble, pierced by a cusped 2-light window in a 2-centred surround of triple cavetto-moulded limestone from the earlier 16th century. The passage emerges in the chancel as a depressed, 'segmented' 2-centred arch with a double-chamfered head rebuilt in 1870. It has a slated lean-to roof to chancel eaves level, and a boarded ceiling above which may be a vault.

The tower occupies an unusual, but by no means unique position north of the former north transept. It is not typical of the region being small, narrow and comprising just 2 storeys, the belfry stage being a 'saddleback' gable; there is also no spiral stair, external basal batter or string-course. It may be very late, from c.1600?. The ground floor is entered from the aisle through a segmental arch from c.1600, reflecting the profile of its vault, but given a 2-centred surround in 1870. It is lit by a single square light in the north wall. The segmental barrel-vault is contemporary and pierced by a large, circular bell-raising port. The floor is lower than that in the north aisle and limestone-flagged, possibly pre-1870. The gabled belfry stage is entered through a plain, 2-centred doorway, from c.1600 (now concrete-lined), in the east wall, approached from the churchyard via an external flight of 8 masonry steps that, despite their 'late' form and general appearance, are similar in construction to the main body of the tower and may be contemporary. There are openings higher up in the walls; to the east is a simple, square single-light opening, to the north is a simple slit-light, and to the west is a blocked square opening with a squared surround. All openings, and the gables, appear to be contemporary with the main body of the tower.

The south transept was entirely rebuilt in 1870, apparently on the foundations of the earlier transept. It is entered from the nave via a plain, 2-centred arch from 1870, and lit by a contemporary single lancet in the south wall with a grey oolite surround. The lean-to roof is plaster(board)ed internally. Floored as the nave.

The south porch was also rebuilt in 1870, replacing an earlier 19th century porch (see Structural Development below). The entry has a 2-centred head with squared voussoirs and a drip-mould on stiff-leaf stops, while a quatrefoil light, in yellow oolite, lies in each side wall; all openings are from 1870. The roof collars are concealed beneath matchboarding. The quarry-tiled floor is from 1870, laid directly on the substrate.

The vestry was added against the south wall of the chancel west bay in 1870. It is entered through the chancel through an arch similar to that from the skew-passage, entirely rebuilt in 1870 but occupying the site of an earlier arch (see Structural Development below) that possibly led from a former southern skew-passage. It is also entered from the churchyard through a doorway with a Caernarfon-headed surround from 1870. It is lit by a window in the south, end wall which comprises 2 cusped lights in a square surround, with sunk spandrels, of chamfered yellow oolite from the 16th century, re-used and repositioned in 1870. There is a blocked fireplace in the west wall; its chimney has gone. The transeptal, gable roof is from 1870, with collars concealed beneath matchboarding. The concrete floor is from 1991-2.

A below-ground boilerhouse was built in the angle between north aisle and the tower west wall in the later 19th century, post-1870?; it possibly replaced an earlier 19th century component represented by a short length of low, brick wall which runs from east to west immediately to the north. It is entered through a concrete-lintelled doorway in its west, lean-to wall, which is approached from a flight of 7 steps lying in a concrete-revetted, below-ground stairwell along the aisle north wall. The almost flat, lean-to roof lies at ground level, pierced by a 20th century aluminium flue; the earlier flue runs up the interior, west face of the tower.

A timber-framed, corrugated iron lean-to shed was built against the north wall of the tower in the mid 20th century.

A deep, wide external earth-cutting runs around the east and north-east sides of the church, partly primary, re-excavated in 1996 when a concreted drain was laid. A medium-depth, external earth-cutting runs around the north-west side. A below-ground boilerhouse and stairwell lie against the north wall of the north aisle. Floors were formerly suspended in the nave, vestry, north aisle and south transept. External memorials lie significantly close to the south wall of the nave.

Structural development

The church has been so extensively rebuilt that it is now difficult to assign dates to the surviving earlier fabric. However, the chancel arch may be 14th century, the north transept and skew-passage possibly being contemporary. The small south transept, and a possible former skew-passage (see below) may also be broadly contemporary, the passage being removed in the earlier 16th century and replaced by a squint?. The character of the tower suggests a late date, possibly c.1600. The remainder of the church was largely rebuilt in 1870, but retained 2 windows, and the dressings of a third, of a style no earlier than the early 16th century.

Sir Stephen Glynne visited the church in 1858 (Glynne, 1885, 208-9) when it still retained its plan form of chancel, nave, 'quasi transepts to north and south of dissimilar form and size', and tower, a plan shown on the tithe map of 1839 (NLW, Uzmaston, 1839). A 'modern' porch had been added, since 1839 (ibid.), and the church as a whole had been 'badly modernised' including all the nave windows (Glynne, 1885, 208-9). However, the chancel 'had curious features' including a small, Perpendicular east window of 3 lights; the chancel arch was 'pointed... very rude and plain'. The northern skew passage, described as a 'shed-like contrivance', had been blocked at the chancel end where it was represented by a 'flat, rude' arch. Glynne thought the south transept to be 'modern, in all probability', but there was a similar 'flat, rude' arch in the chancel south wall which may have led to a former skew-passage that had been removed during the medieval period; the blocked arch was pierced by a 'two-light Perpendicular window of trefoiled lights' while its jamb featured a 'large, oblong recess'. In the chancel south wall were, in addition, 'a rude corbel' and a 'small square recess'. The north transept was open to the nave, without an arch. The tower, 'which contains 2 bells, is small, and has a saddleback roof with scarcely any apertures, but a little slit near the gable. It has no buttress, and on the east side are a kind of horse-block steps, on the outside' (ibid.). The south transept contained a gallery. The present font is described.

The church was restored in 1870 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/72/61) but neither the details, nor the architect responsible, are known. The restoration practically amounted to a rebuild. The chancel east bay side walls, the nave, the south transept and the south porch were demolished and rebuilt, presumably on the earlier foundations. The north aisle was added, absorbing the former north transept, and the vestry was built. The church was entirely reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated. In 1873, it was proudly announced in the *Carmarthen Journal* that all that had been retained from the earlier fabric was 'the tower with flight of external steps; part of the walls of the nave, the squint between tower and chancel, a couple of corbels, three Perpendicular windows and a curious-shaped stoup' (RCAHM, 1925, 403), the latter now functioning as a piscina.

The boilerhouse may have been added after 1870, replacing an earlier 19th century component (see Description above); the timber-framed shed against the tower is mid 20th century.

'Serious structural defects' were noted in 1986 (Pembs. R. O., HDX/1414/12) and in a major renovation during 1991-2 the church was refloored in concrete, replastered, the pews were removed and replaced by chairs, and central heating was installed (Jones, 1995, 1). The exterior was selectively repointed in 1996.

The oak and iron altar rail, the softwood pulpit, and the softwood stalls, now lying in the nave west bay, with fleur-de-lys bench ends, may be from 1870. The softwood altar table in the north aisle is late 19th century, brought from the nearby church at Boulston when it was de-consecrated in 1952 (Pembs. R. O.,

HPR/72/39). The neo-Perpendicular, panelled oak altar table in the chancel is later 20th century, from 1991-2?

The limestone font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, from c.1200.

There are 2 bells in the tower, both pre-Reformation. The earlier, and smaller, 'Archangel Michael', has a founder's mark suggesting that it was cast in the Bristol foundry in c.1350 (Pembs. R. O., HDX/1414/12); the larger, 'Archangel Gabriel', may also be from Bristol but was cast later, in c.1410; it has the inscription 'SANCTA GABRYEL ORA PRO NOBIS' (Pembs. R. O., HPR/72/73). Both bells are thus earlier than the tower within which they are hung.

The church was Grade A listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Ismael, Uzmaston, was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Rhos (Rees, 1932). It was granted to Worcester Cathedral by Wizo the Fleming, founder of Wiston Castle, in c.1112 (Murphy, 1997, 73-74). A rival claim was made by Gloucester St Peter and the ensuing dispute was not finally settled, in Worcester's favour, until 1152 (*ibid.*). In the meantime, c.1145, the church had been granted, as 'Ecclesia ville Osmundi', to the Knights Hospitaller at Slebech (Green, 1914, 228; Rees, 1897, 101, 104). In 1291 the church was assessed at £4, the sum payable being 8s (Green, 1914, 229).

In 1302 the advowson was granted by the Preceptor of Slebech to the Precentor of St Davids Cathedral, confirmed by Bishop David Martin in 1302, and in whose hands it remained (*ibid.*).

The tithes were leased, in 1554, to William Philipps of Picton Castle, Pembs., for 40 years at the annual rent of £5 6s 8d (Green, 1914, 229-30), the tenant to supply a curate for the church. The lease was renewed in 1565 and remained with the Philippses until 1682 when the tithes were leased for 21 years to George Lucy and then, in 1706, to Richard Sparks, alderman of Haverfordwest (*ibid.*); when the lease was renewed in 1734, the rent was £15 6s 8d, the curate's stipend was fixed at £10. The next lessee was responsible for a fine of £20, but in 1781 the Chapter of St Davids decided to drop the fine (*ibid.*). By 1827 the rent had increased to £120 per annum (*ibid.*).

In 1833 the living was a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the Precentor and Chapter, endowed with £600 royal bounty and £400 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833). 19th century vestry meetings were held in the former chapelry at Cartlett, near Haverfordwest (Pembs. R. O., HPR/72/61).

In 1998 St Ismael, Uzmaston, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Slebech, Boulston and Newton North (Benefice 572) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Daugleddau (St Davids, 1997-8).

A 13th century document gives the dedication as St David (Green, 1914, 228), an attribution followed by RCAHM, 1925, 403.

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**ST MARY,
WALTON EAST,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 4460

RB No. 3553

NGR SN 0224 2339

Listed Building No. 12017

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% pre-19th century core fabric. On site of, and in same location as, medieval church (no separate Dyfed PRN).

A 3-cell church, small-medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north porch; vestry (north), 1 bay; all (re)built in the later 19th century. Construction is in limestone rubble. Neo-gothic. All internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to roof. All openings are later 19th century. Buttressed externally, later 19th century. Western single bellcote, later 19th century.

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

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Church entirely rebuilt in the later 19th century, in same location as earlier church; no structural or physical evidence for earlier church; shallow external drain around 100% of church; no evidence for floor level changes; suspended floors and underfloor void in 70% of church; no crypt/vault evident; no evidence of former components beyond church.

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

Group value - medium. 19th century church in central village location.

Phasing:

All later 19th century.

DESCRIPTION

St Mary, Walton East, is a 3-celled church, of small-medium size. It was (re)built in the later 19th century in the same location as its predecessor but retaining none of the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a north porch and a lean-to vestry of 1 bay, against the north wall of the chancel west bay. Construction is in limestone rubble throughout, unsquared but roughly coursed and with good quoins. The external pointing is good quality, later 19th century. All internal walls are rendered/plastered. All dressings are in oolite; the detail is all from the later 19th century and neo-gothic. It includes the chancel arch, the windows, with plain 2-centred surrounds, and the 2-centred north door, north porch door and vestry doors. The exterior is buttressed throughout, and a basal offset runs around all walls. The nave west wall carries a gabled bellcote, shouldered, with a single 2-centred opening, all later 19th century. The roofs are slated gables while the vestry has a slate lean-to roof, later 19th century. The floors are possibly suspended except in the porch, and from the later 19th century.

There is no physical evidence for the earlier church, but an earthwork platform is visible around the church to the south, west and east. A shallow concrete drain runs around the entire church, and an external concrete plinth runs along the south wall, later 19th century. There is no evidence for internal floor level changes. There is an underfloor void beneath the suspended floors, but no vault or crypt is evident. There is no evidence of former components beyond the present church walls.

The form of the earlier church is not known. Samuel Lewis, writing in 1833, called it 'a very small rude edifice, consisting only of a nave, without tower or spire' (Lewis, 1833). It is depicted on the tithe map in a stylised and non-representational form (NLW, Tithe Map, 1839).

The font bowl is square and scalloped, of probable later 12th century date; it has been retooled, and the stem and base are 19th century.

The present church was Grade B listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

Walton East Church was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Cemais (Rees, 1932). It was granted, between 1147 and 1176, to the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech Commandery, by Wizo the Fleming of Wiston, his son Walter and grandson, another Walter (Rees, 1897, 98, 101). In the grant the church is termed 'Ecclesia Sancti Petri de Waletuna', but the dedication had been changed to St Mary by 1786 (Green, 1914, 231).

There is no valuation for Walton East in the 'Taxatio' of 1291, but the church was worth £10 13s 4d annually in 1338 (Rees, 1899, 229-33). It was assessed at £11 annually in 1536 (Green, 1914, 232) but by the mid 16th century the figure was £6 (Rees, 1899, 229-33).

At the dissolution, Slebech Commandery and all its appurtenances, including Walton East, fell to King Henry VIII. The patronage was in royal hands in 1594, when the living was described as a curacy (Green, 1914, 231). By the early 18th century it had been acquired by the Philipps family of Picton Castle (*ibid.*). As discharged curacy, the living had a certified value of £10 in 1786 (*ibid.*). By 1833 it was a perpetual curacy of the Archdeaconry of St Davids, in the alternate patronage of the Earl of Cawdor and the parishioners, endowed with £600 royal bounty and £200 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Mary, Walton East, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Wiston and Clarbeston (Benefice 818) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Daugleddau (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ALL SAINTS,
WALTON WEST,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 3162

RB No. 3063

NGR SM 8651 1283

Listed Building No. 19101

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 40% pre-19th century core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays, nave, 2 bays; north aisle, 2 bays; west tower, 2 storeys; medieval. North chapel, 1 bay; vestry (north of tower), 1 bay; south porch; 1854. Construction is in limestone rubble. Internal walls are not rendered or plastered. Slated gable roofs; north aisle roof is a slated lean-to. Medieval tower with 'saddleback' roof, medieval arch, spiral stair turret and door, blocked windows and door. North aisle windows medieval. Blocked medieval window in chancel. Remainder of openings, including chancel arch, aisle and chapel arcades, south doors and all open windows, 1854. Tower and nave east wall with single bellcotes, (re)built 1854.
(Effigy, not *in situ*, medieval. ECM, not *in situ*.)

Roofs: 1854-1900?. Floors: 1854-1995. Finishes: 1907-later 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. Deep external cutting around 25% of church, primary; shallow external drain around 5% of church; floor levels raised in 20% of church?; suspended floors and underfloor void; no crypt/vault evident; no evidence for former components beyond church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair. Largely rebuilt 1854, 40% medieval core fabric; medieval 'saddleback' tower with vault, arch and stair turret; blocked medieval windows, effigy not *in situ*.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower, in coastal hilltop location; ECM, not *in situ*.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, 13th-14th century.

Phase 2 - Chancel, 14th century.

Phase 3 - West tower, 15th century.

Phase 4 - North aisle, late 16th-early 17th century?

Phase 5 - Restored 1854, high impact; north chapel, south porch and vestry built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

All Saints, Walton West, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 40% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a wider 2-bayed nave, a single bayed north chapel north of the chancel west bay, a 2-bayed lean-to north aisle, a 2-storey 'saddleback' west tower, and a gabled vestry north of the tower, in the angle with the north aisle. Construction is in medium-large limestone rubble throughout, unsquared and uncoursed, much refaced in 1854 and with ashlar quoining. Good external mortar pointing, 1907; later 20th century internal incised pointing, no internal render/plaster. Roofs are slated gables, the always nave roofed at a higher level; the north aisle roof is a slated lean-to.

The chancel east bay north wall features a blocked window with a 2-centred outer arch; the surround was described in 1851 as a single, square trefoil-headed light of late medieval date (Glynne, 1885, 219) but has since been robbed-out. The east window is of 3 plain-cusped lancets beneath a 2-centred outer arch and (rebuilt) drip-mould, all in oolite and from 1854. The south window is also from 1854 and is a single, cusped oolite lancet. The west bay communicates with the 1854 north chapel through a segmental arch also of 1854; a 'sunken' stone in the arch between the chancel and north chapel may mark the site of the rood-loft stair (Davies, n.d., 6). The plain chancel arch dates from 1854. Externally, the gable above carries a single, gabled sanctus bellcote, an 1854 rebuild of an earlier (medieval?) structure; there is no bell. The chancel roof may be from after 1854, and has arch-braced oak collar-rafter trusses with cusped queen-posts forming trefoils and quatrefoils, of 'Arts & Crafts' appearance. There is no weather tabling. The east bay floor is polychrome tiled, again post-1854?; the west bay floor was probably raised in 1995.

The main entry has always been in the nave south wall; the door was rebuilt in 1854 with a 2-centred surround. A window lies either side of the door, in the same location as the 18th century sashes (see below); the present windows are of 1854 and are oolite double-lancets with plain pierced spandrels. The arcade into the north aisle comprises 2 arches similar to the chancel arch, and also from 1854. The nave is roofed as the chancel. The suspended floor was renovated in 1995, when the pews were removed (Rev. B. O'Malley, Walton West, *pers. comm.*); the flags may be re-used from the pre-restoration church.

At the west end of the nave lies the west tower, in which more early features survive than elsewhere. It is entered from the nave through a plain 2-centred arch that is rather low, suggesting a possible earlier 15th century date. The tower fabric is in larger rubble, finished as the rest of the church and without internal plaster. A square spiral stair turret projects slightly from the south-west corner, and is entered through a very low, square-headed doorway. a segmental arch in the west wall marks the site of a medieval window (see below), but a new window was inserted in 1854 at a lower level, of 2 ?reused cusped lancets; the present window interrupts the segmental head of a blocked doorway of medieval date, probably blocked before 1851 (see below). The floor is flagged as the nave, and appears to have been raised. The ground floor has a 2-centred barrel-vault of medieval date; with the spiral stair it suggests that the tower was intended to rise higher, but was not completed; the tower appears finished at its present height, rather than having been truncated. The second, belfry stage is gabled, with upstands; the western upstand carries a large, gabled single bellcote, rebuilt in 1854 in limestone ashlar on the site of an earlier (double?) bellcote. A bell is present (see below). A blocked window lies beneath the bellcote with a 2-centred, cusped oolite surround of 15th century date, and possibly blocked in 1854. A small female effigy, of 15th-16th century date, lies not in situ beneath the tower west window.

The north aisle features 3 lancets in the north wall; 2 are plain-cusped, and very late medieval in character, while the westernmost is uncusped with a higher sill. These would appear to be the windows shown in a plan of c.1780, but apparently gone without trace by 1851 (see below). The aisle lean-to roof continues the nave roof northern slope, with softwood principals strutted from wall corbels, all 1854.

The north chapel was built new in 1854 for the Lort-Phillips family and their guests who had a hunting-lodge nearby (Davies, n.d., 13); there is an arch into the north aisle like the chancel arch, and an east window like the nave windows. It has a gabled roof rising above the north aisle lean-to, of collared softwood common rafters from 1854, and is floored as the chancel west bay. The south porch was similarly new built in 1854, with a 2-centred doorway and moulded drip-mould on 'Acanthus' stops. The gabled, softwood collar-rafter roof lies behind an upstand with tabling. The floor is flagged as the nave. Also new in 1854 was the vestry. It has a west window like those in the nave, and a gable roof like that of the north chapel, rising above the north aisle.

A deep cutting surrounds the south-eastern third of the church, concrete-revetted in areas; however, it cuts through yard build-up and footings are not exposed. A shallow concrete drain runs along the vestry west wall. Much of the yard build-up may have been truncated when the church was restored in 1854. The tower and chancel west bay floors have been raised. The nave and aisle floors are suspended; void below. No internal crypt/vault is evident. There is no evidence for former components beyond the present church walls.

Structural development

The nave may predate the chancel, the shape of the former chancel arch suggesting that a solid wall was pierced when the chancel was added (see below); the nave may then be 13th century and the chancel 14th century, but in the absence of surviving detail close dating is impossible. The main entry was through the nave south wall, but there is a blocked west door in the west tower. The tower may be early; it has a gabled 'saddleback' (though possibly intended to rise higher) and may belong to the earlier 15th century. The north aisle is crude, and may be very late medieval-sub-medieval; its debased windows may be original and *in situ*. The north chapel and vestry were built in 1854, when most of the medieval elements of the church were lost.

A plan and south view of the 18th century church are displayed in the neighbouring church at Talbenny; they are anonymous but have been dated to c.1780, and wrongly described as portraying Talbenny church. The basic plan of the church was as at present, but neither a south porch, vestry nor north chapel was present; occupying the site of the latter was a small, very narrow projection from the aisle. The north aisle arcade is depicted with 3 bays, possibly a mistake since only 2 were present in 1851 (see below). The south door lay in its present position, and is shown with a rounded 2-centred surround of convincing medieval appearance, a square sash window lay either side of the door in the nave south wall. A further, very small square window sat high in the south wall of the chancel west bay. The only other windows shown on the plan are an east window, and 3 windows in the north aisle north wall. The tower was gabled as at present, and the west door may still have been open. Both the present bellcotes were present, but the western bellcote is shown as a double bellcote with 2-centred openings. A possible chimney is shown on the tower west gable. In 1833 the church was described as 'not entitled to architectural notice' (Lewis, 1833).

A description from 1851 (Glynne, 1885, 219) complements the above pictorial evidence and the plan was unchanged; however, there are certain differences. The chancel masonry was varied and 'evidently of different ages'; its north wall window was blocked as at present, but the surround was still in place (see above). The rest of the windows were all 'bad and modern', as in c.1780. There was a blind or blocked arch beneath the east window, and a small, crude piscina. The chancel south wall featured internal masonry benching. The small chancel arch was a crude breach of a formerly solid wall, suggesting that the chancel was probably secondary to the nave, and 'strangely mis-shapen', with 'much dead wall about'. A very large squint with a 'straight-sided arch' lay to the north of the chancel arch. The arcade into the north aisle was of 2 bays, as at present, but with very low, depressed arches of dissimilar profile, on a plain pier. The 3 north aisle windows shown in c.1780 had evidently been blocked, for it is stated that 'the aisle seems never to have had any windows'. Similar benching to that in the chancel occupied the base of the aisle west wall. The tower is described as at present, with a 'double window with obtuse heads',

possibly the present window opening; the west door is not mentioned and may have already been blocked. Both bellcotes are mentioned. The church interior was 'dilapidated to an incredible degree', and much of the external walling lay beneath yard build-up.

The 1854 restoration (Davies, n.d., 13), to the designs of the architect R. Kyrke Penson (Cadw, 1997, 5), was high impact; it has been seen that with the exception of the west tower, the church was practically rebuilt (much of it at least refaced) and new components built.

There has been some further work. The chancel and nave roofs have an 'Arts & Crafts' appearance and may be post-1854, possibly dating to 1888 when the chancel was refloored (Cadw, 1997, 5). The altar table and rail, and pulpit, are from c.1900. The church was repointed, and the interior replastered, in 1907 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/53/29), but the extent of removal of the old plaster is not known. The internal plaster was removed later in the 20th century and the internal walls were pointed. The north chapel underwent superficial conversion into a Lady Chapel in 1978 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/53/17), when the rubble altar table was built and the reredos that had been installed in the chancel in 1882 (Davies, n.d., 9), was moved to the chapel. The chancel floor is raised; this may have been in 1995 when the church was renovated, including the nave floor, and the pews were removed (Rev. B. O'Malley, *pers. comm.*).

The limestone font is medieval, with a square scalloped bowl, cylindrical stem and square base, of probable 12th century date.

Two medieval figurative mouldings have been re-used in the present church fabric; the north aisle incorporates a moulded bell, and a female head, both of medieval date (Davies, n.d., 3).

There is one bell in the western bellcote.

An ECM was found 'whilst digging a grave on the south side of the church', before 1939 (Kay, 1958, 122-3). It is a wheel-cross with incised Christian monograms, of 10th-11th century date; it is now mounted in the nave.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

Walton West Church was a parish church in the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Rhos. The rectory appears to have been in private patronage, at least since 1536 (Green, 1914, 233); Rees, 1932, has the church appendent to an unnamed monastic house in the 14th century.

Henry Catharne was the patron in 1536 (*ibid.*), and by 1594 the co-heiresses of his son Thomas had taken the joint patronage with them upon marriage into, *inter alia*, the Stepney family (*ibid.*).

The church was not included in the 'Taxatio' of 1291 (possibly one reason for Rees' suggestion of a monastic advowson), but in 1536 it was assessed at £6 13s 4½d (*ibid.*). The annual value of the discharged rectory in 1786 was £10, rated in the king's books at £6 13s 4d, and in the patronage of the Stepney family (*ibid.*), and endowed with £400 royal bounty by 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

The rectories of Walton West and Talbenny were united in 1864 (Green, 1914, 214), a union which continues into the 1990s.

In 1998 All Saints, Walton West, was a parish church. The living was a rectory held with Talbenny and Haroldston West (Benefice 578) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Roose (St Davids, 1997-8).

The All Saints dedication is not original. No dedication is mentioned in 1536, 1786 or 1833, and indeed the RCAHM give the dedication as St David - which in turn may not be original (RCAHM, 1925, 405).

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**ST JAMES THE GREAT,
WALWYN'S CASTLE,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 3153

RB No. 2936

NGR SM 8727 1121

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 10% pre-19th century core fabric.

A 4-cell church, medium sized. Consists of west tower, 3 storeys, the lower 2 medieval. Chancel, 3 bays; nave, 4 bays; vestry (north), 2 bays; north porch; west tower belfry; 1862-76. 90% of construction is in sandstone rubble. 90% of internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slated gable roofs; the vestry roof is a slated lean-to. Medieval west tower lower stages with, medieval arch, spiral stair turret and door, and blocked window. All other detail - the windows, chancel arch, chancel recesses and arches, chancel piscina, doors, buttresses, tower belfry openings and crenellated parapet, and the north porch stoup - is from 1862-76.

Roofs and floors: 1862-76. Finishes: 1862-later 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Church largely (re)built 1862-76; no external drain; all floor levels raised; suspended floors and underfloor void; heating chamber and flues in 10% of church; no further crypt/vault evident; no evidence for former components beyond church; memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor-fair. Largely (re)built 1862-76, 10% medieval core fabric; medieval west tower lower stages with vault, arch, stair turret and blocked window.

Group value - high. Landmark church with medieval tower; adjacent castle site.

Phasing:

(Phase 1 - Former chancel and nave, 13th-15th century?)

Phase 2 - West tower, 15th century.

Phase 3 - Rebuilt 1862-76, apart from west tower lower stages; vestry built.

DESCRIPTION

St James the Great, Walwyn's Castle, is a 4-celled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 10% pre-19th century core fabric, confined to the west tower.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, with 'choir' recesses in the west bay, a wider 4-bayed nave, a 2-bayed lean-to vestry north of the chancel west bays, a 3-storey west tower, and a north porch. All except the tower lower floors was (re)built in 1862-76. The medieval construction is in medium-large limestone and sandstone rubble, unsquared and uncoursed, with crude quoins; no internal plaster, good mortar pointing of the 20th century on both faces. The 19th century work is squared and coursed sandstone rubble, with 1862-76 pointing and internal render/plaster. Roofs are slated gables, the nave always roofed at a higher level, while the vestry roof is a slated lean-to; the west tower roof was not seen.

The chancel is all from 1862-76 and has an east window of 3 lights, with curvilinear tracery beneath a 2-centred surround and dripmould, in sandstone. The south window is similar, but 2-light and without the drip-mould. A plain square recess for a piscina also lies in the south wall. There is a plain 2-centred door in the north wall, into the vestry. either side of the west bay is a recess in a square external projection, flush with the nave side walls. The recesses have internal segmental arches, and are a copy of the medieval originals ('choir recesses' - cf. Johnston et al.). They have 'clerestory' lean-to roofs. There are internal corbels for the roof trusses throughout the side walls. The 2-centred chancel arch has a plain moulding. The softwood roof comprises collar-rafter trusses arch braced from the wall-corbels, cusped into trefoils, all 1862-76, including weather tabling. The floor is tiled. The altar rail and softwood stalls are from 1862-76.

The nave is similar, and all of the same date. There are 4 windows in the north wall and 3 in the south, all as the chancel south window. The north door has a plain, 2-centred chamfered surround. The west ends of the side walls exhibit plain, raking buttresses. Wall corbels are as those in the chancel, and also the roof, but here featuring cusped queen-posts. The passages are tiled, with heating ducts below, and suspended board floors. There was formerly an underground heating apparatus. The pulpit and softwood seating are also from 1862-76.

The similar vestry has an east window like the nave windows. It is reached from the yard by a flight of 3 steps and a door with a 2-centred surround. It has a lean-to roof continuing the chancel roof northern slope, with tabling, and a suspended floor. The north porch door has a 2-centred sandstone surround with a drip-mould on beak-head stops; there is a stoup in the east wall with a trefoil-headed recess and a chamfered bowl. All fabric is, again, from 1862-76. It is roofed like the nave, with similar tabling. The floor is tiled as the nave passages.

The west tower is now of 3 storeys, the medieval work probably early and 15th century; the internal dimensions are small and it lacks the external basal batter and string-course typical of the towers of c.1500 in the region. A square spiral stair turret projects from the east half of the north wall, entered through a low, square-headed door of 15th century date and lit by simple slit lights. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a wide, plain 2-centred arch, 15th century, and lit by a window in the west wall with a medieval rear arch but with an inserted, 2-light cusped window with a quatrefoil-pierced spandrel, in a 2-centred sandstone surround with external infill, all 1862-76. The ground floor is vaulted with a 2-centred barrel-vault, 15th century, pierced for bellropes. It is floored as the nave (see below), 1862-76, and therefore raised. The second stage is lit by a window in the west wall with a triangular-headed surround, with infill, and a single cusped lancet and trefoil, all 1862-76. The belfry stage was entirely rebuilt in 1862-76 in coursed rubble, with single-light or 2-light cusped openings in all walls. The crenellated parapet lies above a string-course and rises around the stair turret, all 1862-76.

There is neither an external cutting or drain around any part of the church. All floors were raised when the church was rebuilt. There are suspended floors in the nave and vestry, with heating chamber and ducts in the nave, and an underfloor void. No internal crypt/vault is evident. There is no evidence for former components beyond the present church walls. Some memorials, from 1910-1933, are significantly close to the north wall

Structural development

The church was entirely (re)built, probably on the old foundations but at a slightly higher floor level, between 1867 and 1876, with the exception of the west tower lower 2 storeys which date from the 15th century.

The form of the pre-rebuild church can be reconstructed from the sources. In 1833 it was described as 'an ancient edifice, not remarkable for any architectural details' (Lewis, 1833). It is, unfortunately, not shown on the tithe map of 1841 (NLW, Walwyn's Castle, 1841). However, it appears that the church as rebuilt closely follows the plan of its predecessor, and probably built directly upon its foundations. The pre-rebuild church was described in 1851 (Glynne, 1885, 219) as a 'tolerably spacious' nave and chancel, without aisles, with a west tower and north porch, ie, as at present but without the vestry. There were two square choir recesses in the chancel west bay as in the present church, opening into the chancel by depressed arches and with external corbel tables. The chancel east wall featured an internal bracket either side of the east window, for an altar beam or statuary? (cf. Nolton, Mynachlogddu, Robeston West et al.), and a 'long piscina' with a trefoiled head and good mouldings, and an octagonal bowl. The chancel arch was 'plain and obtuse', with a square squint on the north side, and the presence of 'plain brackets' on 'some parts of the walls of the nave' was noted - for a former rood-loft?. The south wall of the chancel east bay featured a 2-light window with 'slightly ogeed and trefoiled heads', apparently 15th century. There was also a single-lancet window at the west end of the nave north wall, otherwise the nave windows were all 'modern', probably sashes. The north door had a semicircular head. The roof was 'open and plain'. The north porch had been built by at least c.1811 (Fenton, 1811, 90). The west tower was mentioned, its ground floor as at present. The church had been newly pewed, and in general appears to have been in good condition.

However, the rebuild went ahead during the incumbency of Sir William Dunbar (Anon., 1922, 426), ie. 1862-76, but neither the exact date, nor the architect responsible, are known.

There has been little further work. The tower has been repointed in the 20th century. The reredos, with a painted triptych on a 'Christ in majesty' theme, is dated 1916, and the oak chancel screen is dated 1918.

The oolite font has a square bowl, cylindrical stem and square base, and is from 1862-76. The earlier, 'Norman' font lay in the chancel in 1922 (Anon., 1922, 426).

The church was not listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St James the Great, Walwyn's Castle, was a parish church in the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Rhos. The rectory appears always to have been appendent to the Manor - and Barony - of Walwyn's Castle (Green, 1914, 235), held by, inter alia, the Earls of Pembroke, the de Brians of Laugharne, and the Herbert earls. In 1519 Owen Perrott, of Eastington, Pembs., settled the advowson

upon himself (ibid.). The advowson appears to have fallen into royal hands with the fall of the Perrotts, for from 1622 onwards presentations were made by the crown (ibid.).

As 'Ecclesia de Castro Walwani', the church was assessed in 1291 at £9 6s 8d, the sum payable being 18s 8d (ibid.). In 1536 the annual value was £7 13s 3d (ibid.). The living was a rectory in 1786, in royal patronage, and with an annual value of £80, rated in the king's books at £7 13s 4d (ibid.).

The rectories of Walwyn's Castle and Robeston West were united in 1877 (ibid.), a union which continues into the 1990s.

In 1998 St James the Great, Walwyn's Castle, was a parish church. The living was a rectory held with Robeston West (Benefice 376) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Roose (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST DAVID,
WHITCHURCH,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 2675

RB No. 3285

NGR SM 7999 2544

Not listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; north transept, 1 bay, with skew-passage; medieval. Limestone rubble construction, partly refaced in 1873-4; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Medieval vaulting in skew-passage. Medieval chancel arch, squint and rood-loft corbel, chancel window and piscina, transept arch, skew-passage and vault. Blocked 17th-18th century window. Other openings rebuilt 1873-4, in neo-Gothic (simple Decorated) style, inspired by original openings?, with local Caerbwdy stone dressings; western single bellcote, 1873-4.

Roofs: 1873-4. Floors: late 18th century - 1874. Finishes: 1873 - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Medium-depth external drain around 30% of church; earthwork platform (burial?) against 15% of church; floors above void in 60% of church; marked burials within 20% of church; external memorials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch, squint, rood-loft corbel, window, piscina, transept arch, skew-passage and vault. Blocked 17th-18th century window.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church in open coastal location; large square churchyard with good memorials; associated possible medieval cross.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, mid C14.

Phase 2 - North transept and skew-passage, late C14 - early C15.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St David, Whitchurch, is a 3-celled church, small. It retains approximately 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, and a single-bayed north transept with a skew-passage. Construction is in limestone rubble, partly refaced in 1873-4. The skew-passage is barrel-vaulted. The chancel arch, squint and rood-loft corbel are medieval; there is a medieval light and a redressed medieval piscina in the chancel and the transept arch, skew-passage and vault, are medieval. There is a blocked, 17th-18th century window in the skew-passage. Other openings, including the north door, were entirely rebuilt in 1873-4, in neo-Gothic (simple Decorated) style, the windows possibly inspired by the original openings, with local Caerbwdy stone dressings; the gabled single western bellcote is also from 1873-4. Pointing is from 1873-4, ribboned in areas, with 20th century cement repointing in the nave, and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables.

The chancel was refaced in roughly coursed limestone rubble in 1873-4. The east window is a triple-lancet, with cusped ogival heads in chamfered Caerbwdy stone, within a 2-centred outer arch, all from 1873-4 but which may have at least been inspired by the original window. The south wall is lit by 2 similar, single lancets, also from 1873-4, the eastern of which has a low sill forming a sedilia. A single lancet in the north wall has a 2-centred, cusped head in chamfered Caerbwdy stone, partly medieval, probably from the 14th century, restored in 1873-4. Internally, the east end of the south wall features a piscina with a trifoliate recess and a plain circular bowl, all in chamfered Caerbwdy stone from the 14th century but redressed in 1873-4 (RCAHM, 1925, 412). The 2-centred chancel arch is almost triangular in profile, has plain, square stops and is medieval, probably from the 14th century; to the north is a contemporary, plain square squint. The softwood, 'wagon-roof' ceiling is from 1873-4. The tiled floor, glazed in the east bay, is also from 1873-4.

The nave facework is in random rubble, medieval, with good quoins. The nave is lit by 4 windows in the south wall, and 2 in the north wall, all from 1873-4 and like the chancel south wall windows but probably similarly inspired by an original 14th century window in the church. The west window is like the chancel east window but 2-light, also from 1873-4 with infill. The north doorway has a 2-centred, chamfered surround and a plain drip-mould, in Caerbwdy stone from 1873-4 in a contemporary opening. The west, gable wall carries a gabled, single bellcote in Caerbwdy rubble up to the shoulders, and Caerbwdy ashlar above; it has a plain square opening and is all from 1873-4, possibly replacing a timber bellcote (see Structural Development below). The softwood, collar-rafter roof is from 1873-4 and scissors-braced, with matchboarding. The passages are carpeted but probably tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1873-4.

The north transept north wall was partly refaced in 1873-4 like the chancel. The transept is entered from the nave through a 2-centred arch, with plain square stops, from the later 14th - 15th century, above which a crude medieval corbel faces the nave, associated with a former rood-loft. It is lit by a 2-light window in the north wall, like the nave west window and similarly from 1873-4, and a contemporary lancet in each side wall like those in the chancel south wall and nave. The softwood collar-rafter roof, with matchboarding, is from 1873-4. The floor is limestone-flagged, possibly with late 18th - early 19th century flags re-used in 1873-4; there are 18th century memorial slabs in the floor, from a period when the transept was a mortuary chapel. A skew-passage is entered from the southern end of the transept east wall, through an arch, at a slight angle to the wall, that reflects the depressed, segmental passage vault which emerges in the chancel as a similar arch; the outside wall facework is in uncoursed random limestone rubble, medieval, and features a blocked light with a square embrasure and crude square surround from the 17th - 18th century. The passage has a slated lean-to roof to chancel eaves level.

A medium-depth external drain runs along the south wall. A large, rectangular earthwork platform against the west half of the nave south wall may be associated with burials, and features a railed tomb. Floors are suspended above a void but without heating ducts. There are marked burials within the north transept. Some external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The chancel features at least one possible 14th century opening and a (redressed) contemporary piscina, the chancel arch appears to be from a similar date; if the 1873-4 refenestration was inspired by original openings then the chancel may be confidently dated to the mid 14th century. The nave may be contemporary as part of a mid 14th century rebuilding of the church. The presence of a squint suggests that the north transept, which has a skew-passage, is a later addition, but probably no later than the earlier 15th century. The blocked skew-passage window is later, from the 17th-18th century.

The church was repaired in the 1820s after the roof fell in (Green, 1914, 241). At that time, masonry benching apparently ran around the sides of the 'aisles' (ibid.) - possibly referring to the transept?. The church was described in 1833 as 'not remarkable for any architectural details of importance' (Lewis, 1833). It is shown as today on the tithe map of 1838 (NLW, Whitchurch, 1838). A description from 1870, reproduced in Crossley and Ridgway, 1956, 41, is both revealing and curious; it was described as a 'very small mean church having single nave and chancel undistinguished, with a south porch and a wooden belfry at west end. The tie remains over where there was once the roodloft'. There is no further evidence that a south porch was ever present - the site may have been confused with Whitchurch (Eglwyswen), near Cardigan.

The building was restored in 1873-4 (James, 1981, 115; RCAHM, 1925, 412) under the architect J. L. Pearson, of London, but according to plans prepared by C. Buckeridge (A. Gordon, 1993). The chancel and transept north wall were refaced. The church was largely refenestrated, but the new windows may be on the site of the earlier openings. The north doorway and bellcote were (re)built. The church was reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated.

The softwood altar rail, and the simple softwood pews, are from 1873-4. The oak pulpit on a Caerbwdy stone base is probably from the early 20th century. The oak altar table and neo-Gothic, panelled oak reredos, the free-standing, carved oak stalls and the skew-passage screen are from the mid 20th century. The chipboard vestry screen in the nave is late 20th century.

The font has an octagonal, limestone bowl from the 14th century, redressed in 1873-4 (RCAHM, 1925, 412), on a cylindrical stem and square base, in Caerbwdy stone from 1873-4.

There is one bell in the bellcote.

The church was not listed in 1998.

An upright stone lies immediately opposite the main churchyard entrance (Dyfed PRN 2676), to the north. It is thought to be the stump of a cross or part of a calvary (RCAHM, 1925, 412) but its date is unknown - possible ECM?. It was formerly 'customary to carry the dead (around the cross) before burial in the churchyard' (Anon., 1898, 187).

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; possible ECM?; proximity to St Davids.

St David, Whitchurch, was not a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Pebidiog and formerly part of St Davids parish. The vicarage has, since at least 1402, been in the patronage of the precentor and chapter of St Davids Cathedral (Green, 1914, 240) and the link is earlier; in 1291 the church, as 'Ecclesia Albi Monasteri', was assessed at £6 13s 4d, the sum payable being 13s 4d (ibid.). The rectorial tithes have, since 1711, been included in the lease of the St Davids tithes (ibid.).

Whitchurch had become a parish by 1833, when the living was a discharged vicarage rated in the king's books at £5 15s 7½d, endowed with £200 royal bounty and £800 parliamentary grant, in the patronage of the precentor and chapter of St Davids (Lewis, 1833). The vicarage was united to the rectory of St Elvis in 1842 (Green, 1914, 241).

In 1998 St David, Whitchurch, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage held with Solva, St Elvis, Brawdy and Llandeloy (Benefice 652) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Dewisland and Fishguard (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST MARY MAGDALENE,
WISTON,
PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)**

Dyfed PRN 3557

RB No. 3550

NGR SN 0222 1796

Listed Building No. 12017

Grade B listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, small-medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; north porch; west tower, 4 storeys; medieval. Limestone rubble construction, with some ORS. Remains of 18th-early 19th century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Tower and porch vaulted. Medieval chancel arch and window tracery, doorways, ?aumbry, piscina, tower openings and vaults, ?rood-loft corbel and 2 stoups, with limestone dressings. Blocked 17th-18th century window. Other openings from 1864, in neo-Gothic style, with yellow and grey oolite dressings (17th and 18th century tablets, probably not *in situ*.)

Roofs: Medieval vaults and 1864 timberwork. Floors: 18th - early 19th century, relaid 1864. Finishes: 18th - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - excellent. Medium-depth external drain around 30% of church, exposing footings in 15% of church; ground and floor levels unchanged; floors not suspended; no underfloor voids; marked burials beneath 30% of church; few external memorials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch and window tracery, doorways, ?aumbry, piscina, tower openings and vaults, ?rood-loft corbel and 2 stoups. Blocked 17th-18th century window.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church, with tower, in central village location; very large square churchyard with pollarded lime avenue, early pathway and good memorials; churchyard boundary wall with pound; associated medieval borough and castle; associated vicarage building and manor house.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, early C13.

Phase 2 - West tower, C14.

Phase 3 - North porch, c.1500.

Phase 4 - Chancel, early-mid C16.

Phase 5 - Restored 1864, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Mary Magdalene, Wiston, is a multicelled church, small-medium sized. It retains approximately 90% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a north porch and a 4-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone. The tower and porch are barrel-vaulted. The chancel windows and tracery, chancel arch (restored), nave doorways, north porch doorway, aumbry, piscina, tower openings and vaults, rood-loft corbel and 2 stoups are medieval, with limestone dressings. There is a blocked 17th-18th century window in the nave. Other openings were (re)built in 1864, in neo-Gothic style with yellow and grey oolite dressings. There are extensive remains of 18th-early 19th century external render/pointing; repointing from 1864, and from the later 20th century as a 'limewash' on the chancel south wall and in areas elsewhere. The interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen.

There are 17th and 18th century tablets, probably not *in situ*.

The chancel east window has 3 cusped lights and Perpendicular tracery in a 2-centred surround and drip-mould on simple out-turns, all in double-chamfered limestone from the 16th century, with a head that was renewed in 1864. There are 2 windows in each side wall; each features 2 lights with cusped heads and sunk spandrels, in a square surround of double-chamfered limestone, from the 16th century with rebuilt sills; the north wall east window was rebuilt in identical style, in yellow oolite, in 1864, but retains the 16th century embrasures. Internally, a piscina lies at the east end of the south wall, with a segmental-headed recess and a double-chamfered bowl with tooled channels, similarly from the 16th century. A 'plain aumbry' was observed in 1925 (RCAHM, 1925, 418) and may be concealed. The low, 2-centred chancel arch has a double surround, square and chamfered, with simple, chamfered imposts and bases; it is fundamentally of early 13th century style but appears to have been heavily restored in 1864. A full-width offset lies on the west face, above the arch apex, probably associated with a former rood-loft. The softwood, double-collar roof is from 1864, with braces and matchboarding. The quarry-tiled floor in the east bay is also from 1864; the west bay has large limestone flags that may be late 18th - early 19th century, re-used in 1864?; marked burials lie beneath.

The nave walls contain some Old Red Sandstone. The side walls lean out markedly and the north wall features 2 simple external buttresses against the east bay, from 1864; the two broad, low raking buttresses against the west half of the south wall are later, and are not shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Pembs. Sheet XXVIII.2. The nave is lit by 2 windows in the north wall and 3 in the south wall; all have 2-centred outer arches with polychrome heads, and infill, from 1864, containing cusped, 2-light windows in chamfered grey oolite from 1864. The east bay south wall features a small blocked window with segmental outer arch, not visible internally, from the 17th or 18th century. The north doorway has a full-centred semicircular rear-arch, with a (?secondary) cut-out for the door, from the early 13th century, and a rounded, 2-centred surround like the chancel arch but slightly chamfered and without the bases, in limestone ashlar from the early 13th century but largely rebuilt in 1864. In the opposite, south wall is a blocked doorway with a similar rear-arch (without the cut-out) and a plain surround of limestone ashlar. Internally, the east bay features a medieval corbel probably associated with a former rood-loft. The

softwood roof is from 1864 and has tie-beam trusses with turned crown-posts, matchboarded above. The floor is flagged as the chancel west bay.

The north porch entry is through a doorway with a depressed, ogival surround of 2 orders in chamfered limestone, from c.1500. The side walls exhibit internal masonry benching with post-medieval limestone-flagged seating; the west wall leans out markedly. A stoup lies towards the south end of the east wall, with a plain square recess and a weathered, circular limestone bowl, from c.1500. A second stoup lies opposite, in the west wall, in a plain 2-centred recess; it has a semi-hexagonal bowl with a vertical roll-moulding, in limestone from the 14th-15th century and re-used (relocated?). The 2-centred barrel vault is from c.1500. The floor is flagged as the chancel west bay and nave, laid directly on the substrate.

The west tower is of 4 storeys (RCAHM, 1925, 418), the lower 2 of which are both vaulted. The tower is unquoined and lacks the spiral stair, basal batter and string course characteristic of the late medieval towers of the district; it is tapered but has a pronounced entasis which is unique in district. Its closest local parallel is the tower at Burton Church, Pembs., which shares a similar, early date, both being from the 14th century. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a low, plain 2-centred arch reflecting the profile of the barrel vault within, from the 14th century; there is also a blocked doorway in the north wall, of unknown form - the head has gone. The stair is entered through a doorway in the west wall, with a rounded 2-centred head from the 14th century, and dog-legs up the west and south walls. The ground floor is lit by simple square slit-lights in the south and west walls with deeply splayed, segmental-headed embrasures, 14th century. The full-centred semicircular barrel-vault is from the 14th century. The quarry-tiled floor is probably from 1864. The second stage is also vaulted and lit by slit-lights in the north and west walls, and a small, plain square light in the south wall. The third stage is lit by a similar plain square light in the west wall. The belfry stage has a rounded segmental headed opening in the east wall, a square-headed opening in the south wall, and depressed 2-centred openings in the north and west walls, with a loop to one side in the latter; all are single-light but not all may be contemporary. The crenellated parapet on a plain corbel table may be later medieval, restored in the 20th century.

A medium-depth external drain runs along the north wall, exposing footings in areas. The sills suggest that medieval floor and churchyard ground levels are unchanged. Floors are not suspended and there are no underfloor voids. There are marked burials beneath the chancel. Two external memorials lie significantly close to the north wall.

Structural development

The entries and chancel arch date the nave, which contains some Old Red Sandstone facework, to the early 13th century. The west tower is early, with simple loops like the lower storeys of the tower at Burton Church, Pembs., and probably dates to the 14th century. The north porch detail suggests a date of c.1500, the entry being similar in some respects to the west door of Tenby St Mary, S. Pembs.; one of the stoups may be re-used. The chancel openings and piscina are all late Perpendicular in style, suggesting that the chancel was entirely rebuilt, entirely in limestone, in the early-mid 16th century.

The church was described in 1833 as 'a plain Norman edifice, with a small tower and... has a pleasing and picturesque appearance' (Lewis, 1833); the use of the term Norman is probably misleading for 30 years later the pre-restoration church 'exhibits no indications of Norman work' (Anon., 1864, 355). The building had a 'late cradle ceiling' ie. a medieval wagon-roof. Two 'altar-shaped' tombs with the arms of Wogan, from the 16th or 17th centuries, had recently been removed (ibid., Barnwell, 1865, 129n.).

The church was restored in 1864 (Anon., 1864, 355; RCAHM, 1925, 418), which although described as practically a rebuild (Evans, 1917, 8) was in reality of lower impact. The medieval roof was, however, removed. Neither the details of the restoration, nor the architect responsible, are known; however, the nave was refenestrated, and the interior was reroofed, replastered and resealed, the flagged floor being relaid.

The church is shown as today, with the nave north wall buttresses, in 1889 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Pembs. Sheet XXVIII.2). The south wall buttresses are later.

The softwood altar table and simple reredos, the simple, free-standing softwood stalls, desks and pews, and the pulpit are all later 19th century, from 1864?, *in situ*?; areas of re-plastering in the nave mark the positions of former fittings. The organ in the chancel is also later 19th century, restored in 1973. The oak altar rail is mid 20th century.

The limestone font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem and square base, from the late 12th century but redressed (Evans, 1917, 8)
There is one bell in the tower.

The church was Grade B listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Mary Magdalene, Wiston, was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Rhos (Rees, 1932). It was granted to Worcester Cathedral by Wizo the Fleming, founder of Wiston Castle, in c.1112 (Murphy, 1997, 73-74); it is suggested that the church was first established at around this date. A rival claim was made by Gloucester St Peter and the ensuing dispute was not finally settled, in Worcester's favour, until 1152 (*ibid.*). In the interim Worcester had, c.1145, granted the church and all its appurtenances to the Knights Hospitaller at Slebech (*ibid.*; Rees, 1897, 98). The church and castle became the focal point of a medieval borough.

In 1338 the Knights Hospitaller received £26 13s 4d from the church (Anon., 1898, 270). It was valued at £12.00 in the early 16th century (Rees, 1899, 229) but the Preceptor of Slebech apparently received £17 from the church in 1535 (Anon., 1898, 270).

At the dissolution, the advowson fell to the crown (Green, 1914, 245) and was subsequently acquired by the Wogans of Wiston (*ibid.*). It remained with the Wogans until 1663 when 'the estate, manor and rectory of Wiston; were granted to Col. Robert Werden and Charles Parker (*ibid.*), the Wogans having been implicated in the execution of Charles I. The advowson later returned to the Wogans who retained it until 1794 when the rectory and estate were sold to John Campbell of Stackpole, Pembs. (*ibid.*) and remained with his descendants, the Earls of Cawdor.

In 1833 the living was a perpetual curacy of £9 certified value (*ibid.*), endowed with £800 parliamentary grant and in Cawdor patronage (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Mary Magdalene, Wiston, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Clarboston and Walton East (Benefice 818), in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Daugleddau (St Davids, 1997-8).

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