

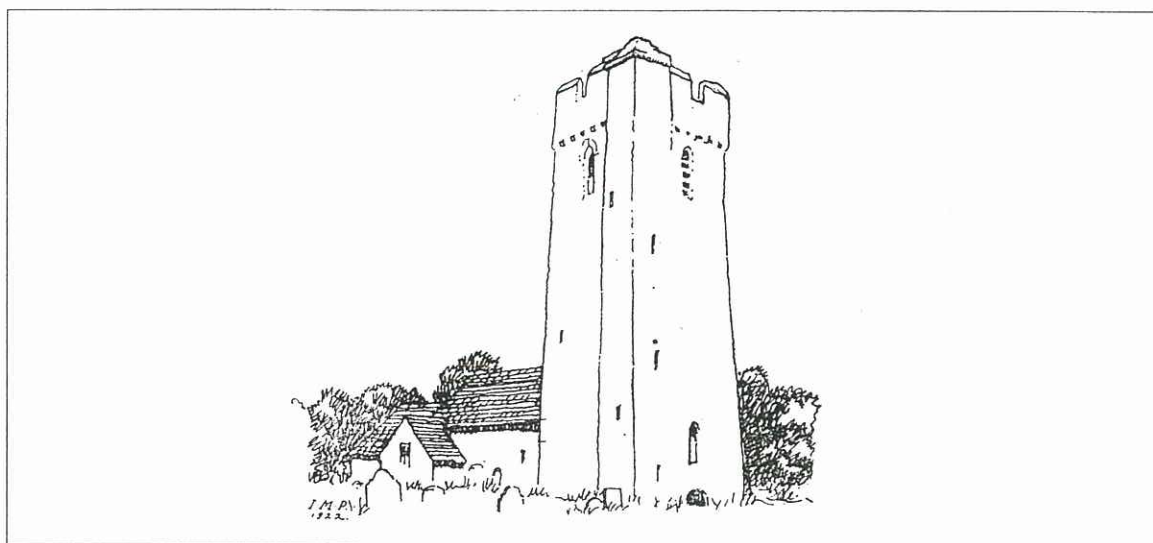
THE WELSH HISTORIC  
CHURCHES PROJECT



SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE CHURCHES, 1995-6  
(DAT 48)

PART 2: JEFFREYSTON - LUDCHURCH

22/03/99



*Loveston, South Pembrokeshire*

Reports prepared for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments  
by Neil Ludlow

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A R C H A E O L E G  
**CAMBRIA**  
A R C H A E O L O G Y

**THE WELSH HISTORIC  
CHURCHES PROJECT**

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

**PART 2: JEFFREYSTON - LUDCHURCH**

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Jeffreyston (PRN 3478)

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**ST JEFFREY,  
JEFFREYSTON,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3478**

**RB No. 3388**

**NGR SN 0894 0652**

**Listed Building No. 6052**

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

**SUMMARY**

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

A multicell church, large. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south chapel, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay; south porch; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. North aisle, incorporating former north transept, 3 bays; vestry, 1 bay; organ chamber, 1 bay (north of chancel, on site of former skew passage); 1867-8. Limestone and ORS rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry/organ chamber with slate lean-to roof; tower roof not seen. Medieval tower openings, parapet and vault, skew-passage arches, south porch door, benching and stoup. Remainder of openings including chancel arch, arcades and windows, from 1867-8, neo-Gothic, with limestone dressings. (Good 18th century memorials.)

Roofs: medieval vaults and 1867-8 timberwork. Floors: 1867-8. Finishes: 1867-8 and later 10th century.

Condition - good. Tower damp.

Archaeological potential - very good. Slight external cutting around 40% of church; shallow drain around 60% of church; floors lowered in 25% of church; suspended floors over heating ducts in 75% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; mortuary vault beneath 20% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 75% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings, parapet and vault, skew-passage arches, south porch door, benching and stoup.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower; central village location; associated with good masonry buildings; ECM; circular churchyard with C19 ?chancel-house building, good memorials and churchyard cross with medieval base (Grade II listed).

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave (with west porch?) and chancel, C13-14.

Phase 2 - Transepts (and former skew-passages), and chancel east bay?, C14.

Phase 3 - South chapel, south porch, and west tower, mid-late C15.

Phase 4 - Restored 1867-8, high impact, north aisle and vestry/organ chamber built.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Jeffrey, Jeffreyston, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 75% pre 19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed south chapel, a 3-bayed north aisle incorporating a single-bayed north transept and former skew-passage, a single-bayed south transept, a south porch, a 3-storeyed west tower, and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel east bay continuous with a single-bayed organ chamber north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in local limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble. Arcades and openings, except in the tower, were entirely (re)built in 1867-8, in neo-Gothic (Early English) style, with limestone ashlar and dressings. Pointing is mainly from 1867-8, with some later (19th-20th century) external render and ribbon-pointing, and the interior is plastered. The south chapel, south transept, south porch and the tower ground floor are barrel-vaulted. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry/organ chamber has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen.

There are a number of good 18th century memorials.

In the chancel east wall is a graduated, uncusped triple-lancet window in chamfered limestone, with the embrasure entirely from 1867-8, and there is a similar double-lancet in the east bay south wall. The depressed 2-centred chancel arch has 2 plain, unchamfered orders on chamfered imposts, all in limestone ashlar from 1867-8. The roof-line is continuous with that of the nave; the softwood roof, from 1867-8, lacks trusses, all rafters have collars and are arch-braced from wall-plates. The passage and sanctuary are tiled, from 1867-8, with suspended board floors; there is said to be an 18th century mortuary vault below.

The nave south wall leans out markedly. It is pierced by 2 windows; to the east is a double-lancet like that in the chancel, and to the west is a similar, single lancet, both from 1867-8. The south door was rebuilt, with a chamfered, 2-centred surround in limestone ashlar, in 1867-8; externally, to the east of the door is a stoup with a simple square recess, medieval. The south-west corner of the nave lies on an external masonry plinth, primary. The softwood roof has collar-rafter trusses arch-braced from wall plates, from 1867-8. The passages are quarry-tiled, from 1867-8, with heating ducts and a chamber for a 'Porritt's' or 'Grundy's' stove; there are suspended board floors.

The north transept was absorbed into the north aisle in 1867-8, but extends beyond the north wall of the latter; the aisle communicates with the nave through an arcade of three 2-centred arches, each with a 2-centred head of 2 plain, unchamfered orders; the outer orders lie on corbels while the inner orders are on cylindrical piers with plain bases, and plain tori supporting cushion capitals, all in chamfered limestone ashlar, from 1867-8. The east wall (ie. the transept side wall) communicates with the chancel via the former skew-passage described below; to the north is a single lancet, like that in the nave from 1867-8. The flue from the heating stove emerges from this wall as a square, shouldered chimney with blind lancet decoration, late 19th century?. The north, gable wall of the transept is pierced by a graduated triple-lancet window, like the chancel east window and also from 1867-8. The aisle proper is lit by a further, similar window in the north wall, and a similar single lancet in the west wall but with a 2-centred outer arch, from 1867-8?, or earlier?. The softwood roof is from 1867-8 and is in 2 parts, a north-south gabled section in the transept and an east-west gabled section in the aisle; it lacks trusses, the softwood rafters all having collars. Floored as the nave.

The arch between the chancel and the south chapel is blocked by the large organ keyboard installed in 1908, which occupies most of the chapel, which is lit by a 2-light window in its south wall like that in the chancel, from 1867-8, associated with a ?contemporary outer arch. The external face exhibits a datestone commemorating the 1867-8 restoration. There is a 2-centred barrel-vault, medieval. The floor is obscured by the organ.

The south transept is entered from the nave through a depressed 2-centred arch in chamfered limestone ashlar, from 1867-8. It communicates with the south chapel via a low, chamfered segmental-headed arch with an almost square profile, medieval but restored, associated with a former skew-passage that was replaced by the chapel. The transept is lit by a 2-light window in its south wall like that in the chancel, from 1867-8, associated with a ?contemporary outer arch. There is a 2-centred barrel-vault, medieval. The floor is fully carpeted but appears to be suspended and floorboarded. The transept is now fitted as a chapel.

The south porch side walls feature medieval masonry benching. The entrance doorway has a double-chamfered 2-centred surround with simple imposts, of limestone with some sandstone, weathered, medieval but restored. There is a 2-centred barrel-vault, medieval. The flagged floor is from 1867-8 and laid directly on the substrate.

The west tower, comprising 3-storeys in roughly squared limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble, is not entirely typical of the region but can be given a broadly 15th century date; it is tapered but lacks the external string-course typical of the region, has only a slight external batter, and does not feature a west door. The south wall of the ground floor is divided by an external vertical joint, to the east of which the wall has a basal plinth, like the nave west wall, and may represent the remains of an earlier structure eg. a west porch?. A square spiral stair turret projects from the east end of the north wall, which does exhibit the weathered remains of a basal string course; the turret is entered through a narrow triangular-headed doorway, medieval?, restored?, is lit by simple loops, and is offset back towards the north wall face at a higher level. The 2-centred arch from the ground floor into the nave reflects the profile of the 2-centred barrel vault, 15th century. The west wall is pierced by a single lancet with a 2-centred outer arch, from 1867-8?, or earlier?; the embrasure appears to be contemporary, rebuilt?. The floor is carpeted, and to the west lies beneath a suspended board floor. The second stage is lit by a simple slit-light in the north wall; there are blocked, square-headed, simple single lights, with sandstone surrounds from the 15th century in the south and west walls. The belfry stage has a single-light opening with a 2-centred head in each face, from the 15th century. The tall, crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, which does not extend around the uncrenellated stair turret; there are rainwater chutes on the south and west faces of the parapet, originally 15th century?.

The vestry and organ chamber were added in 1867-8, and form a continuous lean-to against the chancel north wall divided by an internal wall. The vestry lies in the eastern chamber; it is entered from the chancel through a doorway with a 2-centred surround, in chamfered limestone ashlar, from 1867-8, and from the churchyard up 2 steps and through a similar door in the east, lean-to wall. It is lit by 2 windows in the north wall, both from 1867-8 and comprising 2 lights with square heads in a square surround in chamfered limestone. The softwood rafters of the lean-to roof are from 1867-8. The floorboards are suspended over a void, but probably raised above the substrate. The organ chamber occupies the site of the medieval skew-passage into the north transept, with which it communicates via a low, segmental-headed arch with an almost square profile, medieval, with deeply chamfered stops following the line of the former passage. It communicates with the chancel through a similar low, segmental medieval arch. It is lit by a window in the north wall like those in the vestry, from 1867-8, and roofed as the vestry. The floor is fully carpeted but is probably tiled, from 1867-8. The present organ is later, and situated in the south chapel.

There is a slight external cutting along the north walls, secondary, and a shallow drain surrounds the rest of the church. The chancel and tower floors were apparently lowered in 1867-8 (Lloyd, 1992). Floors are suspended over heating ducts and there is a heating chamber in the nave. A mortuary vault apparently lies beneath the chancel. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

### *Structural development*

The nave, and the chancel west bay, may be 13th-14th century, but cannot be closely dated. The vaulted transepts and skew passages are from the 14th century when the long chancel east bay may have been added. The south chapel, replacing the southern skew-passage, and the south porch may be contemporary; the porch is larger than the south transept and its doorway is stylistically later 15th century. The porch may have been added as a result of the construction of the ?contemporary west tower, which appears to have replaced an earlier ?west porch. The north aisle and vestry/organ chamber are 19th century.

The pre-restoration church was described in 1867 (Lloyd, 1992), when the north and south transepts were 'low and insignificant' and their arches 'low and coarse', the northern one 'obtuse and mis-shapen' and the southern 'so flat as hardly to be an arch'. The chancel east window had been 'vilely modernised'. A watercolour of c.1830 by Charles Norris, taken from the south-east (ibid.), shows 'domestic' sash-windows in the chancel east and south walls, and high in the south walls of the south chapel and south transept; there were low-pitched slate gable roofs throughout and the exterior was whitewashed. A west gallery was present. There were, apparently, no windows on the north side (Nicholas, 1993, 4). By 1867 the 'roof had fallen in and the walls fallen out' (Lloyd, op. cit.).

Restoration began in 1867, to the designs of the London architect Thomas Talbot Bury (ibid.; Green, 1911, 210) who had previously restored Burton Church, Pembs. The restoration, completed in 1868, was heavy. The north aisle was added, absorbing the north transept, and the vestry/organ chamber were built, the latter converted from the former skew-passage. All internal arches, apart from those to the former skew-passages and the tower, were rebuilt. The church was entirely refenestrated and the south door was rebuilt. The interior was reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated.

The softwood stalls and pews, the pulpit and the glazed, softwood tower screen, are from 1867-8 (Lloyd, 1992). The elaborate moulded reredos, in oolite and marble, is late 19th century (ibid.). The large organ was installed in the south chapel in 1908 (ibid.). The tower clock is from 1911 (ibid.). The chapel fittings, and screen, in the south transept are from the 20th century.

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

There are 3 bells in the tower (Nicholas, 1993, 6).

An ECM, a wheel-cross incised stone (Dyfed PRN 3479) of possible 9th century date, lies loose in the porch; it had been used for the threshold until moved in the early 20th century (RCAHM, 1925, 127).

The church was Grade II\* listed in 1998.

### **SITE HISTORY**

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-  
Circular churchyard; ECM; central to ?pre-conquest settlement.

St Jeffrey, Jeffreyston, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It may initially have been a possession of the Priory of St Nicholas, Monkton (Green, 1911, 208) and was assessed, as 'Ecclesia de villa Galfri', at £5 in 1291 (Green, op. Cit., 209). It was transferred, with St Issells, to the canons of St Davids Cathedral, at a date between 1331 and 1339 when the 2 churches were united (ibid.). The union was dissolved before 1534; the patronage remained with the Dean and Chapter of St Davids but the tithes were leased to succession of private individuals (ibid.).

In 1833 the living was a vicarage in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter, rated in the king's books at £4 17s 6d, endowed with £200 private benefaction, £400 royal bounty and £1000 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Jeffrey, Jeffreyston, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Loveston, Reynalton and East Williamston (Benefice 668) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

The full dedication is to SS Jeffrey and Oswald; it has been suggested that the 'Oswald' element may be derived from the name 'Ismael' (RCAHM, 1925, 126) or represent the Saxon St Oswald of Worcester (Lloyd, 1992).

It has been argued that Jeffreyston is the site of a pre-conquest settlement following a radial plan, with a central church on the same site as the present structure (Kissock, 1993, 11).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Pembs. Sheet XXXV.9.

NLW, Parish of Jeffreyston, Tithe Map, 1844.

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

### **Church in Wales Records**

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(HPR/123 - Jeffreyston)

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**ST PETER,  
LAMPETER VELFREY,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3790**

**RB No. 3171**

**NGR SN 1552 1444**

**Listed Building No. 6055**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large. Consists of a chancel/nave, without structural division, 5 bays; south aisle, 5 bays; north transept, 1 bay; medieval. South porch, rebuilt 1860-67. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Medieval arcade, blocked windows and ?door; 17<sup>th</sup> century windows, partly open and blocked. Other openings are mainly from 1860-67, neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings. Western single bellcote, 1860-67.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1860-67.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good - very good. Shallow external drain around 100% of church; external earthwork platform/terrace beyond 20% of church; floor levels unchanged; suspended floor over heating flues in 90% of church; few external memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 80% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval arcade, blocked windows and ?door; 17<sup>th</sup> century windows, partly blocked.

Group value: high. Medieval church in central village location; circular churchyard with good, early memorials and a 1921 war memorial (Grade II listed).

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, C13?

Phase 2 - South aisle, C14.

Phase 3 - North Transept, C16-17?

Phase 4 - Restored 1837, low impact.

Phase 5 - Restored 1860-67, high impact; south porch (re)built.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Peter, Lampeter Velfrey, is a multicelled church, of medium-large size. It retains approximately 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 5-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division, a 5-bayed south aisle, a single-bayed north transept and a south porch. Construction is in limestone rubble. There is a medieval arcade; other openings are mainly from 1860-67, neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings; there is a rebuilt medieval door and blocked medieval - 17<sup>th</sup> century windows, and door. Pointing is mainly from 1860-67; the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables throughout.

The chancel/nave has a slight external batter. The 3-light east window is from 1860-67 and has cusped, Geometric tracery. There is a similar window in the west wall, and 2 similar 2-light windows in the north wall. The east bay north wall exhibits a blocked, cusped 2 light window, 14<sup>th</sup> century?, mullion now gone; to the west is a poorly blocked single light opening with a square surround, also 14<sup>th</sup> century?. There is an external stepped buttress at the junction of the east wall with the south aisle, from 1860-67; there was one on the west wall. The west wall carries a large, elaborate gabled bellcote with 2-centred, moulded, gabled openings in all 4 faces, from 1860-67. The mounting for an altar rail from 1830 survives internally. The softwood roof has arch-braced collars and matchboarding, from 1860-67. The passages are flagged, with suspended board floors over heating ducts, all 1860-67.

The south aisle communicates with the chancel nave through an arcade of 5 plain, 2-centred arches on cylindrical shafts with plain imposts and bases, from the 14<sup>th</sup> century but altered in the 1860s when a rectangular pier at the junction of 'nave' and 'chancel' was replaced by a cylindrical shaft, and the westernmost shaft was rebuilt. The walls have a slight external batter and are pierced by similar windows to those in the chancel/nave and of similar date. In the south wall is a blocked, 2-light window with a square, moulded surround from the earlier 17<sup>th</sup> century. The 2-centred south door may have been rebuilt in 1837; and area of possible blocking in the west wall may be the site of a former door. The softwood roof is from 1860-67 and lacks trusses, all common rafters having scissors-braces; matchboarded above. The floor is flagged as the chance/nave passages, also 1860-67.

The north transept is entered through a 2-centred, chamfered arch from 1860-67. The east wall is lit by a single light window adapted from a 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> century 2-light window with a square surround, and there is a 2-light window like those in the chancel/nave in the north wall, from 1860-67. A doorway to the churchyard in the west wall may have medieval origins, but was rebuilt in 1860-67. There is a plain, brick chimney in the north wall, late 19<sup>th</sup> century?, leading from the heating flues. The collar-rafter roof is concealed by softwood matchboarding from 1860-67; the floor is flagged as the south aisle. The transept is now an organ chamber.

The south porch was (entirely?) rebuilt in 1860-67 and has a contemporary 2-centred door. The roof is matchboarded above the common rafters, 1860-67, and the floor is flagged as the south aisle.

A shallow external drain surrounds the church. A earthwork platform/terrace lies between the north transept and the chancel/nave east bay, with a sharp southerly turn at its east end. There is no evidence for any internal level changes. The floor is suspended over heating flues in the nave, aisle and transept. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

### *Structural development*

The chancel/nave may be 13<sup>th</sup> century, and may originally have been divided by a chancel arch. The south aisle arcade appears, stylistically, to belong to the 14<sup>th</sup> century; the north transept may be later but cannot be closely dated. The south porch was (entirely?) rebuilt in 1860-67 but occupies the site of an earlier structure.

The church was restored in 1837 when the westernmost arcade pier was apparently removed, and new windows, with square timber frames, were inserted; it appears that the door openings were also rebuilt. The floors were apparently of earth until 1860 (Canon G. Morris, Rural Dean, pers. comm.), and a western gallery was present.

In a second restoration of 1860-67, under the architect J. P. Seddon, the church was again refenestrated (Cadw, 1997, 1), and new windows inserted at the east end of the chancel/nave north wall and the west end of the south aisle. The western nave pier was replaced. The north transept arch and south door were rebuilt, and the south porch (entirely?) rebuilt. The interior was reroofed and refloored. The gallery was removed, and the church was reseated.

The organ in the north transept is dated 1853. The tiled reredos, commandment tablets, softwood stalls, pews and pulpit are from 1860-67

The font has a square bowl and stem from c.1200, but the base has gone.

There is a large, Jacobean table tomb in the south aisle, in situ?, from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

### **SITE HISTORY**

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

St Peter, Lampeter Velfrey, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. The church was in the patronage of the Lord of the Manor of Velfrey (Narberth). In 1291 it was assessed at £8 (Green, 1912, 218).

In 1833 the living, a rectory in the patronage of the crown, was rated in the king's books at £10 (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Peter, Lampeter Velfrey, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Llanddewi Velfrey (Benefice 630) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of St Clears (St Davids, 1997-8).

### **SOURCES CONSULTED**

#### **Map Evidence**

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**SS FAITH AND TYFEI,  
LAMPHEY,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3511**

**RB No. 2791**

**NGR SN 0154 0047**

**Listed Building No. 5962**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

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

A multicell church, medium sized, cruciform . Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north transept with internal skew-passage, over cellar, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay; south porch; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval but extensively rebuilt in the 19th century. Limestone and ORS rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs, chancel and nave roofed continuously; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in tower and south porch; re-used medieval lancets and piscina in chancel. 18th - early 19th century transept arch. All other openings, including the chancel arch, are from 1870, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1870.

Condition - good. Tower damp.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Shallow, brick-lined drain around 100% of church; 'D'-shaped external earthwork adjacent to 10% of church; cellar beneath 15% of church; suspended floors above a void in 60% of church; heating chamber beneath 5% of church; external memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 50% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings and vault, re-used medieval lancets and piscina; 18th - early 19th century transept arch.

Group value - high; landmark medieval church with tower; central village location; external earthwork.

**Phasing:**

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, transepts, all C14?.

Phase 2 - South porch, C14-15.

Phase 3 - West tower, later C16.

(Phase 4 - Restored 1826, low impact?).

Phase 5 - Restored mid C19, high impact; church partly rebuilt except tower.

Phase 6 - Restored 1870, low impact.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

SS Faith and Tyfei, Lamphey, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 50% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church is cruciform and consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed north transept, with an internal skew-passage, over a cellar, a single-bayed south transept, a south porch and a 3-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone; pointing is mainly from 1870, and the interior is plastered. The tower and porch are barrel-vaulted. The tower has retained some medieval openings, and there are re-used lancets and a reset medieval piscina in the chancel; other openings, including the chancel arch, are from 1870, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings. Roofs are slated gables, and the chancel and nave are roofed continuously; the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel walls were largely rebuilt in 1870, and there is a contemporary external string-course on the east wall. The 3-light east window is from 1870 and has cusped 'Geometric' tracery in a 2-centred surround and a drip-mould on simple corbel stops. The north and south walls are each pierced by a single lancet with a cusped, roll-moulded surround and plain, 2-centred drip-mould, partly in re-used limestone dressings from the 14th century restored in 1870. Internally, the south wall exhibits a piscina with a 2-centred recess and hood-mould, with cavetto-moulded dressings, and a hexafoil bowl, all from the 14th century but re-used. The north wall of the west bay is pierced by a skew-passage from the north transept, which is contained within the thickness of the wall and has a triangular head; the lower half has been blocked. The chancel arch is from 1870 and has a chamfered inner order on moulded corbels. The softwood roof is from 1870 and has king-post trusses arch-braced from wall corbels and with wind-braces in the slopes. The passage is quarry-tiled, from 1870.

The nave is lit by 4 windows, 2 in each side wall; all have 2 cusped lights and quatrefoil spandrels in grey oolite from 1870. The south door has a 2-centred chamfered surround from 1870. The roof is continuous with that in the chancel. The passages are quarry-tiled and feature heating flues and an underground chamber for a 'Porritt's' stove, with suspended board floors over a deep void, all from 1870.

The north transept is entered from the nave through a full-centred semi-circular, three-quarter arch that appears to be an 18th-early 19th century rebuild, from 1826?. The transept was largely rebuilt in the early-mid 19th century and is lit by contemporary windows in all 3 external walls. The east window is a double lancet, the west window is a triple lancet while the north, gable wall features a window like those in the nave. The cellar inserted beneath the transept in the mid 19th century is reached by an external flight of steps along the east wall leading to a simple doorway with a square brick head; it was probably occupied by a heating chamber and the flue from the present heating chamber in the nave rises through the north wall to emerge at the apex as a plain cylindrical chimney, from 1870. The softwood roof lacks trusses, all rafters having scissors-braces from 1870. Floored as the nave. The transept is now used as a chapel.

The small south transept has also been largely rebuilt and is entered through a doorway with a chamfered 2-centred surround from 1870. It is lit by a cusped single lancet in its south wall, from 1870. Roofed as the north transept. The floor is fully carpeted but may be like that in the nave. The transept is now used as a vestry.

The south porch is fundamentally medieval but was heavily restored in 1870 with a doorway featuring a 2-centred, double-chamfered surround and drip-mould. The 2-centred barrel-vault is medieval, while the quarry-tiled floor is from 1870.

The 3-storeyed west tower is not typical of the region, lacking an external string-course and having only a slight external batter; and is rather late, dateable by its belfry openings to the mid-late 16th century. It is slightly tapered. A square spiral stair turret projects from the east half of the north wall, entered through a

doorway with a low 2-centred and lit by simple loops. The west door has a Caernarfon-headed surround from 1870 which may or may not occupy an earlier opening; a window, like the chancel east window and similarly from 1870, lies above occupying an earlier embrasure. The 2-centred arch into the nave reflects the profile of the 2-centred barrel vault. Floored as the nave. The second stage is lit by a simple slit lights in the north, south and west walls. The belfry stage has uncusped, 2-light, semicircular-headed openings in the east, west and north walls, and a similar single light in the south wall, from the mid-late 16th century. The tall, crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, and features rainwater chutes in the south and west faces.

A shallow, brick-lined drain surrounds the church. A 'D'-shaped external earthwork lies immediately west of the tower. There is a cellar beneath the north transept. Floors are suspended above a void. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. External memorials lie significantly close to the church.

#### *Structural development*

The chancel contains re-used single lancets from the 14th century and, with the nave and asymmetrical transepts may be 14th century originally, but substantially rebuilt in the 19th century when a cellar was inserted beneath the north transept. The south porch is vaulted and may be a later 14th - 15th century addition. The tower is stylistically dateable to the mid-late 16th century; there is a joint with the nave.

In 1826 the church was 'thoroughly repaired' with an additional 200 sittings (Lewis, 1833) and 'even before 1851 this church had been "fearfully modernised"' (RCAHM, 1925, 134). It was depicted with its present plan in 1839 (NLW, Lamphey, Tithe Map, 1839). Glynne described the south transept, in 1845, as 'a small chapel, made into a pew, opening by a very rude and low obtuse arch (Glynne, 1886, 56-7).

Churchwarden's accounts of the 1850s mention that the church was reglazed, possibly with some refenestration (Pems. R. O., HPR/69/13). However, it is apparent that some rebuilding had occurred by 1860, when the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 first edition shows the north transept in its present form, with steps down the cellar which may have housed a heating chamber.

Most of the present openings, however, belong to a restoration undertaken in 1870 when the church was reroofed, refloored and reseated.

There is a clock in the tower, by Smiths of Derby (Bartosch, 1991). The mosaic and tile reredos may be from 1870, like the softwood stalls, pews and pulpit. The altar fittings in the north transept are 20th century.

The oolite font has a square, scalloped bowl with floral mouldings, a cylindrical stem with a cable-moulding and a square base, possibly all from the 13th century.

The tower contains 4 bells, 3 from 1874 and one from 1902 by L. James of Bristol, rehung in 1957 (Bartosch, 1991).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-  
Pre-conquest episcopal holding?; Celtic dedication..

SS Faith and Tyfei, Lamphey, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It was appendent to the Manor of Lamphey (Green, 1912, 220) which was an episcopal holding of St Davids by the later 11th century at least. When the manor was transferred to the crown in the 16th century, the patronage was retained by the Bishop (ibid.).

The Bishop was patron in 1833, when the living, a discharged vicarage, was rated in the king's books at £5 8s 11½d and endowed with £600 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

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

The church is probably correctly dedicated to St Tyfei, of whose name Faith is doubtless an Anglicisation.

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

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**ST CARADOG,  
LAWRENNY,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3463**

**RB No. 2836**

**NGR SN 0164 0689**

**Listed Building No. 5971**

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

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large, cruciform. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 2 bays; south transept, 1 bay; medieval. West tower, 4 storeys; c.1600. Vestry (east of north transept), 1 bay, 1886. North porch, 1896. Heating chamber (south of chancel west bay), early 20th century. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry and heating chamber with slate lean-to roofs and tower with a slated pyramidal roof. Medieval windows, chancel arch, transept arches, sanctus bellcote, skew-passage with tomb recess and effigy, piscina, sedilia, squint and aumbries, with limestone and ORS dressings. Tower openings, parapet, pinnacles and vault, from c.1600 with limestone dressings. Other openings, including chancel arch, are mainly from 1886, neo-Gothic, with grey oolite dressings.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1886-96.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good - very good. Slight external cutting around 10% of church; shallow drain around 100% of church; below-ground floor in 5% of church; suspended floors above heating ducts in 75% of church; few external memorials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval windows, chancel arch, transept arches, sanctus bellcote, tomb recess and effigy, piscina, sedilia, squint and aumbries; tower openings, parapet, pinnacles and vault, from c.1600.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower, in coastal hilltop location; C18 churchyard entrance arch (Grade II listed); associated mansion curtilage.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, c.1200.

Phase 2 - Chancel, earlier C14.

Phase 3 - North and south transepts, later C14.

Phase 4 - West tower, c.1600.

(Phase 5 - Restored mid C19, medium impact; vestry built.)

Phase 6 - Restored 1886, medium impact; vestry rebuilt.

Phase 7 - North porch, 1896.

Phase 8 - Heating chamber, early 20th century.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

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

The present church is cruciform and consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 2-bayed north transept with a skew-passage, a single-bayed south transept, a north porch, a 4-storeyed west tower, a single-bayed vestry in the angle between the north transept and its skew passage, and a below-ground heating chamber south of the chancel west bay. Construction is in local limestone rubble. Medieval chancel, transept and tower arches, and some windows, with Old Red Sandstone and limestone dressings; other openings are mainly from 1886, in neo-Gothic (Early English) style, with grey oolite dressings. Pointing is mainly from 1886, but the tower was repointed in 1986; the interior is plastered. The tower is barrel-vaulted. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry and heating chamber have slated lean-to roofs (synthetic in the heating chamber) and the tower has a slated pyramidal roof (not seen).

There is a medieval effigy, and good 17th-18th century memorials.

The chancel south wall leans out above the level of a crack. The east window is an uncusped, graduated triple-lancet, with an overall 2-centred drip-mould, from 1886. There are 2 large, cusped single lancets in the south wall, and one in the north wall, in chamfered Old Red Sandstone from the earlier 14th century, re-exposed and restored in 1886. To the west, both side walls have cusped, 2-light windows in 2-centred surrounds with quaterfoliated spandrels, with infill, from 1886. A trefoil light from 1886 lies above the skew passage arch in the north wall of the west bay. Internally, the east bay south wall features a piscina with a plain cusped recess, and a similar double sedilia, which may both also be earlier 14th century; plain square medieval aumbries lie in the east and north walls of the east bay. The plain, semicircular chancel arch is from c.1200; to the south is a plain, square squint, with an irregular outline, inserted in the 14th century, and there is a rood-loft corbel on the nave north wall. The upstand above carries a double, gabled sanctus bellcote with 2-centred openings, late medieval but now empty. The softwood roof is from 1886 and has collar-rafter trusses arch-braced from wall-plates, matchboarded above. The tiled floor is also from 1886.

The nave is entered through the north wall of the central bay, through a doorway with a plain 2-centred head, probably from the 13th century; a similar, blocked south door lies in the opposite wall. To the east of the north door is an internal stoup with a triangular-headed recess, from c.1200?. The west bay is lit by an uncusped, triple-lancet in a 2-centred surround, from 1886, in the north wall, and a cusped, 2-light window in 2-centred surround with a quaterfoliated spandrel, also from 1886, in the south wall. Immediately west of the latter is an area of blocking, former window?. The nave roof is like that in the chancel and similarly from 1886; the creasing for an earlier, higher-pitched roof can be seen on the east wall of the tower. The passages are tiled, from 1886 but over heating flues inserted in the earlier 20th century, with suspended board floors.

The north transept is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred medieval arch, and is lit by a cusped 3-light window with Geometric tracery in the north wall, from 1886 but with a drip-mould that possibly retains some medieval fabric. There is also an uncusped 2-light window, with triangular heads, from 1886, in the west wall, and a single lancet in the east wall the embrasure of which, at least, is medieval, but with a much-restored surround. The transept is both roofed and floored as the nave. It communicates with the chancel via a skew-passage that is now concealed from the exterior by the vestry; it opens as depressed segmental arches that reflect the profile of its vault. Its outer wall features a cusped, 2-centred tomb recess from the 14th century containing a contemporary, damaged, limestone effigy of a knight.

The south transept is entered from the nave through a similar plain, 2-centred medieval arch, and is lit by a cusped 3-light window with Geometric tracery in the south wall, in yellow oolite (from 1886? or later?) but with an earlier limestone drip-mould on human mask stops. There is also a single lancet in the east wall the embrasure of which, like that in the north transept, is medieval, but with a much-restored surround. A door in the west wall, inserted in 1886 with a 4-centred surround, leads into the churchyard. Internally, the east wall features a square tomb recess with a chest tomb of variegated marble, from 1809, with the arms of Barlow and Cresigny (Lewis, 1833). The transept is both roofed and floored as the nave.

The west tower, comprising 4 storeys in squared and coursed limestone rubble, is typical of the region, but of rather better quality, and is late - from c.1600. It is slightly tapered and has the 'typical' external batter and string-course, but does not feature a west door. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a plain, segmental-headed doorway, c.1600, 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 c.1600, which has a central bell-raising port. The west wall is pierced by an uncusped, 3-light window, with segmental heads in a square surround and a straight, plain label, rebuilt in chamfered limestone, with infill, in the 20th century but probably in imitation of an original of c.1600; the outer arch is tall and 2-centred. There is a suspended board floor. The second stage is lit by a simple, square-headed light in the east wall, from c.1600; there is a similar light in the north wall of the third stage, from which the second stage is divided externally by an plain string-course. The belfry stage has 2-light openings with uncusped semicircular heads, in chamfered limestone from c.1600, in all 4 faces. The crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, from c.1600, with low, plain pinnacles at the corners, the north-eastern of which incorporates the head of the spiral stair. The pyramidal tower roof is slated (Nicholas, 1994, 4).

The vestry is from 1886 and adjoins the north transept, through the east wall of which it is entered via a contemporary doorway with a plain 2-centred head. It is also entered from the churchyard through a 2-centred doorway in the north wall, and is lit by an uncusped double-lancet window in the east wall, both also from 1886. The softwood lean-to roof, from 1886, continues the transept roof eastern slope; the floor is also from 1886.

The north porch was added in 1896 in limestone ashlar; it adjoins the west wall of the transept and has a stepped buttress at the north end of its west wall. The contemporary doorway has a 2-centred, double-chamfered surround; to the east of the door is a square light, also from 1896, and the west wall is pierced by a contemporary double-lancet window. The softwood roof, from 1896, lacks trusses. The floor is tiled like the nave passages, but from 1896.

The heating chamber was excavated in the angle between the chancel and the south transept in the earlier 20th century. It is largely below-ground but there are low rubble walls to the south and east, with a plain, square doorway in the east wall. A flue in the dividing wall with the south transept leads into a square, brick chimney-stack. The softwood lean-to roof lies against the transept wall.

A slight external cutting runs around the north porch and the tower north wall; a shallow, concrete-lined drain surrounds the church. The heating chamber is below churchyard ground level. Floors are suspended above heating ducts. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

*Structural development*

The semicircular chancel arch appears to be original and suggests an early date for the nave, c.1200, although the doorways may be somewhat later. The chancel windows are early 14th century in style and may indicate a rebuild/extension of the chancel. The north and south transepts are probably also 14th century, but not contemporary; the north transept has a skew-passage while the south transept merely has a squint. The west tower can be given, on stylistic grounds, the late date of c.1600; it is similar to the slightly earlier tower at Begelly, Pems.. The vestry, north porch and heating chamber are 19th-20th century additions (see below).

A restoration was undertaken in c.1860 when an 18th-early 19th century timber gallery was removed, the (contemporary?) timber window frames were replaced by masonry surrounds, plaster ceilings were introduced and the interior was reseated (Cadw, 1997, 11). In 1867 Glynne thought the church too modernised (Glynne, 1888, 137); he noted that the northern skew-passage was blocked but was able to view the effigy.

A photograph of 1871 (NMR, 900175/7) shows the east end of the church prior to the second, main restoration; some restoration had, however, already been undertaken. A vestry occupies the site of the present vestry with which it is similar in scale and form; it probably dates from the early-mid 19th century. The present north window of the north transept may be shown; a similar, 4-light window occupied the chancel east wall; alternatively, both windows depicted may have been medieval. The medieval chancel windows were still blocked.

The church was restored again in 1886 (HPR/42/24) to the designs of the architect T. G. Jackson, when the vestry was rebuilt and the church was refenestrated, including the re-opening of the medieval chancel windows, sedilia and aumbry. The plaster ceilings were removed and the church was reroofed and the interior was refloored, reseated and replastered. The construction of the present north porch was anticipated, but not executed until 1896, to Jackson's design (NLW, SD/F/225).

The heating chamber, and underfloor heating ducts, are from the early 20th century; the heating apparatus is now oil-fired, with an external oil tank.

The tower was repointed in 1986.

In the south transept are 2 alabaster vases on marble pedestals, from the mid 18th century (Lewis, 1833). The free-standing softwood stalls and reader's desk, the pulpit, the open, free-standing nave benches and the panelled dado are from 1886 (Cadw, 1997, 12). The tower clock is from 1901 (Nicholas, 1994, 5). The neo-Gothic panelled reredos is from 1919 (Cadw, 1997, 12). The oak altar table is dated 1951.

The limestone font has a square bowl and stem, 12th century?, retooled?.

There are 3 bells in the tower (Nicholas, 1994, 5). The double sanctus bellcote is now empty.

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 Caradog, Lawrenny, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. The rectory appears to have been in private patronage from the earliest date and, by 1594 at least, was appendant to the Manor of Lawrenny (Green, 1912, 225). The church was, in 1291, assessed at £8 (ibid.).

The Manor of Lawrenny and the patronage of St Caradog were held by the Wogans of Wiston in 1594 (ibid.), but by the later 17th century both had passed to the Barlows of Lawrenny Castle. In 1833 the living was a discharged rectory, in Barlow patronage and rated in the king's books at £13 (Lewis, 1833). In 1998 St Caradog, Lawrenny, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Martletwy, Minwear, Yerboston and Templeton (Benefice 816) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

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HPR/42 - Lawrenny:-

HPR/42/23 - Plan of east end of church, n.d.

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**ST DAVID,  
LLANDDEWI VELFREY,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3728**

**RB No. 3170**

**NGR SN 1439 1586**

**Listed Building No. 18982**

**Grade II listed (1998)**

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 70% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north chapel, 3 bays, incorporating earlier north transept; south porch, medieval. Former west bell-turret, north porch?, medieval, and west porch, early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls without render/plaster. Gable roofs with 20<sup>th</sup> century synthetic coverings. Medieval chancel arch and chapel arcade, blocked medieval doors. Other openings are mainly from 1861, neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings. Western double bellcote, and nave west wall, 1893.

Roofs; 1861. Floors and finishes: 1861 and 1893..

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, revetted external cutting around 50% of church, primary, secondarily extended for external burial vaults against 50% of church; shallow external drain 50% of church; below-ground evidence for former components beyond 40% of church?; levels unchanged?; no underfloor void?.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 70% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval arcade, chancel arch and blocked doors.

Group value - medium-high. Medieval church; large churchyard with good memorials and burial vaults.



Phasing:

- Phase 1 - Nave, C13?
- Phase 2 - Chancel (and former north transept), C14.
- Phase 3 - South porch (and former north porch?), C14-15.
- Phase 4 - North chapel, c.1500.
- Phase 5 - Restored 1715-37, low impact?
- Phase 6 - Restored 1756-7, high impact; chancel rebuilt.
- Phase 7 - Restored early C19, high impact; west porch built.
- Phase 8 - Restored 1864, high impact; west porch removed.
- Phase 5 - Restored 1893, medium impact; nave west wall rebuilt.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St David, Llanddewi Velfrey, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 70% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 3-bayed north chapel incorporating an earlier north transept, and a south porch. Construction is in limestone rubble. The chancel arch and north chapel arcade are medieval, and there are blocked medieval doors in the nave. Other openings are mainly from 1861, neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings. The double western bellcote is from 1893; there was formerly a ?medieval western bell turret. Pointing is from 1861 and 1893; there is no internal plaster. Roofs are gables throughout, with later 20<sup>th</sup> century synthetic tiles.

The external walls of the chancel have been much rebuilt. The 3-light east window is from 1861 and has cusped, Geometric tracery. The south wall is pierced by 2 cusped, single lancets also from 1861. Externally, this wall exhibits a basal plinth in the west half, medieval?. The fairly large, 2-centred chancel arch is slightly asymmetrical, has chamfered stops and is medieval, 14<sup>th</sup> century?; on the east face the creasing for the former, lower-pitched chancel roof can be seen. The present roof is softwood, from 1861 and has collar-rafter trusses arch-braced from wall corbels, matchboarded above; the eaves are corbelled externally, 1861. The tiled floor is also from 1861, with woodblock flooring from 1893.

The nave is lit by cusped single and double lancets in the south wall, from 1861, and a similar single lancet in the north wall added in 1893. The west wall was entirely rebuilt in 1893 with an elaborate gabled double bellcote, projecting from an external corbel table, with a string-course and 2-centred louvered openings; the wall below is pierced by 2 cusped single lancets, 1893. Internally, the north wall contains the blocked semicircular-headed entrance to an 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century external burial vault, now replaced by a simple square opening; it interrupts the earlier blocking of a ?medieval north door. An adjacent area of blocking, truncated by the 1893 window, may represent the doorway to the stair for a former north porch parvis. The nave is roofed like the chancel, from 1861. The passages are flagged, like the woodblock flooring from 1861.

The north chapel communicates with the chancel through a 2-bayed arcade of depressed, 4-centred arches in cavetto-moulded oolite ashlar, on a cylindrical pier with a cable-moulded impost, featuring 2 moulded grotesque masks in the spandrel; all is from c.1500 but re-using earlier mouldings?. The chapel originally stood higher than the chancel and the south face of this wall was raised in 1861; the junction is visible. The single arch into the nave is like the chancel arch, 14<sup>th</sup> century and originally leading to a north transept; there is a joint to the nave north wall showing the arch to have been a secondary insertion. The chapel is lit by a 2-light window in the east wall, like the chancel east window and also from 1861, and 2 double lancets in the north wall like the nave, also 1861. The west wall contains a area of blocking at its junction with the nave, of unknown purpose, and appears to have formerly extended north of the present

north wall (transept originally longer?), now finished as a buttress. The north wall exhibits the external scar of a former lean-to shed, early 20<sup>th</sup> century?. The softwood roof is from 1861, lacks trusses and all common rafters are scissors-braced and matchboarded above. Floored as the chancel; the west bay is screened off as a vestry, with a suspended woodblock floor.

The south porch doorway has a 2-centred, chamfered surround from 1861. The porch has a softwood roof, without trusses, all common rafters having collars, from 1861. The floor is flagged directly onto the substrate, also from 1861.

A deep, revetted external cutting runs around the northern half of the church, primary, extended when external burial vaults were excavated against the nave and chapel north walls in the 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. There may be below-ground evidence for a west porch, a north porch and a longer north transept beyond the present church; however, the external burial vaults will have removed much of this evidence. A shallow external drain runs around the southern half of the church. There is no evidence for any internal level changes. The floors may not be suspended over any void.

### *Structural development*

The nave may be 13<sup>th</sup> century, but now lacks detail. The chancel south wall butts against the nave east wall and the form of the chancel arch dates its addition to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The north chapel west bay was initially a north transept, with an arch, similar to the chancel arch, which can be seen to be an insertion of the 14<sup>th</sup> century; the transept was originally longer, having been truncated when absorbed into the north chapel. The south porch lacks detail but may be 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century in origin; a north porch may have been present, and may have featured a first floor parvis chamber. The north chapel is from c.1500, but its arcade may re-use earlier detail.

The church has been subject to a number of restorations (Canon G. Morris, Rural Dean, pers. comm.). The first recorded was in 1715-37, but its extent is unknown. A second restoration occurred in 1756-7 when the chancel was apparently rebuilt (recorded on a datestone on the east end). In a third restoration of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century a west door was inserted and a west porch added. A drawing from this period, from the south-west, shows the chancel, nave and south porch; there was a crenellated western bell-turret, medieval? (similar to the turret at East Williamston, from c.1500), and the nave south wall was pieced by a square, domestic 12-pane window (Thomas Lloyd, private collection).

A major restoration occurred in 1861 (Canon G. Morris, Rural Dean, pers. comm.) when the church was largely refaced. All windows and doors were rebuilt, and the church was reroofed, refloored, and reseated. The chancel was heightened. The west porch was removed and the west door was blocked.

In 1893 the church was restored to the designs of the architect George Halliday (NLW, SD/F/304). The crenellated bell-turret was removed and rebuilt in its present form, along with the nave west wall. A window was inserted in the nave north wall. Some of the woodblock flooring, and fittings, were replaced.

The carved softwood stalls are from 1861. The softwood pews and pulpit, and the vestry screen in the chapel, are from 1893 (NLW, SD/F/304).

The font has a plain square bowl, not closely dateable, and a 19<sup>th</sup> century stem and base.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

St David, Llanddewi Velfrey, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. The church was in the patronage of the Lord of the Manor of Velfrey (Narberth). In 1291 it was assessed at £8 (Green, 1912, 232). There were 2 former subordinate chapels within the parish (ibid.).

In 1833 the living comprised both a rectory and a vicarage. The sinecure rectory was in the patronage of the Principal and Tutors of St Davids College, Lampeter and rated in the king's books at £8 (Lewis, 1833), while the discharged vicarage was in crown patronage and rated at £7 9s 4½d (ibid.). The tithes were divided equally between the rector and the vicar.

In 1998 St David, Llanddewi Velfrey, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Lampeter Velfrey (Benefice 630) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of St Clears (St Davids, 1997-8).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

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### **Church in Wales Records**

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

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NLW, SD/F/305, Faculty - Memorial tablet, 1905.

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

(HPR/74 - Llanddewi Velfrey)

**Printed Accounts**

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**ST AIDAN,  
LLAWHADEN,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3582**

**RB No. 3404**

**NGR SN 0752 1746**

**Listed Building No. 6062**

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

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 3 bays; south chapel (now vestry), 2 bays; south transeptal tower, 3 storeys, absorbing earlier south tower, 2 storeys; west porch; medieval. Former north transept? And south porch?. Limestone rubble construction, with remains of 18th - early 19<sup>th</sup> century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roofs not seen. Medieval vaulting in towers and west porch; medieval tower openings, blocked door and blocked window; early 17<sup>th</sup> century arcade and tomb recess. Earlier tower formerly with 'saddleback' roof?. Remainder of windows, chancel arch and doors from 1861-2, neo-gothic.  
(ECM, medieval effigy and 17th century memorial.)

Roofs: medieval vaults and 1861-2 timberwork. Floors: 1861 - 20th century. Finishes: late 18th century - 1930.

Condition - good. Nave west wall damp; vestry/south chapel roof poor.

Archaeological potential - very good. Shallow, earth-cut drain around 80% of church; river adjacent to 10% of church; former components beyond 20% of church?; floor raised in 15% of church; suspended floors above heating flues in 75% of church; no external memorials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% pre-19th century core fabric; unusual 2-phase (double) tower, the earlier formerly with 'saddleback' roof?, with medieval vaults and openings, medieval blocked door and blocked window; early 17<sup>th</sup> century arcade and tomb recess..

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with unusual 2-phase (double) tower, in riverside location; on edge of historic settlement; early site with ECM.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C12.

Phase 2 - Chancel west bay, C13?

Phase 3 - South transept (and skew-passage), ?chancel east bays (and former north transept?), C14.

Phase 4 - South tower (i), c.1400?

Phase 5 - South tower (ii), west porch?, c.1500.

Phase 6 - South chapel (later vestry), early C17.

Phase 7 - Restored 1861-2, low-medium impact; west porch partly rebuilt.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

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

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 2-bayed vestry (formerly a south chapel), a south transept with a skew-passage and later 2-storeyed tower added over, absorbing part of an earlier 3-storeyed tower south of the transept, formerly with a 'saddleback' roof?, and a west porch. There may have been a former north transept and south porch. Construction is in limestone rubble. There are the remains of 18th-early 19th century external render in the chancel and nave; pointing is mainly from 1861-2, and from 1930 in the tower; the interior is plastered. The towers, and the west porch, are barrel-vaulted. The tower openings are medieval, there is a medieval window and a door, both blocked, and an early 17th century arcade; the remainder of the windows and doors, and the chancel arch, are from 1862 and neo-gothic, with yellow oolite dressings. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roofs were not seen. Medieval effigy and 17th century memorial.

The chancel east wall facework is in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble and may have been largely rebuilt, or at least refaced, in 1861-2; the side walls are in smaller, random rubble. The gable is very tall, rebuilt 1861-2. The 3-light east window has Geometric tracery in a 2-centred surround with a drip-mould on human mask stops, all in chamfered yellow oolite from 1861-2. The north wall is pierced by a single cusped lancet in the east bay, in chamfered yellow oolite from 1861-2 but occupying, with infill, a larger, earlier (medieval?) opening with a segmental head; east of the window is an uneven vertical joint. There is a blocked window in the south wall of the east bay, of 2 cusped, segmental-headed lights, with sunk spandrels in a square surround and label, all in yellow oolite from the 16th century; the window was blocked after 1740 and lies beneath the 18th - early 19th century external render. The 2-centred chancel arch has a double roll-moulding and a hood-mould on angel-moulded stops, in yellow oolite from 1861-2. The softwood roof is from 1861-2 and has queen-post trusses arch-braced from contemporary wall-corbels. The sanctuary and passage are quarry-tiled, also from 1861-2, with suspended board floors.

The nave also has a very tall gable. It is lit by a 3 windows in the north wall, and 2 in the south wall, each of 2 cusped lights with quaterfoliated spandrels, in chamfered yellow oolite surrounds inserted, with infill, in 1861-2. At the west end of the east bay north wall is a vertical joint, with a possible shale springer, possibly representing the arch into a former north transept which had gone by the early 19th century (see below). A blocked south door lies between the 2 southern windows, and has a semicircular head with a weathered plain limestone surround (formerly chamfered?) of convincingly 12th century form; it was blocked in 1861-2. The west ends of both side walls each feature a low, crude plain buttress, overlying the 18th - early 19th century external render and possibly from the 20th century. The west, gable wall is pierced by a doorway with a 2-centred surround in roll-moulded yellow oolite and a hood-mould on human mask stops, from 1861-2 and contemporary with the triangular window above which has 3 trifoliated circular lights, a similar drip-mould and a basal fillet with foliated stops, all in yellow oolite.

The nave is roofed like the chancel, similarly from 1861-2. The passages are fully carpeted but may be flagged, from 1861-2 or earlier?, above inserted heating ducts, with suspended board floors.

The vestry was formerly a south chapel and communicates with the chancel through an arcade of 2 lowish, 4-centred, double-chamfered arches, the eastern stop has a plain impost below which is a small, square recess, the western arch springs from the west wall, while both arches share a cylindrical pier with a plain abacus and cable-moulding (no base is evident). The arcade was described by Fenton, c.1811, as 'very singular' (Fenton, 1903 edn., 174) and indeed it is unusual, probably late in a 'debased' gothic style suggestive of the early 17th century; the outer arch chamfers meet over the pier as an oolite, animal head corbel which may either be contemporary or re-used. The east wall gable is from 1861-2, as is the present 2-light window in the same wall which is like those in the nave but with a 2-centred drip-mould; the low, 2-centred rear arch may be earlier (also early 17th century?) but any window here had been blocked before 1740 (NLW, Topographical Prints, Pemb. PD 7045, Top. B12/4, B75). In the south wall is a tomb recess with a plain, very depressed 2-centred head from the early 17th century. It contains the weathered, Nolton stone effigy of an ecclesiastic which may be somewhat earlier and which was relocated when the chapel was built in the early 17th century; according to Fenton (Fenton, op. cit., 174), the effigy was traditionally said to be that of the founder (St Hugo - see Site History below). The softwood roof is from 1861-2 and lacks trusses, the common rafters being scissors-braced. The floor is fully carpeted but may be tiled; it was raised in 1861-2.

The south transept/tower ground floor was entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch; it was subsequently blocked, possibly before 1662, the date of a memorial tablet fixed against the blocking, and has inserted breeze-blockwork in the northern jamb, from the late 20th century. The transept was rebuilt when the tower was built over it in c.1500 (see Structural Development below), retaining the skew passage that now leads into the vestry/south chapel, but which formerly led into the chancel and is probably 14th century in its original form. It opens into both the transept and the chapel through a depressed 2-centred arch reflecting the profile of its vault through the thickness of the former's east wall, but at the transept end was given a 2-centred surround in 1861-2.

The earlier tower lies at the south end of the south transept and contained 2 storeys. It may be relatively early, from c.1400?; it is not typical of the region and lacks the external string-course and basal batter typical of the region, being instead tapered throughout. A square spiral stair turret, lit by simple loops, projects from the north end of the west wall, but it is now entered from the later tower. The construction of the latter included the removal of the earlier tower north wall and its replacement with a thin dividing wall, through which the ground floor of the earlier tower is entered via a plain, lowish 2-centred arch, from c.1500; it is also entered from the churchyard through a 20th century doorway, at the south end of the east wall, with a concrete lintel. There is a low, segmental-headed recess in the west wall, medieval, function?, over which the internal wall face is projected. The ground floor is now open to the second stage, but the offset that supported a former timber floor can be seen on the internal faces of the original walls. The concrete floor is 20th century. The second stage is lit by a simple square light in the east and west walls, from c.1400, and by a plain lancet in the side wall below which is a corbel in the form of a gargoyle, both also from c.1400 and providing the only firm dating evidence. Below the lancet and corbel, the south wall interior exhibits an area of blocking which appears to represent a former doorway with a segmental head and a sill at second stage floor level, function?. There is a second, open doorway in the west wall, leading onto the spiral stair. The second stage is vaulted, with a low, 2-centred, east-west barrel vault, from c.1400. The crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, all (re)built in 1861-2; the tower may formerly have been a gabled 'saddleback' (see Structural Development below).

The later, larger tower was added over the south transept, which was rebuilt, in c.1500, and partly absorbed the earlier tower which now forms a 'turret' projecting from the lower two thirds of its south wall. The tower comprises 3 storeys and is typical of the region, having an external string-course and very broad basal batter, and being tapered throughout. Facework is in very large limestone rubble, roughly squared and coursed. The spiral stair turret from the earlier tower was re-used, and occupies a shallow cut-out in the south-west corner, over which it is jettied in the belfry stage; the turret projects into the

south-west corner but has been roughly stepped back higher up, to occupy a squinch at the top of the ground floor level; the stair is entered through a doorway with a segmental-headed, chamfered surround from c.1500. The ground floor is unlit and now only entered from the vestry/south chapel via the skew-passage, and from the earlier tower. However, the north wall exhibits, above the level of the blocked arch into the nave, a blocked doorway with a sill level that corresponds to that of a line of internal sockets; the latter may have carried the floor of an (inserted) timber gallery, reached via the blocked door - date?. There are sockets (putlog holes?) in the external batter. The ground floor is vaulted; the barrel-vault has a rounded 2-centred profile with pronounced spring-lines, and is from c.1500. The concrete floor is 20th century. The second stage is blind. The belfry stage has a plain, 2-light opening in each face, the openings having segmental heads and plain surrounds in limestone, from c.1500. The crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, also from c.1500 but much restored in both 1861-2 and 1930.

The west porch was largely rebuilt, or at least rebuilt, in 1861-2 but retains an earlier vault, probably from the later medieval period. The facework is in coursed and squared limestone rubble from 1861-2, and the side walls have internal masonry benching with contemporary limestone flag seating. The main doorway was rebuilt at the same time, with a 2-centred surround in double-cavetto moulded oolite with ogee-moulded imposts, and a drip-mould on human mask stops. The barrel vault has a 2-centred profile. The limestone-flagged floor is from the late 19th - early 20th century and laid directly on the substrate.

A shallow, earth-cut drain surrounds the church except the east end, which lies very close to the west bank of the Eastern Cleddau river. There is structural evidence for a former north transept and a south porch may also have been present. The vestry/south chapel floor was raised in 1861-2. Floors are suspended above heating flues. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

#### *Structural development*

The style of the blocked south door surround dates the nave to the 12th century; it may have also previously featured Romanesque windows (see below). There is a joint between the nave and the chancel, which is secondary, but its north wall exhibits a further vertical joint towards its west end which may be derived from the later extension of a shorter chancel, from the 13th century?. In its extended form the chancel may be 14th century; it cannot be closely dated but is pierced by a 16th century window. The south transept and skew-passage (and the possible former north transept) are also probably 14th century. The earlier south tower is probably from c.1400, superseded by the tower over the south transept c.1500. The vestry/south chapel can be assigned, by its arcade, a possible early 17th century date (see above) and a possible Laudian context; it certainly post-dates the second tower whose batter forms its west wall. The west porch has been heavily restored, but appears to be medieval in origin (see below). The arch from the nave into the south transept/tower was blocked at an unknown date, but possibly before 1662 (see above).

A map of 1815 (NLW, 'Maps of the Lands of the Lord Bishop of St Davids', 14229/6) depicts the church plan as today but, curiously, the vestry/south chapel is not shown. The west porch is shown, as it is on the tithe map of 1839 (NLW, Llawhaden, 1839). A building adjoining the west end of the nave south wall is also shown on the 1815 map, but is not depicted in any of the other sources - function?. Any former north transept had already gone.

18th-early 19th century drawings, taken mainly from the south-east, show the chancel, nave, vestry/south chapel, the tower(s) and the west porch. In one, from 1740 (NLW, Topographical Prints, Pemb. PD 7045, Top. B12/4, B75), the open south door is shown, and a triple lancet east window; the nave south windows are shown as small, semicircular-headed (Romanesque?) single lights and the chancel south window was still open. In the other drawings (NLW, Original Drawings, Pemb. PD 9343; NLW, Topographical Prints, Pemb. PD 7351, Top. B12/4, B77) the side windows are square and a large (single-light?) west window is shown. The gables were as tall as at present, but the vestry/south chapel had a lean-to roof. The later tower is shown with a crenellated parapet as today, but the earlier tower summit is ruined, and possibly



gabled, ie. formerly saddlebacked. A mid-19th century painting by Arthur Fripp shows gable roofs over both towers (Anon., 1995, 5), but there is no further pictorial, or structural, evidence for this.

The church was 'restored' in 1834 (Cadw, 1997, 16) when the walls were repaired, the church was reroofed and a gallery was installed. The workmanship was apparently of inferior quality (ibid.).

The church was again restored in 1861-2 (RCAHM, 1925, 142) when the vestry/south chapel was given a gable roof and the south door was blocked along with most of the windows. The west porch and west door were largely (re)built. The chancel arch was rebuilt and the church was refenestrated, reroofed, refloored and reseated. The earlier tower parapet was (re)built with the corbel table. The gallery was removed. The restoration is recorded on a plaque in the south chapel but the architect responsible is unknown. The underfloor heating, supplied from a plant in the tower, may be somewhat later; the buttresses added at the west end of the nave side walls may be later still.

The tower was renovated in 1930, to the specifications of the architect W. D. Caröe (NLW, SD/F/462). Further renovation occurred in 1993 when the vestry and chancel were partly reslated (Anon., n.d., 6), and in 1995 when the present east window glazing, originally from the 19th century church at Slebech, was inserted (ibid.).

The free-standing softwood stalls, the similar pews and possibly the pulpit are from 1861-2. The neo-Gothic softwood screen between the vestry/south chapel and the tower is probably from c.1900. The sanctuary fittings, and the softwood vestry/south chapel screen, are all 20th century.

The limestone font has a square scalloped bowl, a cylindrical, cable-moulded stem and a square base, all ?12<sup>th</sup> century but retooled.

There are 3 bells in the tower, 2 cast in 1634 by Purdue of Bristol, mounted on a headstock dated 1773 (Anon., 1995, 3). The third bell was recast in 1872 by Warner of London (ibid.).

An ECM (Dyfed PRN 3583) is built into the east wall, with an incised Latin cross. It may have been a coffin lid from the 10th - 11th century (Anon., 1995, 5).

The church was Grade II\* listed in 1998.

## **SITE HISTORY**

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

St Aidan, Llawhaden, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Rhos. It appears to have been a possession of the Bishops of St Davids, lying within the administrative centre of the episcopal Manor of Llawhaden, since the pre-conquest period when Llawhaden was one of the 7 'Bishop Houses' of Dyfed. In 1287 the rectorial tithes of the parish were granted as a prebend to the Chancellor of St Davids, by Bishop Anthony Bek (Green, 1912, 270). The prebend was assessed at £17 6s 8d in 1291 (Green, op. cit., 271). Bletherston Church appears to have been annexed to Llawhaden vicarage from an early date (ibid.); a free chapel dedicated to St Mary, and a chapel of St Cadoc also lay within the parish.

In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage, with the perpetual curacy of Bletherston annexed, rated in the king's books at £8 16s 6½d and in the patronage of the Bishop (Lewis, 1833); the parish remained a prebend of the Cathedral.

In 1998 St Aidan, Llawhaden, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Bletherston and Llanycefn (Benefice 671) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Daugleddau (St Davids, 1997-8).

Fenton, in c.1811, stated that the dedication was to St Hugo (Fenton, 1903 edn., 174), but this may represent an anglicisation of St Aidan's name (Green, 1912, 271).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Map Evidence**

NLW, 'Maps of the Lands of the Lord Bishop of St Davids', 14229/6, 1815.

NLW, Parish of Llawhaden, Tithe Map, 1839.

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

### **Pictorial sources**

NLW, Original Drawings, Pemb. PD 9343, n.d. (church from south-west, early 19th century).

NLW, Topographical Prints, Pemb. PD 7045, Top. B12/4, B75, 1740 (church from south-east by S & N Buck).

NLW, Topographical Prints, Pemb. PD 7351, Top. B12/4, B77, n.d. (church from south-east, late 18th century).

### **Church in Wales Records**

Jones, Andrews & Associates, 1991, Quinquennial Report, Llawhaden.

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(HPR/106 - Llawhaden)

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**ST LEONARD,  
LOVESTON,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3481**

**RB No. 3387**

**NGR SN 0841 0847**

**Listed Building No. 6076**

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

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, small-medium sized, cruciform. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays, with 'choir recess'; nave, 2 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south transept, 1 bay; south porch; west tower, 3 storeys; all medieval and single phase, 14<sup>th</sup> century. Limestone rubble construction, internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Vaulting in transepts and tower; chancel arch, piscina, stoups, doorways, blocked windows and tower openings, 14<sup>th</sup> century; squints and east window, earlier 16<sup>th</sup> century. Two early 19<sup>th</sup> century windows.  
(Jacobean monument.)

Roofs: medieval vaults and 1914 timberwork. Floors: 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Finishes: mainly 1914.

Condition - good. Tower damp.

Archaeological potential - excellent. Shallow external cutting around 40% of church, primary?; very shallow, earth-cut drain around 90% of church; floor levels unchanged; no underfloor void.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch, windows, doors, choir recess, squints, stoups, piscina, blocked windows and door, tower openings and vaults.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, transepts, south porch and west tower, all C14.

Phase 2 - Restored 1914, low impact.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Leonard, Loveston, is a multicelled church, of small-medium size. It retains approximately 90% medieval core fabric.

The present church is cruciform and consists of a 2-bayed chancel with a 'choir recess', a 2-bayed nave, single-bayed north and south transepts, a south porch and a 3-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone rubble. Pointing is mainly from 1914, with some external render from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the interior is plastered. The transepts and tower ground floor are barrel-vaulted. The chancel arch and squints are medieval; there are medieval windows and doors, both open and blocked, many with distinctive 2-piece heads; there is little later work. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen. The floors are 18th - early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

There is a Jacobean monument, now obliterated.

The cusped, 3-light chancel east window has a square surround and drip-mould, of late Perpendicular style and 16<sup>th</sup> century. The south wall is rendered externally, 20<sup>th</sup> century, and has a basal plinth; there is the embrasure for a blocked window, medieval, and below it a piscina represented by a 2-centred recess, also medieval. To the west the south wall is thrown out as a shallow 'choir recess' as seen at eg. Herbrandston and Johnston, both Pres.; it lies beneath a segmental arch and has a blocked, single light window, both medieval. The north wall retains a possible early roof-truss corbel. The 2-centred chancel arch has chamfered stops and chamfered imposts and bases, all 14<sup>th</sup> century; either side is a squint, each with 2, square-headed chamfered lights in a square surround, from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the northern of which has lost its mullion (cf. the similar squints at Johnston, Pres.). A large, but obliterated Jacobean monument lies south of the altar, with Corinthian pilasters and a moulded entablature with a heraldic crown. The softwood roof has simple collar-rafter trusses with coach-bolt fastenings, from 1914 but possibly re-using earlier timbers. The flagged floor is weathered, 18th - early 19<sup>th</sup> century; the sanctuary has a 20<sup>th</sup> century 'marble' floor.

The 2-bayed nave is very short and was originally unlit; the north wall window has been converted from a blocked north door with a 2-piece, 2-centred head from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, now containing a single-light window from 1914. The south door is similar, also 14<sup>th</sup> century; to the east is a stoup represented by a square-headed recess, medieval. The ?collar-rafter nave roof is concealed by a plaster ceiling of 3 cants, 1914?. Floored as the chancel, 18th - early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The transept arches reflect the profiles of their medieval 2-centred barrel vaults. They are by simple, square window in their end walls, with brick surrounds from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Floored as the chancel, 18th - early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The north transept is now used as a vestry.

The south porch has a similar doorway to those in the nave, also 14<sup>th</sup> century but with a concrete rear-arch from 1914; the internal benching is also concrete and from 1914, replacing earlier benching?. In the east wall is a simple stoup like that in the nave. The roof is simple like that in the chancel, also 1914 but probably re-using earlier timbers. Floored as the chancel, 18th - early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The west tower is demonstrably of one build with the nave and its form suggests that it is early, probably from the 14<sup>th</sup> century; it lacks the external string-course typical of the region, and has no external batter, being tapered throughout (cf. Ludchurch, S. Pems.). A square spiral stair turret projects from the north-west corner, entered through a 2-centred doorway, 14<sup>th</sup> century, and is lit by simple loops. The west door is like those in the nave and porch and similarly 14<sup>th</sup> century; above it is a similar single lancet, also 14<sup>th</sup> century but rebuilt in cement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 2-centred arch into the nave reflects the profile of the 2-centred barrel vault. Floored as the chancel, 18th - early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The second stage is lit by simple slit-lights, all 14<sup>th</sup> century. The belfry stage has single-light openings with 2-piece heads in the

north, south and west walls, and a similar, 2-light opening in the east wall, all 14<sup>th</sup> century; the crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, also 14<sup>th</sup> century but partly rebuilt, especially over the turret.

There is a slight external earth cutting along the north wall, primary?. A very shallow, earth-cut drain surrounds the church except the tower. There is no evidence for floor level changes. The floors are laid directly on the substrate throughout. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

### *Structural development*

St Leonard, Loveston appears, uniquely, to be a single-phase structure belonging entirely to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The characteristic 2-piece headed openings occur throughout the nave, porch and tower, no external joints are visible and there is no evidence to suggest that the chancel or transepts are any later. The general form of the tower tends to confirm its early date. The east window and squints are from the earlier 16<sup>th</sup> century.

There has been little alteration. The transept windows belong to the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly contemporary with the flagged floors.

A restoration of 1914, to the designs of the architect F. R. Kempson (Pembs R. O., HPR/74/9), was very low impact and confined to reglazing the windows, reroofing, replastering and reseating the church. The seats were pitch-pine box-pews, removed in 1971-5. The external render in the chancel is probably rather later.

The vestry screen across the north transept is from 1914 (Pembs R. O., HPR/74/9). The pulpit is dated 1964. The oak stalls and pews are from 1971-5 (Pembs R. O., HPR/74/12-13).

The limestone font has a square scalloped bowl, a circular stem and a square base, all 12<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.

St Leonard, Loveston, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. The patronage always appears to have lain with the Lords of Manor of Loveston and remained in private hands (Green, 1912, 277).

In 1833 the living was a discharged rectory in the patronage of the Earl of Cawdor, rated in the king's books at £4 5s 5d and endowed with £600 royal bounty (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Leonard, Loveston, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Jeffreyston, Reynalton and East Williamston (Benefice 668) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

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**ST ELIDYR,  
LUDCHURCH,  
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

**Dyfed PRN 3784**

**RB No. 2779**

**NGR SN 1411 1091**

**Listed Building No. 6050**

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

**SUMMARY**

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south aisle, 5 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. North porch, mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Limestone rubble construction, with remains of 19<sup>th</sup> century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in tower; medieval chancel arch, arcade, windows, stoups, blocked windows and door; late 16<sup>th</sup> - early 17<sup>th</sup> century windows and door. Tower formerly with 'saddleback' roof. Remainder of windows, and porch door, from 1893 and neo-gothic.

Roofs: medieval vault and 1893 timberwork. Floors: 1893. Finishes: early 19<sup>th</sup> century and 1893.

Condition - good. Tower damp.

Archaeological potential - very good. Regular, rectangular earthwork platform beneath 100% of church, including evidence for former, longer chancel?; shallow, earth-cut drain around 80% of church; floor levels unchanged; suspended floors above heating flues in 80% of church; underground heating chamber in 5% of church; external memorials significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval arcades, windows, stoups, blocked windows and door, tower openings and vaults; 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> century windows and door. Tower formerly with 'saddleback' roof.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower, in hilltop location; large churchyard with good memorials including one with Wedgewood tiles.

Phasing:

- Phase 1 - Nave, C13?
- Phase 2 - Chancel, C14 (earlier?).
- Phase 3 - West tower, C14 (later?).
- Phase 4 - South aisle (and tower belfry stage), C15.
- Phase 5 - North porch (and restoration?), mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Phase 6 - Restored 1893, low impact.

## DESCRIPTION

### *The present church*

St Elidyr, Ludchurch, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 90% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 5-bayed south aisle, a north porch and a 3-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone rubble. There are the remains of early 19<sup>th</sup> century external render in the chancel, and the nave north wall; pointing is mainly from 1893, with some poor 20<sup>th</sup> century repointing, and the interior is plastered. The tower ground floor is barrel-vaulted. The chancel arch and south aisle arcade are medieval; there are medieval windows and doors, both open and blocked; the 1893 windows are neo-gothic. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen.

The 3-light chancel east window has Perpendicular tracery in a 2-centred surround, from c.1500 but restored in 1893; the gable above was rebuilt in 1893. There is a cusped, single lancet in the east bay north wall, from 1893 but in an earlier opening unblocked in 1893 (NLW, SD/F/468); to the west a blocked window is visible, depicted as a small, 2-light window in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (Anon., n.d.). The 2-centred chancel arch has chamfered stops and semi-octagonal imposts, all 14<sup>th</sup> century. The softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling is from 1893; the passages are tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1893.

The nave east bay is lit by a cusped 2-light window in the north wall, with a square, neo-Perpendicular surround, all an 1893 replacement of a 3-light window of uncertain date (Anon., n.d.). The west bay north wall has a single lancet, as in the chancel and also 1893. The segmental-headed north door may have been altered or rebuilt in the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century; to the east is an internal stoup with a bowl moulded as a human face between two flower-heads, in a segmental recess, 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> century. The softwood nave roof has braced, queen-post trusses with a crown-plate, all 1893. Floored as the chancel, with an underground heating chamber for a 'Porritt's' stove, all 1893.

The south aisle occupies the entire length of both chancel and nave, communicating with them through a 5-bayed arcade of depressed 2-centred arches on cylindrical shafts, with plain-moulded octagonal capitals and bases; the capitals exhibit moulded shields; all 15<sup>th</sup> century. The east wall is pierced by an uncusped, 2-light window in a square surround, 16<sup>th</sup> - early 17<sup>th</sup> century. There are three 2-light windows in the south wall, all as in the nave east bay and similarly from 1893 but occupying earlier (late medieval or post-medieval) openings (NLW, SD/F/468). The west wall is pierced by a double lancet, also from 1893 in an earlier opening; below can be seen slate creasing of unknown purpose. A blocked single light window can be seen in the south wall of each of the eastern 2 bays, while in the west bay south wall is an uncusped single lancet from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, reopened in 1893. The central bay exhibits a blocked medieval doorway with a 2-centred head, to the west of which lies a deep-bowled, late medieval stoup in a 2-centred recess. Roofed as the nave, but with tie-beams, 1893. Floored as the nave.

The west tower has been altered but in its original state may be early, probably from the 14<sup>th</sup> century; it lacks the external string-course typical of the region, and has no external batter, being tapered throughout (cf. Loveston, S. Pembs.). A square spiral stair turret projects from the east half of the north wall. The 2-

centred arch into the nave was blocked before the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the west door has a segmental-headed, chamfered surround from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> century, and a similar, blocked single light lies above. The ground floor has a 2-centred barrel vault, 14<sup>th</sup> century; the floor is concrete. The second stage is lit by lancets and square-headed single lights, all 14<sup>th</sup> century. The tower formerly possessed a saddleback roof and belfry, the outline of which can still be seen, and above this level the walls become perpendicular, including in the stair turret. The present belfry stage is a rebuild of the late 15<sup>th</sup> century and has contemporary, single-light square-headed openings in the east, south and west walls, and a similar, 2-light opening in the north wall, the crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, also 15<sup>th</sup> century. The brick flue from the Porritt's stove rises through the tower interior, 1893. The ground floor is now used as a store.

The north porch appears to be mid-19th century. There is a contemporary plain, square doorway in its east wall, while the similar north wall door was rebuilt from an elaborate, moulded doorway in 1893. The softwood roof was rebuilt in 1893, without trusses; the quarry-tiled floor is also from 1893.

The church stands upon a pronounced, regular, rectangular earthwork platform which extends eastwards to form a remarkably square east end, beyond the present east wall, with a low bank possibly representing a buried wall - chancel originally longer? A shallow, earth-cut drain surrounds the church except the tower. There is no evidence for floor level changes. Floors are suspended above heating flues, and there is an underground heating chamber in the nave. External memorials lie significantly close to the south wall.

#### *Structural development*

The nave may be 13<sup>th</sup> century, but cannot be closely dated. The chancel arch is 14<sup>th</sup> century, as may be the chancel itself. The west tower was originally a saddleback tower of early form, probably 14<sup>th</sup> century. The arcade dates the south aisle to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when the tower belfry stage was rebuilt in its present form. There was a refenestration in the later 16<sup>th</sup> - early 17<sup>th</sup> century (surviving in the south aisle and tower).

The north porch appears to have been an addition of the mid-19th century. It is not shown on the tithe map (NLW, Ludchurch, 1839) but was present by 1873 (Anon., n.d.) when the south door and some medieval windows had been blocked; this work all probably dates from c.1860 when the church was repaired, partially reseated (Cadw, 1997, 15), and at least the partially refenestrated. The blocking of the tower arch may be earlier.

A restoration was anticipated in 1873 (ibid.), under the architect John P. Seddon, but the work appears not to have been undertaken.

The church was restored again in 1891-3, to the designs of the architect F. R. Kempson (NLW, SD/F/468). It was partially refenestrated, one of the porch doors was rebuilt, and the interior was reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated. A 'Porritt's' stove was installed.

The oak stalls, and freestanding softwood pews are from 1893. The pulpit may be earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century. The carved oak chancel screen is from 1928 (NLW, SD/F/469).

The limestone font has a square bowl, stem and base, all 12<sup>th</sup> century? (later according to RCAHM, 1925, 204); the stem has been retooled in classical style.

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 Elidyr, Ludchurch, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke, referred to as 'Ecclesia de Loudes' in 1324 (Cadw, 1997, 15). The Earls of Pembroke were the patrons until the 15<sup>th</sup> century when it became a possession of the crown (Green, 1912, 279).

In 1833 the living was a discharged rectory in crown patronage, rated in the king's books at £3 14s 4½d (Lewis, 1833).

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

The 'Elidyr' of the dedication may be equated with St Teilo.

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

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