

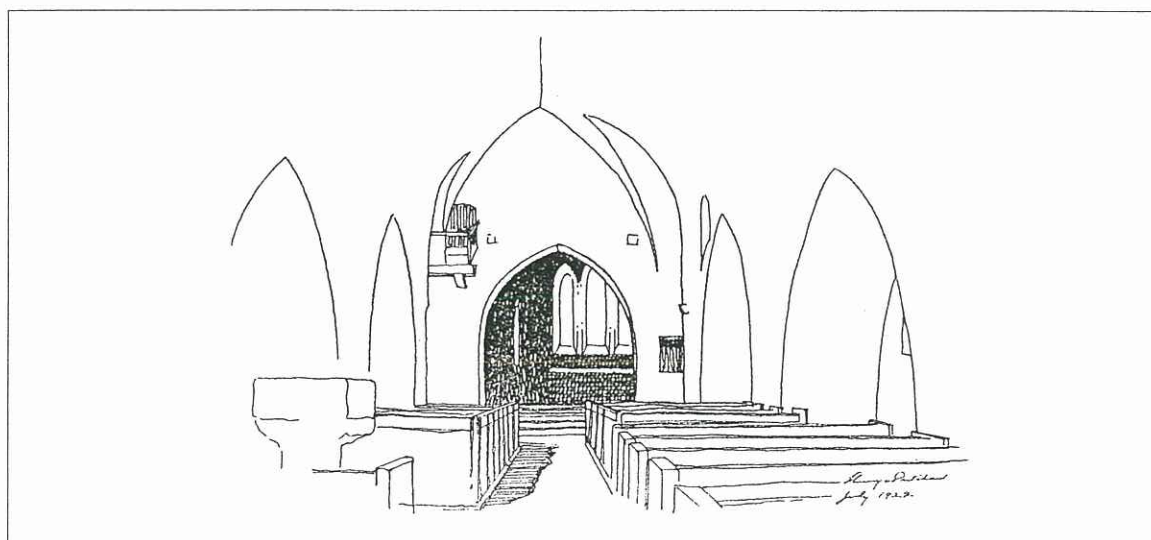
THE WELSH HISTORIC
CHURCHES PROJECT



SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE CHURCHES, 1995-6
(DAT 48)

PART 3: MANORBIER - PENALLY

22/03/99



Manorbier, South Pembrokeshire

Reports prepared for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments
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March 1999

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A R C H A E O L E G
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THE WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE CHURCHES, 1995-6 (DAT 48)

PART 3: MANORBIER - PENALLY

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**ST JAMES,
MANORBIER,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 4219

RB No. 2849

NGR SS 0650 9764

Listed Building No. 5975

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, large, cruciform. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 4 bays; tower (north of chancel), 4 storeys; north transept, 2 bays; south transept, with skew-passage/squint, 1 bay, south aisle, 3 bays; south porch (formerly with parvis?); medieval. North aisle, 3 bays, early 17th century. Vestry (north of chancel) 1 bay, 1865-8. Limestone rubble construction, some ORS, with remains of early 19th century external render; internal walls with early render/plaster. Nave, transepts and skew passage, aisles, tower, porch, barrel-vaulted, north transept north bay rib-vaulted. Slate gable roofs; vestry with slate lean-to roof; tower with slate pyramidal roof. Medieval arcades (open), chancel arch?, some windows, doors (open and blocked), rood loft stair, doors and corbelling, squint, piscina, tomb recess (with effigy), south porch vault and benching, medieval tower with vault, openings and parapet; limestone and ORS dressings. Early 17th century arcades, windows, sanctus bellcote and blocked door, with limestone and ORS dressings. Some windows from 1865-8, neo-Gothic, with limestone dressings. (Early 17th century oak rood-loft/gallery; medieval and 18th century wall-paintings).

Roofs: medieval vaults and 1865-8 timberwork. Floors: 1865-8?. Finishes: medieval plaster, early 19th century render and 1865-8 pointing.

Condition - good. Porch (with painting) damp.

Archaeological potential - excellent. External cutting around 40% of church, secondary, footings exposed in 5% of church; shallow drain around 100% of church; 1m of churchyard build-up around 40% of church; levels unchanged; no underfloor void; known burials beneath 20% of church?; external memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 100% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval arcades, chancel arch?, windows, doors, rood loft stair, doors and corbelling, squint, piscina, tomb recess and effigy, south porch vault and benching, tower with vault, openings and parapet; early 17th century arcades, windows, sanctus bellcote and door.

Group value - high. Important medieval landmark church with tower, in coastal hilltop location; in historic village with castle etc.; churchyard with associated masonry buildings (Grade II* listed), one vaulted, late medieval, function?; medieval ?consecration cross; adjacent masonry buildings (Grade II listed), late medieval, function?.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, early C13 (vault added early C14).

Phase 2 - Chancel, transepts, early C14.

Phase 3 - Tower lower storeys, mid-late C14.

Phase 4 - South aisle, late C15.

Phase 5 - South porch, c.1500.

Phase 6 - North transept north bay, late C16.

Phase 7 - Tower belfry stage, C16.

Phase 8 - North aisle, early C17.

(Phase 9 - Restored early-mid C19, low-medium impact; vestry built.)

Phase 10 - Restored 1865-8, low-medium impact; vestry rebuilt.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St James, Manorbier, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 100% pre 19th century core fabric.

The present church is cruciform and consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 4-storeyed tower north of the chancel west bay, a 2-bayed north transept, a single-bayed south transept and skew-passage, a 3-bayed north aisle, a 3-bayed south aisle, a south porch (formerly with a first floor parvis?) and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel central bay. Construction is in local limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone. The chancel arch and arcades are medieval, and some openings; there are also early 17th century openings. Other openings are from 1865-8, neo-Gothic, with limestone dressings. There are the remains of early 19th century external render in the north aisle, and, to a lesser extent, the south aisle; pointing is mainly from 1865-8 but there has been some later 20th century repointing. The interior is plastered, which is early in the porch which has medieval wall-paintings, and in the north aisle which has a painting from 1701. The nave, transepts and skew passage, aisles, tower and porch are barrel-vaulted, and there is a rib-vault in the north transept north bay. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen.

There is a 17th century oak gallery.

An external cutting runs around the east and south walls, secondary, exposing footings at the east end. The church is surrounded by a shallow, external drain. There has been deep, post-medieval churchyard build-up concealing the base of the north and west walls to a depth of approx. 1m. There is no evidence for internal floor level changes. Floors are not suspended, and there is no void. Known burials lie beneath the tower ground floor, and probably the north transept. Many external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The chancel

The chancel weeps markedly. Its walls have an external basal batter which incorporates the exposed footings. The east window has plain-cusped triple lancets from 1865-8, beneath a contemporary wide outer arch with a drip-mould on moulded stops. There is a plain, single lancet in the east bay north wall with a chamfered limestone surround, probably 14th century; in the opposite, south wall is a plain-cusped,

2-light window with plate tracery featuring a quatrefoil, from 1865-8. The central bay side walls both feature a doorway, ie. 'priest's doors', each of which has a simple, square lintelled head, medieval. The west bay north wall is pierced by a plain, 2-centred arch into the tower, and is 0.4m higher than the rest of the north wall, featuring a corbel-table to support the body of the tower. The south wall is similarly an arcade, with a plain, segmental head, for the skew passage into the south transept; the low external wall of the passage projects only slightly from the angle between chancel and transept and is coped back to their external walls. The lower half of the passage entry was blocked in the later medieval period to form a squint, which is now interrupted by a single-light, cusped window with a trefoil above, all from 1865-8.

The plain, 2-centred chancel arch is said to have been rebuilt in 1865-8; it was, apparently, previously 'very narrow' (Davies, n.d.), but the present arch appears convincingly medieval. Above it are 2 medieval corbels for the former rood loft and the northern half is pierced by a plain, segmental-headed doorway, medieval, representing the entry into the tower second stage (see below), and now associated with a 17th century gallery which extends into the north transept (see the Structural Development below).

Internally, the east bay north wall features a tomb recess with a 2-centred head, with a moulded chest and recumbent male effigy, in armour, all from the early 14th century and occupying a shallow projection from the external face. In the opposite, south wall is a piscina with a cusped, 2-centred recess and plain projecting bowl, probably 14th century; it has been supplanted by a similar piscina and adjoining, arcaded double sedilia, with cusped arches on cylindrical shafts, from 1865-8.

The chancel roof may be of oak and comprises queen-post trusses, arch-braced from wall-corbels, with softwood matchboarding, all 1865-8; the east bay has a contemporary 'wagon-roof' ceiling, with matchboarding. The patterned-tile floor is similarly from 1865-8.

The nave

The nave side walls are both pierced by inserted arcades (see below); the arches towards the west are wider. In the east central bay, the south wall is pierced by a single light, with a semicircular-headed embrasure from the 12th century, or more probably the early 13th century, above the level of the inserted arch which interrupts its sill. The west wall features a blocked doorway with a very low doorway with a 2-centred head comprising 2 chamfered limestone voussoirs. Above the door is a graduated triple-lancet window, each lancet with a drip-mould, all from 1865-8 but inserted into an earlier, segmental-headed embrasure. A flue from an internal heating apparatus rises through the west wall to emerge from the southern slope as a plain, square chimney in limestone ashlar, from the earlier 20th century. The nave has a plain barrel-vault, with a 2-centred profile, from the early 14th century (secondary, see below). The floor is quarry-tiled, probably without a void, 19th century, 1865-8?

The tower

The 4-storey tower occupies a position, only seen within the area at one other church (Pembroke St Mary), north of the chancel west bay and in the angle with the north transept. It is also stylistically unusual, and the lower 3 storeys are probably early, lacking the basal batter and string course typical of the region, and not being tapered. The external facework suggests at least 3 successive builds, much of it in squared and coursed rubble, with good quoins, but with the exception of the belfry stage, the tower may be attributed to the mid-late 14th century.

The ground floor opens into the chancel via the arch described above, and to the north transept through a semicircular-headed arch with rather crude, plain voussoirs inserted in the mid-late 14th century. The east wall is pierced by a simple, single light with a stepped square head, from the mid-late 14th century, while the north wall has a single lancet that is medieval in origin but was rebuilt in 1865-8. Internal masonry benching runs along the north wall, medieval. The ground floor has a plain barrel-vault with a rounded 2-centred profile and a bell-raising port. The floor comprises earlier 19th century memorial slabs (used as a family chapel?) and quarry tiles from the 19th century, 1865-8?

The second stage is entered through the doorway from the 17th century gallery described above, and lit by a simple slit light in the east and north faces, from the mid-late 14th century, while the third stage has a similar, contemporary slit in the east wall, and a square through-shaft in the north wall.

The belfry stage is an addition of the 16th century (or even possibly the 17th century) and features large openings similar to those at Castlemartin Church. They comprise a large, single plain lancet with an unchamfered surround in the east and west faces (and a blocked lancet in the south face), and a similar triple lancet in the north face. The contemporary crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table.

The north transept

The north transept comprises 2 bays roofed at different levels and from 2 periods, apparently having been enlarged as a family (mortuary?) chapel in the later 16th century.

The southern bay, which may be early 14th century, is the earlier of the two, and is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch, crudely cut through the solid side wall and pre-existing barrel-vault; the south-east corner of the western stop has a marked chamfer probably associated with the former rood-screen and loft, there being 6 medieval corbels above and around the arch. The southern bay is open to the northern bay through a plain 2-centred arch respecting the profile of the vault in the northern bay beyond, above which its north wall oversails the roof of the northern bay; in this wall is a window with a triangular-headed embrasure, 14th century, with an inserted, cusped 2-light window, with a quatrefoiled spandrel, from 1865-8. The upstand is gently 'crow-stepped', again from 1865-8. This bay also communicates with the tower through the arch described above, and with the north aisle (see below). Internally, the east wall exhibits medieval rood-loft corbelling now carrying the 17th century gallery which extends into the nave (see the Structural Development below). The softwood roof is like that in the chancel, from 1865-8. The floor is like that in the nave and also from the 19th century, 1865-8?

The northern bay is an addition of the later 16th century, with walls that are lower than those in the southern bay. It is lit by windows in all 3 walls. That in the east wall has a simple square embrasure, later 16th century, occupied by a single light window with a square surround from 1865-8; there is now no evidence in this well for the blocked doorway shown in earlier 19th century drawings (see below). The northern window occupies a similar embrasure and is similar to that in the southern bay but with a trifoliated spandrel, from 1865-8. The west wall is properly the north aisle east wall, which will be described below; however, in the lower part of this wall is a window that looks into the aisle, with a plain, square, chamfered surround in weathered limestone from the later 16th century, and thus pre-dating the aisle. This bay is roofed, at a much lower level than the southern bay, with a rib-vault also from the later 16th century; the vault has a 2-centred profile and the ribs have a simple square profile. Floored as the southern bay.

The north aisle

The gabled north aisle communicates with the nave through an arcade of three plain, 2-centred arches, on plain square piers without capitals or bases, which are, like the transept arches, crudely cut through the side wall and vault, but lower, and from the early 17th century. It also communicates with the southern bay of the north transept through a low, plain 2-centred arch having square stops with plain, roll-moulded imposts to the east. Above this, the eastern, gable wall rises above the north transept and is surmounted by a sanctus bellcote; this is plain, gabled, with a single, square opening, from the early 17th century. Beneath it is a single light window with a plain, square, chamfered surround in weathered limestone from the early 17th century.

The north wall is pierced by 4 windows. At the east end is a low, single light with a square embrasure and surround in chamfered limestone, from the early 17th century and associated with a former rood-screen. The straight stair to the former rood-loft occupies a shallow projection from the wall immediately to the west, which has coping back to the wall face that follows a downhill slope to the west reflecting the line of

the stair. The stair is entered through a narrow doorway with a plain, 2-centred head with a chamfered surround and a hood-mould on carved head stops, from the early 17th century, and exits onto the loft through a contemporary doorway with a simple square head. The stair is associated with the ?contemporary gallery noted above (and see below, Structural Development), which is supported on corbelling. Above the stair projection is the second window, which lies in a large plunging embrasure, from the early 17th century; the single Caernarfon-headed light is from 1865-8. The remaining 2 windows are both rather low, uncusped double lancets with semicircular heads in chamfered, weathered Old Red Sandstone from the early 17th century. Between them is a blocked doorway, also from the early 17th century, whose 2-centred head is very low externally where ground levels have been raised.

The west, gable wall exhibits a joint to the nave west wall. It is pierced by a plain-cusped, 2-light window with a drip-mould on moulded corbels and plate tracery featuring a quatrefoil, all from 1865-8. The internal face has masonry benching from the early 17th century.

The aisle is barrel-vaulted, with a 2-centred profile, from the early 17th century. Floored as the nave. At the east end of the north wall is a painted Royal Arms from 1701 (Parkinson, 1978).

The south transept

The south transept contains a single bay, entered from the nave through an arch like that of the north transept, and also early 14th century, but taller and without the chamfered stop; a rood-loft corbel lies on the western stop. It also communicates with the south aisle, see below; the skew-passage/squint into the chancel has been noted above. It is lit by a window in the south wall like that in the end wall of the north transept and similarly from 1865-8, but in a 2-centred embrasure that may be medieval. The east wall has an external buttress from the 19th century, badly weathered and originally taller; it may overlie a blocked, earlier opening. It has a 14th century barrel-vault with a 2-centred profile. Floored as the nave.

The south aisle

The gabled south aisle is narrower than the nave and north aisle, with a lower roof-line. It communicates with the nave through an arcade of three plain, 2-centred arches like those to the north aisle, but is probably from the later 15th century. It also communicates with the south transept through a plain 2-centred arch.

The south wall features 2 windows, that in the east bay being an uncusped double-lancet from 1865-8 possibly occupying an earlier embrasure. The west bay window is a single light with a square surround in chamfered limestone, from the late 16th-early 17th century; there is a possible area of blocking immediately to the east, high in the external face. The south door lies between the windows and has a 2-centred surround in unchamfered limestone ashlar, from the later 15th century. The internal face has contemporary masonry benching, with a cut-out around the door.

The west wall is pierced by a 2-light window, with square heads in a chamfered, square limestone surround and a segmental embrasure, all from the early 17th century. Below it is a plain lintel, set very low down but probably representing a (late) blocked doorway where external ground levels have been raised.

The aisle is barrel-vaulted, with a 2-centred profile, from the later 15th century. Floored as the nave.

The south porch

The south porch is from c.1500. It is probable that it formerly comprised 2 storeys (ie. with a parvis); internally, the walls are very tall, the west wall features an internal socket at half-height, for a floor-joist?, and there is a scar within the angle between the east wall and the south aisle which may represent the site of a former (spiral?) stair. Both side walls feature medieval masonry benching. The main entrance

doorway has a weathered, double roll-moulded, 2-centred surround in large limestone, and a similar drip-mould on corbelled stops, one of which has gone, all from c.1500. The porch has a 2-centred barrel vault from c.1500, exhibiting on its ?contemporary plaster finish painted ribs, dividing the space into 4 panels with a central boss, also c.1500? (Parkinson, 1978); the painting is in fair condition only. The post-medieval flagged floor slopes downhill from south - north and is laid directly on the substrate; in all there are 4 steps down from the churchyard to the south aisle.

The vestry

The vestry was added in 1865-8 replacing an earlier 19th century building. It is entered from the chancel through the medieval doorway described above, and from the churchyard through a Caernarfon-headed doorway in its east wall, from 1865-8. It is lit by a window in its north wall like that in the end wall of the north transept, also from 1865-8. There is a disused fireplace in the south-east corner, leading to a tall, square chimney set diagonally to the wall, with a cusped, gabled smoke-vent in each face, from 1865-8. The softwood, lean-to roof and tiled floor are both also from 1865-8.

Structural development

The nave may be late 12th century, but is more likely to be early 13th century, dated by the contemporary window surviving high in its south wall; the barrel-vault is an addition from the early 14th century when the transepts were added and the chancel, wider than the nave, was rebuilt. The tower is stylistically early ad was probably inserted between the chancel and the north transept in the mid-late 14th century. The addition of the south aisle entailed the insertion of arches through the nave south wall; the aisle contains no original features that can be closely dated, but sequentially it appears to be late 15th century, to which the south porch was added c.1500. The tower belfry stage is an addition of the 16th century (or even possibly the 17th century) and features large openings similar to those at Castlemartin Church. The north bay of the north transept can be given, by its openings and vault, a broadly late 16th century date. There are no features in the north aisle that can be given a date any earlier than the early 17th century, and indeed it appears that they are all primary and that the aisle was added, with a crude arcade like that to the south aisle, at this late date, when the south aisle was refenestrated..

There appear to have been 2 rood-screens, which may have co-existed; the medieval screen in the nave and north transept has now gone (removed in 1865-8 according to Davies, n.d.), and an early 17th century rood-screen in the north aisle, represented by the present gallery that is probably contemporary? (see below); figure-carving was apparently present on the rood-screen or loft, which was removed in 1707 and replaced by the Royal Arms of William III (Cadw, 1996, 1).

The church was described as 'rather dilapidated' in 1833 (Lewis, 1833). There was the usual expenditure upon small-scale repairs during the early 19th century, and a west gallery was installed in 1841 (Pems. R. O., HPR/5/16). The pre-restoration church is shown in a number of late 18th - early 19th century pictorial views (see sources) none of which, however, show the church from the south. The church was much as it exists today but the north door may still have been open until 1839, and a blocked door is shown in the north transept east wall. From the early 19th century onwards, a small, lean-to roofed vestry occupied the site of the present vestry. The nave and north aisle west windows were large, square openings from the late 18th century, and there was a similar, smaller sash window in the north wall of the north transept southern bay. The original, early 17th century window survived above the rood-loft stair in the north aisle. Some restoration evidently took place in the mid 19th century when the north transept north wall received a 2-light window and the chancel east window was replaced with a 3-light window; both had 'Y'-tracery. No openings are shown in the tower ground floor.

The church was restored in 1865-8, to the designs of the architect Frederick Wehnert (Cadw, 1996, 1) who was also responsible for restoring Hubberston Church, Pems. The restoration was largely superficial. The vestry was rebuilt to a larger plan. The chancel arch was apparently rebuilt (but nb. see above,

Description). New windows were inserted in the chancel, transepts and at the west end. The tower ground floor openings were reopened/rebuilt. The chancel and north transept received their present softwood roofs. The tiled floors may date from this restoration, or may belong to an earlier, mid 19th century restoration. The 1841 western gallery was removed. The internal finishes were largely retained, with their paintings.

The roofs were reslated in the 1980s (Bartosch & Stokes, 1991).

In the southern bay of the north transept is an early 17th century carved oak rood-loft, partly restored, which is for the most part supported on corbelling for the medieval loft, but lying on an inserted 20th century openwork screen around the southern bay north wall. The gallery extends into the nave, and into the contemporary north aisle where it is supported from the east and north walls on a coved, panelled bressumer, which exhibits traces of colouring (Parkinson, 1978), and entered from a contemporary rood-loft stair.

The free-standing softwood pews are from 1865-8 and have boarded floors laid over the flooring; those at the west end of the nave are more robust and may be earlier. The tower clock was installed in 1907 (Bartosch & Stokes, 1991). The carved, softwood altar table and reredos are earlier 20th century, as may be the free-standing stalls and the carved, neo-Gothic traceried chancel and tower screens, and the pulpit. There is a contemporary vestry screen in the west bay of the nave/south aisle, with a heating apparatus. The chapel fittings in the north transept are from the 1960s, and there are similar 'domestic' fittings in the north aisle.

There are 2 fonts. One, in limestone, has a square, scalloped bowl on a cylindrical stem, 12th century, and a square base from the 19th century. The second has a later medieval octagonal bowl, in limestone, and a secondary stem and base, from the 19th century?

There are 3 bells in the tower, dated 1639, 1698 and 1806 (Bartosch & Stokes, 1991); the casting of the latter is referred to in a churchwarden's account of 1806 (Pems. R. O., HPR/5/16).

The effigy in the chancel was described by Fenton, 1903, 241. A ?post-conquest cross-incised stone, which may be a consecration cross (RCAHM, 1925, 216), lies loose in the porch.

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some circumstantial evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
centre of pre-conquest commote.

St James, Manorbier, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke, within the sub-lordship of Manorbier. It was assessed at £20 in 1291 (Green, 1911, 284). The church was granted to the Priory of St Nicholas at Monkton by John de Barri, Lord of Manorbier, in 1301 (RCAHM, 1925, 216). Monkton was suppressed as an alien priory by Henry V and fell to the crown; in 1507 the patronage of Manorbier was granted by King Henry VII to his mother Margaret, who regranted it to Christ Church College, Cambridge (Green, 1911, 284). In 1536 the annual value was £8 (ibid.).

Christ Church College, Cambridge, were the patrons in 1833 when the living was a discharged vicarage, rated in the king's books at £8, endowed with £600 royal bounty and £1400 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St James, Manorbier, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with St Florence and Redberth (Benefice 810) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**ST MARCELLUS,
MARTLETWY,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3598

RB No. 2839

NGR SN 0328 1058

Listed Building No. 6080

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 1 bay; nave, 3 bays; north aisle, 3 bays; medieval. South porch, earlier 17th century. Limestone rubble construction; 90% of internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs. Medieval chancel arch, arcade, window(s) and piscina. 17th century door (and window). Later 17th - early 18th century single bellcote, on north aisle. Other openings, with grey oolite dressings, are mainly from 1897. (15th century memorial slab.)

Roofs and floors: 1897. Finishes: 1897 - later 10th century.

Condition - good. West walls damp.

Archaeological potential - very good. Deep, revetted around 70% of church, exposing footings in 5% of church; deep cutting close to 10% of church; earthwork platforms beyond 20% of church, structural?; floor levels raised; suspended floors above void; external memorials significantly close to 80% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch, arcade, window(s) and piscina; 17th century door (and window); later 17th - early 18th century bellcote

Group value - medium-high. Medieval church in central village location; suboval churchyard; associated earthwork evidence.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, C12?.

Phase 2 - North aisle, C15.

Phase 3 - South porch, early C17.

Phase 4 - Restored 1842, low impact.

Phase 5 - Restored 1897, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

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

The present church consists of a single-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 3-bayed north aisle and a south porch. Construction is in limestone rubble. The chancel arch and aisle arcade are medieval, and there are medieval - 17th century windows in the chancel; the south porch door is 17th century while the bellcote, which occupies the north aisle, is 17th - 18th century. Other openings, and the grey oolite dressings in 'Early English' style, are from 1897. Pointing is mainly from 1897, with some poor 20th century repointing of the west walls, and the interior is plastered except the chancel east wall and the arcade. Roofs are slated gables.

The chancel east window is a graduated triple-lancet, uncusped except the central lancet, in grey oolite from 1897. The south wall is pierced by 2 windows. That to the east is a single lancet with weathered cusps in limestone from the 14th-15th century, the remainder of the surround having been rebuilt in 1897; the embrasure features an arched cut-out for a plain sedilia seat in the eastern reveal, also medieval. To the west is a single light with a square surround in weathered, chamfered limestone from the 16th - 17th century. The chancel arch is plain, semicircular, with plain square imposts, from the 12th century?, or from the 17th-early 18th century?. The softwood king-post roof is from 1897 and is matchboarded over. The sanctuary is oolite flagged, from 1897, said to lie above an earlier black marble slab (guide in church); the passage is tiled, with woodblock flooring, also from 1897.

The nave is lit by an uncusped 2-light window in the south wall, with plate tracery featuring a central quatrefoil, in grey oolite from 1897. The west is the south door which has a double-chamfered, 2-centred surround also in grey oolite from 1897; above it, the internal face exhibits an earlier corbel for a former roof, medieval?. The west wall is pierced by a window like that in the south wall and also from 1897, but occupying an earlier opening with a segmental head, date?, medieval?. A feature, of unknown nature, may be represented by an area of irregular plaster in the north-west corner. The nave roof is similar to that in the chancel and also from 1897. The passages are tiled, with woodblock flooring, also from 1897.

The north aisle communicates with the chancel via a plain, low, 2-centred arch from the 15th century, and with the nave through an arcade of 2 similar arches with a central plain, cylindrical pier. The aisle is lit by a window in the east and west gable walls, and 2 windows in the north wall; all are like those in the nave and from 1897. There is a doorway into the churchyard in the north wall with a chamfered 2-centred surround in grey oolite from 1897. On the west wall is a square, single bellcote with a plain, semicircular-headed opening, all from the later 17th - earlier 18th century. Internally, a plain, square medieval piscina recess lies the east bay south wall; a later 19th century, oolite fireplace occupies the north-east corner of the aisle and leads to a plain, square contemporary chimney. Roofed and floored as the nave, from 1897; the east bay is used as a vestry and the floor is in woodblock throughout.

The south porch doorway is a plain, semicircular arch with large voussoirs from the earlier 17th century. The side walls feature contemporary masonry benching but are pierced by single lancets from 1897. The softwood roof lacks trusses, all rafters being collared, with matchboarding, all from 1897. The flagged floor is earlier 19th century.

A deep, revetted external drain runs around the east, west and south walls, exposing the footings of the north-west corner of the nave and the west wall of the south porch; a deep cutting runs close to the south-west corner of the church. A pronounced earthwork platform extends beyond the chancel east wall terminating as a 'D' shape, and a similar platform lies beyond the north aisle east wall but is square-ended; both are cut by 19th century burials. Floor levels have been raised. Floors are suspended above a void. External memorials lie significantly close to the north, east and west walls.

Structural development

The semicircular chancel arch is normally regarded as 12th century but may, like the 17th - early 18th century bellcote, be a neo-Classical rebuild; however the chancel is short, and with the nave it may be early though the present windows are 14th - 17th century. The north aisle is probably 15th century. The south porch detail is early 17th century. 'Traces of a squint and possibly a piscina' were visible to the south of the chancel arch in 1896 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/41/46) and were thought to be later than the arch; all evidence of these has been lost.

The church was restored in 1842 by Hugh Hoare of Lawrenny (Pembs. R. O., HPR/41/30). The restoration was 'cheap and unecclesiastical' (NLW, SD/F/481) and included the insertion of 5 new timber-framed windows with 'Venetian shutters', and a new roof of poor quality including some thatching (temporary?). Some internal repairs were undertaken and the seating improved in 1850 (Cadw, 1997, 1).

Work was undertaken on the chancel in 1879 (ibid.). Possibly contemporary with this work, and certainly before 1897 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/41/46), was the conversion of the north aisle east bay into a vestry, with the present fireplace and chimney.

A further restoration occurred in 1897 to the designs of the architect E. V. Collier of Carmarthen (ibid.; Pembs. R. O., HPR/41/46). The church was refenestrated and windows were inserted in the porch side walls, but the chancel south wall windows were retaining/re-opened. The north aisle north door was inserted and the south door was rebuilt. The church was reroofed, refloored, resealed and replastered.

Minor repairs to copings, tabling etc. were undertaken in the chancel in 1938 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/41/49).

The softwood stalls, pews and pulpit are from 1897, like the softwood vestry screen in the north aisle. The chancel fittings, except the altar rail from 1897, were installed in 1935 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/41/32). The organ in the north aisle may be 20th century and was installed in 1964, having been brought from a Yorkshire church (Cadw, 1997, 2). A loose altar table was moved from the nearby church at Yerboston in 1983.

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

There is one bell in the bellcote.

The chancel contains a memorial slab featuring a moulded human priest's head and a 15th century inscription, not *in situ* (RCAHM, 1925, 219), revealed in the 1879 chancel restoration.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

The pronounced earthwork platform extending beyond the chancel east wall terminates as a 'D' shape, and may be structural, relating to an earlier east end?; a similar platform lies beyond the north aisle east wall but is square-ended. Both are cut by 19th century burials and may themselves merely represent grave earthworks.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Marcellus, Martletwy, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It was granted to the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech by John, the son of Raymond, probably during the later 12th century and confirmed in 1231 and 1330 (Green, 1912, 294). It was valued at £9 6s 8d in 1391 (ibid.).

At the dissolution, the living fell to the crown but was sold to the Barlows of Slebech (ibid.). In 1833 the living was a discharged rectory rated in the king's books at £4, endowed with £200 royal bounty and £400 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of Lady Mansfield who owned the great tithes of the parish (Lewis, 1833). The parish was united with Lawrenny in 1918.

In 1998 St Marcellus, Martletwy, was a parish church. The living was a rectory, held with Lawrenny, Minwear, Yerboston and Templeton (Benefice 816) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication to St Marcellus may be a corruption of St Martin (RCAHM, 1925, 219).

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**ST WOMAR,
MINWEAR,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3595

RB No. 2840

NGR SN 0396 1300

Listed Building No. 6081

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, small-medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 2 bays; south transept, 1 bay; west tower, 2 storeys including the nave west bay; medieval. North chapel, 3 bays, 17th century?. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; north chapel with slate lean-to roof; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in transept and tower/nave west bay, with arches; medieval tower openings, north doorway and blocked south door; chancel arcade and chapel arcade are 17th century. Windows are from 1870-72, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings.

Roofs: medieval vaults and 1870-72 timberwork. Floors and finishes: 1870-72.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Shallow, earth-cut drain around 100% of church; external truncated around 25% of church exposing footings; external earthwork around 25% of church, secondary; floor levels unchanged; suspended floors above void; few external memorials significantly close to 5% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good - very good. 60% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings, vaults, door, blocked door; 17th century arcades.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower, in hilltop location; associated vicarage and farm buildings.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13?

Phase 2 - Chancel and south transept, C14.

Phase 3 - West tower (and rebuilt nave west bay?), early C16.

Phase 4 - North chapel, C17.

Phase 5 - Restored 1870-72, medium-high impact; north chapel rebuilt.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Womar, Minwear, is a multicelled church, of small-medium size. It retains approximately 60% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave, a 3-bayed north chapel, a single-bayed south transept and a 2 storeyed west tower over the nave west bay. Construction is in limestone rubble; pointing is mainly from 1870-72 and the interior is plastered. The south transept and nave west bay (beneath the tower) are barrel-vaulted. The chancel arcade and chapel arcade are 17th century; other openings are mainly from 1870-72, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings. Roofs are slated gables; the north chapel has a slated lean-to roof while the tower roof was not seen.

The triple lancet chancel east window is from 1870-72, as is the single lancets in the south wall. The chancel arch is, in fact, an arcade of 3 low openings which appears to have been substantially rebuilt during the post-medieval period, 17th century?. The central arch is crudely rounded and is flanked by 2 segmental arches on square ashlar piers; the southern arch is set south of the chancel south wall which carries an internal chamfer to the south transept as a kind of 'skew-passage'. Above the arches are 2, large triangular-headed openings into the chancel, also 17th century?. The softwood roof is from 1870-72 with collar-rafter trusses arch-braced from wall corbels; matchboarded above. The floor is both flagged and tiled, all from 1870-72.

The nave is lit by single, simple circular windows in the north and south walls. The north door has a plain 2-centred head and there is a similar blocked door in the south wall; both are medieval. The west wall has a pronounced external batter but was probably rebuilt when the tower was added in the early 16th century. The softwood nave roof lacks trusses, all common rafters being scissors-braced and from 1870-72; plastered above. The passages are tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1870-72.

The north chapel communicates with the chancel and nave east bay via an arcade of 3 plain segmental arches with moulded imposts on a cylindrical column and a square pier, Jacobean in style and earlier 17th century. There is a cusped, single lancet in the east wall and a 2-light square-headed window in the west wall; both, like the walls themselves, are from 1870-72. The lean-to roof has softwood rafters from 1870-72, plastered above. Floored as the chancel.

The south transept is entered through a 2-centred arch reflecting the profile of its vaulting, and is lit by a double lancet window in its south wall from 1870-72. The medieval vault has a rounded 2-centred profile. Floored as the nave.

The west tower comprises just 2 storeys, the lower of which is represented by a square projection from the nave west wall with a 2-centred vault. The second stage is narrower, the north and south walls sloping into it; it entered through a semicircular-headed doorway above the northern slope, from the early 16th century and accessible only by ladder. It has a 2-light, segmental-headed opening in the east wall, similar single-light openings in the north and west wall, and a slit-light in the south wall, all from the early 16th century but largely rebuilt, along with the uncrenellated parapet and external corbel table, in 1870-72. The tower is similar to that at Cosheston, S. Pembs.

A shallow, earth-cut drain surrounds the church. External levels have been truncated along the north wall of the north aisle exposing its footings. A regular external earthwork lies south of the nave, secondary, above former sill level, debris? or sweepings?. There is no evidence for floor level changes. Floors are suspended above a void. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the north aisle east wall.

Structural development

The nave may be 13th century, but cannot be closely dated. The chancel and south transept contain very similar facework and are probably 14th century. The tower is early 16th century. The north chapel may be the same date as its arcade, ie earlier 17th century, when it appears that the chancel arch was rebuilt.

'Various repairs' were undertaken between 1738 and 1821 (Cadw, 1997, 16). A Faculty was obtained for rebuilding the church under the patron Baron de Rutzen, in 1836, but the work was never carried out (ibid.). Instead, the roofs were stripped, and 'some of the fabric was demolished' (north chapel?), by Baron de Rutzen in 1844, in a deliberate attempt to increase the congregation of his new church at Slebech (Nicholas, 1994, 3). Rutzen in fact applied for a Faculty to demolish the church 1864 but this was refused.

The church was eventually restored in 1870-72 (NLW, SD/F/489), to the designs of the architect C. K. W. Ladd of Pembroke Dock, when the external walls of the north chapel, and the chancel east wall, were entirely rebuilt. The church was refenestrated, reroofed, refloored and reseated. The upper part of the tower belfry stage was rebuilt. There appears to have been little significant further work.

The softwood pews and pulpit are from 1870-72. The vestry screen in the north chapel is possibly contemporary. The oak reredos is dated 1951.

The limestone font has a circular bowl with ballflower and carved head mouldings, a cylindrical stem and a circular base, all from the 13th century.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Womar, Minwear, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It was a possession of the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech, having been granted by one Robert FitzLomar c.1150 (Green, 1912, 302).

At the dissolution, the patronage passed to the crown but was sold to John Barlow of Slebech (ibid.). In 1833 the living, a discharged vicarage, was in the patronage of the Baron de Rutzen of Slebech, endowed with £200 private benefaction, £400 royal bounty and £200 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Womar, Minwear, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Martletwy, Lawrenny, Yerboston and Templeton (Benefice 816) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

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**SS NICHOLAS AND JOHN,
MONKTON,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3273

RB No. 2869

NGR SM 9796 0145

Listed Building No. 6330

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, large. Consists of a long chancel, 4 bays; long nave, 5 bays; detached north chapel (former Chapter House?), 2 bays; south transeptal tower, 4 storeys; south porch (formerly with parvis); medieval. Vestry (north of chancel west bays), 2 bays, incorporating part of medieval ?conventual building; vestry porch; boilerhouse (north of north chapel); coalhouse (north of nave), 1887. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Nave, tower and south porch barrel-vaulted; truncated medieval vaulting in vestry. Slate gable roofs; vestry porch, boilerhouse and coalhouse with slated lean-to roofs; tower roof not seen. Romanesque openings, with high-quality mouldings, in nave and south porch; medieval arcades in chancel, medieval tomb-recesses in chancel and nave, re-used 14th century niche in chancel; some further medieval openings, open and blocked, in nave and tower. 17th century windows in vestry. Other openings, including the chancel arch, are mainly in yellow oolite from 1882-7, but many windows are copies of medieval originals. (two medieval effigies; two 17th century monuments.)

Roofs: medieval vaulting and 1882-7 timberwork. Floors: 1882-7. Finishes: 1882-7.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. No external drain; cutting around 2% of church; churchyard ground levels raised; external platform around 20% of church; below-ground components beyond 20% of church; below-ground floor in 2% of church; no evidence for floor level changes; floors suspended over a void in 50% of church; many internal burials in 75% of church?; no external memorials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval openings, including high-quality Romanesque mouldings and 13th century tracery, arcades, vaulting tomb-recesses and niche. 17th century windows.

Group value - high. Former priory church; landmark medieval church with tower, adjacent to castle and walled medieval borough; remains of associated monastic buildings including a pele-tower; medieval churchyard cross-base; nearby dovecote; nearby medieval hall-house.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave west bays, C12.

Phase 2 - South porch, c.1200.

Phase 3 - Chancel, north chapel (Chapter House?) and nave east bay, mid C13.

Phase 4 - South tower, C16.

Phase 5 - Restored 1882-87, high impact; vestry and porch, boilerhouse and coalhouse built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

SS Nicholas and John, Monkton, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a long, 4-bayed chancel, a similarly long, 5-bayed nave, a detached, 2-bayed north chapel (formerly a Chapter House?), a 2-bayed vestry (formerly part of a ?conventual building), a vestry porch, a south transeptal 4-storeyed tower, a south porch, formerly with a parvis, a boilerhouse north of the north chapel and a ?coalhouse north of the nave west bay. Construction is in limestone rubble. The nave, tower and south porch are barrel-vaulted. There are 12th century windows, and 13th century windows with tracery in yellow oolite, in the nave; the nave and south porch (and parvis) doorways are from c.1200, with yellow oolite dressings and high-quality Romanesque mouldings, some zoomorphic; a 14th century, Decorated niche has been re-used in the chancel; the internal arcades, most of the tower openings, the vestry openings and truncated vaulting, a number of blocked doorways, and the tomb recesses, are medieval. There are early 17th century openings in the vestry. The chancel arch and the remainder of the windows are from 1882 and 1887 and in yellow oolite, in neo-Gothic style, but many windows are copies of medieval originals. Pointing is mainly from 1882 and 1887 and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry porch, boilerhouse and ?coalhouse have slated lean-to roofs and the tower roof was not seen.

There are 2 medieval effigies and 2 monuments from the 17th century.

There is no external drain and a cutting is only present along the south wall of the south porch, where churchyard ground levels have been raised. A regular, earthwork platform runs along the south wall of the chancel, and around the south-east corner as a right-angle. Below-ground evidence for former monastic buildings may lie north of the church. The boilerhouse floor is below ground, reached by an external stairwell in a cutting. There is no evidence for changes in the internal floor levels. Floors are suspended over a void in the nave and north chapel. It is suggested that the chancel, nave and chapel will contain many internal burials. No present external memorials lie significantly close to the church, but most memorials have been moved.

The chancel

The large chancel is in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble, largely original and from the mid 13th century. The east wall features a plain, full-height buttress at each corner, clasping to the south and a pilaster to the north, both in limestone ashlar and featuring 2 chamfered offsets; they are from the mid 13th century but have been restored.

The 5-light east window, from 1887, has uncusped Early English tracery of cinquefoils and a central hexafoil beneath a 2-centred drip-mould on moulded stops, all in yellow oolite, and may faithfully replicate a mid 13th century original; the oolite, moulded rear-arch, with moulded imposts, appears to be largely medieval. Both the outer arch, and the gable wall above it, were rebuilt in very regular limestone blockwork in 1887, the latter incorporating a re-used niche containing a weathered figure sculpture, with a Decorated, ogee-headed, ballflower-moulded surround in yellow oolite dateable to the second quarter of

the 14th century. The chancel is further lit by 4 windows in the south wall, with rebuilt heads from 1887, each of 2 lights with Early English tracery and rear-arches similar to that in the east window, but without the imposts, and similarly may faithfully replicate mid 13th century originals. There are no windows in the north wall which divides the chancel from the south wall of the contemporary, detached north chapel.

A medieval string-course runs around the interior of the chancel at sill-level. At the east end of the south wall is a piscina in a 2-centred recess with a cusped head and a hood-mould similar to the window mouldings; immediately to the west is a triple-sedilia with similar mouldings and Purbeck marble shafts. Both features are from 1887 but may copy originals from the late 13th century; a sedilia is mentioned in 1810 (see Structural Development below); a re-used Acanthus-moulded capital has been set in the wall between the two. There is a tomb recess in each of the side walls, both with depressed, 2-centred surrounds which may be later, 14th century insertions; that to the north contains the incomplete limestone effigy of a priest, probably 14th century, while the southern recess contains a fragment of a mid 14th century limestone effigy of a knight. Neither may be *in situ*.

The tall, wide 2-centred chancel arch occupies the entire space between the nave and chancel as a cluster of slender, oolite shafts with stiff-leaf moulded capitals and bases, with an apex just below the ridge of the chancel roof; it replaced a narrower, blocked chancel arch in 1887.

The chancel has a 'wagon-roof' ceiling with transverse frames and plaster panelling, from 1887. The elaborate tiled floor is also from 1887.

The nave

The long nave is in random rubble largely from the 12th century and retains a number of Romanesque features. The east bay appears to have been an addition of the mid 13th century when the chancel was rebuilt; its north wall is thinner, defined internally as a tall 2-centred recess, from the mid 13th century, which appears not to have led to a transept but instead may be associated with the former rood screen and loft. The tower arch in the south wall appears to have originally defined a similar recess.

The thick nave north wall is pierced by 3 windows, 2 of them blocked. To the east, but west of the internal recess, is a plain, single lancet with a rounded, 2-centred head, from c.1200 and similar to the parvis-stair doorway in the south wall (see below); the internal surround, in chamfered oolite, was rebuilt in or after 1882 when the window was unblocked. To the west are 2, smaller single lights, blocked since before 1860 (Ordnance Survey, 10" per mile, Series 1), with very plain, full-centred semicircular heads; they appear to be somewhat earlier, from the mid 12th century?. There are 4 buttresses against the north wall, the western 3 being broad and massive, stepped, and with basal offsets, possibly also from the 12th century, while the plain, eastern, raking buttress is later but before 1861 (*ibid.*). The south wall is pierced by three 2-light windows, with simple Geometric tracery featuring cusped heads and central quatrefoils, in chamfered yellow oolite but without proper surrounds; the windows are very similar to those in Pembroke Castle and at Haverfordwest St Mary where they can be dated to the 1280s, but at Monkton were extensively restored in 1882 when the rear arches were rebuilt and the surrounds were largely replaced, with infill beneath the sills. A stepped external buttress, with string-courses, between the western two may also be late 13th century but has been restored. The west, gable wall is pierced by an uncusped 4-light window with uncusped Early English tracery and a drip-mould similar to that in the chancel and from 1882, but which again may replicate an original, mid 13th century window.

The south door has a full-centred semicircular surround of 4 roll-moulded orders, in oolite, with plain bases and without capitals, from c.1200 and similar to that at nearby Pembroke St Mary which was under Monkton's patronage; the contemporary drip-mould rests on high-quality Romanesque animal-head stops, while the rear-arch has a contemporary, roll-moulded segmental surround. To the west of the south door is a second, narrow doorway, its sill above internal floor level, with a 2-centred surround in chamfered oolite; it leads to a stair in the thickness of the wall which emerges, at a higher level in the external face, as a similarly narrow doorway with a full-centred, semicircular surround in chamfered oolite. The whole

is also from c.1200 and associated with a former first floor parvis in the south porch. Internally, a plain segmental-headed stoup, also from c.1200, lies east of the south door.

A blocked doorway, with a very crude square head, is visible externally in the north wall east bay opposite the recess; it may be mid 13th century but was blocked by 1653 (see below). It is associated with a vertical scar and corbel/keystone lying immediately to the west, and an area of truncated, cut-back vaulting which forms a low external recess to the east (like that in the vestry - see below), which together appear to represent the junction between the nave and a former north-south range of buildings (see vestry, north chapel, and Structural Development below), truncated (and altered?) when the nave was extended east by 1 bay in the mid 13th century?. A segmental-headed recess beneath the west window may represent a blocked former doorway but is not discernible externally.

There is a plain, segmental-headed, empty tomb-recess in the centre of the internal face of the nave north wall. In the recess at the east bay of the wall is a fine, 17th century chest-tomb, the Classical back of which features a gabled pediment with devices, dated 1653; the tomb blocks a former doorway through the north wall (see above).

The nave barrel-vault, with a 2-centred profile, is secondary - late 13th - 14th century?. The passages are tiled, from 1882, with suspended board floors over heating ducts.

The north chapel

The north chapel fabric is identical to that of the chancel, with which it appears to be contemporary ie. dateable to the mid 13th century. It is detached from the chancel, the 2 eastern bays of which it lies alongside separated by a narrow 'passage' which emerges as a plain, square-headed doorway through a connecting wall at the east end dating from 1887. It is known as the 'Prior's Chapel', but also as the 'Lady Chapel' (Bartosch and Stokes, 1994) and occupies a similar detached location to the Lady Chapel at eg. Ely Cathedral; however, there is evidence that it may originally have been a Chapter-House (see Structural Description below).

The chapel is entered from the chancel through a 2-centred doorway with a moulded surround from 1887 which is reflected by a second doorway at the west end of the chapel south wall; in the 'lobby' so formed is a third doorway onto the 'passage' against the chancel, also from 1887.

The building is lit by a 3-light window in the east, gable wall, like the chancel east window and which may similarly follow a mid 13th century original. The outer arch, and the gable wall above, were rebuilt in 1887. Two similar windows, but 2-light, in the north wall of the east bay are also from 1887 when they may have been entirely new; the outer arches are from 1887 along with corresponding areas of facework.

A flue from the adjoining boilerhouse (see below) lies in the west bay north wall and leads to a square, stepped stack, with oolite ashlar quoins, which is corbelled out from the external face; it is from 1887 and corresponds with an internal recess which may represent a former tomb-recess.

The western quarter of the north wall exhibits, on its external face, the scar of an adjoining, north-south running 2-storey building represented by a wall scar, the springers of 2 former vaults and an area of plaster (see below, the vestry); it is argued below that the building represented was a medieval, monastic east range which pre-dated the construction of the chapel and present chancel in the mid 13th century.

The west, gable wall exhibits medieval internal corbelling 'such as might have been available to the Bishops of St Davids in their frequent periods of residence here in the 14th century' (Thomas, 1964 (ii), 345).

The chapel is roofed as the chancel, from 1887. The passages are tiled, from 1887, with contemporary suspended woodblock flooring over heating ducts.

The vestry

The present 2-bayed, east-west vestry is from 1887 but occupies the site of part of a medieval, monastic east range (see nave and north chapel, above) with a very complex building history. The east wall is shared with the north chapel and the east bay incorporates the truncated east ends of 2 east-west running, parallel, semicircular headed barrel-vaults, the southern of which is open to the chapel. The west end of this southern vault may be the recess that is visible on the nave north wall (see above). The northern vault is incomplete, and appears to have been replaced by the chapel west wall which, despite being shown as open on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps, features 2 levels of openings into the chapel, the upper level lying above the vault, which appear to be early 17th century in style; they have segmental headed embrasures, double in the upper level, with plain square lights. The two levels reflect the levels as preserved within the chapel north wall (see above) and may belong to a period after the chapel had become disused, and roofless (see Structural Description below) but when a building occupied the vestry.

It is clear that the remains of a 2-storeyed vaulted range are represented, which appears to have been truncated, and altered, when the chapel was added and the chancel rebuilt in the 13th century. A plain, full-height, 2-centred arch, with plain square stops, dating to the 13th century, leads from the vestry west bay into the chancel, interrupting the projected line of the southern vault. However, it has been seen that the range survived, in an altered fashion, until the 17th century, while the upper half of the south wall of the vestry east bay features an internal recess, mirroring the arch into the chancel and probably also 13th century, which contains a plain, square-headed opening, with a sill at first floor level, forming a skewed doorway into the chancel - for a night-stair?. A similar doorway into the chancel lies below, at ground floor level.

The north and west, external walls of the vestry are entirely from 1887 and in very roughly coursed limestone rubble. Both feature a window like those in the chapel north wall. The softwood, east-west gable roof features plain trusses with matchboarding, also from 1887 as is the tiled floor.

A doorway in the north wall, with a triangular head from 1887 (re-used?), leads to a small porch in the angle with the chapel east wall, built new in 1887. The porch has rubble walls with oolite ashlar quoins, a doorway with a plain 2-centred surround in the north, lean-to wall and a 2-light, uncusped window of 2-centred heads in a square surround, also of oolite, in the west wall. The softwood, lean-to roof runs up to the chapel west wall; the porch is floored as the vestry.

The tower

The 4-storeyed tower occupies a south transeptal position, but appears to have been constructed as one unit rather than over a pre-existing transept; the arch from the nave mirrors that in the nave north wall where it merely represents a recess (see nave, above).

The tower can be dated by its detail to the 16th century. It is not entirely typical of the region, lacking a basal batter and string course, and is also only very slightly (almost imperceptibly) tapered. A square spiral stair turret projects from the south-west corner, entered through a simple square-headed doorway from the 16th century, and lit by simple loops. The ground floor features a processional doorway in the south wall with a 2-centred, ovolo-moulded head lying in a square surround whose spandrels feature blind trefoils; immediately above the door is a 4-light window in a depressed, 2-centred surround and drip-mould, with tracery like that in the chancel and north chapel but here, like the doorway below, entirely new in 1887, with yellow oolite dressings. The ground floor barrel-vault is from the 16th century, with a 2-centred profile and a central bell-raising port. Floored as the nave with a suspended board floor over. Against the internal face of the east wall is a chest tomb with a Classical back bearing heraldic motifs, and weepers on the chest panels; it is dated 1660 but is Jacobean in style.

The second stage is lit by a simple, uncusped semicircular-headed lancets, with ashlar voussoirs from the later 16th century, in the east and south faces, and there is a similar light in the east face of the third stage. The belfry stage has similar openings in the east and west faces; blocked openings may lie beneath the clock faces on the north and south faces. The parapet, restored with crenellations, lies on an external corbel table which does not continue around the spiral stair turret.

The south porch

The south porch is early, from c.1200, and formerly featured a first floor parvis. The large entry in the south wall has a semicircular surround of plain ashlar voussoirs, on nookshafts with plain, annular abaci on cushion capitals and similar bases, in weathered yellow oolite from c.1200. The side walls exhibit internal, medieval masonry benching. The parvis stair from the nave, with doorways from c.1200, is described above; there is an offset at first floor level in the south wall and an area of random masonry over the entry may indicate the site of a former light. The barrel-vault has a 2-centred profile and is probably secondary. The tiled floor is from 1882 and laid directly on the substrate.

The boilerhouse

The below-ground, lean-to boilerhouse was added against the north wall of the north chapel in 1887-1907, in brick. It is entered through a plain doorway in the east, lean-to wall, with a concrete lintel, which is reached from a below-ground stairwell running along the chapel north wall. The softwood, lean-to roof runs from churchyard ground level up to chapel sill level.

The ?coalhouse

A small, lean-to building was inserted between the western buttress of the nave north wall and the churchyard wall where it joins the north-west corner of the nave in 1887-1907, in random limestone rubble. It is entered through a plain doorway with a timber lintel in the north, side wall, west of which is a 'neo-Gothic' single-light window with a triangular head formed from 2 slates - later?. The softwood, lean-to roof runs up to nave sill level. The building may have originally been a coalhouse.

Structural development

The chancel represented the medieval priory church, while the long nave was the parish church of Monkton.

The small, semicircular-headed windows date the thick nave north wall to the 12th century. The Romanesque south door is from c.1200 when the nave south wall may have been rebuilt; the south porch door, and those of the former parvis over, are contemporary, making the porch a very early example of its type in Pembrokeshire. If the Early English chancel and north chapel windows are stylistic copies of the original openings, which they appear to be, then a mid 13th century date is suggested for the rebuilding of the chancel and the addition of the chapel (the latter as a Chapter House?, see below); at the same time, the nave was extended east by one bay, with a chancel arch described as 'pointed' (Fenton, 1903, 205), and the original nave west window may be contemporary. The Geometric windows in the south wall of the nave are similar to those at Haverfordwest St Mary, and at the nearby Pembroke Castle where they are dateable to the 1280s (Ludlow, 1991, 28); the present piscina and sedilia may be faithful rebuilds of contemporary originals. The uncusped semicircular-headed lancets, with ashlar voussoirs, date the tower to the 16th century.

The priory was dissolved in 1535; the chancel and north chapel were abandoned and the chancel arch was blocked. They were restored in 1887 when the vestry, boilerhouse and coalhouse were constructed.

The remains of the vaulted undercroft in the vestry is interrupted by the chancel and north chapel and is thus earlier than the mid 13th century. It appears to have formed part of the east range of the conventual buildings, which may have been arranged around a cloister to the north of the nave; a building possibly representing part of the west range is depicted in early views and on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. The east range was altered in the mid 13th century, possibly with a night-stair from the ?first floor dorter into the chancel.

The church is depicted in a number of early views. In a watercolour by Francis Place of c.1678, taken from the south, the chancel and chapel appear to be roofed, while the nave is obscured by a gabled building possibly representing the conventual west range. The Buck Brothers engraving from the same viewpoint, of 1740 (Haverfordwest Library, Prints and Pictures), shows the chancel and chapel as roofless; square openings are shown in the south wall of the latter. The nave north wall buttresses are clearly shown, as is a building on the site of the present vestry, with a northern gable and chimney, and a possible ?circular stair turret against the chapel north wall; this building occupied the truncated conventual east range and may be represented by the surviving 17th century windows in the vestry. Calcott's view of c.1800 again depicts the roofless chapel and chancel, but by this time the east range/vestry building had gone; all views show the tower without crenellations

The church was described in c.1810 as 'a mixture of the Saxon (ie. Romanesque) and pointed order' (Fenton, 1903, 205). The unroofed chancel was known as the Virgin's Chapel (*ibid.*) and the 'pointed' chancel arch 'must have been stopped for some centuries, as it incorporates a monumental recess... now forming the back of the communion table'. The church was 'paved partly with glazed bricks, having arms, mottoes and flowers on them as at St Davids' (*ibid.*). The 'modern' font was set on a clustered pier which survives beneath the present font (see below), but which was noted as being in a style represented nowhere else within the building; the 'four handsome windows' in the chancel south wall were all still open, as was the east window, the stone altar table had survived in addition to the original sedilia (*ibid.*). A detached building to the north of the nave was known locally as the 'Monkey-house' (*ibid.*); the west range building noted above is implied.

A large-scale (10" to the mile) Ordnance Survey map from 1861 provides a detailed ground plan. The chancel is labelled 'ruin' and only the east window, and the eastern pair of south wall windows are depicted, the western pair having presumably been blocked after 1810. The north wall tomb recess is clearly shown, and a doorway in the north wall of the east bay ('priest's door?'), now blocked. The north wall arcade into the vestry was blocked, as was the chancel arch. The 3 windows in the nave south wall, and the west window, were open, but the north wall windows were all blocked; all the present north wall buttresses are shown. The north chapel is also labelled 'ruin' and only the east window is shown. The chapel west wall is depicted as an open arcade; this, coupled with its location and the lack of any evidence for any original north wall windows or any original entry into the chapel from the chancel, suggests that the chapel may, in fact, have been a Chapter House. The stump of the east range building against the west end of its north wall is shown as an irregularity; the east range building on the site of the present vestry was also ruined and depicted as 2 east-west wall-lines. The west range building (Fenton's 'Monkey-house?') is shown, and also a building in the angle of the south porch west wall and the nave, which had gone by 1880 (NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Pembs. Sheet XL.9). Prior to restoration, the tower south door was a plain, square opening with a plain, square window above (photograph in church).

The nave and tower were restored from 1882 to the designs of the Diocesan Architect John Prichard of Llandaff (NLW, SD/F/490), and the chancel and chapel from 1887 under the same architect (NLW, SD/F/490). Restoration work continued until 1907 (Thomas, 1964 (ii), 344). The nave restoration was slight, confined to re-opening the north wall east window, rebuilding the west window and restoring the southern windows, but in the chancel and chapel the work was of higher impact. The gables were rebuilt and both components were entirely refenestrated, the chapel with new north wall windows and a doorway from the chancel; in the chancel the refenestration appears to have been a faithful copy of the original arrangements. The chancel arch was unblocked and a new, larger chancel arch was inserted. A vestry, with a porch, was constructed over the truncated remains of the east range, and the medieval arch into the

chancel was reopened. The boilerhouse and ?coalhouse were added. The tower was restored with a new south door and window, and a crenellated parapet. The church was reroofed, refloored, reseated and replastered. Later work has been slight.

The panelled oak pews and pulpit are from 1882 (NLW, SD/F/491). The elaborate chancel fittings include double tiers of canopied, carved oak, neo-Perpendicular stalls from 1887 (NLW, SD/F/491), 2 commandment tablets probably from 1887, a carved, neo-Gothic oak altar table, from the mid 20th century and a painted-panel reredos of similar date. The north chapel altar table is converted from a chest and lies on a marble footpace from 1887. The large organ in the vestry is by Wade and Meggitt of Tenby and dated 1887. The tower clock is by W. Potts & Sons, of Leeds, from 1907 (Bartosch & Stokes, 1994, 19).

The limestone font has a circular, moulded bowl from 1882, mounted on a shaft-cluster of 13th century date, derived from the church?

The tower contains 8 bells, by Charles Carr of Smethwick and dated 1897 (Bartosch & Stokes, 1994, 15), now hung for chiming.

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
relativity to possible *llŷs* site.

SS Nicholas and John, Monkton, was both a Benedictine priory (dedicated to St Nicholas) and a parish church, of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke, during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932). The priory was founded by Arnulf de Montgomery, Lord of Pembroke, in 1098 as a cell of the Abbey of Seéz, Normandy, and as a memorial chapel to his brother Hugh, soon after the establishment of a castle at Pembroke (Ludlow, 1991, 27). There is no evidence that the initial foundation lay within the castle, as has been suggested by the wording of the foundation grant (Green, 1913, 236, *et al.*). A settlement developed at the priory gate which, by the 14th century, had acquired the rights to a fair (Laws, 1909, 194). Among the many churches held by the priory were the 2 parish churches of Pembroke borough, St Mary and St Michael.

The church was assessed at £26 13s 4d in 1291, the sum payable being £2 13 4d (Green, 1913, 236). The priory was apparently a favoured residence of the earlier 14th century Bishops of St Davids (Thomas, 1964 (ii), 345).

Monkton, as an alien priory, was temporarily seized by Edward III finally being suppressed by Henry V in 1415 (Laws, 1909, 166). It was granted by Henry VI, in 1440, to his uncle Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester and Earl of Pembroke, who in turn granted it, as a cell, to St Alban's Abbey in 1442 (Fenton, 1903, 205; *et al.*). The gift was confirmed in 1445.

The house was dissolved, falling to the crown, in 1535 (RCAHM, 1925, 237) when it was valued at £57 9s 3d (Fenton, 1903, 205). It was acquired by the Vaughans of Whitland and later the Devereux Earls of Essex (Thomas, 1964 (ii), 344). The vicarages of Monkton, Pembroke St Michael and Pembroke St Mary were united from 1770 until 1872, when the former 2 were separated from St Mary by Order of Council (Green, 1913, 237). In 1833 the consolidated vicarage was rated in the king's books at £9 (*viz.*, £4 for St Michael and £5 for Monkton, St Mary being discharged) and in the gift of Sir John Owen (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 SS Nicholas and John, Monkton, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage (Benefice 338), in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8).

The evidence for a pre-conquest religious foundation at Monkton is circumstantial, and largely dependent on Pembroke Castle being the site of a pre-conquest *llys* with a twin ecclesiastical site (Ludlow, 1991, 26).

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**ST ANDREW,
NARBERTH,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3745

RB No. 3178

NGR SN 1083 1442

Listed Building No. 6475

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, large. Consists of north transeptal tower, 4 storeys; medieval. Nave, 5 bays; north transept/vestry (formerly north chapel), 2 bays; partly medieval, largely rebuilt 1879-82. Chancel, 2 bays, 1879-82. Mainly snecked local muddy limestone rubble, with grey limestone ashlar quoins; medieval work uncoursed. The tower ground floor is vaulted. Pointing is mainly from 1879-82; the interior is plastered. All openings, except in the tower, are from 1879-82 and neo-gothic, with limestone dressings; exterior largely buttressed, from 1879-82.

Roofs: medieval vault, 1879-82 roofs. Floors and finishes: 1879-82.

Condition - fair-good. Tower floors, bellframe and roof poor; nave south and west walls damp, with poor plaster.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Medium-depth external drain around 100% of church; shallow revetted cutting around 30% of church. below-ground evidence for former components beyond 20% of church?; below-ground heating chamber beneath 15% of church; deep underfloor excavation and void; no external memorials significantly close to the church but evidence of former burials beyond 75% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 30% medieval core fabric; medieval tower with openings, vault and parapet.

Group value - high. Landmark church with medieval tower, in hilltop location; central within historic town; large churchyard with some good memorials.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave north wall (and former chancel, south transept and south porch?), C14?.

Phase 2 - North transept/vestry (former north chapel), C15?.

Phase 3 - Tower, early C16.

Phase 4 - Chancel (and rebuilt nave and north transept/vestry), 1879-82.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

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

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 5-bayed nave, a single-bayed north transept roofed continuously, as an east-west gable, with a single-bayed vestry to the east, and a 4-storeyed tower west of the north transept. The tower, the nave north wall and the lower courses of the transept/vestry north wall represent the only surviving pre-19th century fabric, the remainder of the church having been rebuilt in 1879-82.

The 19th century construction is in snecked local muddy limestone rubble, with grey limestone ashlar quoins; the medieval work is uncoursed. Pointing is mainly from 1879-82; the interior is plastered. All openings, except in the tower, are from 1879-82 and neo-gothic. They include the north transept and vestry arcades, which have moulded oolite 2-centred arches, and the elaborate tripartite chancel arch which features 2 cylindrical oolite piers. Doors are 2-centred, with chamfered grey limestone dressings. The 19th century windows are generally 2-light, with neo-Decorated ogival tracery, in chamfered grey limestone; the end wall windows have 3 and 5 lights, with similar tracery. The medieval nave north wall is blind, and exhibits no blocked openings. The exterior, except the tower and transept/vestry, has stepped buttresses throughout, cross-buttressed at the corners, from 1879-82; a larger buttress with a crocketed pinnacle lies on the south wall at the junction of the nave and chancel. An external chamfered grey limestone offset runs around the base of the 19th century walls. There is a heating chamber beneath the chancel, reached by an external stairway along the north wall, all from 1879-82. The roofs are slated gables, while the tower roof was not seen. The softwood roof timbers are from 1879-82 and 1903, as are the tiled passages and suspended board floors.

The north transept/vestry were rebuilt from a medieval north chapel which lay north of the medieval 2-bayed chancel. Only the lowermost courses of the medieval work have been retained, and the internal dividing wall is from 1879-82.

The tower is from the early 16th century and is not typical of the region being tall, narrow and only slightly tapered, comprising 4 storeys, while it has only a slight external basal batter which lacks a string course. It occupies a transeptal position north of the nave east bay, in the angle with the former north chapel (now the north transept). The facework is in thin, uncoursed limestone rubble, with limestone dressings. The spiral stair turret is squinched out as a quarter circle, with a shallow external buttress, from the southern half of the west wall in the angle with the nave, from which it is entered through a plain, 2-centred early 16th century doorway; it is lit by simple square-headed and slit-lights, is offset back to the wall face at nave eaves level, above which it forms a shallow square projection, and features a similar early 16th century doorway to a former parvis with a suspended floor that has now gone. The ground floor communicates with the nave through a 2-centred arch from the early 16th century and is entered from the exterior through the north wall via a plain, 2-centred doorway rebuilt in 1879-82 and with a rear-arch of concrete; above it is a line of medieval voussoirs forming a segmental arch, the infill below featuring a slit-light. There is a wide, segmental-headed internal recess in the east wall, with a sill above floor level, from the early 16th century - function?. The 2-centred barrel-vault is from the early 16th century and lacks springers. The limestone-flagged floor is from 1879-82. The second stage is lit by a simple, square-headed light, from the early 16th century, in the north wall, while the third stage is lit by a simple slit-light in the east wall. The belfry stage has simple, segmental-headed openings in all 4 faces, from the early 16th century. The crenellated parapet, which is flush with the shallow stair-turret, lies on a corbel table from the early 16th century; rainwater chutes issue from the north and east faces.

A medium-depth external drain surrounds the church. A shallow revetted cutting runs along the north wall of the church. There may be below-ground evidence for the former south transept and south porch beyond the nave south wall. There is a below-ground heating chamber beneath the chancel. One metre of ground was excavated beneath the floor level of the 1879-82 church and there is an underfloor void. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church but there is evidence of former burials to the east, west and south.

Structural development

The pre-19th century church comprised a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 2-bayed north chapel, a north transeptal tower, a south transept and a south porch.

Three views of the church taken prior to 19th century rebuilding appear to show a building fundamentally unaltered from its medieval layout. The earliest, a Buck print from 1740 (NLW, Original Drawings, PD7042, Top. B12/6, B114) is an engraving from the south which shows the chancel with 2 square windows of 18th century domestic type in the south wall, the nave, the tower, the south transept with a large, 2-centred medieval window in the end wall, and the south porch. The same arrangement is shown in a sketch, again taken from the south, of c.1785 (NLW, Drawing Volumes 63, 119), depicting the transept window with 2 lights and with a circular light above, the nave west bay south wall as pierced by a slit-light or a lancet, and the south porch doorway with a low, 2-centred arch; the eastern of the 2 chancel windows had been blocked. The third is a watercolour from the east, from the earlier 19th century (NLW, Original Drawings, Parker Colln., Drawings Vol. III, 87) which again shows the same arrangements, and a corbel table on the tower east wall between the ground and second storeys. None of the views shows the north chapel.

The components as depicted suggest a largely 14th century date for the church, with a 15th century north chapel and a 16th century tower. The tower was apparently reroofed, in lead, after a lightning strike in 1796, and other repairs were undertaken (Morris, 1990, 16).

The church was enlarged in 1828 by the Narberth architect James Hughes (James, 1992, 43), aided by a grant of £150; in 1833 Lewis described the 'recently rebuilt' church as 'a neat edifice, in the later style of English architecture... containing 150 free sittings' (Lewis, 1833). A view of the church from the south, by the French artist A. Dousseau and reproduced by James (James, 1992, 45) shows a somewhat conventionalised building, lacking a south porch, but the south transept is shown, and tall, early 19th century neo-Gothic single-light windows, with 16-pane glazing, appear to be depicted throughout. The church is not included in the tithe map of 1840 (NLW, Narberth, 1840).

Except for the tower, the nave north wall and the north chapel, the church was entirely rebuilt in 1879-82 to the designs of the architect T. G. Jackson (NLW, SD/F/511). The new church exhibited an entirely different plan from its predecessor, lacking a south transept and a south porch, below-ground evidence for which may lie beyond the present nave south wall. The chancel extends east of the earlier chancel, and the nave extends beyond the west wall of the earlier nave.

The good-quality internal fittings are mainly from 1879-82 including the oak stalls, the pews and panelled dado and the polychrome oolite and marble pulpit. The neo-Tudor, panelled softwood and glass tower screens are dated 1927.

The oolite font is from 1879-82.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

There is no firm evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site, but the nearby castle represents the probable site of the documented *llys* of Arberth.

St Andrew, Narberth, was a chapelry with a parish of its own during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), in the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. There appears to be no support for Rees' depiction of the church as an advowson of a religious house, the living instead having been a rectory appendant to the Lordship of Narberth (Green, 1913, 210). In 1249, as a possession of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Narberth, the rectory was valued at 30 marks (*ibid.*). In 1291 it was assessed at £1 1s. (*Ibid.*). The rectory appears to have fallen to the crown in 1536 when the Lordship of Narberth was abolished. Robeston Wathen church appears always to have been annexed to Narberth rectory.

In 1833 the rectory was rated in the king's books at £25 10s 10d, and in the patronage of the king (Lewis, 1833). Robeston Wathen was still consolidated with the rectory, and the chapel of Mounton, with a parish of its own, was also consolidated with Narberth, to which it was traditionally regarded as a chapel-of-ease..

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

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Map Evidence

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NLW, Parish of Narberth, Tithe Map, 1840.

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Pictorial sources

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Church in Wales Records

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Unpublished Accounts

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**ST MARY,
NASH,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 4416

RB No. 3070

NGR SN 0101 0327

Listed Building No. 5988

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A single-cell church, small. Consists of chancel/nave, without structural division, 5 bays; 1841-2. Vestry (north), 1 bay, later 19th century?. Construction is in limestone rubble. Slate gable roofs, vestry with slate lean-to. Openings mainly from 1841-2, simple neo-gothic. Western bellcote, single, later 19th century. (Box pews, west gallery and pulpit from 1841-2.)

Roofs and floors: 1841-2. Finishes: later 19th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Medium-deep external drain around 40% of church; former component beyond 740% of church; no underfloor void; no external memorials significantly close to church.

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

Group value - low. C19 church; adjacent masonry farm buildings.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, 1841-2.

Phase 2 - Vestry (and bellcote), later C19?.

DESCRIPTION

St Mary, Nash, is a single-celled church, of small size. It was entirely rebuilt in 1841-2 on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, retaining none of the earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a 5-bayed chancel/nave without structural division, and a single bayed vestry north of the 'chancel' west bay. Construction is in limestone rubble; external pointing is largely from the later 19th century and the interior is plastered. Openings are from 1841-2 and simple neo-Gothic; the windows have 4-centred heads and 2 or 3 lights, in a simple 'Perpendicular' style. The west door has a 4-centred head; above it lies a parapet with a single bellcote, in darker limestone and probably an addition. The chancel/nave roof is a slated gable; the vestry has a slated lean-to roof.

Richard Fenton visited the earlier church c.1810 and described it as 'though certainly ancient... neither has, nor appears to have had, any steeple or other ornament whatever, being the meanest religious structure I have seen in this hundred' (Fenton, 1903, 234). It was apparently single-celled like the present church; a north aisle or chapel, 'being grown ruinous', had apparently been demolished a few years previously. According to Lewis, 1833, it was 'a very ancient structure, remarkable for the rude simplicity of its architecture, and is said to have been erected by one of the earliest Norman proprietors of Upton Castle'. The tithe map of 1840 shows a conventionalised church, in elevation, with a west tower that is entirely spurious (NLW, Nash, 1840).

The church was demolished and rebuilt in its present form in 1841-2, under the local architect George Gwyther, of Pembroke Dock (Cadw, 1996, 11), and was reseated with the present pews, pulpit and gallery (Pembs. R. O., HPR/15/17); the flagged floor and plaster ceiling are contemporary. The vestry had been added by 1874 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Pembs. Sheet XL.6.), when the bellcote was probably (re)built in its present form. The church was repaired in the 1890s (Cadw, 1996, 11) but the details of this work are not known.

There is a good range of internal fittings from 1841-2 including box pews, a pentagonal pulpit and a west gallery (cf. near-contemporary fittings at the nearby church at Redberth). The 'chancel' fittings are later 20th century (Bartosch & Stokes, 1992, 11).

The font has a square bowl which cannot be closely dated.

There is 1 bell (Bartosch & Stokes, 1992, 10).

A medium-deep external drain runs along the south wall. A north aisle/chapel was formerly present. The floor appears to lie directly on the substrate. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Richard Fenton saw a medieval effigy, 'of a crusader', lying loose outside the church; apparently it had previously lain within the former north aisle/chapel (Fenton, 1903, 235). It has been moved to Upton Chapel (RCAHM, 1925, 253).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Mary, Nash, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It was appendant to the Manor of Nash (or 'Esse') and was assessed at £5 in 1291

(Green, 1913, 214). Its annual value was £6 12s 8½d in 1536 (ibid.). The chapel of Upton was subordinate to Nash parish.

Patronage was vested with the Manor of Upton and Nash in the 16th century, held by the Bowen family (ibid.), but was divided among a number of individuals by the 18th century and in 1833 was in the hands of the Rev. William Evans (Lewis, 1833), when the living was a rectory, with Upton annexed, rated in the king's books at £6 12s 8½d (ibid.).

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

The dedication is occasionally given as St Catherine (Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First and Second Editions, Pembs. Sheet XL.6.).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Pembs. Sheet XL.6.

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Second Edition, Pembs. Sheet XL.6.

NLW, Parish of Nash, Tithe Map, 1840.

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Church in Wales Records

Bartosch & Stokes, 1992, Quinquennial Report, Nash.

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Parish Records, Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest

HPR/15 - Nash with Upton:-

HPR/15/14 - Churchwarden's Accounts, 1945-7.

HPR/15/17 - Plan of seating, c.1845.

Unpublished Accounts

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Printed Accounts

A. Gordon Partnership, 1993, Redundant Religious Buildings in West Wales.

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Glynne, S. R., 1888, 'Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses', Archaeol. Cambrensis, Vol. V, Fifth Series.

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RCAHM, 1925, Inventory: Pembrokeshire.

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

**ST DANIEL,
PEMBROKE,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3279

RB No. 3015

NGR SM 9821 0047

Listed Building No. 6453

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Limestone rubble construction, with some ORS; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower with masonry spire. Medieval chancel arch, piscina, blocked door(s), vaulting, spire and tower openings. 18th century blocked openings and buttressing. Other openings, with limestone dressings, are from 1890.

Roofs: medieval vaulting. Floors: 1890. Finishes: mid-19th century render, 1890 pointing.

Condition - poor-fair. Infrequent usage; ivied externally; floors poor.

Archaeological potential - very good. Medium-depth revetted cutting around 40% of church; no external drain; no evidence for floor level changes; no underfloor void; few external memorials lie significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval vaulting throughout, medieval chancel arch, piscina, blocked door(s), openings in tower and spire.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower; subcircular churchyard; lychgate.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C14?

Phase 2 - Chancel, later C14?

Phase 3 - West tower, late C14-early C15.

Phase 4 - Spire, mid C15.

Phase 5 - Restored C18, low impact.

Phase 6 - Restored 1890, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Daniel, Pembroke, is a 3-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 90% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave and a 3-storeyed west tower with a spire. Construction is in limestone rubble with some Old Red Sandstone. Chancel, nave and tower are all barrel-vaulted. There are medieval openings in the tower and spire, a medieval chancel arch and piscina, and blocked 18th century windows; other openings were rebuilt in 1890 and there is 19th century external buttressing. There are the remains of mid 19th century external render; pointing is mainly from the later 19th century and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the tower has a masonry broach spire.

The chancel is slightly wider than the nave, to which it exhibits external butt-joints. There is a secondary (18th century?) simple cross-buttress at the south-east corner and the remains of an earlier buttress at the north end. The east window has 3 graduated lancets in chamfered limestone, from 1890. The uppermost courses of the side walls were heightened/rebuilt in the later 19th century. There is a blocked window in each of the side walls of the east bay, with segmental rear-arches visible through the plaster but amorphous externally; they probably belong to the 18th century. A blocked doorway can be seen in the north wall of the west bay, but the blocking is amorphous throughout and its original form cannot be ascertained; it may be a medieval 'priest's door'. Internally, there is a plain, 2-centred piscina in the south wall, without a bowl. The medieval chancel arch is plain and 2-centred, with chamfered imposts that are probably secondary, 18th century?; it is not square to the rest of the church. The chancel has a 2-centred barrel vault, without springers and also medieval; there are the remains of blue paint beneath the present whitewash. The concrete floor may be from 1890.

The nave is lit by 2 single lancets in the south wall and one in the north wall, like the east window and similarly from 1890, with infill. There is a small, amorphous area of blocking in the centre of the north wall which may represent the window 'through which the mass-bell of St Mary's could be heard', noted by RCAHM, 1925, 287 - blocked after 1925?. A further blocked window, possibly square-headed (18th century?), lies in the north wall of the west bay. The north door has a 2-centred head and a crude surround, probably 19th century, with an inserted concrete 'tympanum' above the timber door frame, from 1890?. There is a blocked south door, amorphous externally. The nave has a similar vault to that in the chancel. The brick floor is in poor condition; it is probably later 19th century and lacks a void below.

The west tower is not typical of the region. It has an external basal batter but lacks a string-course and there is no proper spiral stair turret. It is fairly small, narrow and tapered, and the openings are all simple; it may be fairly early, from the late 14th - early 15th century. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch from the late 14th - early 15th century, above which is a simple square opening to the second stage. The spiral stair ascends only to the second stage and occupies a semicircular projection between the south wall and the nave, now truncated, with a visible joint to the nave and entered through a damaged square-headed doorway from the late 14th - early 15th century. The single lancet in the ground floor of the tower west wall is from 1890 and is like those in the nave. Internally, the wall is carried diagonally over the north-west corner, with a square recess that may represent a former fireplace, from the 18th century?. The 2-centred vault is original and pierced for 1 bellrope. The concrete floor may be from 1890. The second stage is lit by a simple slit-light low in the north face and a small, square-headed opening in the west face, from the late 14th - early 15th century. The belfry stage is lit by a simple slit-light in each face. The parapet lacks crenellations and lies on an external corbel table; there is a rainwater chute on the east face, and rainwater holes on the west face; a further corbel lies at a lower level at the north-east corner - function?. The tower is surmounted by an octagonal broach spire which lies on a square base within the parapet; there is a string-course at the junction of the broaches below which are 4 lucarnes, in the form of simple lancets, at the cardinal points. The spire is secondary but probably no later than the mid 15th century.

There is a medium-depth revetted cutting along the north side of the church, but no external drain. There is no evidence for floor level changes, and there is no underfloor void, but the floors are lower than the churchyard ground level. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The nave appears to pre-date the chancel and tower, but in the absence of original detail cannot be closely dated; Thomas, 1964, gives a possible 12th century date for the nave fabric but does not give his reasons. The chancel and tower are both secondary and butt against the nave end walls, but the character of the vaulting is similar throughout and it may be secondary. The tower can be given a late 14th - early 15th century date, and the spire belongs to a similar period, but is secondary.

In 1721 the church was described as neglected, with services held 'rarely, if at all', being the 'solitary habitation of Owles and Jackdaws' (Hughes, 1996). In 1733 it was 'ruinous' (RCAHM, 1925, 288). It was restored to use as a Methodist chapel in 1740 (Hughes, 1996). A print from 1748 shows the church from the north with square openings in the nave and chancel, which may be represented by the present blocked openings and belong to the chapel conversion (Haverfordwest Library, Prints and Pictures, Pembroke from the north by S & N Buck, 1748).

St Daniel was repossessed by the established church in 1849 (*ibid.*). It was restored in 1890 (Hughes, 1996) but the details of the restoration, and the architect responsible, are not known. This may have been when the 18th century openings were blocked; at any rate the present windows were inserted and the north door rebuilt. The church was refloored.

An early 19th century triple-decker pulpit lies loose in the church, having been brought from Upton Chapel (Rev. C. W. Bowen, Pembroke, *pers. comm.*). The softwood stalls, altar rail, readers' desks and pews are from 1890.

There is now no font.

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Daniel, Pembroke, was a chapel in the parish of Pembroke St Michael, of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke, during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932); according to Fenton, 1903, 206, it was annexed to the Benedictine Priory of St Nicholas at Monkton, Pembroke and although it does not appear to have been a part of the priory possessions seized in 1414 it seems to have been transferred with them to St Albans (Hughes, 1996). In 1484 it was granted to the Mayor and Burgesses of Tenby by Richard III and in 1534 is listed as a free chapel (*ibid.*).

In 1551 it was leased by the crown to William Warren (*ibid.*) and the patronage remained in private hands though in nominal control of the Bishop of St Davids. Its usage appears to have been irregular and in 1721 it is described as neglected, with services held 'rarely, if at all', being the 'solitary habitation of Owles and Jackdaws' (*ibid.*). In 1733 it was 'ruinous' (RCAHM, 1925, 288).

St Daniel was restored to use as a Methodist chapel under the Rev. Howell Davies, c.1740 (Hughes, 1996), and in 1810 Fenton described it as 'long desecrated, and now become a Methodist conventicle' (Fenton,

1903, 206). In 1830 the church was leased to the Rev. B. Thomas for use as a Baptist meeting house, which was constituted the following year (Hughes, 1996). Services had been discontinued by 1845.

St Daniel was repossessed by the established church in 1849 when it was purchased by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for £275 (Hughes, 1996). Since that time it has mainly functioned as a mortuary chapel.

In 1998 St Daniel, Pembroke, was a chapel-of-ease to Pembroke St Michael (Benefice 552), in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8). Usage was infrequent; the only regular service was held just once a year, on St Daniel's day (11 September).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Pembs. Sheet XL.9.

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

NLW, Parish of Pembroke St Mary, Tithe Map, 1840.

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

Pictorial sources

Haverfordwest Library, Prints and Pictures, Pembroke from the north by S & N Buck, 1748 (church from north).

Church in Wales Records

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**ST MARY,
PEMBROKE,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3278

RB No. 3016

NGR SM 9835 0152

Listed Building No. 6400

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, large. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 4 bays; tower, (north of chancel), 4 storeys; north aisle (absorbs former north transept), 4 bays; south transept, 1 bay; medieval. South porch, early 17th century. South porch southern bay, 1876. West porch; boilerhouse (north of north aisle), 1924. Limestone rubble construction, with some ORS; internal walls with render/plaster. North aisle and south porch barrel-vaulted, tower (secondarily?) rib-vaulted. Slate gable roofs; boilerhouse with slated lean-to; tower roof not seen. Medieval openings in tower, medieval north aisle arcade, south door and chancel doorways are medieval, blocked medieval windows and door. Other openings, including the chancel arch, are mainly in yellow oolite from 1876.

(15th century monument; many 17th - 18th century monuments.)

Roofs: medieval vaulting and 1876 timberwork. Floors: 1876. Finishes: 1876-20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. No external drain or cutting; churchyard raised around 30% of church; buildings near and against 60% of church; floor levels raised in 10% of church; ?underfloor void beneath 40% of church; no external memorials significantly close to church

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 75% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval and early 17th century vaulting; medieval arcade, doorways, tower openings and blocked openings.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower, in town centre location; medieval town wall-line forms part of churchyard boundary; focal point of view; possible early buildings encroach yard.

Phasing:

- Phase 1 - Nave, c.1200.
- Phase 2 - South transept (and former north transept?), C14.
- Phase 3 - Chancel and tower, c.1400.
- Phase 4 - North aisle, c.1500.
- Phase 5 - South porch, early 17th century.
- Phase 6 - Restored 1876, medium impact.
- Phase 7 - West porch, boilerhouse, 1924.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

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

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 3-storeyed tower north of the chancel west bay, a 4-bayed north aisle (absorbing a former north transept), a single-bayed south transept, a long, 2-bayed south porch, a west porch and a boilerhouse north of the aisle. Construction is in limestone rubble with some Old Red Sandstone in the north aisle. The north aisle and south porch are barrel-vaulted; the tower is rib-vaulted. There are medieval openings in the tower, the north aisle arcade, the south door and the chancel doorways are medieval, there are blocked medieval windows in the nave south wall and a blocked medieval door in the north aisle; other openings, including the chancel arch, are mainly from 1876 and in yellow oolite, in neo-Gothic style. Pointing is mainly from 1876 and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the boilerhouse has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen. There are the remains of a 15th century monument, and 17th-18th century wall monuments.

The chancel is in random limestone rubble. The 5-light east window is from 1876 and has cusped 'Geometric' tracery beneath a 2-centred drip-mould on plain stops, all in yellow oolite. The north wall is largely shared with the tower, which is entered through a plain, deeply-chamfered 2-centred arch, without capitals or bases, from c.1400 (see Structural Development below), above which an internal corbel table, at eaves level, supports the tower upper stages. East of this a blocked doorway is visible externally, where it has lost its head, and is visible internally as a small, narrow, blocked 2-centred doorway noticeably further west and therefore with a skewed or dog-leg passage through the wall; the doorway, which appears to be medieval and was presumably a 'priest's door' from c.1400 (possibly into a former component- see below), was re-used as the entry to a former vestry erected in 1876, and was blocked in the 20th century when the vestry was demolished. The south wall was rebuilt in 1876 (Parkinson, 1980) with 3 windows, all of 2 uncusped lights with pierced spandrels and central quatrefoils, in yellow oolite; the easternmost sill descends to floor level for a sedilia. Internally, east of the windows, is a piscina with a plain 2-centred head and a sunken bowl, from 1876; above it a narrow 2-centred opening appears to run through the wall, also from 1876?. The 2-centred chancel arch is from 1876 and is in double-chamfered yellow oolite without capitals or bases. The chancel 'wagon-roof' ceiling has transverse deal frames with pitch-pine matchboarding, from 1876 (NLW, SD/F/534). The passages and sanctuary flooring are unknown, being fully carpeted; suspended board and woodblock floors, from 1876, above voids?, lie either side.

The nave south wall features a window either side of the south door, each set high in the wall and with a segmental embrasure that may be medieval; the 2-light windows themselves, with 'Geometric' tracery in yellow oolite and a central trefoil, are from 1876. There is now no evidence for the blocked semicircular-headed windows noted in 1938 (Mathias, 1938, 290-292). The south door has a full-centred semicircular surround of 3 roll-moulded orders and a similar drip-mould, without capitals or bases, from c.1200 and similar to that at nearby Monkton. Externally, an early 17th century memorial is set in a recess above. The

west, gable wall features a doorway with a 2-centred surround, inserted in 1924 (NLW, SD/F/536). Above it is a 2-light window with uncusped plate tracery and a central quatrefoil, and a plain 2-centred dripmould, in yellow oolite from 1876, the mullion recently replaced; a possible area of blocking is visible externally beneath sill level. The softwood nave roof is from 1876 and lacks proper trusses, all rafters being scissors-braced, but every 4th pair is arch-braced from ashlar-posts; matchboarded above. The passage flooring, like in the chancel, is unknown, being fully carpeted; suspended woodblock floors, from 1876, above voids?, lie either side.

The 4-storey tower occupies a position, only seen within the area at one other church (Manorbier), north of the chancel west bay and in the angle with the north transept. It is also stylistically unusual, being very large, lacking the basal batter and string course typical of the region, being only slightly tapered, and having a spiral stair turret that is entered from the exterior, all characteristics which it shares with the nearby tower at Tenby St Mary which can be assigned a date of c.1400 (and which was constructed in the angle of the chancel and a former *south* transept). The external facework is all in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble, with good quoins, and appears to represent a single build. The ground floor opens, via 2 tall, 2-centred arches, into the chancel and north aisle (formerly the north transept); the southern arch has deep triple-chamfers on both faces, without capitals or bases, from c.1400, while the northern arch is similar but with deep single chamfers. The east wall was pierced by a half-arch respond against the chancel north wall, with a semicircular profile and plain voussoirs, apparently representing an original passage into a former, contemporary component on the site of the later vestry (see Structural Development below); the arch was later blocked, in 1876 when the present 2-centred doorway, now itself blocked, was inserted?. The remains of a truncated east-west wall, against north end of the half-arch, and the lower of the two lean-to roof-scars visible above the arch on the tower wall, may both be from the medieval component; the upper scar represents the 19th century vestry roof line. To the north of this half-arch, and a somewhat higher level, the tower east wall is pierced by a 2-light window beneath a 2-centred outer arch, each light with a plain, 2-centred head in chamfered limestone from c.1400. A similar, single light pierces the north wall, also from c.1400; beneath it a blocked doorway is visible externally, in a similar position to the door at Tenby St Mary, with a 2-centred head of prominent voussoirs and without a surround, from c.1400; its head now lies only 1.2m above churchyard level. The north-west corner houses the spiral stair which projects as a clasping buttress from the north and west faces and lit by plain slit-lights; it is entered from the interior through a narrow, plain, 2-centred doorway from c.1400, and from the churchyard through a plain, lintelled doorway, from c.1400, in the north wall. The ground floor has a rib-vault which springs from the 4 corners. The ribs have square sections and may be later insertions, possibly secondary to the vault itself which may have originally been a barrel-vault like that at Tenby St Mary. The ribs continue around a central bell-raising port which is again like that at Tenby. The floor has been raised by over 1m concealing the medieval openings within, and now has a flagged surface, from 1876?, or the earlier 19th century?. The second stage is lit by deep, simple, square-headed single lights in all 4 faces, from c.1400 and now louvered, while the third stage exhibits a plain, louvered, large, 2-centred single lancet in each face, also from c.1400. The belfry stage has contemporary, 2-light openings, with square heads, in all 4 faces, now also louvered. The contemporary crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table which does not extend around the west side of the stair.

The north aisle communicates with the nave, to which its west, gable wall exhibits an external joint, via a 4-bayed arcade of plain, 2-centred arches, chamfered only on their square piers, from c.1500. The west bay absorbed an earlier north transept (see Structural Development below) and its north wall features a plain, full-height internal recess with a 2-centred head, representing the end (gable) wall of the former transept. A blocked opening into the tower lies high up in the east wall; its head is formed by the apex of the vault (see below) dating the opening to c.1500 or later; its sill extends as an offset to the south wall arcade suggesting that it may have been associated with a rood-loft or screen; a corbel lies at the same level on the east bay north wall. The north wall is in Old Red Sandstone rubble and has a slight external basal batter; it was heightened by 0.20m in 1876. It is pierced by 3 windows, each a single, 2-centred uncusped lancet in chamfered oolite from 1876. The east-central bay exhibits a blocked doorway lying opposite the south door; its head has gone and it lacks a surround, but it may be from c.1500, and was blocked by the mid 18th century (see Structural Development below). The west wall is pierced by a

window like that in the nave west wall and similarly from 1876, but with a central trefoil; beneath its sill and the floor is a plain internal offset, probably medieval - benching?. The aisle is barrel-vaulted, the vault having a plain, 2-centred profile which dies into the side walls without springers; its apex is substantially lower than the nave roof apex. Floored as the nave.

The south transept is entered from the nave through a 2-centred arch, like the chancel arch from 1876 and similarly in double-chamfered yellow oolite without capitals or bases. It is lit by a graduated triple lancet window in the south (gable) wall, in a 2-centred arch and surround with chamfered oolite dressings from 1876. The softwood roof is from 1876 and lacks trusses, all common rafters having collars and ashlar-posts, from which every third rafter is arch-braced. The floor is fully carpeted but may be like that in the nave. The transept has been a chapel since 1990.

The south porch is from the early 17th century, but was extended southwards to form a passage from Main Street in 1876. The original section has side walls that lean inwards slightly, and exhibit internal masonry benching from the early 17th century. The barrel-vault has a segmental profile and is also early 17th century. The flagged floor may be from 1876 but possibly re-uses earlier 19th century flags, and there are 3 steps down into the nave. The side walls of the 1876 extension are thicker, perpendicular and lack internal benching; the east wall features a doorway into the churchyard, with a 2-centred head, from 1876. The south wall is in snecked rubble from 1876 and is entered from Main Street through a contemporary 2-centred doorway with a chamfered oolite surround, flanked by single lancets with similar surrounds. The extension roof is from 1876, in softwood, and lacks trusses, all common rafters having collars and ashlar-posts. Floored as the original porch, with 3 steps down from Main Street pavement level.

The west porch is from 1924 and is in random limestone rubble but with good quoins; the side and west walls all feature an external offset in chamfered grey oolite. The doorway lies in the west (gable) wall and has a rounded, 2-centred surround in chamfered grey oolite, from 1924; above it is a contemporary, neo-Tudor, uncusped 3-light window in a square surround and plain label, also in grey oolite. The softwood roof and tiled floor are also from 1924.

The lean-to boilerhouse was added against the north wall of the north aisle east bay in 1924, in random limestone rubble. It is entered through a plain doorway in the east (end) wall, with a concrete lintel, and lit by a similar window in the north wall. An inserted flue in the aisle wall leads to a simple, square chimney with a plain offset, from 1924. The softwood lean-to roof runs up to aisle sill level.

There is neither an external drain nor a cutting, but churchyard ground levels have been altered and have been raised to the north of the church; domestic buildings lie close to, or against, the south and east walls. There is no evidence for former floor levels except in the tower, where the floor has been raised by over 1m. An underfloor void is probably present. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The Romanesque south door, and the 2 blocked, semicircular-headed windows that were formerly visible (Mathias, 1938, 290-292), provide a date of c.1200 for the nave. The south transept (and the former north transept) probably belong to the 14th century trend for transept construction. The tower and (rebuilt) chancel may be contemporaneous (Parkinson, 1980); the tower is very similar in general form to that at Tenby St Mary which can be dated to c.1400 and both it and the chancel can be assigned a similar date. The tower occupies a position only seen within the area at one other church, Manorbier, where it pre-dates the north transept; at Pembroke it post-dates the former transept, with which it exhibits a joint, but pre-dates the north aisle, which is from c.1500. A former component, contemporary with the tower, appears to have occupied the angle between it and the chancel, superseded, in 1876, by a vestry which in turn has gone (see below). The south porch is from the early 17th century.

A watercolour by Francis Place, dated to c.1678, shows the church much as today but lacks detail. A print from 1748 shows the church from the north-west with large 'Perpendicular' windows in the nave and north aisle west walls (15th-16th century?), and 3 square-headed windows in the aisle north wall; a sanctus bellcote lay on the nave east gable (Haverfordwest Library, Prints and Pictures, Pembroke from the north by S. & N. Buck, 1748).

The church was described in c.1810 as 'shewing the pointed order, and consists of nave, chancel and north side aisle, with a small chapel to the south (the south transept). There are three arches now stopped up, two in the north aisle and one in the chancel, which evidently communicated with buildings now no more, that have left not a trace behind, and whose form and use we now vainly enquire after' (Fenton, 1903, 204). The description is repeated by Lewis, 1833, but there is no suggestion that the doorways, all now blocked, led to any associated buildings, the chancel door being a former 'priest's door, and the main north aisle door being a north doorway into the church. A print from 1830 (Haverfordwest Library, Prints and Pictures, Pembroke from the north by H. Gastineau, 1830), taken from the north-west, is similar to that of 1748 but appears to show a smaller north aisle west window with a possible blocked doorway below it.

The church was 'altered and restored' in 1876, under the architect J. L. Pearson, of London, but according to plans prepared by C. Buckeridge (NLW, SD/F/534). The restoration was heavy; most openings were rebuilt, the walls were heightened, the chancel south wall was entirely rebuilt and the south porch was extended southwards by one bay to form a long 'corridor' from Main Street. A vestry was added in the angle between the chancel north wall and the tower, but this has since been removed. The church was reroofed, refloored, reseated and replastered.

The reredos was erected under Pearson, and the font moved to its present location, in 1892 (NLW, SD/F/535). Three windows were reglazed in 1908 (Green, 1913, 231) and early 20th century reglazing includes some glass by Kempe (Bartosch & Stokes, 1992).

The west porch and boilerhouse were added in 1924 (NLW, SD/F/536). The lead tower roof was replaced by the present slated roof in 1929 (NLW, SD/F/537). The interior has been replastered since 1938 (Mathias, 1938, 290-292).

The plain softwood pews, and the similar octagonal pulpit, may be from 1876. The large organ, the body of which occupies the tower ground floor, is dated 1890. The elaborate, oolite reredos, featuring a central Christ in Majesty and flanking niches, is from 1892 and was designed by Pearson (NLW, SD/F/535). The neo-Perpendicular, softwood-panelled altar table and low redaltar may be contemporary. The oak stalls, with carved bench ends and bookboards, and the similar reader's desks, are from 1909 (Bartosch & Stokes, 1992). The softwood and glass west door lobby is from 1924. The neo-gothic softwood screen between the tower and the north aisle is dated 1932, and the similar north aisle altar table and rail may be contemporary. The low, main altar rail is dated 1937. The south transept chapel fittings, including the carved, oak altar table and reredos, and the oak-panelled wainscot, are dated 1990.

The limestone font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem with cable-moulding, and a square, cushioned base, all from the later 12th century.

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Mary, Pembroke, was a parish church, of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke, during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932). It was a possession of the Benedictine Priory of St Nicholas at Monkton, Pembroke, and the advowson was appendant to the Manor of Monkton (Green, 1913, 230). It was a primary feature of the medieval borough of Pembroke, established during the 12th century although the first reference to the church was not until 1260 (Hindle, 1979, 78).

At the dissolution, it fell to the crown, and with Pembroke St Michael was purchased by Lettice, Countess of Essex (ibid.). The vicarages of St Mary, St Michael and St Nicholas, Monkton (the former Monkton Priory) were united from 1770 until 1872, when the latter 2 were separated from St Mary by Order of Council (Green, op. cit., 232). In 1833 the consolidated vicarage was rated in the king's books at £9 (viz., £4 for St Michael and £5 for Monkton, St Mary being discharged) and in the gift of Sir John Owen (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Mary, Pembroke, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Pembroke St Michael (Benefice 552), in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8).

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Haverfordwest Library, Prints and Pictures, Pembroke from the north by S & N Buck, 1748 (church from north-west).

Haverfordwest Library, Prints and Pictures, Pembroke from the north by H Gastineau, 1830 (church from north-west).

Pembroke Castle from the south, by Francis Place, c.1678 (reproduction in private collection).

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**ST MICHAEL,
PEMBROKE,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3280

RB No. 3017

NGR SM 9883 0138

Listed Building No. 6408

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 20% pre-19th century core fabric.

A multicell church, large, complex. Consists of chancel east bay; vestry (north of chancel), 1 bay; tower ground floor (south of chancel); medieval. Tower south porch, 18th century. Chancel west bay; nave, 4 bays; tower second stage; south aisle, 5 bays; 1832. Tower belfry; south porches; 1887. Limestone rubble construction, with some slate ashlar; 50% of external walls with render; 90% of internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Vestry (formerly chapel) barrel-vaulted. Chancel east window partly medieval; re-used medieval door in nave. Some 18th century openings and a piscina, and blocked 1832 openings. Other openings, including the chancel arch, are in yellow oolite, with polychrome heads, from 1887.
(Good 18th century monuments.)

Roofs: medieval vaulting and 1887 timberwork. Floors: 1832 and 1887. Finishes: 1832-20th century.

Condition - Fair-good. Tower porch very poor; internal plaster poor in areas; some dressings weathered; ivied externally, particularly north and east walls; environs overgrown north of church.

Archaeological potential - Good-very good. No external drain or cutting; below-ground heating chamber beneath 10% of church; floors suspended above heating ducts in 60% of church; no evidence for former floor levels; former components beyond 20% of church; marked burials within 5% of church; no external memorials significantly close to church

Structural value (pre 19th century) - fair. 20% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval vaulting, window and re-used door?; 18th century openings and piscina.

Group value - high. Landmark church with tower, in town centre location; medieval town wall-line forms part of churchyard boundary; focal point of view; adjacent late-medieval buildings.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel east bay, vestry, tower ground floor, medieval.

Phase 2 - Tower south porch, C18.

Phase 3 - Chancel west bay, nave, south aisle, tower second stage, 1832.

Phase 4 - Restored 1887, high impact; tower belfry and south porches built.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Michael, Pembroke, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 20% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church has an unusual plan and a complex developmental history. It consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel east bay, a 3-storeyed tower south of the chancel east bay, a long, 5-bayed south aisle, a south tower porch, and 2 further south porches at either end of the south aisle. An earlier chancel and south transept were formerly present. Construction is mainly in limestone rubble, but the tower belfry stage is in slate ashlar. The vestry is barrel-vaulted. The chancel east window may be fundamentally medieval, and there may be a re-used medieval door surround in the nave fabric. The tower porch has ?18th century openings and there is a blocked 18th century door and piscina in the vestry. Other openings, including the chancel arch, are mainly from 1887 and in yellow oolite, in neo-Gothic style, with polychrome outer arches. The chancel east wall, the north and west walls of the church, the vestry and the tower second stage have external render, probably from the earlier 20th century; the south walls have ribbon-pointing from the later 20th century and the interior is plastered except for the west end. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen.

There are good 18th century monuments in the vestry.

The chancel east wall is fundamentally medieval when it formed the east wall of a former north transept (see Structural Development below). It is rendered externally. A stepped buttress at the south end of the wall may be the stump of the medieval chancel north wall; a similar buttress at the north end is from 1832. The 3-light east window has cusped 'Geometric' tracery in a 2-centred surround of yellow oolite, possible medieval (Parkinson, 1980) but restored in 1832 and in 1887 when the drip-mould, on stiff-leaf stops, was added. The side walls lean in markedly. The north wall is pierced, in the east bay, by a doorway into the vestry, with a chamfered 2-centred surround and hood-mould like the east window, all from 1887; to the east is a small, square 20th century (internal) aumbry. The west bay features a 2-light window with a polychrome outer arch in squared limestone and oolite, cusped openings with a central quatrefoil, and a drip-mould like the east window, all from 1887. The south wall features a large piscina from 1887, in a 2-centred recess, and a doorway opposite, and similar to, the vestry door, also from 1887. A full-height vertical rebate in the wall marks the site of an earlier chancel arch, from 1832, to the west of which is a full-height, 2-centred arch into the south aisle, double-chamfered, with Acanthus-mouldings at springer level and a hood-mould like the east window. The present chancel arch is similar and also from 1887. The softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling is from 1887 and has transverse frames lying on wall-plates, with pitch-pine matchboarding, from 1887. The sanctuary has a polychrome-tiled floors, while the passage floor is plain-tiled; both floors are from 1887. Suspended board floors, above voids, lie either side.

The nave was an addition of 1832. It is divided from the south aisle by a 4-bay arcade inserted in 1887; the 2-centred arches are double-chamfered, with hood-moulds like the east window, on cylindrical piers with plain abaci and tori. The nave is lit by 4 windows in the north wall like that in the chancel west bay and similarly from 1887. A heating-chamber was inserted beneath the east bay in 1887 and is entered through a doorway, below the easternmost window, with a 2-centred surround which may be re-used medieval work; in the angle with the chancel arch is a flue leading to a square chimney in limestone ashlar, also from 1887. The west wall is cross-buttressed at the north-west corner, with a similar buttress

at the junction with the south aisle; the buttresses are from 1887 and simple, unstepped, in squared and coursed limestone rubble with basal offsets in chamfered oolite. The west window has a 2-centred opening partly from 1832 and in brick, rebuilt in 1887 and now with a surround and drip-mould like the north wall windows but with a central hexafoil. Internally, a blocked window, with a semicircular head from 1832, is visible at a higher level; it was blocked in 1887. A similar, contemporary blocked window lies on the junction with the later south aisle arcade by which it is partly obscured; beneath it a blocked doorway is also visible internally, with a wide, segmental-headed opening from 1832, later constricted into a 2-centred arch before being blocked in 1887. A thin fillet of wood runs horizontally across the internal face of the west wall at half-height, associated with the former west gallery?. The softwood nave roof is from 1887 and, externally, is a continuation of the chancel roof; the trusses and common rafters are scissors-braced, each alternate truss being arch-braced from wall-corbels also from 1887, and matchboarded above. The cross-passage is floored with, to the east, large oolite flags and small black ceramic tiles, in poor condition and possibly from 1832, while the central passage is limestone-flagged, from 1887, with gratings to underfloor heating flues and suspended board floors either side.

The vestry is medieval and was, apparently, a former chapel north of the north transept. A 2-centred recess representing the blocked medieval door from the chancel lies east of the present entry (see above). The east, gable wall is buttressed like the chancel east wall, from 1832, and pierced by a window like those in the nave, from 1887; to the south is a blocked doorway with a polychrome head, chamfered surround and drip-mould like the 1887 windows, partly blocked with breeze-blocks and formerly entered from the churchyard up a flight of 7 steps. The north wall features an external buttress from 1832 and a central recess with a segmental head, roll-moulded internally with ovolo-moulded imposts from the 18th century, possibly representing a blocked doorway; above it is offset a very depressed semicircular arch., possibly representing an earlier, medieval door. At the east end of the wall is a piscina with a bracket-mounted, 18th century gadrooned oolite bowl in a 2-centred recess. The west (gable) wall features an external string-course which is carried up as a triangular-headed drip-mould over a probable blocked opening visible externally; internally, the space is occupied by a disused fireplace with a black marble surround, from 1832, rebuilt in 1887. The vestry is barrel-vaulted, with a 2-centred, east-west vault without springers. The limestone-flagged floor is probably from 1832 and laid upon the substrate, but features a number of inhumations.

The 3-storey tower was formerly central but now occupies a position south of the chancel east bay, and was almost entirely rebuilt in 1832 and again in 1887. The ground floor east wall was inserted, as an outside wall, into a former arcade in 1832; it is pierced by a contemporary, single-light window with a 2-centred head and plain, 20th century glazing. The west wall arcade is still open but was rebuilt as a chamfer- and cavetto-moulded arch in 1832, largely in plaster and now in poor condition. The north and south walls both feature blocked, medieval doors; the northern doorway, which is 2-centred, was blocked in 1887, the southern, 4-centred doorway was blocked at a later date. The ground floor has a timber ceiling and is floored as the nave central passage. The second stage was entirely rebuilt in 1832 but is now rendered externally; there is a neo-Tudor, square-headed, 2-light window with a plain, square label in the south face above a circular recess for a former clock-face. A plain string-course, from 1832, divides the second stage from the belfry stage which was again entirely rebuilt in 1887, in slate ashlar. There is a solid, semi-octagonal turret at each corner, and each face is pierced by a 3-light opening, with geometric tracery, in a 2-centred surround of yellow oolite similarly from 1887. The contemporary crenellated parapet lies on a double string-course, the upper of which is offset and extends around the turrets.

Against the south face of the tower ground floor is a porch, in large, roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble, which was added before 1832, probably in the later 18th century being in 'estate gothic' style. The east and west (side) walls rise above the south wall as large, square 'buttresses', the western containing a spiral stair entered through a doorway with a 4-centred head. The thin, south wall has a basal external offset and a cavetto-moulded string-course towards the wall-top, at which level the side wall buttresses are stepped back. It is pierced by a plain, 4-centred doorway. The lean-to roof was contained within the side wall buttresses but is now represented only by a few very rotten joists.

The south aisle occupies the site of the medieval nave but was entirely rebuilt in 1832 in random limestone rubble. The south wall features a doorway at either end, both from 1887 with 2-centred oolite surrounds and drip-moulds on heraldic stops. It is pierced by 4 windows, the eastern 2 like those in the nave north wall, the western two being similar but single-light, all from 1887; a fifth, triangular light above the eastern doorway is contemporary, with a similar polychrome head, and is cusped as an octofoil. The west, gable wall features a window like that in the nave west wall, and a blocked window from 1832 again like that in the nave west wall. The aisle is roofed and floored as the nave, and the east bay is now a chapel.

The two south porches are both from 1887 and very similar. They are in roughly coursed limestone rubble with external basal offsets in chamfered oolite. The side walls have simple buttresses at their south ends. The entries are like the aisle south doors. The eastern porch features a plain, square stoop in the west wall, while the western porch side walls are pierced by a single-light window from 1887, similar to those in the aisle. The softwood roofs are from 1887 and lack trusses, all common rafters having scissors-braces and ashlar-posts. The floors are polychrome-tiled, laid directly on the substrate, from 1887.

There is neither an external drain nor a cutting. The nave east bay lies over a below-ground heating chamber and floors are suspended above heating ducts. There is no evidence for former floor levels. A chancel was formerly present east of the tower, and a former south transept lay beyond the present south walls. There are marked burials within the vestry. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The church has an unusual plan and a complex developmental history. The medieval church was cruciform about a central tower (Parkinson, 1980), the lowest storey of which survives albeit in an altered form. The nave lay on the site of the present south aisle, and the chancel lay east of the tower, but the only other surviving medieval components are the core of the chancel, which was originally a north transept, and the vestry which, apparently, was originally a chapel at the end of the north transept.

St Michael was described in c.1810 as bearing 'marks of great antiquity, and is of Norman architecture, cruciform with a stunted tower, the area of which opens by four arches into the nave, the chancel and the transepts, than which nothing can be more simple, having no tendency to ornament of any kind' (Fenton, 1903, 204). However, it appears that the south transept had gone before 1832 (Parkinson, 1980) and had been replaced by the present tower porch, which appears to be 18th century Gothic in style (similar to much 'estate' church work from this period). The vestry/chapel piscina is also 18th century.

The church was almost entirely rebuilt, to the designs of the architect T. Rowlands (*ibid.*), in 1832 when its arrangements were radically altered; according to Lewis, writing in 1833, the church had been 'nearly rebuilt from the ground, in the later style of English architecture' (Lewis, 1833). The north transept became a single-bayed chancel, which communicated with the tower via a doorway that may have been retained. The nave was demolished, a new, wide, 5-bayed nave being constructed on the site of the present nave and south aisle with a low-pitched west gable wall pierced by 3 windows and a central doorway (NLW, Drawing Volumes 40, 39). The nave was entered through a doorway in the south wall of the west bay, with a porch that has now gone (NLW, SD/F/538). The upper stage(s) of the tower was demolished and rebuilt with a crenellated parapet on a corbel-table, single-light belfry openings and crocketed corner pinnacles (NLW, Drawing Volumes 40, 39). The chapel at the end of the north transept was retained and converted into a vestry, with the medieval doorway from the chancel, and the medieval north transept east wall window may have been retained to become the chancel east window (Parkinson, 1980). The church was lit by sash-windows which, with few exceptions, occupied the location of the present windows (*ibid.*; NLW, SD/F/538.). A timber west gallery was present (NLW, SD/F/538).

In 1886-7 the church was restored to the designs of the architect E. H. Lingen Barker (*ibid.*). The work was of high impact. An arcade was inserted down the centre of the nave to create a south aisle and the low-pitched west was removed and replaced by the present double-gable; the central west wall window, and door, were blocked, while buttresses were added to the wall. The present chancel arch was built one bay west of the 1832 arch, limiting the new nave to 4 bays, and the medieval chancel side doorways were blocked, a new doorway into the vestry being inserted slightly to the west of the old. The two south aisle south porches were added with new doorways into the south aisle. The church was reroofed, refloored, refenestrated and replastered. A heating chamber was inserted beneath the nave east bay. Although not mentioned in the specifications for the work (*ibid.*), it is apparent that the tower belfry stage was entirely rebuilt in its present form, in slate ashlar, with the present openings.

The tower south door and porch doors were blocked at a later date.

The softwood altar table, the carved reredos and flanking panelled wainscot, the altar rail, the panelled deal stalls and reader's desks, the wrought-iron, gothic chancel-screen, the cylindrical, moulded pulpit on 4 Purbeck marble shafts and the plain softwood pews are all from 1887. The softwood tower-screen may be contemporary. The large organ in the south aisle east bay is dated 1888, and was restored in 1958. The panelled oak, south aisle altar table is dated 1967 and the altar rail is probably contemporary.

The oolite font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem with cable-moulding, and a square base on a hexagonal plinth, and is probably from 1887.

There is 1 bell in the tower (Bartosch & Stokes, 1995).

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Michael, Pembroke, was a parish church, of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke, during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932). It was a possession of the Benedictine Priory of St Nicholas at Monkton, Pembroke, and the advowson was appendant to the Manor of Monkton (Green, 1913, 233). The church was established before the 1260s as the parish church of an originally extra-mural market suburb of the medieval borough of Pembroke (Hindle, 1979, 78; Ludlow, 1991, 28). It was assessed at £10 in 1291 (*ibid.*). Pembroke St Daniel (PRN 3279) was a chapel-of-ease to St Michael.

At the dissolution, St Michael fell to the crown, and with Pembroke St Mary was purchased by Lettice, Countess of Essex (Green, *op. cit.*, 231). The vicarages of St Michael, St Mary and St Nicholas, Monkton (the former Monkton Priory) were united from 1770 until 1872, when St Michael and Monkton were separated from St Mary by Order of Council (Green, *op. cit.*, 232). In 1833 the consolidated vicarage was rated in the king's books at £9 (*viz.*, £4 for St Michael and £5 for Monkton, St Mary being discharged) and in the gift of Sir John Owen (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Michael, Pembroke, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Pembroke St Mary (Benefice 552), in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8). Pembroke St Daniel is attached to the benefice as a chapel-of-ease to St Michael.

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**SS NICHOLAS AND TEILO,
PENALLY,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 4235

RB No. 3667

NGR SS 1177 9917

Listed Building No. 5992

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, medium-sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 1 bay, with skew-passage; south transept, 1 bay, with skew-passage; south porch; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Vestry (north of chancel), 1 bay, 1884. Limestone and ORS rubble construction; remains of 18th - early 19th century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting throughout, except in the vestry; medieval openings in tower, and medieval doorway, benching, stoup and tomb recess with effigy. Blocked early 17th century windows. Other openings, with yellow oolite dressings, are from 1851, and 1884 in the vestry.

Roofs: medieval vaults, and 1884 roof in vestry. Floors: 1851 and 1884. Finishes: 18th - early 19th century - 20th century.

Condition - good. Tower damp; some dressings weathered; ECM weathering.

Archaeological potential - good-very good. Deep, wide, revetted external drain around 30% of the church; shallow external drain around 70% of church; floor level raised in 10% of church?; suspended floors above heating ducts in 50% of church; heating chamber beneath 15% of church; external memorials significantly close to 100% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval vaulting, openings in tower, doorway, benching, stoup and tomb recess with effigy; blocked early 17th century windows.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower; large churchyard with good memorials; 2 ECMs (SAM Pe 142); associated late medieval building

Phasing:

- Phase 1 - Nave, C13-14?
- Phase 2 - Chancel, transepts and skew-passages, C14.
- Phase 3 - West tower lower stages, late C14.
- Phase 4 - South porch, C15.
- Phase 5 - West tower belfry, mid-late C16.
- (Phase 6 - Former vestry, 1825-27.)
- Phase 7 - Restored 1850-51, low impact.
- Phase 8 - Vestry, 1884.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

SS Nicholas and Teilo, Penally, is a multicelled church, of medium size. It retains approximately 80% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, single-bayed, asymmetrical north and south transepts with skew-passages, a south porch, a 3-storeyed west tower, and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel. Construction is in limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone. The church is barrel-vaulted throughout except in the vestry. There are medieval openings in the tower and porch, a medieval doorway, benching, stoup, tomb recess and ?coffin lid, and blocked medieval and 17th century windows; other openings, including the chancel arch, were rebuilt in 1851 (1884 in the vestry), in neo-Gothic style with yellow oolite dressings. There are the remains of 18th - early 19th century render; pointing is mainly from 1851 but the tower was repointed in 1877, and the interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel east window is from 1851 and comprises 3 cusped lights with geometric tracery, beneath a 2-centred hoodmould, in yellow oolite (mullions weathered - possibly re-used?). The west half of the south wall has a slight external batter. A blocked window is visible in the exterior of the east bay south wall; It has 2 lights with crude, triangular heads in weathered limestone, probably from the late medieval - early modern period. Immediately to the west is a crude external stepped buttress, probably medieval. Internally, the north wall of the east bay exhibits 2 low, 2-centred, cusped recesses with attached shafts housing brass commandment panels from 1894. The 2-centred chancel arch is in double-chamfered oolite, without imposts or bases, from 1851. The chancel has a plain, medieval, 2-centred barrel-vault without springers. The tiled floor is from 1851.

The nave north wall has a pronounced external basal batter which stops short of the west end - extended west in the later medieval period?; it retains much 18th - early 19th century external render. It is pierced by 2 windows, both cut through the batter. To the east is a 2-light window with a moulded oolite rear-arch, without an outer arch, with cusped, 2-centred surrounds in yellow oolite from 1851, with surrounding infill occupying a possible larger, 2-centred former opening. To the west is a similar, single lancet also from 1851 and between the two is a blocked window with a square surround in chamfered Old Red Sandstone from the early 17th century, blocked before 1851? (see below). The south wall is pierced by a similar 2-light window also from 1851. The south door has a chamfered, 2-centred surround from 1851; to the east, the external wall exhibits a stoup with deep, semicircular limestone bowl in a square recess, probably from the 14th century. The medieval barrel-vault is like that in the chancel. The passages are tiled, from 1851, with suspended board floors probably from 1884 when the underfloor heating ducts were inserted.

The north transept is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred medieval arch reflecting the profile of its vault. The transept may originally have been wider, approaching the width of the south transept; west of the junction between the present west wall and the nave north wall is an area of squinching, coped back to the nave wall above transept eaves level and with a small slated area, which may represent the stump of a former transept west wall. The present west wall masonry is unlike that in the east and north walls, which retain much 18th - early 19th century render, and the upper courses have been recently repaired. The transept is lit by an uncusped, graduated triple-lancet window in the north, gable wall, in yellow oolite from 1851. There is a blocked window in the east wall visible externally as a square, weathered, chamfered limestone surround from the early 17th century. The transept is vaulted as the nave and chancel, and floored as the nave. A horizontal score in the internal plaster, a third of the way up the walls, may indicate former seating. The skew-passage is entered through a very depressed, 2-centred arch in the east wall, south of which is a mid-height offset which stops at the nave arch. It has a depressed segmental vault, above which is a slated lean-to roof up to chancel eaves level; it was lit by a blocked window in its external wall which is visible externally as a 2-light opening with square heads in a square, chamfered surround in weathered limestone from the early 17th century. It emerges into the chancel via a wide opening with a depressed segmental head following the line of the vault. The transept is now used as a chapel.

The south transept is similarly entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred medieval arch reflecting the profile of its vault. It is similar to the north transept but wider, and the external render is less extensive. It is lit by a window in the south, gable wall like that in the north transept north wall and similarly from 1851. A blocked window in the east wall is also like that in the north transept east wall, and similarly from the early 17th century but with an Old Red Sandstone surround; beneath it is an internal tomb-recess with a plain, semicircular head from the 14th century, containing a limestone slab (coffin lid?) with male and female heads in relief, a much weathered cross and an inscription that apparently reads *'William de Hanton et Isamay sa femme (gisent) ici. Dieu de leur almes eyt merci. Amen'* and which may commemorate the son of a 14th century seneschal of Pembroke (RCAHM, 1925, 292). The skew-passage arch and offset, the vault, the floor and the horizontal score in the plaster, are like the north transept. The skew-passage is like that of the north transept but there is no evidence of any blocked window. The transept is now used as a chapel.

The south porch butts against the west wall of the south transept; the rubble walls have good medieval quoins. The side walls exhibit internal masonry benching, medieval but with oolite seating from 1851. The main entry has a rounded 2-centred surround in limestone, from the 15th century. The vault is like that in the nave, chancel and transepts. The quarry-tiled floor is from 1851.

The west tower is not typical of the region being small, narrow and tapered. It has an external basal batter, on a square plinth, but without a string-course, and lacks an external spiral stair turret. The 2 lower stages may be early, with detail similar to later 14th century towers (cf. Loveston Church, Pembs.), but the belfry stage was (re)built in the mid-late 16th century. The ground floor north wall lies under later 20th century external render. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a plain, 2-centred arch from the later 14th century, that respects the profile of the barrel-vault. The west wall is pierced by a doorway with a 2-centred head formed from 2 voussoirs, like that at Loveston Church, Pembs., and from the later 14th century. A 2-light window from 1851 lies above, like those in the nave. The flue from the 1884 heating ducts ascends the interior south-west corner. The 2-centred barrel-vault may have been rebuilt. The suspended board floor is probably from 1884 and may lie above medieval floor level. The second stage is lit by a slit light in the north wall and 2 rectangular lights in the west wall, the lower blocked, all from the later 14th century. The belfry stage is quoined, and has uncusped, 4-centred, 2-light openings in the north and south faces, with square labels, and similar, single-light openings in the east and west faces, all from the mid-late 16th century. The crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table and exhibits a continuous string-course at the base of the merlons, which appears to be an original mid-late 16th century feature.

The vestry is in uncoursed Old Red Sandstone rubble from 1884 and was added to the east of the northern skew-passage; there are contemporary external angle-buttresses at the north-east and north-west corners and a low, chamfered offset. The vestry is entered from the chancel through a 2-centred doorway and from the churchyard through a doorway with a Caernarfon-headed surround in the north wall; both are from 1884. It is lit by a simple, single lancet with a chamfered oolite surround in the east, gable wall, also from 1884. Beneath the vestry is a heating chamber entered from the churchyard via a flight of 4 steps down to a brick-lined, square-headed doorway now blocked with concrete. The softwood roof is an east-west gable, also from 1884.

A deep, wide, revetted external drain runs along the nave north wall, the west tower and south porch, and a shallow external drain surrounds the remainder. The tower ground floor may lie above medieval floor level, otherwise there is no evidence for floor-level changes. The nave and transept floors are suspended above heating ducts. There is a heating chamber beneath the vestry. External memorials and burial earthworks lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The nave is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone and may be earlier than the chancel and transepts, 13th - early 14th century?. The chancel and transepts are in limestone only and may be part of the trend for transept addition of the 14th century; they have similar vaults, and the externally-battered nave may have received its vault at the same time, and have been extended west without a batter (see above); this possible extension may, however, belong to the later 14th century when the west tower was added, with detail similar to other contemporary examples in the region (cf. Loveston Church, Pembs.). Only the lower two stages belong to this period; the belfry stage was (re)built in the mid-late 16th century with detail typical of the period. The south porch is typical of the 15th century in South Pembrokeshire. There are a number of blocked windows suggesting that a major refenestration occurred during the early 17th century; the chancel south window cannot be closely dated but may belong to the same campaign. The north transept may have been rebuilt as a narrower component during the post-medieval period. The vestry is 19th century.

The church was described in c.1810 as 'a nave with vaulted roof, separated from the chancel, vaulted also by a skreen (sic) of elegant workmanship. It has a transept: in the south aisle (sic) under a plain canopy is an ancient altar tomb... there were three other arched recesses in the same aisle (and) at the western extremity... (a) little steeple (Fenton, 1903, 243). No doubt by aisle, the description refers to the present south transept; the screen has gone.

Drawings from the early 19th century show a church very similar to the present building. The earliest, dated 1825 (NLW, MS 19125A), shows the tower as at present, including the merlons and coping, but there is a 3-light window in the north transept north wall of early 17th century character; no windows are shown in the nave north wall. By 1827 a vestry had been added (copy of drawing in NMR), on the site of the present vestry but with a transeptal gabled roof; a 2-light window of early 17th century character lay in the south transept south wall, and there was a (neo?)gothic east window. Similar fenestration, and the early vestry, are depicted in a drawing of 1819-39 (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/2183), and also a former rood-stair which formed a semicircular 'turret', with a slit-light, projecting from the southern half of the nave east wall.

In 1833 the church had been 'recently repaired and enlarged by the erection of a gallery containing sixty additional sittings' (Lewis, 1833).

The church was restored in 1850-51 (Anon., n.d.; NMR), to the designs of the architect David Brandon, of Bloomsbury (Cadw, 1996, 1). It was refenestrated, refloored, replastered and probably reseated. The chancel arch was rebuilt. Wall paintings were observed 'in the church' during the restoration (NMR), but their location is unknown.

The tower was restored in 1877 (*ibid.*).

The vestry was added in 1884 with a below-ground heating chamber formerly housing a 'Grundy's' heating apparatus (Pembs. R.), HPR/45/11). In 1891 the church was the first in Pembrokeshire to receive electric lighting (Cadw, 1996, 1).

The softwood pews are from 1884. A large organ occupies the nave west bay, dated 1892. There is a later 19th century altar table in the north transept. The chancel has a panelled dado in a plain, neo-Classical style, probably from the earlier 20th century. The readers' desk is probably contemporary. The square softwood pulpit is dated 1929. The plain altar table is later 20th century, as is that in the south transept. The softwood and glass tower screen is dated 1983.

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

There are 5 bells in the tower (Anon., n.d.), restored in 1878 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/45/12) and hung for chiming.

The church was Grade II* listed in 1998.

Two ECMs (SAM Pe 142) now lie in the south transept; both originally stood in the churchyard. One is the well-known wheel-cross of 10th - 11th century date (PRN 4230) which formerly stood north-east of the church, the other (PRN 4229) is a contemporary cross-shaft that formerly stood south-west of the church and is now partially deteriorating.

SITE HISTORY

There good evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:
Mixed dedication; 2 ECMs; pre-conquest documentary reference.

SS Nicholas and Teilo, Penally, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It was assessed at £16 in 1291 (Green, 1913, 240). The advowson was granted to the prioress and convent of Aconbury, Herefordshire, by John de Barri, Lord of the Manor of Manorbier and Penally, in 1301 (*ibid.*).

At the dissolution, the advowson fell to the crown, and in 1541 a lease of the rectory was granted to Rice ap Morgan and Richard Merdon of Cranebroke, Kent (*ibid.*).

In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage rated in the king's books at £4 17s 11, endowed with £200 royal bounty and in the patronage of the Bishop of St Davids (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 SS Nicholas and Teilo, Penally, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage of the Rectorial Benefice of Tenby (Benefice 702) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Narberth (St Davids, 1997-8).

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