

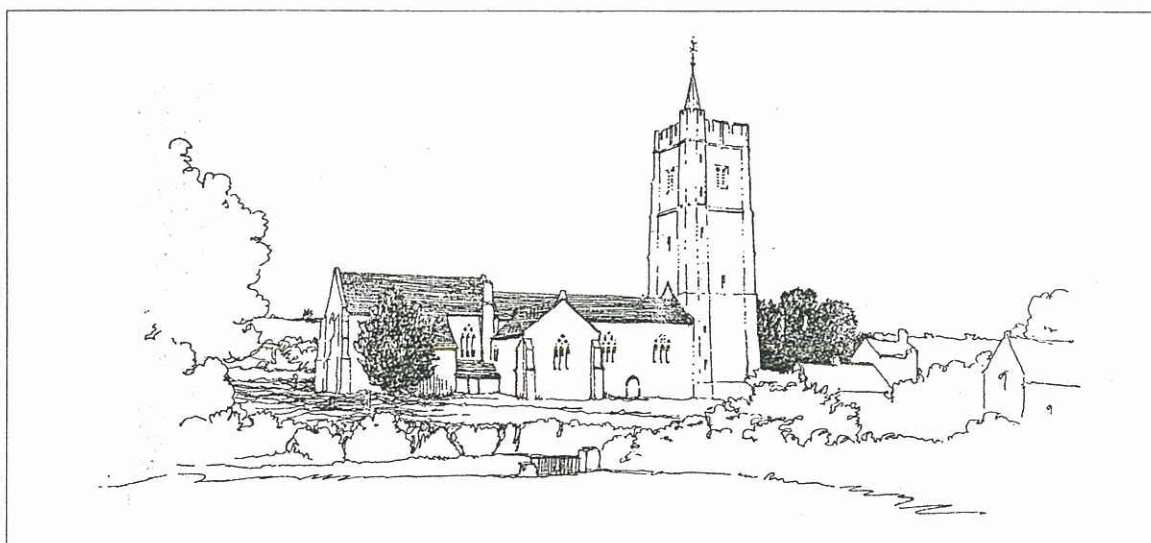
THE WELSH HISTORIC  
CHURCHES PROJECT



22/03/99

SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE CHURCHES, 1995-6  
(DAT 48)

PART 1: AMROTH - HODGESTON



*Carew, South 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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A R C H A E O L O G Y

# **THE WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT**

## **SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE CHURCHES, 1995-6 (DAT 48)**

### **PART 1: AMROTH - HODGESTON**

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**ST ELIDYR,  
AMROTH,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3663**

**RB No. 3395**

**NGR SN 1631 0790**

**Listed Building No. 6044**

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

**SUMMARY**

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

A multicell church, medium-large, cruciform. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, eastern 2 bays; north chapel, 2 bays; transeptal north tower, 3 storeys; south transept, 1 bay; medieval. Nave western 2 bays, 1851-55. South porch, 1855-88. Vestry, 2 bays (north of north chapel), 1899. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting throughout medieval components except chancel and north chapel. Medieval tower openings including tracery, arches (open and blocked) and piscina. All other openings, including the chancel arch, are mainly from 1851-55 or 1899, neo-gothic, with yellow and grey oolite dressings.

Roofs: medieval vaulting and timberwork from 1851-55, 1855-88 and 1899. Floors: 1899 - 20th century. Finishes: 1851 - 20th century.

Condition - good. Plaster damp; vestry window dressings poor.

Archaeological potential - very good. Deep, wide revetted cutting around 40% of church, exposing footings; shallow drain around 60% of church; earthwork evidence of former south chapel/skew passage; churchyard truncated beneath and around 10% of church; floor lowered in 5% of church; floor raised in 10% of church; suspended floors above a void in 40% of church; external memorials significantly close to 40% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 70% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings including tracery, vaulting, arches and piscina.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, in hilltop location; large churchyard with good memorials; remains of churchyard cross; part of larger *llan*?

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave east bays, chancel west bay, C13?

Phase 2 - South transept, C14.

Phase 3 - Transeptal north tower (and former side chapels/skew-passages?), earlier C16.

Phase 4 - North chapel, mid-late C16.

Phase 5 - Chancel east bay, c.1600.

Phase 6 - Restored 1851-55, high impact; nave western bays built.

Phase 7 - South porch, 1856-88.

Phase 8 - Restored 1899, medium-high impact; vestry built.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Elidyr, Amroth, is a multicelled church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 70% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church is cruciform and consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave (originally 2-bayed), a 2-bayed north chapel, a north transeptal 3-storeyed tower, a single-bayed south transept, a 2-bayed vestry north of the north chapel, and a south porch. Former south chapel or skew passage. Construction is in limestone rubble; pointing is mainly from 1851-55 and 1899 but there is some poor 20th century repointing, and the interior is plastered. The interior is barrel-vaulted throughout except in the chancel, north chapel and south porch. The transept arches are medieval, and the tower has retained some medieval openings, including tracery; other openings, including the chancel arch, are mainly from 1851-55, in grey oolite and Early English in style, or from 1899, in yellow oolite and neo-Perpendicular. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen.

There are a number of 18th century memorials.

The chancel weeps slightly. The east wall, and the south wall of the east bay, were rebuilt in small rubble c.1600 (see Structural Development below); the east wall exhibits a joint with the south-east corner of the north chapel east wall. The east window is from 1851-55 and comprises 3 uncusped, graduated lancets beneath a plain dripmould, all in chamfered grey oolite from 1851-5. The west bay represents the extent of the pre-c.1600 chancel and the south wall is thicker here, separated from the east bay south wall by a vertical offset and joint. This thicker section features an internal recess with a segmental head, which represents the archway into a former south chapel or skew-passage, probably from the earlier 16th century (see below) but removed, and the arch blocked, before 1844; the blocking is pierced by a single cusped lancet, in yellow oolite, from 1899. The double-chamfered chancel arch was rebuilt, in yellow oolite, in 1899. The softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling is from 1899 and lacks trusses, all rafters having collars and matchboarding. The floor was raised in 1899 and given black-and-white tiles (in imitation of a pre-existing floor?), partly replaced in the 20th century.

The nave is similarly of 2 phases, the 2 east bays being medieval while the 2 west bays were added in 1851-55 and are divided from the west bays by a plain, chamfered 2-centred arch from 1851-55 occupying the site of the original west wall. The west bay of the original nave is lit by a cusped single lancet in each side wall, from 1899; an external socket high up on the south wall is of unknown function. There is no evidence for either a medieval north or south door. The present south door is from 1851-55 and lies in the east bay of the 19th century extension; it has a 2-centred surround in grey oolite. To the west is a contemporary, uncusped double-lancet window in grey oolite. The north wall features the scar of a former lean-to building (boilerhouse?) of unknown date; internally, there is a blocked fireplace at the west end of this wall. The west, gable wall is pierced by a double-lancet in grey oolite, with a circular light in the spandrel, from 1851-5. The original west bays have a medieval, 2-centred barrel vault while the 19th century extension features a timber roof with collar-rafter trusses, carved into trefoils and arch-braced

from wall corbel, all from 1851-5. The passages were oolite-flagged in the 20th century; the suspended board floors are from 1899 and contemporary with the seating.

The north chapel communicates with the chancel through a wide, depressed 4-centred arch that is nearly triangular headed; it is plain but has a slight chamfer, and is from the mid-late 16th century when the north chapel was built replacing an earlier north chapel or skew-passage. The chapel is lit by a 3-light window in the east, gable wall, with cusped, neo-Perpendicular tracery in a square surround and label, all in yellow oolite from 1899 but possibly in imitation of a mid-late 16th century original. Internally, there is a plain, 2-centred piscina in the eastern stop of the archway into the chancel. The oak and softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling is from 1899. Floored as the chancel but the tiles are all from the 20th century.

The transeptal north tower is not typical of the region, lacking an external string-course and having no external batter; stylistically, however, like many towers it belongs to the earlier 16th century. It is tapered. A square spiral stair turret projects from the north-west corner, entered through a plain segmental-headed doorway and lit by simple loops. The ground floor appears to be of one build with the tower above and is entered from both the nave and the north chapel through plain, segmental-headed arches from the earlier 16th century; the latter arch led into a skew-passage, or an earlier north chapel, before the present north chapel was built in the mid-late 16th century. There is a window in the north wall, of 2 lights with sunk cusps, in chamfered limestone from the earlier 16th century, somewhat weathered. There is a 2-centred barrel vault, also from the earlier 16th century. The ground floor is tiled like the north chapel. The second stage is lit by simple square lights in the east, north and south faces, that in the north face with a segmental head; all are earlier 16th century. The belfry stage has a tall, single-lancet opening in each face, each with a segmental-headed surround from the earlier 16th century. The crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table that does not continue around the stair turret.

The south transept is entered through a plain 2-centred arch from the 14th century. In the east wall is a recess like that in the chancel south wall, representing the blocked arch into the former south chapel or skew-passage discussed above; the arches are similar to those in the tower ground floor with which the chapel or passage was probably contemporary ie. earlier 16th century. The transept is now lit by a double-lancet window, with a quatrefoiled spandrel, in its south wall, of grey oolite from 1851-55. The 2 centred barrel-vault is from the 14th century. Floored as the nave.

The south porch was added to the nave extension at some period after 1855 but before 1888. The facework is in Flemish-bonded rusticated limestone with a external basal chamfered offset. The main south doorway has a double-chamfered surround in grey oolite, and there is a cusped single lancet in the west wall, both also from 1855-88. The softwood roof, and the tiled floor, are contemporary.

The lean-to vestry was added in 1899, in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble with an external basal offset in chamfered yellow oolite. It is entered from the north chapel through a contemporary doorway with a depressed 2-centred head, occupying the site of a former window possibly from the mid-late 16th century (NLW, SD/F/25). It is also entered from the churchyard through a doorway in its east wall with a very depressed, nearly square-headed ogival surround, in yellow oolite from 1899. The vestry is lit by 2 windows in the north wall and 1 in the west wall; all have 2 square-headed lights in square surrounds of chamfered yellow oolite from 1899, very badly weathered. The softwood lean-to roof is also from 1899 and continues the northern slope of the chapel roof.

A deep, wide revetted cutting runs along the nave north wall, the tower, exposing its footings, the vestry and the south-west corner of the nave; a shallow drain surrounds the rest of the church. There is earthwork evidence, debris?, for the former south chapel/skew passage. The churchyard area beneath and around the vestry was lowered in 1899. The floor of the north tower was lowered, and that of the chancel was raised, in 1899. Floors are suspended above a void. External memorials lie significantly close to the south side of the church.

### *Structural development*

The 2 nave east bays, and the west bay of the chancel, appear to be the earliest work and may be 13th century. The style of the south transept arch suggests a 14th century date. The transeptal north tower appears to be all one build and its openings date it to the earlier 16th century; it appears to be contemporary with an earlier north chapel/skew-passage which was entered through an arch with a very similar profile to that of the former south chapel/skew-passage, and thus the three components may have been contemporary. The present north chapel is from the mid-late 16th century. The chancel was extended eastwards into line with the north chapel east wall at a somewhat later date, c.1600?; the joint with the chapel proves the chancel east bay to be later. The 2 nave west bays, the south porch and the vestry are 19th century.

The church was described by Fenton c.1811 'as a singular little building with its tower oddly disposed' (Fenton, 1903, 260). Some renovation had evidently been undertaken before 1833 as Lewis noted that the church was 'well fitted up for the accommodation of the parishioners' (Lewis, 1833). The south chapel or skew-passage had gone by 1844, and is not shown on the tithe map of that year (NLW, Amroth, 1844).

The church was restored and enlarged between 1851 and 1855, to the designs of the architect R. Kyrke Penson (Nicholas, 1995, 1; SPARC, 1997). The 2 nave western bays were added, and most of the present windows were inserted. The church was reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated. The south porch was added, apparently by Penson, at a later period, but before 1888 when it was shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 second edition; it is stylistically unlike the rest of Penson's work.

A second restoration was undertaken in 1899, to the designs of the architects Prothero & Phillott (NLW, SD/F/25). The vestry was added, with a doorway that apparently occupies the site of a mid-late 16th century window. The chancel arch was rebuilt. The north chapel east window was rebuilt, as was the chancel west bay south window. The west bay of the pre-1850s nave was fenestrated. The chancel and the north chapel were reroofed. The chancel floor was raised and refloored, the tower floor lowered, and the church was again reseated.

The lean-to building that formerly lay north of the nave may have been a boilerhouse. Its date is unknown and it is shown on no maps.

The sanctuary fittings, including the plain oolite reredos, are mainly from 1899, as are the softwood pews and pulpit (NLW, SD/F/25). The north chapel altar fittings are 20th century.

The font has a square bowl, stem and base, the bowl with incised foliated decoration, all from the 14th century.

The tower contains 2 bells, one of which was recast in 1929 (NLW, SD/F/27).

The church was Grade II\* listed in 1998.

The churchyard appears possibly to have been formed out of the northern part of a large irregular circular enclosure defined by hedgebanks and tracks - a former *llan*?

## **SITE HISTORY**

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-  
Celtic dedication; part of larger *llan*?

St Elidyr, Amroth, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It was granted c.1150 to the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech, by William Herrizon, with the permission of William of Narberth (Green, 1911, 232).

The patronage fell into private hands after the dissolution, but during the later 17th century presentations were being made by the Bishop of St Davids (ibid.). In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage in the patronage of Charles Poyer Callen Esq., rated in the king's books at £3 18s 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d, endowed with £600 royal bounty and £600 parliamentary grant.

In 1998 St Elidyr, Amroth, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with St Issells (Benefice 669) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

'St Elidyr' can be equated with St Teilo.

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Pembs. Sheet XXXV.8.

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

NLW, Parish of Amroth, Tithe Map, 1844.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

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St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

NLW, SD/F/25, Faculty - Restoration of church, 1899.

NLW, SD/F/26, Faculty - Removal of cottage, 1902.

NLW, SD/F/27, Faculty - Recasting of bell, 1929.

NLW, SD/F/28, Faculty - Erection of wall tablets, 1930.

**Parish Records, Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest**

(HPR/96 - Amroth)

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Glynne, S.R., 1886, 'Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses', Archaeol. Cambrensis, Vol III, Fifth Series.

Green, F., 1911, 'Pembrokeshire Parsons', West Wales Historical Records Vol. I.

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**ST MARY,  
ANGLE,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3091**

**RB No. 3087**

**NGR SM 8662 0290**

**Listed Building No. 5921**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 1 bay; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. South porch, (re)built 1853. North chapel, 2 bays, continuous with single-bayed vestry to the east, 1880. Former south transept?. Limestone rubble construction with some ORS; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate and tile gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval tower openings including tracery, an vault; blocked ?medieval window. All other openings, including the chancel arch, are from 1853 and 1880, neo-gothic (Early English), with yellow oolite dressings. (17th - 18th century memorials, not all *in situ*.)

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1853 and 1880.

Condition - good. Tower damp.

Archaeological potential - very good. No external drain or cutting; earthwork platform, primary, beneath 100% of church; former component beyond 10% of church; floor raised in 10% of church; suspended floors above a void in 75% of church; cellar beneath 5% of church?; external memorials lie significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 50% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings including tracery, and vault, blocked ?medieval window.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, in coastal location; central within Anglo-Norman planted village with many nearby medieval buildings including a pele-tower, dovecote and hall-house; churchyard with medieval mortuary chapel and remains of churchyard cross.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, north (and south?) transepts, south porch, all C14?

Phase 2 - West tower, c.1500.

Phase 3 - Restored 1853, high impact; partly rebuilt.

Phase 4 - Restored 1880, high impact; north chapel and vestry built.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Mary, Angle, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 50% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 2-bayed north chapel continuous with a single-bayed vestry to the east, a single-bayed north transept, a south porch, a 3-storeyed west tower. There may formerly have been a south transept. Construction is in limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone; pointing is mainly from 1853 and 1880, and the interior is plastered. The tower has medieval openings, including rebuilt tracery, and a barrel-vault, and there is a blocked ?medieval window in the nave. All other openings, including the chancel arch, are from 1853 and 1880, in yellow grey oolite and Early English in style. Roofs are gables, both slated and tiled; the tower roof was not seen. There are a number of 17th - 18th century memorials, not all *in situ*.

The chancel was rebuilt/refaced in roughly squared and coursed rubble in 1853, with a basal chamfered oolite offset. The contemporary 3-light east window has cusped, neo-geometric tracery in a 2-centred surround and drip-mould on human mask stops, all in chamfered oolite. There is no upstand, the roof overhang lying on plain oolite corbels at eaves level, also from 1853. There are 2 windows in the south wall, that to the east being a cusped single lancet with a sedilia in the sill, from 1853. The western window is an uncusped double-lancet with a quatrefoil spandrel, yellow oolite, in a 2-centred outer arch with infill, presumably from the 1880 restoration. The plain chancel arch with a chamfered inner order on 'stiff-leaf' corbels is from 1853. The softwood chancel roof is from 1853 and has princess-posts cusped to form a quatrefoil and double-trefoil pattern; the collars are arch-braced from contemporary wall corbels and the whole is matchboarded over. The passage is tiled, with suspended board floors also from 1853.

The nave south wall was rebuilt/refaced, like the chancel, in 1853, with 2 stepped external buttresses; the north wall is in random limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble from the medieval period. There are 2 windows in the north wall and 3 in the south wall, all in yellow oolite from 1853. The eastern north wall window has 2 uncusped lights in a 2-centred surround with a circular light in the spandrel and a plain drip-mould; the western window is similar but the lights are cusped, the spandrel is quatrefoil and the drip-mould lies on 'stiff-leaf' stops. There is a blocked window at the west end of the north wall retaining some voussoirs, medieval?. The east bay is lit by a partly cusped, 3 light window in the south wall, in a 2-centred surround with pierced spandrels. The central south wall window is like the east window in the north wall, while the west window is a cusped double-lancet. The south door lies between the 2 latter windows and has a simple chamfered surround from 1853. The nave is roofed and floored like the chancel, both also from 1853.

The north transept was partly refaced in 1853, like the chancel but without the offset. It is entered through a double-chamfered 2-centred arch from 1853, and lit by a window like that in the centre of the nave north wall also from 1853. The softwood roof, from 1853, lacks trusses, all common rafters having collars. Floored as the chancel and nave. The transept became a memorial chapel, with the relocation of a number of monuments and tablets, in c.1900.

The south porch was entirely rebuilt in 1853 with facework like that in the chancel; there are clasping buttresses at the corners. The internal walls have contemporary masonry benching with oolite seating. The main south door is a plain, chamfered 2-centred arch. The softwood roof, also from 1853, lacks trusses, all rafters having collars. The contemporary tiled floor is laid directly on the substrate.

The west tower, of limestone rubble, is not entirely typical of the region, lacking an external string-course and having only a slight external batter; stylistically, however, like many towers it belongs to c.1500. It is not tapered. A square spiral stair turret projects from the south-west corner, entered through a plain square-headed doorway with a sill below the present floor level, from c.1500, and lit by simple loops. The

ground floor is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch that reflects the profile of the barrel-vault. There is a blocked doorway in the west wall, of uncertain form, its dressings having been robbed. Above it lies a cusped, 2-light window, in limestone from c.1500 but partly rebuilt in yellow oolite, with a segmental drip-mould on rounded stops. The floor is fully carpeted but may be tiled like the chancel and nave; it may have been raised. The second stage is lit by a simple square-headed light in the north face. The belfry stage has 2-light openings with square-headed limestone surrounds, in segmental-headed outer arches, in the east and west faces, and similar single-light openings without outer arches in the north and south faces, all from c.1500; the east face openings are associated with 2 corbels at sill level, function?. The crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table that does not continue around the stair turret.

The north chapel was added in 1880 and forms a continuous unit with the vestry to the east (see below), with roughly squared and coursed facework like that in the chancel. It communicates with the chancel through a contemporary arcade of double chamfered, 2-centred arches. The north wall is pierced by a single lancet to the east, and an uncusped 2-light window with a circular light in the spandrel to the west, both in chamfered yellow oolite from 1880. The softwood, scissors-braced roof is also from 1880 lacks trusses and is matchboarded over. Floored as the chancel and nave but from 1880.

The vestry lies at the east end of the north chapel, from which it is divided by an internal wall. The vestry is entered from the chapel through a doorway in the dividing wall, with a 2-centred surround from 1880, and from the churchyard through a doorway, in its north wall, also with a 2-centred surround. It is lit by a window in the east wall, also from 1880, which comprises an uncusped single lancet with a trefoil light above which lies beneath a 2-centred drip-mould on human mask stops. There is a disused fireplace in the south wall, from which a square chimney is corbelled out from the north wall and leads to an octagonal stack, all in limestone ashlar. Roofed as the north chapel. The suspended floor lies above churchyard level and there may be a cellar below.

There is neither an external drain nor a cutting. The church stands upon a low, but pronounced oval earthwork platform. There may have been a former south transept. The floor level within the tower may have been raised. Floors are suspended above a void. There may be a cellar beneath the vestry. External memorials lie significantly close to the church.

#### *Structural development*

Except in the tower, the pre-19th century fabric lacks detail and cannot be closely dated. However, the chancel, the nave, the north transept and former south transept (see below) and the south porch form a unified plan that may be the product of a single building campaign; the presence of the transepts and the length of the chancel suggest that it may have been a later medieval undertaking, 14th century?. The tower openings suggest a date of c.1500. The north chapel and vestry are 19th century.

Fenton, writing c.1811, describes the south side of the church as featuring 'an old arched aisle, which, from the aperture in its roof, seems to have been a belfry; on one side is a canopied recess covering a shelf, where formerly a recumbent effigy might have lain' (Fenton, 1903, 220). The component described appears to have been a south transept, apparently in decay.

The first restoration can be dated to 1853 when the parish schoolroom was licensed for divine service (Green, 1911, 235) but neither the details of the work, nor the architect responsible, are known. However, it can be seen that the restoration was extensive, amounting to a partial rebuild. The chancel, the south porch and the nave south wall were rebuilt, or at least refaced. The church was refenestrated and a window was partly rebuilt in the tower. The church was reroofed, refloored, replastered and resealed.

The north chapel and vestry are not shown on the Ordnance Survey first edition, surveyed in 1875, and it is apparent that they were the product of a second restoration, even though they are stylistically identical

to the 1853 work. Thomas, 1964, mentions a restoration in 1880 - a date which fits the map sequence - but he cites neither the details nor the sources.

The oak stalls, the softwood pews and the chancel rail are probably from the 1853 restoration. The sanctuary fittings, including the Minton tiled reredos, are probably late 19th century, from the 1880 restoration?. The organ in the north chapel, by Sweetland of Bath, is from 1914 (NLW, SD/F/29). The oak pulpit is 20th century.

The font has a square scalloped bowl, a cable-moulded cylindrical stem and a square base, all from the 12th century.

The tower contains 2 bells (Bartosch & Stokes, 1990, 11).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

Fenton noted a very small male effigy within the church, and the effigy of a priest within the churchyard 'almost covered with the sward' (Fenton, 1903, 220).

The churchyard features, to the north of the church, a masonry mortuary chapel, traditionally known as 'The Sailors' Chapel', with a vaulted basement and a vaulted roof. It retains most of the original openings which date the building to the 15th century. South of the church are the remains of a churchyard cross.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

St Mary, Angle, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It was assessed at £8 in 1291 (ibid.).

The living was both a vicarage and a rectory, the latter having been granted, probably during the 12th century, to the Benedictines of Monkton Priory, Pembroke (Green, 1911, 234); Giraldus Cambrensis was the rector in c.1200. With Monkton's suppression as an alien priory by Henry V, the rectory fell into royal hands. In 1461 it was granted to St Albans Abbey (ibid.). The patronage again fell into royal hands after the dissolution, but was acquired for a short period of the later 19th century by the Principal and Professors of St Davids College, Lampeter (ibid.), before passing to the Bishop of St Davids. The rectory was rated in the king's books at £10 10s in 1833 (Lewis, 1833); it was suppressed in 1885 (Green, 1911, 235).

Presentations to the vicarage were made by the rector until the 17th century, when the advowson was acquired by the Bishop of St Davids (ibid.). In 1833 the vicarage was rated in the king's books at £3 19s 2d and endowed with £400 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Mary, Angle, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Castlemartin, Warren, Rhoscrowther and Pwllcrochan (Benefice 597) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

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**ST MARY,  
BEGELLY,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3641**

**RB No. 2780**

**NGR SN 1181 0731**

**Listed Building No. 6045**

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

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; north chapel, 3 bays (absorbing north transept); south transept, 1 bay; south porch (now vestry; formerly with parvis?); west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Limestone rubble construction; 10% of church with 20th century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval east window (rebuilt), south door, chancel arch, arcade, transept arches, tower openings, parapet, pinnacles and vault, rood-loft stair and corbelling, piscina and aumbry (blocked) and stoups, with limestone and yellow oolite dressings. Other openings from 1886 but in imitation of the original openings, mainly with grey oolite dressings.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1886.

Condition - fair-good. North chapel roof fair; tower damp.

Archaeological potential - good - very good. External revetted cutting around 30% of church, partly primary?; shallow, concrete-lined drain around 100% of church; external earthwork platform beyond 25% of church, burial earthwork?; floors raised and suspended above heating ducts in 70% of church; heating chamber below 5% of church; external memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% pre-19th century core fabric; rebuilt medieval window(s), door, chancel arch, arcade, transept arches, tower openings, parapet, pinnacles and vault, rood-loft stair and corbelling, piscina and aumbry (blocked) and stoups

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, in hillside location; lych-gate; associated C19 church hall; formerly nearby motte/ringwork.

Phasing:

- Phase 1 - Nave west bays, C13?
- Phase 2 - Nave east bays and transepts, early C14.
- Phase 3 - Chancel and north chapel, mid C14.
- Phase 4 - West tower, mid-late C16.
- Phase 5 - South porch, late C16 - early C17.
- Phase 6 - Restored 1886, medium impact; tower partly rebuilt.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Mary, Begelly, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 3-bayed north chapel (absorbing former north transept), a single-bayed south transept with a skew-passage, a south porch (now a vestry) with a possible former parvis, and a 3-storeyed west tower. Construction is in local limestone rubble. Medieval chancel arch, arcade, transept and tower arches, east window (rebuilt) and south door, with limestone and yellow oolite dressings; other openings are mainly from 1886, in a variety of neo-Gothic styles imitating the original openings, with grey oolite dressings. Pointing is mainly from 1886, with some 20th century external render; the interior is plastered. The tower is barrel-vaulted. Roofs are slated gables throughout; the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel east window has 2 cusped lights with slightly ogival heads, simple Decorated tracery in a 2-centred surround featuring sunk spandrels and a central quatrefoil, and a 2-centred drip-mould on out-turned stops, all in yellow oolite from the mid 14th century but largely rebuilt in 1886. Above the window is a simple trefoil light into the roof-space, in yellow oolite from 1886 but now blocked. The south wall is pierced by a single lancet with a cusped head, in grey oolite from 1886 but replicating a 14th century original; a large area of blocking is visible externally to the west, which may represent a former 'priest's door' blocked before 1885. Internally, a piscina, with an aumbry above, was noted east of the south window in 1925 (RCAHM, 1925, 16) but both are now blocked; a corbel for an earlier roof is visible on the internal face of the west bay north wall. The large, 2-centred chancel arch is in triple wave-moulded limestone ashlar from the mid 14th century, with a low, yellow oolite screen wall inserted in 1885. The profile of the chancel arch is reflected by a line of 5 medieval corbels above its west face, which were associated with a former rood-loft (see below). The flue from the heating chamber (see below) also rises through this wall to emerge as a plain square chimney with a cylindrical stack, from 1886. The softwood roof is from 1886 and has substantial, carved queen-post trusses arch-braced from the walls with curved knees, matchboarded above. The tiled floor is also from 1886.

The nave side walls exhibit an internal offset at three-quarters height, above which the wall has been heightened, during the post-medieval period?; in the west bays both walls have a pronounced external batter. The east bay side walls are arches into the south transept and the former north transept (now the north chapel west bay); both are plain, depressed 2-centred arches springing sharply from the transept side walls, probably from the earlier 14th century (see Structural Development below). A straight rood-loft stair lies to the east of the northern arch, entered from the north chapel and therefore mid 14th century at the earliest, probably contemporary with the chancel arch; both the lower and upper stair doorways have plain, segmental heads and the upper doorway, which emerges into the nave in the angle between the north transept arch and the chancel arch, is associated with loft corbelling. A further loft corbel lies above the south transept arch. The nave is lit by 2 windows in the south wall and one in the north wall; all have 2 ogival, cusped lights with pierced spandrels in square surrounds, in grey oolite from 1886 but the south wall windows are *in situ* replicas of mid-late 16th century originals. Between the south wall windows is a



possible area of blocking that may represent an earlier window that was blocked in the 16th century. The nave is entered through the north wall of the central bay, through a doorway with a 2-centred, roll- and chamfer-moulded surround and drip-mould rebuilt in 1886; to the west, the external face exhibits an area of cut-back facework which may mark the site of a former north porch, while to the east are two internal, square stoup-recesses, medieval, lying one above the other. A south door lies opposite and has a chamfered surround possibly from the 13th century. The nave roof is like that in the chancel and similarly from 1886, though rather less elaborate, with king- and princess-posts. The passages are tiled over heating flues, from 1886, with suspended board floors and an underground chamber for a 'Porritt's' stove, also from 1886 (now disused), in the central bays.

The north chapel communicates with the chancel through an arcade of 2. arches with plain, slightly chamfered 2-centred heads; they have springers cushioned from cylindrical, limestone ashlar stops, and a similar central pier, all with plain abaci/capitals but with concealed bases, stylistically mid 14th century. The arch into the nave has been described above. The east and west gable walls are each pierced by a window like those in the nave, from 1886 but similarly *in situ* replicas of mid-late 16th century originals; there is an identical window, also originally 16th century, in the north wall, flanked by cusped single lancets like that in the chancel, similarly from 1886 and representing *in situ* replicas of 14th century originals. The gables above the east and west windows feature louvered single lancets into the roof-space, from 1886. The queen-post roof is similar to those in the chancel and nave and also from 1886. The suspended board floor is originally from 1886.

The south transept communicates with the chancel via a skew-passage in the thickness of the chancel south wall, (re)built in 1886 with a square profile and a low head. It is lit by a window in the south gable wall, like those in the nave and from 1886 but similarly an *in situ* replica of a mid-late 16th century original; a louvered lancet above, from 1886, lights the roof space. A cusped single lancet in each side wall, like that in the chancel, also represent 1886 rebuilds of 14th century originals, possibly re-using some dressings. The softwood roof is from 1886 and lacks trusses, all rafters having scissors-braces. The suspended board floor is originally from 1886.

The vestry was modified from a south porch, by blocking its doorway, during the 19th century but before 1886 (NLW, SD/F/32). The porch may formerly have featured a first floor parvis; the internal thickening of the north-east corner may have housed a former stair. The south wall was refaced, with an inserted square-headed single light, in 1886, removing much of the evidence of the (blocked) south door which was a large, plain full-centred semicircular arch probably from the late 16th - early 17th century. The roof is concealed by a 20th century hardboard ceiling but may be vaulted. The floor is concrete.

The west tower, comprising 3 storeys in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble, is from the mid-late 16th century and is typical of the region, but of rather better quality. It is slightly tapered and has the 'typical' external batter, but the string-course may be later (see Structural Development below). A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, is entered through a low, plain doorway, with a square head from the mid-late 16th century, and lit by simple loops. The 2-centred arch from the ground floor into the nave reflects the profile of the 2-centred barrel vault from the mid-late 16th century, which is pierced for 5 bell-ropes. The west door has a 2-centred surround and drip-mould like the nave north door, similarly rebuilt in 1885; above the door is a window like those in the nave and from 1886 but similarly an *in situ* replica of a mid-late 16th century original, and there is a similar window in the south wall. The woodblock floor, from the earlier 20th century, is raised above nave floor level. The south and west walls of the second stage and the belfry were rebuilt in 1886; the second stage is lit by a simple, square-headed light in the east wall, from the mid-late 16th century. The belfry stage has 2-light openings with uncusped semicircular heads, in chamfered limestone from the mid-late 16th century and very like those in the slightly later tower at Lawrenny, Pembs., in the south, west and east faces; those in the south and west faces were rebuilt in 1886, while the north face has a square-headed 2-light opening from the mid-late 16th century. The crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, from the mid-late 16th century but similarly rebuilt to the south and west; the low, plain pinnacles corbelled out from the corners are again like those at Lawrenny Church.

The west end of the church, and the nave north wall, lie in an external revetted cutting which may be at least partly primary; a shallow, concrete-lined drain surrounds the church. A rectangular earthwork platform lies between the south transept and the south porch/vestry, but probably represents a burial earthwork. The floors were raised in 1886. Floors are suspended above heating ducts and there is a heating chamber below the nave floor. External memorials lie significantly close to the church.

#### *Structural development*

The 2 nave west bays have a pronounced external batter and may pre-date the 2 east bays; the west bays are not closely dateable but the south door may be 13th century. The nave may have been extended to the east when the transepts were built, probably during the earlier 14th century; they have identical arches and are thus probably contemporary though the north transept was larger than the south (as at a number of churches). The large, wave-moulded chancel arch, and the rebuilt/re-used east window, date the chancel to the mid 14th century, apparently contemporary with the north chapel which, though its arcade detail is unlike that of the chancel arch, has stylistically similar lancets (rebuilt from 14th century originals); the construction of the chapel, an early regional example, appears therefore to have initiated a major replanning of the east end and the chapel absorbed the former north transept. The west tower is stylistically late, from the mid-late 16th century, and similar to the slightly later tower at Lawrenny, Pems.; the rebuilt windows indicate that a major refenestration of the rest of the church occurred at the same time. The south porch/vestry appears to have been entered through a semicircular arch that would give the porch a probable late 16th - early 17th century date.

The church was partially repaired in 1845 (Cadw, 1997, 1), but the details are not known. In the same year, Glynné visited the church (Glynné, 1886, 68) and noted that although most of the windows were sashes, the chancel and north chapel windows were medieval and much as today (see below). He described the tower as 'tall and rude', with a 'clumsy battlement' but without the string-course.

Elevation drawings from 1885 (NLW, SD/F/32), before restoration, show the church much as it exists today including the detail (see below), and kneelers for the gable upstands, but there was no nave north window. The tower string-course is shown. The south porch doorway had recently been blocked to form a vestry.

The church was restored in 1886 (ibid.) to the designs of the architect E. M. Bruce Vaughan, of Cardiff. The work was largely superficial. The church was refenestrated, but the new windows appear largely to be imitations of the originals and occupy their (rebuilt) embrasures, while the chancel east window largely re-used the 14th century dressings; the nave north wall window was, however, an entirely new opening. The skew-passage was (re)built. The south porch/vestry was largely rebuilt. The south and west walls of the upper 2 storeys of the tower were rebuilt. The church was reroofed and the interior was refloored, with a heating chamber for a 'Porritt's' stove, reseated and replastered.

The exterior of the east end of the church was rendered in the early-mid 20th century; the tower may have been refloored at the same time.

The softwood chancel altar fittings and panelled reredos, the softwood stalls, the deal pews, the oak pulpit and the neo-Gothic, softwood tower screen are all from 1886 (NLW, SD/F/32). The north chapel altar fittings are later, from c.1900, brought from Kilgetty Mission Chapel in 1986 (Cadw, 1997, 2).

The limestone font has a square bowl and a cylindrical stem and base, probably from the 13th century but possibly later.

A piece of loose lapidary in the church comprises fragments of a limestone frieze or fillet, with a late medieval moulded design of medallions; it was formerly built into the churchyard wall.

There is one bell in the tower, by Bayley of Bridgewater and dated 1760 (SPARC, 1996).

The church was Grade II\* listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

St Mary, Begelly, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. The rectory appears to have always been in the patronage of the Lords of the Manor of Begelly, held of the Lordship of Pembroke. The church was, in 1291, assessed at £12 (Green, 1911, 242). East Williamston has always been a chapelry of the parish, first recorded as such in 1594 (*ibid.*); there was a second chapelry at Thomas Chapel, now lost.

In the mid 16th century both the Manor of Begelly and the patronage of St Mary were held by the Wogans of Wiston (*ibid.*), but by 1700 both had passed to the Philipps family of Picton Castle. In 1833 the living was a discharged rectory, in Philipps patronage and rated in the king's books at £12 19s 2d (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Mary, Begelly, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Ludchurch and Crunwre (Benefice 815) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

The original dedication is uncertain (Cadw, 1997, 1).

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**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,  
BOSHERSTON,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 627**

**RB No. 2922**

**NGR SR 9661 9482**

**Listed Building No. 5927**

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

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized, cruciform. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 2 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay with skew-passage; south porch; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Vestry (north of chancel west bay), 1 bay, 1855. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in nave, transepts, tower and porch; medieval tower openings and arch, transept arches and skew-passage window, tomb-recesses with effigies, piscinae (one double), rood-loft corbelling and niche. Other openings, including chancel arch, are from 1855, neo-gothic, mainly with grey oolite dressings.

Roofs: medieval vaulting and timberwork from 1855. Floors and finishes: 1855.

Condition - good. Tower damp.

Archaeological potential - good. Shallow external drain around 100% of church; earthwork platform beyond the 10% of church; suspended floors above void in 60% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; no external memorials or burials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval vaulting, tower openings, arches, skew-passage and window, tomb-recesses, effigies, piscinae, rood-loft corbelling and niche.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower; central village location; medieval churchyard cross; churchyard with bank of former circular boundary.

**Phasing:**

Phase 1 - Chancel west bay, nave, transepts and skew-passage(s), south porch, all C14?

Phase 2 - West tower (and chancel east bay?), C15.

Phase 3 - Restored 1855, high impact; vestry built, south porch partly refaced.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Michael and All Angels, Bosherston, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church is cruciform and consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, a single-bayed north transept, a single-bayed south transept with a skew-passage, a south porch, a 3-storeyed west tower, and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in limestone rubble. The church, except the chancel and vestry, is barrel-vaulted throughout. The tower openings and arch, the transept arches and a skew-passage window are medieval; other openings, including the chancel arch, were entirely (re)built in 1855, in neo-Gothic (late Early English) style, with mainly grey oolite dressings. There are the remains of 18th - early 19th century external render on the chancel and north transept; pointing is mainly from 1855, but the tower was repointed in 1925 and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen. Medieval tomb-recesses with effigies.

The chancel walls have a slight external batter; the external string course, at sill level, is from 1855. The east window is a graduated triple-lancet, with a surround of cylindrical free shafts, in Purbeck marble, with plain abaci and tori; it may have been rebuilt in 1872 (Anon., 1992). The north and south walls of the east bay are each pierced by a cusped, ogival single lancet from 1855, possibly replicas of 14th century originals. Internally, there is a double piscina beneath the southern window, with twin scalloped bowls from the 14th century. The 2-centred, double-chamfered chancel arch is from 1855; externally, a medieval pilaster buttresses lies in the angle between the chancel south wall and the nave, rising above the skew-passage roof, associated with the former rood-loft the corbels for which can be seen either side of the arch. Towards the nave, a small, narrow niche lies south of the arch, medieval, possibly for former statuary. The softwood roof is from 1855 and lacks trusses, all rafters having braced collars, with matchboarding. The tiled floor is also from 1855.

The nave is lit by an uncusped double-lancet window in the north wall, with grey oolite dressings from 1855. The south door lies opposite and has a 2-centred surround in roughly squared limestone, (re)built in 1855. Externally, the north wall exhibits an area of 18th - early 19th century render that reflects the outline of a gable building that formerly abutted the wall. The north-west corner of the nave was rebuilt in 1855. The 2-centred barrel vault is from the 14th century. The passages are herringbone-tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1855; a below-ground heating chamber was inserted possibly after 1855.

The north transept is entered from the nave through a 2-centred, chamfered arch from the 14th century, and is lit by a cusped 2-light window in a 2-centred surround, with a quatrefoil light in the spandrel, in grey oolite from 1855, in the north wall. Beneath the window is a tomb-recess with a plain, depressed 2-centred head and the recumbent, limestone effigy of a lady, probably from the 14th century. There is now no internal evidence for the former skew-passage (see below), but a grating over a recess in the east wall leads into the vestry. Vaulted and floored as the nave.

The south transept is entered from the nave through a 2-centred, chamfered arch from the 14th century, and is lit by window in the south wall like that in the north transept and similarly from 1855. Beneath the window is a tomb-recess also like that in the north transept and a very weathered recumbent, limestone effigy of indeterminate sex and date. Set low in the east wall is a piscina with an ogival recess and plain bowl, from the 14th century. Vaulted and floored as the nave. The transept communicates with the chancel via a skew-passage, which has a depressed segmental vault emerging at either end as similar arches, and with a slated lean-to roof; it is lit by a cusped, ogival single lancet in its outer wall, similar to those in the chancel but in oolite from the 14th century.

The south porch side walls have a slight external batter, but the south wall was substantially rebuilt/refaced in 1855 including the contemporary doorway with a 2-centred surround. Internally the side walls exhibit masonry benching, medieval but with tile seating from 1855. Floored as the nave passages, 1855.

The west tower, comprising 3-storeys, is not typical of the region; it is not tapered, lacks the 'typical' external string-course, has only a slight external batter, and does not feature a west door. Stylistically, it belongs to the 15th century but in some respects, for example the parapet, is similar to the late 14th century tower at the nearby St Petrox Church, Pembs.. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the south wall; it is entered through a narrow, square-headed medieval doorway, and is lit by simple loops and square-headed openings. Externally, a flue from the heating chamber occupies a diagonal wall cutting across the angle between the north wall and the nave, with a ventilation shaft at the base and a ceramic stack, all from 1855?, or later?. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a 2-centred arch from the 15th century. The west wall is pierced by a cusped single lancet in grey oolite, from 1855 but probably occupying an earlier embrasure. There is a 2-centred barrel vault from the 15th century. The floor is concreted. The second stage is lit by a single lancet in the west wall, lying below a blocked slit-light, both 15th century. The belfry stage has simple square-headed openings in all 4 faces, 15th century, and there may be a blocked slit-light beneath the parapet of the west face. The tall, crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, from the 15th century, which does not continue around the stair turret; it has been restored, including the rainwater chutes.

The lean-to vestry is from 1855 and was constructed over the site of the former skew-passage from the north transept; its internal south-west corner is represented by the diagonal skew-passage wall. The vestry is entered from the chancel through a doorway with a chamfered 2-centred surround, and from the churchyard through a doorway with a Caernarfon-headed surround, in Old Red Sandstone, in the north wall; both doorways are from 1855. It is lit by an uncusped double-lancet window, with grey oolite dressings from 1855, in the east wall. A disused fireplace in the dividing wall with the chancel leads into a square chimney with a chamfered stack, 2-centred smoke-holes and a pyramidal cap, all in limestone and Old Red Sandstone ashlar from 1855. The softwood roof, and the floor, are also from 1855.

The church, except the tower, is surrounded by a shallow, slab-lined drain. There is a slight earthwork platform beyond the east end of the church. Floors are suspended above a void. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. No external memorials or burials lie significantly close to the church.

#### *Structural development*

The nave, transepts and skew-passages, chancel west bay, and possibly the south porch, form an integrated plan, all vaulted, that may represent 1 main building phase, 14th century?. The unvaulted chancel may have been subsequently extended by one bay, which is battered externally. Stylistically, the tower is from the 15th century and there is a joint between it and the nave. The vestry is a 19th century addition (see below).

The church was 'handsomely ornamented' by the patron in the mid 18th century (Lewis, 1833). A north-south running gabled building was constructed against the nave north wall, probably during the 18th - early 19th century, and has left a scar. It had gone by the 1880s and is not shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 first edition.

The church was restored in 1855 (Anon., 1992; Bartosch, 1993, 6) but neither the details, nor the architect responsible, are known. The northern skew-passage was demolished and the vestry on its site. All openings except the transept arches, those in the upper storeys of the tower, the spiral stair door and the southern skew passage window, were rebuilt. The timber roofs were replaced, and the interior was refloored, replastered and resealed. The east window may have been rebuilt in 1872 (Anon., 1992). The nave heating chamber may also be later.

The tower was repointed in 1925 (Bartosch, 1993, 10).

The altar rail and commandment tablets, the softwood stalls and pews, and the pulpit are probably all from 1855. The altar table and reredos are 20th century.

The oolite font has a square, cushioned bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, from c.1200 but retooled (RCAHM, 1925, 21)

There are 3 bells in the tower, one of which was recast in 1967 when the headstocks were renewed by Taylors of Loughborough (Bartosch, 1993, 12).

The church was Grade II\* listed in 1998.

There is a cross in the churchyard (Dyfed PRN 628), with a medieval base and shaft, and a ?medieval head possibly derived from a different cross.

A low, curving earthen bank east of the church may represent part of the boundary of an earlier, smaller circular churchyard.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

St Michael and All Angels, Bosherton, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. The rectory appears from the earliest times to have been appendant to the Manor of Stackpole Boshier (Bosherton). The church was, in 1291, assessed at £8 (Green, 1911, 245). St Govan's Chapel was a chapelry of the parish.

By the 18th century the living was in the patronage of the Earls of Cawdor, at Stackpole Court (ibid.). In 1833 the living was a rectory, in Cawdor patronage and rated in the king's books at £11 6s 8d (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael and All Angels, Bosherton, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with St Petrox, Stackpole Elidor and Bosherton (Benefice 809) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

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**ST MARY,  
CAREW,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3492**

**RB No. 2790**

**NGR SN 0457 0281**

**Listed Building No. 6007**

**Grade I listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of a chancel, 4 bays; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 2 bays; north aisle, 2 bays; south aisle, 3 bays (absorbing single-bayed south transept); west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. South porch, earlier 17th century. Vestry (north of chancel central bay), 1 bay, 17th - 18th century. Boilerhouse, between vestry and north transept, 1922. Limestone rubble construction; 10% of church with 18th - early 19th century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry and boilerhouse with slate lean-to roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval chancel arch, arcades, transept arches, tower openings (including tracery), arch, vaulting and parapet, doorways, window embrasures, rood-loft stair turret, piscina, sedilia, buttressing, tomb-recesses with effigies, with limestone and yellow oolite dressings. Early 17th century doorway and stoup in porch. Other openings from 1844 and the late 19th century, some in imitation of the original openings?, with grey and yellow oolite dressings. (Early memorials including 14th and 17th century effigies; early 19th century box pews.)

Roofs, 1844. Floors: mid-late 19th century. Finishes: 18th - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Shallow external drain around 100% of church; churchyard truncated around 100% of church; floors lowered in 70% of church?; below-ground floor in 5% of church; suspended floors above heating ducts in 70% of church; external memorials significantly close to 60% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch, arcades, transept arches, tower openings (including tracery), arch, vaulting and parapet, doorways, window embrasures, rood-loft stair turret, piscina, sedilia, buttressing, tomb-recesses, effigies; early 17th century doorway and stoup.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower; churchyard with medieval mortuary chapel (Grade I listed); listed boundary wall (Grade II) with adjoining 19th century barn/stabling; associated late medieval rectory building (Grade II\* listed) and later almshouses.

Phasing:

- Phase 1 - Nave, C13-14?
- Phase 2 - Chancel, north transept (and former south transept), earlier C14.
- Phase 3 - North and south aisles (absorbing south transept), later C15.
- Phase 4 - West tower, c.1500.
- Phase 5 - South porch, earlier C17.
- Phase 6 - Vestry, C17-18.
- Phase 7 - Restored C19, mainly 1890s, low impact.
- Phase 8 - Boilerhouse, 1922.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

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

The present church consists of a long 4-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a single-bayed vestry (former north chapel?) north of the chancel central bay, a 2-bayed north transept, a 2-bayed north aisle, a 3-bayed south aisle (absorbing former south transept), a south porch (formerly with a parvis?), a 3-storeyed, Perpendicular west tower and a boilerhouse between the vestry and the north transept. Construction is in local limestone rubble. Medieval chancel arch, arcades, transept and tower arches, doorways, buttressing and window embrasures. The windows were rebuilt in the 19th century, largely in 'Decorated' styles, some possibly imitating the original openings, with grey and yellow oolite dressings. There is limited external render, from the 18th - early 19th century, mainly confined to the north aisle; pointing is mainly from the later 19th century but there is some poor 20th century repointing, particularly in the south aisle, and the interior is plastered. The tower is barrel-vaulted. Roofs are slated gables throughout; the vestry and boilerhouse have slated lean-to roofs, while the tower roof was not seen.

There are a number of early memorials including effigies from the 14th and 17th centuries. The church retains early 19th century box pews.

A shallow external drain surrounds the church. The churchyard was truncated by over 1m, all around the church, in the 19th century. The nave, transept and aisle floors may have been lowered in the 19th century. The boilerhouse floor is below churchyard ground level. Floors are suspended above heating ducts. External memorials lie significantly close to the east, south-east and north-west walls.

### *The chancel*

The chancel is in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble, and externally is buttressed into 3 bays with cross-buttresses at the east end; the buttresses are stepped, with string-courses, and are substantially 14th century but restored. The weathered east wall upstand is also from the 14th century, as is the chamfered external offset at the base of the side walls.

The 4-light east window has cusped, neo-Perpendicular tracery, in a 4-centred surround with a drip-mould on out-turned stops; it is in grey oolite from the 1890s and may be in imitation of an original, the 4-centred embrasure being from the later 15th century and contemporary with the chancel arch. There are 2 windows in the north wall and 2 in the south wall, in the east and west bays; all have 2 lights with cusped, curvilinear tracery in grey oolite, from the 1890s but possibly in imitation of the original detail; the embrasures are from the 14th century but the outer arches were rebuilt in the 1890s. The north-west window features a moulded human mask in the western spay, *in situ*?

Internally, a 14th century string-course runs around the interior at sill level. There is an empty tomb-recess below this level in the north wall of the east bay, with a 2-centred surround in chamfered and roll-moulded limestone, from the 14th century. There is a similar recess to the west, in the east-central bay, the two being connected by a square opening; this recess was unblocked in 1843. There is a piscina in the south wall of the east bay, with a cusped, 2-centred surround in cavetto-moulded limestone from the 14th century, but the bowl has gone; it was unblocked in 1843.

To the west, in the east-central bay, is a triple sedilia with cavetto-moulded, 2-centred arches on cylindrical free shafts with plain abaci and tori, all in limestone from the 14th century, reopened in 1844. A further tomb-recess lies immediately west of the sedilia, like those in the north wall but smaller and with a chamfer and cavetto-moulded surround, also 14th century, reopened in 1843; it contains the very small effigy of a female, also 14th century and moved from the south aisle in 1843.

The west-central bay is entered through 'priest's doors' in both side walls, that to the south with a 2-centred surround in chamfered limestone from the 14th century, restored in 1844 when both doors were unblocked and that to the north was entirely rebuilt.

A fourth tomb-recess lies in the west bay north wall, similar to those to the east and also 14th century; it contains the effigy of a knight, traditionally held to be Sir Nicholas de Carew, whose death in 1311 is consistent with the armour worn by the effigy.

The tall, 4-centred, later 15th century chancel arch is in roll- and cavetto-moulded limestone, with shallow, shield-moulded imposts and plain bases; the inner, cavetto-moulded order features rose-mouldings throughout - Tudor roses?. In the angle with the south aisle east wall is a semi-octagonal turret, added c.1500, which houses a stair leading from the aisle to the former rood-loft; it has a lean-to roof continuing the chancel roof southern slope. The stair is lit by simple slit lights, but the doorway to the loft itself is blocked; however, an internal corbel on the chancel west bay south wall is associated with the former rood-loft.

The softwood chancel roof is from 1844, with collar-rafter trusses concealed beneath a contemporary plaster ceiling of 3 cants. The floor is of medieval heraldic tiles, traditionally moved from Carew Castle in the late 17th century, edged with later 19th century plain tiles..

#### *The nave*

The nave side walls are both pierced by arcades, and the west (end) wall is represented by the tower arch (see below). The nave is roofs as the chancel, also from 1844. The floor may have been lowered; the passages are flagged in limestone from the 19th century, relaid (irregularly) when heating ducts were inserted in 1922, with suspended board floors.

#### *The north transept*

The north transept is entered from the nave through a tall, 4-centred arch, with detail like the chancel arch including the rose-mouldings, and similarly from the later 15th century. The north (gable) wall is cross-buttressed, like the chancel from the 14th century. It is lit by a window in the north wall, like the chancel windows and similarly from the 1890s but occupying a 14th century embrasures; the sill has been raised. A second window in the southern bay east wall has a similar 14th century embrasure, with a chamfered surround, containing 'Y'-tracery of earlier 19th century character. There is a blocked window in the east wall of the northern bay, with 2-centred rear and outer arches like those in the chancel side walls and similarly 14th century, but with a low sill; it had been blocked by the later 19th century. An area of weathered masonry low down in the west wall of the northern bay may represent the site of a memorial; this area is shown with railings in a drawing from c.1850 (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1748). Internally, the north wall displays a low, plain internal offset, probably medieval. Roofed as the nave and chancel, from 1844; the slate creasing of an earlier, higher-pitched roof is visible on the nave north wall.

Floored as the nave. In the north-west corner of the transept is a free-standing chest tomb with fine oolite effigies of Sir John and Elizabeth Carew, from 1637.

#### *The north aisle*

The north aisle communicates with the nave via a 2-bayed arcade of chamfered, 4-centred arches with chamfered stops and a central octagonal pier, with plain chamfered bases and imposts, all from the later 15th century; the bases may have been renewed when the nave, transept and aisles were refloored (with a lower floor level?). There is a similar, contemporary arch into the north transept. The west (gable) wall has a medieval upstand that was truncated in the post-medieval period.

The aisle is lit by 2 windows in the north wall, each with a large, rather irregular semicircular-headed embrasure; these windows are shown as small square casements in early-mid 19th century drawings (NLW, Drawing Volumes 40, 17; Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1748), but it may be that the embrasures relate to an earlier refenestration, of the 17th - early 18th centuries. They are now occupied by 3 light windows with cusped, curvilinear tracery in a different style from that in the chancel and north transept, with 2-centred drip-moulds on human mask stops, all in yellow oolite from the later 19th century, with 2-centred outer and surrounding infill. There is a third window in the west wall, like those in the chancel and north transept and from the 1890s when the embrasure, with a segmental outer arch from the later 15th century, was unblocked. The north door was blocked in 1836 but retains a 2-centred surround, in chamfered Old Red Sandstone, from the later 15th century (re-used)?

The aisle has a gable roof like those in the rest of the church and similarly from 1844. Floored as the nave.

#### *The south aisle*

The east bay of the south aisle was formerly a south transept and is entered from the nave through a tall, 4-centred arch, with detail like the chancel and north transept arches including the rose-mouldings, and similarly from the later 15th century. The two western bays communicate with the nave through an arcade like that to the north aisle; there is a similar, contemporary arch between the central bay and the east, formerly transeptal, bay.

The east wall, now a gable, is blind, but the outline of a blocked window with a 2-centred head is visible externally. There is an internal doorway in the north-east corner, with a Caernarfon-headed limestone surround from c.1500, unblocked in 1844. It leads to the rood-loft stair turret (see above), which is squinched over the internal corner.

The south wall is pierced by 3 windows, all like those in the north aisle and also later 19th century, but in contemporary inserted embrasures with surrounding infill. Beneath the central window is a blocked light with a square-headed embrasure and a semicircular-headed surround, from the 17th - early 18th centuries like the north aisle embrasures?. There is a further blocked single lancet in the west (gable) wall, from the 15th century; it was reopened in 1843 but again blocked, with cement, in the later 20th century. The south door has a 2-centred surround that may have been rebuilt when the entry was reopened in 1838.

Internally, there is a plain, square, medieval recess in the east bay south wall, possibly a piscina for a former chapel.

The aisle has a gable roof like those in the rest of the church and similarly from 1844. Floored as the nave.

### *The south porch*

The south porch is probably from the earlier 17th century. Both side walls feature medieval masonry benching. The main entrance doorway has a semicircular-headed surround in double-chamfered limestone from the early 17th century, blocked in 1836 and reopened in 1838. There is a simple, triangular-headed stoup in the east wall, also from the earlier 17th century. An internal offset at springer level suggests the possibility that a parvis formerly lay above lit by a blocked opening that possibly lies over the main door. The porch has a barrel vault with a semicircular profile from the early 17th century. The flagged floor may be from 1838 and is laid directly on the substrate.

### *The west tower*

The west tower, comprising 3 storeys in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble, is unique within West Wales, exhibiting fine Perpendicular detail typical of West Country church towers of c.1500. The exterior is divided into the 3 storeys by string-courses, and there are further string-courses at the base, which is offset, and beneath the crenellated parapet. There are full height, stepped angle-buttresses at the west and south-east corners, while the north-east corner is occupied by an octagonal spiral stair turret which projects internally into the north-west corner of the nave, with a low string-course, and is entered through a doorway with a 2-centred surround, all from c.1500; it is lit by simple loops and a quatrefoil opening, and carries an octagonal masonry cap.

The chamfered, 2-centred arch from the ground floor into the nave reflects the profile of the 2-centred barrel vault from c.1500, with a central bell-raising port. The large west door has a chamfered 2-centred surround which was rebuilt, with infill, in 1836 when the entry was reopened. Above the door is a large, 5-light window with Perpendicular tracery in a 4-centred surround with a drip-mould on out-turned stops, in yellow oolite from c.1500 but largely rebuilt/restored. Floored as the nave.

The second stage is lit by simple, square-headed single lights with chamfered surrounds in the north and east walls, from c.1500.

The belfry stage has 2-light openings in all 4 faces, with uncusped, depressed semicircular heads in square surrounds with simple labels, all in chamfered limestone from c.1500. The crenellated parapet lies on the uppermost string-course, from c.1500 but restored during the later 19th century with a central strip-moulding applied to the central merlons on each face, in imitation of the original from c.1500.

### *The vestry*

The vestry cannot be closely dated (see Structural Development below). It is lit by a window in the east wall which was converted from a doorway in 1844; it is now occupied by a cusped lancet window in chamfered grey oolite from the later 19th century. The softwood lean-to roof may be from 1844 and continues the chancel roof northern slope. The vestry contains the header tank for the adjoining boiler, from 1922.

### *The boilerhouse*

The boilerhouse was established, between the vestry and the north transept, in 1922, with a low north wall connecting the two, in squared and coursed limestone rubble. It is entered from the churchyard through a plain square doorway in this wall. The flue from the boiler rises through the north-east corner of the nave to emerge as a plain, square contemporary chimney, also in limestone rubble. The low, lean-to roof is from 1922 and rises up to chancel sill-level. The floor is below churchyard ground level.

### *Structural development*

The nave is secondarily arcaded all around and cannot be dated. Stylistically, the long chancel is entirely Decorated, from the earlier 14th century, and with its buttressing, former windows, tomb-recesses, piscina and sedilia is a fine example only paralleled in West Wales by the chancel at St Mary's, Cardigan. The transepts have similar window embrasures and buttressing, and are probably contemporary, but their arches were rebuilt when the aisles were added during the later 15th century; the chancel arch and east window were also rebuilt. The west tower has good Perpendicular detail, and stylistically is the only fully 'West Country' tower in South-west Wales; with the similar rood-loft stair turret it is from c.1500, and is traditionally held to have been built under the then Lord of Carew Sir Rhys ap Thomas. The south porch has semicircular-headed openings and is probably from the earlier 17th century, it may formerly have featured a parvis. The aisles were refenestrated during the 17th - 18th century. The church had apparently featured late medieval oak wagon-roof ceilings, 'like those at Tenby St Mary', until 1844 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/68/21).

The chancel is floored with medieval heraldic tiles, from c.1500, traditionally brought from Carew Castle and laid in the church in the late 17th century; the chancel floor was 'paved with bricks' in 1811 and 1833 (Fenton, 1903, 148; Lewis, 1833). The chancel effigies were observed by Fenton in c.1811 when they lay loose 'on the projecting bench running the length of the (south) aisle' (Fenton, 1903, 149). The benching has now gone, along with a third effigy of a priest.

The vestry cannot be closely dated. It is shown on a map of 1815 (NLW, Maps of the Estates of the Lord Bishop of St Davids, 14429/6) when it was used as a lime store, but it may have earlier origins, as a north chapel?.

Alterations were undertaken throughout the early and mid 19th century, recorded in vestry minute books, churchwarden's accounts and an annotated preacher's book (Pembs. R. O., HPR/68/21 & 26). The south transept appears to have retained its gable, but this was truncated during the 18th - earlier 19th century. A west gallery was installed during the same period. The rood screen was not removed until 1805. The west door, which had been blocked at an unknown date, was reopened in 1836, when the north and south doors, and the north porch door, were blocked; the southern doors were reopened in 1838. In 1843 the churchyard was lowered, by over a metre, all around the church, and the tomb recesses in the chancel, which had been blocked, were reopened and the effigies, which had lain in the south aisle, were (re)inserted within them. The 'priest's doors' in the chancel, which had been blocked at an unknown date, were reopened in 1844 and a vestry was established in the building - hitherto a lime store (see above) - to the north, its eastern doorway into the churchyard being converted into a window. The church was reroofed with the present trusses and ceilings, in deal and plaster, in the same year. The flagged floors in the nave, aisles and north transept are probably earlier 19th century, as is the present box-pew seating.

A drawing of the church from the north, dated 1835 (NLW, Drawing Volumes 40, 17), shows square, casement windows in the north aisle, and 'Gothic' windows in the north transept and chancel north wall; the drawing is not clear, but the latter may represent early 19th century 'Y'-tracery as surviving in the north transept. A drawing from c.1850, this time from the north-west (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1748), shows 3-light, ?timber-framed windows in the north aisle north wall (the west wall of which was blind) beneath semi-circular outer arches from the 17th - early 18th centuries; a similar window is depicted in the end wall of the north transept. Otherwise the church is as today, including the north aisle upstand and blocked north door, and the lean-to vestry.

The church was restored in the late 19th century, but neither the details, nor the architect(s) responsible, are known. The chancel windows are from the 1890s and the remainder, which are similar, may be roughly contemporary. They were inserted in the existing embrasures except in the south aisle where infill is visible around the surrounds. The church possibly received its present finishes at the same time.

The boilerhouse was added, and underfloor heating installed, in 1922 (NLW, SD/F/84); the heating is still operational.

The softwood box pews are from the earlier 19th century. The organ, in the east bay of the south aisle, is 20th century, by Sweetland of Bath. The carved oak reredos and altar table are from 1922 (NLW, SD/F/84). The oak and oolite pulpit is from 1965 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/68/28). The chancel fittings, including the oak stalls and altar rail, were installed in 1971 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/68/29); the impression of earlier stalls can be seen in the internal plaster.

The limestone font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, all from 1844 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/68/21).

There are 3 bells in the tower. One is from 1694, the other 2 from 1809, and all were restored in 1881 (Bartosch & Stokes, 1992).

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

The churchyard features, to the west of the church, a masonry mortuary chapel, with a vaulted basement and a vaulted roof. It retains most of the original openings which date the building to the 15th century. It was used as a schoolroom in the 18th and earlier 19th centuries.

Between the chapel and the church lies a pronounced scarp, which may represent the former north-west corner of the boundary of a smaller churchyard.

## **SITE HISTORY**

There is a strong tradition of the pre-conquest religious use of the site.

St Mary, Carew, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. The living was both a rectory, in the patronage of the Earls of Pembroke before passing to the Carew family, and a vicarage, in the patronage of the rectors (Green, 1911, 262). The church was assessed at £40 in 1291 (ibid.).

The patronage of the then Lord of Carew, Sir Rhys ap Thomas, in the late 15th - early 16th century is thought to provide the context for work at the church during this period, in particular the fine west tower. The rectory had passed to the crown by 1594 (ibid.), and then to the Bishops of St Davids (ibid.). In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage, endowed with £200 private benefaction, £400 royal bounty and £800 parliamentary grant, but not rated in the king's books (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Mary, Carew, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Lamphey and Hodgeston (Benefice 811) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8).

The church may have originally been dedicated to St John the Baptist, the dedication given by Lewis, 1833, and Green, 1911.



## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

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### **Pictorial sources**

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### **Church in Wales Records**

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### **Parish Records, Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest**

HPR/68 - Carew:-

HPR/68/21 - Preacher's Book with notes on church building, 1845-81.

HPR/68/26 - Churchwarden's accounts and Vestry Book, 1780-1883.

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**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,  
CASTLEMARTIN,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 562**

**RB No. 3089**

**NGR SR 9106 9888**

**Listed Building No. 5948**

**Grade I listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A multicell church, large. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 4 bays; north aisle, with skew-passage, 4 bays; south transeptal tower; 3 storeys; south porch (formerly with parvis); medieval. Vestry (north of chancel; over cellar/boilerhouse) 1 bay, 1858. (Former north chapel, 2 bays; south chapel; 2 bays; north transept; 1 bay; medieval. Former west porch, early 17th century?.) Limestone rubble construction, with remains of early 19<sup>th</sup> century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to roof; tower with slate pyramidal roof. Medieval arcades (open and blocked), south porch vault, doorways, corbelling and benching, piscina, stoup, medieval tower with vault, openings and parapet. Windows and doors rebuilt 1835 and 1858, neo-Gothic, with limestone dressings. Chancel arch, 20th century?. Tower formerly with 'saddleback' roof.

Roofs: medieval vaults and 1858 timberwork. Floors: 1858. Finishes: early 19<sup>th</sup> century and 1858.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Very deep, wide, earth cutting around 50% of church, primary; very shallow, external brick-lined drain around 100% of church; below-ground floor in 5% of church; former components beyond 30% of present church; levels unchanged; suspended floors over void; no external memorials significantly close to the church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval arcades, piscina, stoup, porch vault, corbels, doors and benching, tower openings, parapet and vault. Tower formerly with 'saddleback' roof.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower; very large terraced churchyard with associated medieval vicarage building (Grade II\* listed), ?C19 cross and good memorials; lych-gate; boundary with medieval ?consecration cross and post-medieval mounting block (Grade II listed).

Phasing:

- Phase 1 - Nave and chancel, C13?
- (Phase 2 - Former north and south chapels, C14 (earlier).)
- Phase 3 - South (and former north) transepts, C14 (later).
- Phase 4 - Tower over south transept, C15.
- Phase 5 - North aisle, south porch, later C15.
- Phase 6 - Tower belfry stage, early C16.
- (Phase 7 - Former west porch, early C17 or early C19.)
- Phase 8 - Restored 1858, high impact, vestry built.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Michael and All Angels, Castlemartin, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 90% pre 19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 4-bayed north aisle and skew-passage, a south transeptal 3-storeyed tower, a south porch (formerly with a first floor parvis) and a single-bayed vestry, over a cellar/boilerhouse, north of the chancel central bay. A 2-bayed north chapel, a 2-bayed south chapel, a north transept, and a west porch, were also formerly present. Construction is in local limestone rubble. There is medieval arcading, both open and blocked, but openings are mainly from 1858, neo-Gothic, with limestone dressings. There are the remains of early 19<sup>th</sup> century external render in the north aisle; pointing is mainly from 1858, and the interior is plastered. The tower ground floor, the skew-passage and the porch are barrel-vaulted. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof and the tower has a slated pyramidal roof.

The chancel weeps markedly. The east window has plain-cusped triple lancets from 1858; a ?medieval, rounded 2-centred outer arch can be seen at a higher level externally. There are cusped, single lancets in the east bay side walls, also from 1858, and the outline of a blocked medieval lancet is visible immediately to the west in the south wall. The 2 western bays of each side wall were formerly open arcades, each of two 2-centred arches of 2 plain orders, on a cylindrical pier (2 in the north arcade) with a plain-moulded abacus and torus, 14th century. The east bay of the northern arcade has been blocked, with an inserted 2-centred doorway from 1858. Both southern bays have been blocked, and feature uncusped 2-light windows with plain plate tracery from 1858. Internally, the east bay south wall features a piscina with a 2-centred recess, medieval?. The plain, 2-centred chancel arch has chamfered stops and may be 20th century (see below); the northern stop is detached from the western pier of the north wall arcade. The chancel, unusually, is roofed at a higher level than the nave, with a softwood collar-rafter roof arch-braced from wall-plates, all 1858?. The floor similarly incorporates 7 full-width steps down to the nave, and is tiled, from 1858 but probably respecting earlier levels.

The nave south door was rebuilt, with a 2-centred surround, in 1858. There is an internal, straight stair in the thickness of the south wall, connecting the porch to the second stage of the south transeptal tower, with a slated, lean-to roof which follows its line downhill towards the west. It is lit by a 15th century single lancet on both the internal and external faces, and there is a contemporary doorway into the nave at the foot of the stair, now blocked. The south wall to the west of the porch appears to have been rebuilt above the level of the external basal offset batter, which exhibits a cut-out which was, until 1858, associated with a relieving arch. The wall now features a 2-light window like those in the chancel which, along with the rebuilt wall, is from 1858. Externally, the west wall exhibits the amorphous blocking of a former west door, medieval?, blocked in 1858; above it is a window like that in the south wall but with a trifoliate spandrel, from 1858. The softwood roof has queen-post trusses arch-braced from wall corbels, all from 1858?. The passages are quarry-tiled, with suspended board floors, also from 1858.

The north aisle communicates with the nave through an arcade of four 2-centred arches, each with a 2-centred head of 2 orders, on octagonal piers with semi-cylindrical attached shafts to the north and south and chamfered into the imposts and bases; all in limestone ashlar, later 15th century?. The southern half of the east wall opens, as a half-arch to the westernmost pier of the chancel arcade, into the ?earlier 15th century skew passage, which is vaulted, and floored as the nave passages, and lit by single plain lancet from 1858. The east gable exhibits the crease of a lower roof line, and the wall by a 2-light window from 1858, like those in the chancel. In the north wall of the east bay is a large, full-height arch with a rounded 2-centred profile, visible on both faces and represented internally by a recess; the arch may have led into a transept, but it is more likely that the east bay absorbed an earlier transept which extended further north. The arch blocking is pierced by a plain-cusped double lancet window from 1858; the north wall features 3 further windows, all simple uncusped lancets similarly from 1858 but possibly occupying medieval embrasures. The west wall is pierced by a window like that in the nave west wall, 1858. The softwood roof lacks trusses, all rafters being scissors-braced from wall-plates, all from 1858?. Floored as the nave.

The south transept/tower ground floor is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch, above which the nave south wall is corbelled out to support the body of the tower over the transept. The east wall of the ground floor is represented by a blocked 2-centred arch, from the 14th century, which led into the former south chapel. The single lancet in the south wall is from 1835 (Pems. R. O., HPR/57/6) and may occupy a contemporary embrasure. The barrel-vault has a 2-centred profile and is 14th century; the suspended board floor appears to lie over a void. The tower was built over the existing vault in the 15th century; it tapers markedly and both succeeding stages are vaulted. The second stage is entered from the passage in the nave south wall (see above) and lit by 2 openings in the east wall, the lower a plain square-headed slit-light, the upper a plain single lancet. In the east and west walls can be seen the impressions of a former, steeply gabled saddleback roof. The belfry stage is an addition of the early 16th century when the second stage was given a vault. It has a plain, square-headed slit-light in the north, west and east faces, and there are 2, wide, 2-centred independent openings in the south wall, early 16th century, whose heads interrupt the crenellated parapet which lies on an external corbel table, also early 16th century but much restored, and incorporating rainwater chutes.

The south porch is from the later 15th century. It formerly comprised 2 storeys, the medieval corbels for a first floor parvis being visible on the internal face of both side walls, which both also feature medieval masonry benching. In the east wall are 2 doorways, both with simple, 2-centred heads and leading onto a straight stairway in the thickness of the irregular wall, which leads to the tower stairway in the thickness of the nave south wall; the parvis-level doorway is blocked. A medieval stoup with a plain recess occupies the same wall. The main, south wall entrance doorway has a large, rounded 2-centred arch, later 15th century, but the double-chamfered surround was rebuilt in 1858. A blocked medieval lancet into the parvis lies above. The porch has a 2-centred barrel vault from the later 15th century. The quarry-tiled floor is from 1858 and laid directly on the substrate.

The vestry was added in 1858, and lies over a cellar/boilerhouse entered from the churchyard down a steep flight of steps to a plain square doorway in its west wall. The vestry itself is lit by a plain-cusped double-lancet window in both the east and south walls, from 1858, and there is a contemporary, disused fireplace with a Caernarfon head in the south wall; the chimney has gone. The softwood rafters of the lean-to roof are from 1858, as is the quarry-tiled floor.

The eastern half of the church lies in a very deep, wide, earth cutting, primary, cut into the hillslope. The church is surrounded by a very shallow, external brick-lined drain. The vestry cellar/boilerhouse is below ground. North and south chapels, and a west porch, were formerly present beyond the present church. There is no evidence for floor level changes. Floors are suspended over a void. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

### *Structural development*

According to Thomas, 1964, there are some 'fragments of possible 12th century date in the chancel', but these are not described and were not seen. Both nave and chancel, however, appear to pre-date the addition of the side chapels to the chancel, which - sequentially if not markedly stylistically, appear to be 14th century. The north chapel appears to have been short-lived and when the north and south transepts were added, later in the 14th century, it was replaced by a skew passage. The transepts were probably vaulted from the first, but the south transept received a tower with a 'saddleback' roof in the 15th century; this was entered via its second stage from a stairway in the thickness of the nave south wall. The doorway to this stairway was blocked in the later 15th century when the south porch, with a first floor parvis, was added, which incorporated a new doorway onto the tower stair. The replacement of the north transept with a north aisle may be contemporary. The addition of a crenellated belfry stage in the tower can be dated by its large openings, similar to those at Manorbier Church, to the (early?) 16th century; the former west porch may have been early 17th century (see below).

The church was described as having been 'repaired within the last 10 years' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833), and churchwarden's accounts for 1820 refer to the reroofing of the north aisle, and in 1823 the pews, pulpit and reading desk were repaired (Pembs. R. O., HPR/57/6). The present south transept window was inserted in 1835 replacing a late 18th - early 19th century sash window (*ibid.*).

The church was the subject of a number of mid 19th century drawings, all from the south-west (Haverfordwest Library, prints and pictures; NLW, Original Drawings, Pemb. B, PA2550; RCAHM, 1925, 64), in a form largely like that of today; the south chapel had already gone. It had largely retained its Gothic character, but there was a sash window in the chancel south wall, and the main south porch door had been blocked with an inserted small, square-headed doorway. The nave south-west window was a single ?medieval lancet, lying over a large relieving arch of unknown function; the west windows of both nave and north aisle appear to be similar, single lancets. The former west porch is shown in a form that appears 'Jacobean', with a 4-centred doorway and a 'pedimented' gable end; it may, however, have been an early 19th century addition. The nave roof apex was not continuous, being roofed at 2 levels.

The church was restored, in 1858 according to the guide within the church, but no details of the restoration, nor the architect responsible, are known. The west porch was removed and the west door blocked. The vestry was added. The doorways, in particular the south porch door, were rebuilt and the church was almost entirely refenestrated. The interior was reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated.

There were minor repairs to the tower in 1876-7 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/57/6).

The present chancel arch may be an insertion of the 20th century; according to the RCAHM account of 1925 it was 'low and narrow', at odds with today's tall, wide chancel arch (RCAHM, 1925, 64).

There is a 17th century oak altar table in the south transept. The free-standing softwood stalls, the 3-seater softwood sedilia and the softwood pews are from 1858. The pulpit may be later 19th century. The softwood vestry screen in the north aisle west bay may be later 19th-early 20th century.

The limestone font has a square cushion bowl on a cylindrical stem and base, all 12<sup>th</sup> century.

There are 2 bells in the tower (Bartosch, 1991).

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

A ?post-conquest cross-incised stone is built into the churchyard wall (RCAHM, 1925, 64), a consecration cross?.

## **SITE HISTORY**

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-  
Adjacent to ?pre-conquest settlement; pre-conquest Latin dedication?.

St Michael and All Angels, Castlemartin, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It lay at the heart of the Manor of Castlemartin, chief among the estates of the Lordship of Pembroke, and was assessed at £26 13s 4d in 1291 (Green, 1911, 268). The Earls of Pembroke were the patrons until 1299 when the church was granted to the Priory of St Nicholas, Monkton, by Joan de Valence (Green, op. cit., 267). It was transferred, in 1461, to St Albans Abbey, and at the dissolution, when the annual value was £7 17s 6d, it fell to the crown (ibid.). A subordinate chapel lay at Flimston, now restored.

The Campbells of Stackpole, later Earls of Cawdor, had acquired the patronage by the early 18th century (Green, op. cit., 268), and were still patrons in 1833 when the living was a discharged vicarage, rated in the king's books at £7 17s 6d and endowed with £400 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael and All Angels, Castlemartin, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Warren, Angle, Rhoscrowther and Pwllcrochan (Benefice 597) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8).

It has been argued that Castlemartin is the site of a pre-conquest settlement following a radial plan, with a peripheral church on the site of St Michael and All Angels (Kissock, 1993, 8-9); the dedication then may also be pre-conquest

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Pembs. Sheet XLII.2.

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Pembs. Sheet XLII.2.

NLW, Parish of Castlemartin, Tithe Map, 1838.

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

### **Pictorial sources**

NLW, Original Drawings, Pemb. B, PA2550, mid 19th century (church from south-west).

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### **Church in Wales Records**

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

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**ST MICHAEL,  
COSHESTON,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3520**

**RB No. 3071**

**NGR SN 0007 0366**

**Listed Building No. 5955**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 60% pre 19<sup>th</sup> century core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large sized. Consists of a chancel, 4 bays; nave, 4 bays; north aisle, 3 bays; south transept, 1 bay; south porch; west tower, 2 storeys including the nave west bay; medieval. Vestry (north of chancel), 3 bays, 1885. Boilerhouse (east of vestry), c.1900. Limestone rubble construction; some remains of 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry and boilerhouse with slate lean-to roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in tower/nave west bay; medieval tower openings, ?sedilia, tomb recess and blocked doors including skew passage; blocked 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century window. All internal arcades and chancel arch, and most other openings from 1885, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings.

Roofs, floors and finishes: mainly 1885 (some earlier external render).

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, wide revetted cutting around 30% of church; internal levels lowered in 100% of church; below-ground floor in 5% of church?; suspended floors above heating flues in 70% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; known burials beneath 15% of church; well beneath 5% of church?; external memorials lie significantly close to 40% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good - very good. 60% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings and vault, ?sedilia, tomb recess and blocked doors including skew passage; blocked 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century window.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church on hillside, within planned and planted medieval settlement; churchyard with good memorials; earthworks (of former, larger churchyard?) in neighbouring field.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13?

Phase 2 - Chancel west bays, south transept, south porch (and former north transept?), C14.

Phase 3 - West tower, north aisle, early C16.

Phase 4 - Restored earlier C19, high impact; chancel rebuilt and extended, vestry built.

Phase 5 - Restored 1885, high impact; new vestry built.

Phase 6 - Boilerhouse, c.1900.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Michael, Cosheston, is a multicelled church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 60% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a long, 4-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 3-bayed north aisle, a single-bayed south transept (with a former skew passage), a 2-storeyed west tower over the nave west bay, a 3-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bays, and a boilerhouse east of the vestry. Construction is in limestone rubble. There are the remains of 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century render on the transept south wall; pointing is mainly from 1885, with some 20<sup>th</sup> century repointing, and the interior is plastered. The nave west bay (beneath the tower) is barrel-vaulted. The tower openings are medieval; there is a medieval ?sedilia in the nave, the remains of a tomb recess, a blocked door, skew passage and blocked 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century window. Other openings, including the chancel arch and internal arcades, are mainly from 1885, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry and boilerhouse have slated lean-to roofs while the tower roof was not seen.

The cusped triple lancet chancel east window is from 1885 but may occupy an earlier opening; it has an elaborate internal surround with Purbeck marble shafts. The east bay is also lit by an uncusped single lancet in each side wall, also 1885, and there are 2 similar double lancets in the south wall the western of which occupies an earlier opening retaining part of its brick surround from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The moulded, 2-centred chancel arch is from 1885. The softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling is from 1885 and features carved bosses at the frame intersections. The passage is tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1885.

The nave north and west walls have a pronounced, sloping basal batter, medieval. There is a double lancet window in the south wall of the west bay, in a 2-centred surround, all from 1885 but occupying an earlier embrasure. The south door has a 2-centred surround with a hoodmould from 1885, possibly in a medieval opening; internally, to the east is a double recess with 2 plain 2-centred arches supported on a central corbel, all 13<sup>th</sup> century?, which appears to represent a sedilia but may be the well-head of a medieval baptistery (RCAHM, 1925, 83). The west wall was probably rebuilt when the tower was added in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, and its north end continues as a flying buttress incorporating steps, from 1885. The softwood nave roof is from 1885, with trifoliate collar-rafter trusses arch-braced from wall-corbels, matchboarded above. The passages are concreted above heating flues, with suspended board floors, from 1885, and there is a contemporary underground chamber for a 'Porritt's' stove.

The north aisle communicates with the nave east bay via an arcade of 3 moulded, 2-centred arches on cylindrical shafts with circular, moulded capitals and bases, from 1885. The aisle is lit by 2 windows in the north wall, like the nave south wall window but 2-light, from 1885 but occupying earlier embrasures. Between the two is a blocked, square-headed window from the 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, blocked before 1885 (NLW, SD/F/130), and high in the east wall is a blocked, triangular opening with a brick head, early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The softwood roof is like that in the nave, 1885. Floored as the nave.

The south transept is entered through a 2-centred arch rebuilt like the aisle arcade in 1885. The north end of the east wall features the partially blocked, segmental-headed entry into a former skew-passage, blocked before 1885 (*ibid.*). It is lit by a triple lancet window like in the chancel and also from 1885, but in an earlier embrasure which itself interrupts a segmental-headed tomb recess below. The west wall is very irregular and features at least one blocked opening, a doorway to a former south porch parvis?. The softwood roof is from 1885 and lacks trusses, being matchboarded above the common rafters. Floored as the nave. The transept contains many memorials and is known as the 'Paskeston Chapel'.

The south porch is medieval, and may formerly have featured a first floor parvis (see above); the east wall, which features a medieval plain, square stoup recess, is very irregular. The 2-centred doorway, with a dripmould and infill, is from 1885. The porch is roofed as the transept, from 1885, and has a concrete floor.

The west tower comprises just 2 storeys, the lower of which is represented by a recess in the nave west bay with a 2-centred vault and a surround rebuilt in 1885 like the aisle arcade; the recess is lit by a triple lancet window beneath a hoodmould, all from 1885. The second stage is corbelled out from the west wall and entered through a square-headed doorway above the northern nave gable, reached by the external stair described above. It has a 2-light, semicircular-headed opening in the east wall, 2-centred single-light openings in the south and west walls, and a segmental single light in the west wall, all from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century but partly rebuilt, along with the crenellated parapet and external corbel table. The tower is similar to that at Minwear, S. Pems..

The vestry was added in 1885. It communicates with the 3 chancel west bays via an arcade of 3 hoodmoulded arches, otherwise like the north aisle arcade and also from 1885; it is also entered from the north aisle through a moulded, triangular headed doorway in the west wall, and entered from the churchyard through a doorway in the north wall with a Caernarfon surround, both from 1885. There is a 3-light window in the north wall which is otherwise as the chancel windows, 1885. A blocked fireplace, from 1885, lies in the east wall; the chimney has gone. The softwood lean-to roof is from 1885 and matchboarded above the rafters. Probably floored as the chancel, but concealed beneath linoleum.

The lean-to boilerhouse was built against the vestry east wall between 1885 and 1907. It is entered from the churchyard, through a plain 2-centred doorway in its north wall, and lit by a single lancet in the east wall. The lean-to roof runs up to the vestry; the floor may be below ground level.

A deep, wide revetted cutting runs around the north and west walls, and the south porch west wall; there is no further external drainage. All internal levels were lowered in 1885. The boilerhouse floor may be below ground level. Floors are suspended above heating flues, and there is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. There are many known burials beneath the south transept. There may be a well beneath the nave south wall. Many external memorials lie significantly close to the south walls.

#### *Structural development*

The nave may be 13<sup>th</sup> century, and may incorporate the contemporary chancel if the recess in the nave south wall is a sedilia. The chancel west bays, and the south transept with its former skew passage, and south porch (with its possible former parvis) may be 14<sup>th</sup> century, but the chancel has been much rebuilt; a corresponding north transept and skew passage may have been present (hinted at in RCAHM, 1925, 83). The west tower is from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and formerly possessed a contemporary octagonal spire; the north aisle has similar fabric and may be contemporary; it features a blocked 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century window.

The weathervane on the former spire was dated 1781, which may refer to a restoration. The chancel was rebuilt, with some brick openings, after 1830, and extended eastwards; in a drawing of 1830 it is noticeably short (NLW, Original Drawings, Pemb. A, PB5121). The removal of the northern skew passage and its replacement with a small vestry may be contemporary. Further work appears to have been

undertaken, for in 1842 Lewis described the church as a 'neat modern structure, in the early style of English architecture' (Cadw, 1996, 1).

The rebuilt church was depicted in 1885 much as today (NLW, SD/F/130), but without the present vestry and boilerhouse. The north aisle lacked an arcade being separated from the nave by a solid wall with a wide break at either end. Most present windows occupy earlier embrasures, but only one window was present in the chancel side walls, at the west end of the south wall; the windows are depicted as 2-light, neo-gothic windows with simple cusped tracery by Freeman, 1852, 171. The then vestry was entered from the aisle through a doorway to the south of the present vestry door.

The church was restored in 1885 (NLW, SD/F/130), to the designs of the architect Stephen Williams of Rhayader. The work was high impact. The vestry was added, the aisle arcade was rebuilt and all openings rebuilt or refenestrated. New windows were inserted in the chancel and a new doorway inserted between the north aisle and the new vestry. The upper courses of all walls were rebuilt and the church was reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated..

The boilerhouse was added between 1885 and 1907 (shown on the Ordnance Survey second edition). The west tower spire was removed in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The softwood stalls, pews, pulpit and vestry screens are from 1885 and the oolite and Purbeck marble reredos is probably contemporary, as is the tiled dado in the nave west bay recess. The organ in the vestry is dated 1886. The oak rood-beam and transept screen are from 1926 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/14/15). The panelled dado in the chancel is dated 1945.

The oolite font is 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

In the field adjoining the south side of the churchyard is a system of earthwork banks, which may partly be derived from an earlier, larger churchyard boundary (D. Benson, *Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology, pers. comm.*).

## **SITE HISTORY**

There no some equivocal evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-  
Possible pre-conquest Latin dedication?; earthwork evidence of former, larger churchyard?.

St Michael, Cosheston, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It appears to have always been in the patronage of the Lords of the Manor of Cosheston. In 1291, it was assessed at £14 13s 4d. (Green, 1911, 283).

The patronage had passed to the Owen family of Oriulton by 1594 (ibid.), where it remained until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1833 the living, a discharged rectory, was rated in the king's books at £11 12s 11d and in the patronage of the Sir John Owen, Bart. (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael, Cosheston, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Nash and Upton (Benefice 583) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

- NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Pembs. Sheet XL.2.
- NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Pembs. Sheet XL.2.
- NLW, Parish of Cosheston, Tithe Map, 1840.
- Rees, W., 1932, South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century.

### **Pictorial sources**

- NLW, Original Drawings, Pemb. A, PB5121, c.1830 (church from south-east).
- Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1746, n.d. (church from west, mid C19).

### **Church in Wales Records**

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**ST TEILO,  
CRINOW,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 4925**

**RB No. 3179**

**NGR SN 1276 1437**

**Listed Building No. 6536**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 740% pre 19<sup>th</sup> century core fabric.

A 3 cell church, small. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 2 bays; partly medieval?. South porch, mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Vestry (north of chancel), 1 bay; boilerhouse (north of vestry); 1894. Local rubble construction, vestry and boilerhouse in brick; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry and boilerhouse with slate lean-to roofs. Base of chancel arch, medieval?. Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century doors and window, neo-Gothic; remainder of windows are from 1894, neo-Perpendicular, with grey oolite dressings. Simple, gabled single bellcote, 18<sup>th</sup> century?.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1894.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, wide external cutting around 50% of church, with corresponding earthwork platform beneath 50% of church, primary?; shallow, concrete drain around 20% of church; below-ground floor in 5% of church; suspended floors over heating flues in 90% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair. 40% pre-19th century core fabric; chancel arch partly medieval?.

Group value - low-medium. Medieval church, largely rebuilt.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, medieval core.

Phase 2 - Restored 1839, high impact; south porch built.

Phase 3 - Restored 1894, high impact; vestry and boilerhouse built.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Teilo, Crinow, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 740% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, a south porch, a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay, and a boilerhouse north of the vestry. Construction is in local rubble; pointing is mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century with areas of poor 20<sup>th</sup> century repointing, and the interior is plastered. The vestry and boilerhouse are in brick. The chancel arch may be fundamentally medieval; doors and windows are mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the latter with 'Y'-tracery, or from 1894 and neo-Perpendicular; dressings are in grey oolite. There is a simple, gabled single bellcote at the west end, 18<sup>th</sup> century?. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry and boilerhouse have slated lean-to roofs.

The chancel was largely rebuilt in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (Thomas, 1964). The 3-light, cusped, neo-Perpendicular east window is from 1894. The plain, 4-centred chancel arch was rebuilt in the mid-19th century but the base may be medieval (ibid.). The softwood 'wagon-roof' matchboarded ceiling is from 1894; the flagged floor is of the same date, overlying heating flues, but the flags may be re-used.

The nave north wall leans out markedly. The north and south walls each feature a window like the east window and similarly from 1894. The plain, 4-centred south door is similar to the chancel arch and from the mid-19th century when the south wall was rebuilt (ibid.). The 2-light west window is also from the mid-19th century and has 'Y'-tracery; above it is a crude, gabled single bellcote, with a 2-centred opening, that may be earlier, 18<sup>th</sup> century?. The nave is ceiled as the chancel, 1894. The passages are flagged above heating flues, with re-used flags?, with suspended board floors, from 1894.

The plain, small south porch was added in the mid-19th century and has a contemporary 4-centred doorway like the south door. The ?collar-rafter roof is concealed by matchboarding from 1894. Flagged as the nave. transept is entered through a 2-centred arch reflecting the profile of its vaulting, and is lit by a double lancet window in its south wall from 1870-72. The medieval vault has a rounded 2-centred profile. Floored as the nave.

The lean-to, brick vestry is from 1894 and entirely open to the nave. It is lit by a simple, single 'lancet' window in the north wall, 1894. The roof continues the chancel roof northern slope but the matchboarded ceiling, also from 1894, is 'gabled'. Floored as the chancel. The below-ground boilerhouse lies against the north wall and continues the roof slope down to churchyard level; it is similarly of brick, with a plain doorway in the east wall, with a concrete lintel, reached via a flight of 7 steps. The 1894 firebox survives internally.

A deep, wide external cutting runs along the north and east sides, at least partly primary where the church is built into the hillslope; there is a corresponding slight platform beneath the southern half of the church. A shallow, concrete drain runs along the west wall. The boilerhouse floor is below ground. Floors are suspended above heating flues. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

### *Structural development*

The church now appears to be post-medieval but Thomas, 1964, attributed most of the fabric to before the 18<sup>th</sup> century, probably medieval, including the base of the chancel arch.

The church was in poor repair in 1710, and again in 1833 (Nicholas, 1994, 3). It was reroofed in 1839 (ibid.) when the south porch may have been added (it is not shown on the tithe map published in 1840, but had been added by the time of the Ordnance Survey first edition of 1888, and the tithe survey was



undoubtedly earlier than 1840); in addition, the south wall and chancel were rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century on the earlier footings (Thomas, 1964) and the work was probably contemporary. The nave west window is probably of similar date, but the simple bellcote may be rather earlier.

The church was restored in 1894 (Nicholas, 1994, 3) when the vestry and boilerhouse were added, most of the windows were replaced, and the present roofs and floors were inserted, the latter probably re-using earlier flags. The interior was replastered and re-seated

The softwood pews, pulpit and vestry screen are from 1894.

The font is mid-19th century.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

St Teilo, Crinow, was not a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen, when it appears to have been known as Llandeilo Velfrey (Green, 1911, 285). By 1594, at least, it was in crown patronage (ibid.).

Crinow had become a parish by 1833 when the living, a discharged rectory in the patronage of the king, was endowed with £600 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Teilo, Crinow, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Narberth, Mounton and Robeston Wathen (Benefice 631) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

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**ST ELIDYR,  
CRUNWERE,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3803**

**RB No. 2779**

**NGR SN 1870 1072**

**Listed Building No. 18858**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 1 bay; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval but largely rebuilt. South transept, 1 bay, 1843. South porch; vestry (north of chancel west bay), 1 bay, 1878. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to; tower roof not seen. Medieval openings and vaulting in tower. Other internal arches, and some embrasures, are from 1843; other openings, and the yellow oolite dressings, are from 1878.

Roofs: 1843. Floors and finishes: 1878.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Cutting, primary, around 15% of church; earthwork platform beneath 25% of church; very shallow drain around 100% of church; former component beyond 20% of church?; suspended floors above a void in 60% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; cellar beneath 15% of church?; external burials significantly close to 00% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good-very good. 40% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval vaulting and openings in tower.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower; central within earthwork DMV site.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, C13?.

Phase 2 - North transept (and skew-passage/north chapel?), C14?.

Phase 3 - West tower, mid-late C16.

(Phase 4 - Former south porch, C18-early C19?)

Phase 5 - South transept, and partial rebuild, 1843.

Phase 6 - Restored 1878, high impact; vestry built, south porch rebuilt.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Elidyr, Crunwere, 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 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed north transept, a single-bayed south transept, a south porch, a 3-storeyed west tower, and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay. There may formerly have been a northern skew-passage or north chapel. Construction is in limestone rubble. The tower openings and barrel-vault are medieval; other internal arches, including the chancel arch, were entirely (re)built in 1843, in neo-Gothic style. The main embrasures are also from 1843; other openings, and the yellow oolite dressings, are from 1878. Pointing is mainly from 1878 and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel was substantially rebuilt in 1843 with proud, limestone ashlar quoins. The east window is a graduated triple-lancet, with uncusped plate-tracery in yellow oolite from 1878, in a 2-centred opening from 1843. The south wall is pierced by 2 cusped, single lancets in yellow oolite from 1878. A corbel lies high up on the external face of the north wall, possibly relating to a former component here - a skew-passage to the north transept?, or a north chapel? (see below). The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is from 1843. The softwood roof lacks trusses, is matchboarded and is also from 1843. The tiled floor is from 1878.

The nave is lit by 2 single lancets in the south wall, like those in the chancel and similarly from 1878. The south door lies between the 2 and has a 2-centred chamfered surround probably from the 1843 rebuild. There is one window in the north wall, of 2 lights with uncusped plate tracery like that of the chancel east window and similarly from 1878, but occupying a 2-centred opening possibly from 1843. The north-west and south-west corners of the nave were quoined like the chancel in 1843. The softwood roof has strutted king-post and matchboarding from 1843; it forms a 'crossing' with the transept roofs in the east bay. The passages are tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1878 with a below-ground heating chamber.

The north transept is quoined as the chancel and entered from the nave through a 2-centred arch like the chancel arch and similarly from 1843, and lit by a window in the north gable wall like that in the nave north wall and similarly possibly occupying an 1843 opening. A corbel lies high up on the external face of the east wall, possibly relating to a former component here - a skew-passage to the chancel?, or a north chapel? (see above). The softwood roof is from 1843 and like that in the nave, but without the king-posts. Floored as the nave.

The west tower, comprising 3-storeys, is typical of the region, being tapered and exhibiting an external basal batter and string-course; however, it is stylistically rather late, from the mid-late 16th century. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall; it is entered through a segmental-headed doorway from the mid-late 16th century, and is lit by simple loops. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a plain, 4-centred arch from the mid-late 16th century. No physical evidence for the blocked west door mentioned by RCAHM, 1925, 85, is visible; but the west wall is pierced by an uncusped double-lancet window, possibly original but largely rebuilt in concrete. There is a 2-centred barrel vault with a pronounced spring-line, from the mid-late 16th century and priced by a square bell-raising opening. The flagged floor may be from 1843. The second stage is lit by a simple slit light in the north face, and a small, square-headed light from the mid-late 16th century low down in the west face. The belfry stage has simple square-headed openings in all 4 faces, from the mid-late 16th century. The crenellated parapet has been restored and lies on an external corbel table, at a higher level around the stair turret.

The south transept was added in 1843 with contemporary quoins like those in the chancel. It is entered from the nave through a 2-centred arch like the north transept, and lit by a window in the south gable wall also like that in the north transept. Roofed and floored as the north transept. A vent in the south wall may lead to an underfloor chamber, inserted in 1878?

The south porch was entirely rebuilt in 1878 in small sandstone rubble, regularly coursed and squared. The contemporary doorway has a chamfered, 2-centred surround above which is a drip-mould of patterned concrete blocks on Acanthus-moulded stops. The softwood roof lacks trusses, all rafters being collared, with matchboarding, all from 1878. The flagged floor is also from 1878.

The lean-to vestry was added in 1878, possibly occupying the site of a former skew-passage from the north transept, or a north chapel. The vestry is entered from the chancel through a contemporary doorway with a chamfered 2-centred surround, and by a cusped single lancet in the east wall. The softwood roof, and the floor, are also from 1878.

The tower lies within a primary cutting, through the sloping yard, and the east end lies on a corresponding earthwork platform. The church is surrounded by a very shallow, concrete-lined drain. There may have been a former northern skew-passage or north chapel. Floors are suspended above a void. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave, and there may be cellar beneath the north transept. External memorials and burial earthworks lie significantly close to the church.

#### *Structural development*

The chancel, nave, and north transepts may be fundamentally medieval but were extensively rebuilt in 1843 (RCAHM, 1925, 85) and cannot be closely dated; the north transept was however secondary, exhibiting an external joint with the nave. The north transept and chancel exhibit physical evidence of a possible skew-passage or chapel. The tower is late, probably from the mid-late 16th century (but Thomas, 1964, claimed that it may be as late as the 17th century). The south transept is from 1843. The south porch was rebuilt in 1878 on the site of an earlier porch, and the vestry is contemporary.

A drawing dated 1847 (NMR, Pe 205, 780298) shows the church both before and after the 1843 rebuild. The pre-rebuild church comprised chancel, nave, north transept, south porch and west tower. The east window was of 3 lights in a 2-centred surround, apparently with plate tracery comprising a single quatrefoil - medieval?. There was a small single medieval lancet in the chancel north wall, a square window of late 18th - early 19th century domestic style in the transept gable wall, two double lancets of uncertain date in the nave south wall, and a further window, not shown in elevation, in the nave north wall. The south porch door was a simple square opening which may date the former porch to the late 18th - early 19th century. The church was reroofed, reseated, and presumably refloored. Any former skew-passage or north chapel had gone.

The post-rebuild church is shown with the new south transept which, as built, was not gabled but had a hipped roof. The new east window had 3 lights with geometric tracery, there was a triple-lancet in the south transept and a double lancet in the north transept. The nave south-west window is similar to that shown in the pre-rebuild drawing and was either retained or rebuilt and there was a window in the nave north wall. The south porch doorway was rebuilt as a 2-centred arch.

The church was restored in 1878 (Green, 1911, 286; RCAHM, 1925, 85) but neither the details, nor the architect responsible, are known. The south porch was entirely rebuilt, and the present windows were inserted. The church was reseated, refloored and replastered. The nave heating chamber was inserted.

The altar rail, softwood reredos, commandment tablets, and the softwood pews are probably all from 1878. The carved rood beam, with Holy Family figures, is from c.1900, as may be the oolite pulpit. The softwood and glass tower screen is mid 20th century.

The oolite font has an octagonal bowl and stem, and a square base, all 19th century and probably from 1878.

There is one bell in the tower (Jones, 1994, 3).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-  
Celtic dedication; early post-conquest documentary reference.

St Elidyr, Crunwere, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. The living was a rectory which was a possession of the Benedictines of Monkton Priory, Pembroke (Green, 1911, 286). Monkton was dissolved as an alien priory under Henry V and its possessions transferred to St Albans Abbey. At the dissolution, it fell to the crown (*ibid.*), and remained in royal patronage. In 1833 the living was a discharged rectory rated in the king's books at £6 16s 10½d (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Elidyr, Crunwere, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Begelly and Ludchurch (Benefice 815) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

The church is mentioned, as 'Lann Cronnguern', in the 12th century *Book of Llandaff* which may suggest a pre-conquest foundation (RCAHM, 1925, 85). 'St Elidyr' is equated with St Teilo.

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

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## **EAST WILLIAMSTON CHURCH, SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3521**

**RB No. 3385**

**NGR SN 0982 0491**

**Listed Building No. 6051**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

### **SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 70% pre 19<sup>th</sup> century core fabric.

A 3 cell church, small. Consists of a chancel, 1 bays; nave, 2 bays; medieval?. North porch, c.1890. Former north chapel?. Limestone and ORS rubble construction, external walls partly rendered, internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Chancel arch, medieval?; blocked medieval south door and window?. Mid - late 19<sup>th</sup> century doors and window, neo-Gothic, without dressings, some with brick heads. Crenellated western bell-turret, c.1500.

Roofs and floors: c.1895. Finishes: c.1895 - 20<sup>th</sup> century. .

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Low, rectangular earthwork platform beneath 100% of church, primary; shallow, brick-lined drain around 100% of church; no underfloor void?; external memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 70% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval bell-turret and ?chancel arch, blocked medieval door and ?window.

Group value: Medium. Medieval church with crenellated bellcote.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13?.

Phase 2 - Chancel (and former north chapel?), C14?.

Phase 3 - Western bell-turret, c.1500.

Phase 4 - Restored c.1895, medium-high impact; north porch built.



## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

East Williamston Church is a 3-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 70% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a single-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, and a north porch. Former north chapel?. Construction is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble. The east, west and south walls are rendered externally, 20<sup>th</sup> century; the interior is plastered. The chancel arch may be medieval; the crenellated western bell-turret is also medieval; there is a blocked medieval door and ?window. All other openings are 19<sup>th</sup> century, the windows single-light, some neo-gothic, all with timber frames. The chancel and nave have a continuous slated gable roof; the turret roof was not seen.

The chancel and nave are the same width with a continuous roof line. There are 2-centred, single light windows in the east and south walls of the chancel, without surrounds and possibly pre-1890; the timber frames may be c.1895. The side walls exhibit internal corbels for former roof-trusses, and an offset high in the south wall suggest that they have been heightened. It has been suggested that the plain, 2-centred chancel arch may be medieval (Thomas, 1964), but this is at odds with a 19<sup>th</sup> century description (see Structural Development below) suggesting that the arch was rebuilt, and possibly relocated, in c.1895 (Cadw, 1996, 1). The softwood collar-rafter roof may be from c.1895, and is matchboarded above. The quarry-tiled floor, over a void?, may also be c.1895.

The nave side walls have a considerable external batter and exhibit evidence of heightening like the chancel side wall. A vertical scar at the east end of the north wall suggested a north-south wall led off at this point. This wall is pierced by a single-light window with a segmental brick head, pre-1890, with a 4-pane timber frame from c.1895?. To the west may be the internal impression of a blocked lancet window. The south wall is pierced by 3 windows, one with a pre-1890 segmental head, the other 2 being 2-centred like the chancel windows; timber frames as above. A small recess (sconce?) is visible high up on the internal face, date?. The north door opening is obscured by the porch and cannot be characterised; in the south wall is a blocked, 2-centred doorway of 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century date. The west wall is thick and features a square, full-height internal recess with a blocked slit-light. Above this recess, a square bell-turret from c.1500 is offset out from the external face; it is in squared and coursed limestone rubble and is entered through a low, lintelled doorway reached from a flight of steps up the west gable slope. There is a 2-light opening, with segmental heads, in the east face, and similar single light openings in the south and west faces, c.1500 like the crenellated parapet on an external corbel table. The nave is roofed and floored as the chancel.

The plain, small north porch was added c.1895 and is entered through a 2-centred, brick doorway; it has a contemporary simple softwood roof and a quarry-tiled floor from c.1895.

The church stands upon a low, but well-defined rectangular earthwork platform, primary. A shallow, brick-lined drain surrounds the church. There may be no underfloor void. External memorials lie significantly close to the entire church.

### *Structural development*

The nave and chancel are fundamentally medieval, but not contemporary; the nave walls are battered and there is a joint between the chancel and nave, visible internally. The nave may be earlier. The scar at the east end of the nave north wall suggests that a wall, contemporary with the chancel or nave, was keyed in at this point, the west wall of a former north chapel?. The western bell-turret is from c.1500 and is comparable with the towers at eg. Cosheston and Minwear, S. Pembs. (and the former turret at Llanddewi

Velfrey, now gone); the claim that it is an 18th century folly, expressed in Cadw, 1996, 2, appears to be without foundation given its massive form and the internal evidence.

The church was described as 'a rude structure without a tower' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833, Begelly parish). In 1867 it was in a 'wretched state', had modern windows 'of the worst kind', a low, mis-shapen chancel arch, and a plain octagonal font; the exterior was whitewashed (Glynne, 1897, 47).

Some, if not all of the present openings appear to be mid-19th century but may be as late as c.1895, when the church apparently underwent some restoration (RCAHM, 1925, 416). The chancel arch was rebuilt, and possibly relocated. The present roofs, floors and window frames, at least, appear to date from this period, and the north porch was probably added.

The simple sanctuary fittings may be c.1895, as may be the softwood pews; the alter rail is from 1939 (Cadw, 1996, 2). The pulpit is dated 1922.

The font has a circular bowl with a moulded arcade, and a cylindrical stem and base, all 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

East Williamston Church was not a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of Begelly parish in the medieval Deanery of Pembroke (Green, 1911, 241). It has little recorded history.

In 1998 East Williamston Church was a chapelry of Begelly parish. The living was a vicarage, held with Jeffreyeston, Reynalton and Loveston (Benefice 668) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication is unknown, but is occasionally given as St Eleanor or St Elidyr (SPARC, 1996).

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**ST LAWRENCE,  
GUMFRESTON,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3687**

**RB No. 3665**

**NGR SN 1092 0110**

**Listed Building No. 5958**

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

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 100% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; south chapel, transeptal, 1 bay; north transeptal tower and skew passage, 5 storeys; west porch; all medieval. Limestone rubble construction; limited remains of early render; internal walls with medieval render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; porch roof unslated; tower roof not seen. Medieval barrel vaulting in tower and porch, and rib-vaulting in the chapel; medieval chancel arch, doorways, windows, tower openings, piscina, stoups, tomb-recess(es); rood-loft door and corbelling, blocked south door and ?squints. Nave alcove, medieval baptistery, or 17<sup>th</sup> century?. 17<sup>th</sup> century windows, and memorials. Few later openings. Medieval wall-painting in nave.

Roofs: medieval - 1869. Floors: 1867-9. Finishes: 1867 - later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Condition - fair-good. Plaster damp; external ivy; wall-painting poor.

Archaeological potential - good. Possible external earthwork platform around 50% of church; deep, wide external drain around 30% of church and truncated adjacent levels; internal levels lowered; suspended floors above a void; known internal burials beneath 25% of church; few external memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 100% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval vaulting, ?baptistery, chancel arch, doorways, windows, tower openings, piscina, stoups, tomb-recess(es); rood-loft door and corbelling, blocked door and ?squints; 17<sup>th</sup> century windows.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower; large churchyard with holy wells (Grade II listed) and schoolhouse (on site of medieval priest's house?)

Phasing:

- Phase 1 - Chancel and nave, C12.
- Phase 2 - North transept, west porch, C14.
- Phase 3 - Tower over transept, C15.
- Phase 4 - South chapel, C16.
- (Phase 5 - Nave alcove, C17?).
- Phase 6 - Restored 1867-9, low impact.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Lawrence, Gumfreston, 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 single-bayed transeptal south chapel, a 5-storeyed north transeptal tower and skew passage, and a west porch. Construction is in limestone rubble; there are the limited remains of 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century external render in the chancel but the pointing is mainly from 1867-9, with some (poor) later 20<sup>th</sup> century cement repointing; the interior is plastered except in the west porch, with medieval plaster including a wall-painting. The tower and west porch are barrel-vaulted, while the south chapel has a rib-vault. The chancel arch, many windows and doors are medieval; other windows are 17<sup>th</sup> century and there is a medieval - 17<sup>th</sup> century ?baptistery. Roofs are slated gables; the gabled porch roof is unslated and the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel east wall has a slight external batter. The east window occupies an early 19<sup>th</sup> century, brick-headed embrasure that was constricted in 1867-9 for the present single lancet. There is a single light in the north wall with a medieval embrasure but the present square headed surround is in mortar, from 1980? (Pembs. R. O., HPR/77/124). The south wall window has been subject to many rebuilds and occupies a large area of blocking; the single-light window occupies an area within defined by brickwork from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century but containing a limestone surround from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, rebuilt in 1867-9 and since given a concrete lintel, 1980? (ibid.). Internally, a medieval piscina with a semicircular bracket bowl occupies a square-headed recess. The small, semicircular-headed chancel arch has plain imposts and is probably 12<sup>th</sup> century; either side are square recesses that may be blocked squints, to the north is a blocked, square-headed rood-loft door while the either side on the east face is masonry benching. The softwood chancel roof is from 1867-9, with collar-rafter trusses arch-braced from wall corbels, matchboarded above. The sanctuary floor comprises early 17<sup>th</sup> century memorial slabs; the remainder of the chancel is tiled, from 1867-9.

The nave south wall leans outwards markedly. The east bay exhibits rood-loft corbelling. A vaulted, semicircular alcove projects from the north wall, perhaps a medieval baptistery, or monumental in nature, 17<sup>th</sup> century and possibly occupying the site of a medieval north door; in the south wall opposite is blocked south door with a 2-centred head, 13th-14th century. The nave is lit by a medieval lancet, with a limestone surround, in the north wall, which was reopened in 1867-9; in the south wall are 2-light and 3-light windows with square limestone surrounds of 17<sup>th</sup> century date; they have been given concrete lintels as in the chancel, and the eastern of the 3 is a copy of 1867-9. An area of irregular masonry at the west end of the north wall may be patching rather than blocking. The south wall exhibits external buttressing in 1867-9. The west wall has a 2-centred doorway of 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century date and 2 square-headed slit lights above, both medieval but one blocked and the other partly rebuilt. Internally, there is a stoup in the north wall with a square head, adjacent to a medieval wall-painting probably representing the martyrdom of St Lawrence, uncovered in 1980. The softwood roof is from 1867-9 and has alternate collar-rafter and king-post trusses, the former arch-braced from wall-corbels and the latter with tie-beams, matchboarded above. The passages are tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1867-9.

The transeptal south chapel is entered through a wide, plain 2-centred arch of early 16<sup>th</sup> century date. The walls are battered externally. It is now used as a vestry and there is a doorway into the churchyard in the east wall with a trefoil head from 1867-9. It is lit by a cusped, 2-light window in the south wall from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century., reopened and partly rebuilt in 1867-9. It has a cross-ribbed vault, but there are suggestions that the plain, square ribs may be later insertions. Floored as the chancel incorporating a memorial slab from 1614.

The tower ground floor occupies a north transeptal location and communicates with the nave via a plain, irregular 2-centred arch from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. A square spiral stair turret projects from the north-east corner entered through a square-headed doorway from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The north wall features a 2-light 17<sup>th</sup> century window like those in the nave, but occupying an earlier embrasure. In the east wall is a blocked window and a recess with a 2-centred head; the latter may be a tomb-recess but the presence of an associated corbel suggests the possibility that it was a secondary altar; a recess in the west wall may be for a tomb but any effigy has gone. The 2-centred barrel vault may be 14<sup>th</sup> century; floored as the chancel. The skew passage has segmental-profiled openings to the chancel and tower, and a crude slab roof. It is lit by a simple, square-headed opening with an Old Red Sandstone surround from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The remainder of the tower is from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century and comprises 4 further storeys, an example of the multi-storeyed Pembrokeshire tower seen elsewhere at eg Robeston West and Hubberston., Pres.. It is lit by simple square openings in the north and east walls, 15<sup>th</sup> century; the belfry stage has similar, 2-light openings in the north, west and east walls, and a crenellated parapet on an external corbel table.

The west porch is vaulted as the nave. The doorway features a medieval, 2-centred surround; above it lies a simple loop. A medieval stoup lies within the south wall, with a plain bowl in a simple recess. Internally the side walls exhibit masonry benching, medieval. The 2-centred barrel vault is also medieval, and has no external covering. Floored as the nave passages.

A possible external earthwork platform lies along the south side of the church. A deep, wide external drain runs along the nave and porch north walls, cut in 1867-9 when the adjacent churchyard levels were truncated. Floors are suspended above a void, and lowered in 1867-9. There are many known burials beneath the chancel and south chapel. A few external memorials lie significantly close to the nave and north transept.

#### *Structural development*

The form of the chancel arch suggests that both nave and chancel may be 12<sup>th</sup> century, though an offset visible in the nave south wall between the east and central bays may represent a change of build or a break in construction; the wall is slightly narrower to the west. The tower was erected over a pre-existing north transept which, with the skew passage, is 14<sup>th</sup> century (Thomas, 1964); the west porch may be of similar date and its crude, unfinished vault surface suggests that it may have been initially intended to carry a tower. The tower was erected over the north transept in the later 15<sup>th</sup> century, while the detail of the south chapel suggests an early 16<sup>th</sup> century date. The semicircular alcove projecting from the nave north wall is similar to that at Lllys-y-fran, Pres., where it appears to represent a late medieval baptistery; it has been suggested that the Gumfreston alcove is monumental in nature and 17<sup>th</sup> century (RCAHM, 1925, 103). There are a number of windows from the early-mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

There has been no substantial further addition, but a lean-to (shed?) is shown against the south wall of the nave east bay in early 19<sup>th</sup> century drawings (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/2132, 1817-39, *et al.*) when the chancel and nave had very low-pitched roofs, much overgrown. The chancel was refenestrated in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with brick surrounds.

The church was restored in 1867-9 (Anon., 1992), but the impact of the work was very slight. The nave buttresses were added, and the east window, nave south wall east window and south chapel door were inserted. The church was reroofed and the interior was refloored and reseated.

The tower was repaired in 1932-3, and repointed in the 1950s (Pembs. R. O., HPR/77/32). A stove, with a flue and pipe, lay within the nave alcove from 1937-63 (ibid.). The church was partly renovated in 1980 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/77/124).

The pulpit is from 1867-9, while the oak pews are 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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

The bell has been dated to 1350 and thus pre-dates the tower (Pembs. R. O., HPR/77/40).

The church was Grade II\* listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-  
Tradition; associated springs.

St Lawrence, Gumfreston, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. The church appears always to have been in the patronage of the Lord of the Manor of Gumfreston. In 1291 it was assessed at £5 6s 8d, the amount payable being 10s 8d (Green, 1911, 305).

In 1833 the living, a discharged rectory vicarage in the patronage of the John Meyrick Esq., was rated in the king's books at £9 12s 3½d (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Lawrence, Gumfreston, was a parish church. The living was a curacy of the Rectorial Benefice of Tenby (Benefice 702) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

Gumfreston is one of the sites traditionally held to be 'Eglwys Gunniau', the 5th century birthplace of St Teilo (Cadw, 1996, 9).

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### **Map Evidence**

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## **HODGESTON CHURCH, SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 4187**

**RB No. 2789**

**NGR SS 0294 9938**

**Listed Building No. 5659**

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

### **SUMMARY**

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

A multicell church, small. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 2 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. South porch, later 19th century. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. High quality piscina, sedilia, string-course, rood-loft steps and corbelling in chancel, medieval openings and vaulting in tower. Other openings, with yellow oolite dressings, are from the mid 19th century in the chancel, and the late 19th century in the nave.

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

Condition - good. Damp; piscina and sedilia weathered.

Archaeological potential - very good. Low mound beneath 100% of church, natural?; shallow external drain around 20% of church; considerable churchyard build-up around 100% of church; floor lowered in 10% of church?; suspended floor above a void in 40% of church; external burials significantly close to 60% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval vaulting and openings in tower, high quality 14th century Decorated mouldings in chancel.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower; adjacent to earthwork moated site.

#### **Phasing:**

Phase 1 - Nave, C13?

Phase 2 - Chancel, C14?

Phase 3 - West tower, late C16.

Phase 4 - Chancel restored mid C19, low impact.

Phase 5 - Nave restored late C19, medium impact; south porch built.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

Hodgeston Church is a multicelled church, of small size. It retains approximately 90% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a large, elaborate 3-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, a south porch, and a 3-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone rubble. The nave and tower are barrel-vaulted. There are medieval openings in the tower and window embrasures, piscina and sedilia in the chancel; other openings, including the chancel arch, were rebuilt in the mid- and later 19th century, in neo-Gothic style with yellow oolite dressings but partly in imitation of pre-existing openings. Pointing is mainly from the mid- and later 19th century, and the tower was repointed in the 20th century; the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel is very large in relation to the rest of the church, and roofed at a higher level than the nave. It was (re)built in the mid 14th century in an elaborate, Decorated style, but heavily restored in the 19th century when the windows, and the chancel arch, were rebuilt. There is a weathered external string-course at sill level, 14th century, and a similar internal string-course on the north wall. The 3-light east window has cusped, Geometric tracery in a 2-centred arch and drip-mould on human mask stops, all from the mid 19th century and, though in the general style as the surviving 14th century work, replacing a plain window from the 18th century (see Structural Development below), in a 14th century embrasure. The side walls are both pierced by 2 light windows with cusped, ogival heads, quaterfoliate spandrels and 2-centred surrounds with drip-moulds on out-turned stops, again from the later 19th century but in 14th century embrasures. The internal face of the east wall exhibits 14th century corbelling, possibly associated with a former altar-beam or statuary. Internally, the east bay south wall exhibits a large cusped, ogival-headed double piscina with crockets and finials and a scalloped bowl, in weathered sandstone of Decorated character from the mid 14th century; the central free shaft has gone but the surrounds have semi-octagonal attached shafts. To the west is a stylistically similar, and equally elaborate triple sedilia, with similar mid 14th century mouldings and retaining its 2 weathered, octagonal free shafts. The limestone flag benching extends west to the chancel arch, where it gives onto a flight of 6 steps leading to a former rood-loft doorway, and the loft corbelling survives in the nave, but the 2-centred, double-chamfered chancel arch, on plain stops, was rebuilt in the mid-late 19th century. At the junction with the nave, the north wall exhibits a plain, external buttress from the 14th century. The softwood roof is mid-late 19th century and has queen-post trusses cusped into quaterfoils and arch-braced from moulded oolite wall-corbels. The tiled floor is also mid-late 19th century.

The nave south wall has an external basal batter; the uppermost courses of both side walls were (re)built in the late 19th century. The nave is lit by 2 cusped, double-lancet windows in the north wall, and one in the south wall, also from the late 19th century; in the south wall of the east bay is a line of voussoirs with a segmental head, from an earlier, 17th century? window (see Structural Development below), while in the west bay north wall is a blocked window, possibly with a semicircular head. The south door is from the late 19th century and has a plain, 2-centred head; to the east is an internal, medieval stoup, with a plain, segmental-headed recess. In the opposite, north wall is a blocked north door with a low, rounded 2-centred head. The barrel-vault has a 2-centred profile. The passages are tiled, with suspended board floors, from the late 19th century.

The west tower is not typical of the region being small, narrow and tapered, and lacking an external basal batter and string-course; it belongs, stylistically, to c.1600. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a 2-centred doorway from c.1600, and lit by simple loops. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch from c.1600, that respects the profile of the barrel-vault. The west wall is pierced by a 2-light window with square surrounds and a plain label on out-turned stops, from the later 19th century but probably a rebuild of an original from c.1600. The flagged floor is from the mid-late 19th century when it may have been lowered. The second stage is

lit by a large, square-headed single light in the south face, from c.1600. The belfry stage has uncusped 2-light openings the east and west faces, with semicircular, 2-piece heads, and there is a similar, blocked, single light in the south face. The parapet lacks crenellations and lies on an external corbel table which does not continue around the stair turret; there is a rainwater chute on the west.

The small south porch was added in the late 19th century in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble. The contemporary doorway is a plain, 2-centred opening. The softwood roof lacks trusses, and is matchboarded. The flagged floor is also late 19th century.

The church stands on a low mound, which however is probably natural. There is a shallow external drain at the east and west ends of the church. There has been a considerable build-up of churchyard deposits around the church and the head of the former north door is now very low. The tower floor may have been lowered. The nave floor is suspended above a void. External memorials and burial earthworks lie significantly close to the east, west and south walls.

### *Structural development*

The nave appears to pre-date the chancel and its openings may be 13th century, but its the vault may be later. The chancel has Decorated detail from the mid-14th century; it is of a very high quality, similar to that at nearby Carew church, and dwarfs the nave, but the reason for this is unknown, the church always having been in the patronage of relatively insignificant laymen. The tower stylistically late, from c.1600. The south porch is 19th century.

Drawings from the mid 19th century show the church before and during restoration. In the earlier drawings (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1745) there was no south porch and the nave and chancel are depicted as being roofed continuously. The south door is shown with a very low, semicircular head. The chancel east window had been replaced with a small round-headed light, 18th century?, and the chancel south windows had been blocked. A small, 2 light window, of 17th century appearance, lay high in the nave south wall.

A slightly later drawing, from 1854 (NLW, Drawing Volumes 24, 4), shows that some restoration had already taken place. The chancel was roofed at a higher level than the nave, with new upstands and weather tabling. The present chancel east and south windows appears to be shown and the present north wall windows are suggested; the chancel may have been reroofed and refloored, and the present chancel arch inserted at the same time. However, the nave north door was still open, with a low, semicircular head, and the north wall itself was blind.

The nave was restored later in the 19th century when the north door was blocked and the present windows were inserted. It was reroofed and refloored. The south porch was probably rebuilt at this time and the tower ground floor west window was rebuilt. The details of neither restoration, nor the architect(s) responsible, are known.

The softwood pews and pulpit are from the late 19th century. The stalls, and possibly an organ, have been removed from the chancel but the scars remain.

The font has a square, scalloped bowl with an incised wheel-cross, and a cylindrical stem and base, all 19th century or retooled?.

There are 2 bells in the tower (Bartosch & Stokes, 1995, 12).

The church was Grade II\* listed in 1998.

Fenton refers to an account of 1717 describing 'ruins' of a former 'religious house' that were apparently visible at the church (Fenton, 1903, 238). There appears to be no basis for this interpretation.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

Hodgeston Church was a parish church of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke during the post-conquest period according to Rees, 1932; according to Green, 1912, 203, however, the benefice was originally a free chapel. It had become a parish church by the post-medieval period. The church appears to have always been in the patronage of the Lords of the Manor of Hodgeston, one moiety of which was vested in the heirs of the Baron de la Rote, the second moiety belonging to the heirs of the de Longueville family, as a result of the partition of the Marshal inheritance in 1247. It remained in joint patronage.

In 1833 the living was rectory rated in the king's books at £7 13s 4d and in the patronage of Sir John Owen, Bart., for 2 turns, and Pryse Pryse, Esq., for one turn (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 Hodgeston Church was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Lamphey and Carew (Benefice 811) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication is unknown.

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