

THE WELSH HISTORIC
CHURCHES PROJECT



SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE CHURCHES, 1995-6
(DAT 48)

PART 4: REDBERTH - TENBY ST MARY

22/03/99



Rhoscrowther, South Pembrokeshire

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THE WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE CHURCHES, 1995-6 (DAT 48)

PART 4: REDBERTH - TENBY ST MARY

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REDBERTH CHURCH, SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE

Dyfed PRN 4424

RB No. 2850

NGR SN 0824 0417

Listed Building No. 18213

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A 3-cell church, small. Consists of chancel, 1 bay; nave, 2 bays; west porch and bell-turret; all 1841. Construction is in limestone rubble. Slate gable roofs. Openings mainly from 1841, simple neo-gothic with grey oolite dressings. Western bell-turret, above porch, originally gabled; later given a crenellated parapet, in 1913?.
(Box pews and triple-decker pulpit from 1841.)

Roofs and floors: 1841. Finishes: 1913.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Wide, shallow, earth cutting around 30% of church, primary?; suspended floor over a void in 60% of church.

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

Group value - medium. 19th century church on medieval site, central within planted and planned village.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, west porch, 1841.

Phase 2 - Bell-turret, 1913?.

DESCRIPTION

Redberth Church is a 3-celled church, of small size. It was rebuilt in 1841 on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, possibly retaining some earlier fabric.

The present church consists of a single-bayed chancel, a 2-bayed nave and a west porch incorporating a bell-turret. Construction is in limestone rubble. Openings are mainly from 1841 and simple neo-Gothic; the windows are single-light, 2-centred and square, with simple grey oolite dressings. The chancel arch is simple, 2-centred and from 1841. The west porch is also from 1841 and in limestone ashlar, with a 2-centred door. Rising from it is a rubble buttress, with 2 string-courses and pierced by 2 square-headed bellcote openings, that formerly terminated as a gable; it was later heightened to form a square, crenellated bell-turret, with a 2-centred opening in each of the 4 faces, possibly in 1913. Other roofs are slated gables.

The earlier church appears to have followed the same plan form (NLW, Redberth, Tithe Map, 1841). In 1833, 'having fallen into a very dilapidated condition', it was undergoing 'complete repair' (Lewis, 1833); this may represent the same general campaign dated to 1841 and which was undertaken by George Brown of Craigyborion, Amroth (SPARC, n.d.). It is possible that some of the earlier core fabric was retained. The present roofs and floors date from 1841, and there is a good range of internal fittings from 1841 including box pews and a 3-decker pulpit (cf. near-contemporary fittings at the nearby church at Nash).

The church was renovated to the designs of the architect F. R. Kempson, of London, in 1913 (A. Gordon, 1993; Pembs. R. O., HPR/20/9). The work was largely superficial and fittings were retained, but may have included the rebuild of the bell-turret into its present form.

The font has a square bowl with incised decoration, early 13th century?; the cylindrical stem and base, in oolite, are 20th century (1913?).

There is 1 bell (Bartosch & Stokes, 1992, 9).

There is a wide, shallow, earth cutting south of the nave. The floor is suspended over a void in the nave. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

Redberth Church was not a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), but a free chapel of Carew parish in the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It was a possession of the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech.

Redberth had become a parish by 1833 when the living, a perpetual curacy, was endowed with £1200 royal bounty and £200 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833). The patronage had recently passed from the Vicar of Carew to the Bishop of St Davids.

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

The dedication is unknown, but is occasionally given as St Mary.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

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Church in Wales Records

Bartosch & Stokes, 1992, Quinquennial Report, Redberth.

St Davids, 1997-8, Diocesan Year Book.

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Parish Records, Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest

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Unpublished Accounts

Thomas, W. G., 1964, Redberth Church (in National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth)

Printed Accounts

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

Green, F., 1913, 'Pembrokeshire Parsons', West Wales Historical Records Vol. III.

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REYNALTON CHURCH, SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE

Dyfed PRN 3483

RB No. 3386

NGR SN 0898 0883

Listed Building No. 6091

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A 3 cell church, small sized. Consists of a chancel/nave, without structural division, 3 bays; south transept, 1 bay; west tower, 2 storeys; medieval. Former south porch?, with parvis?. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in tower, with arch and openings; medieval south transept arch, blocked door and steps. Other openings mainly mid-late 19th century, neo-gothic, plain limestone dressings.

Roofs: medieval vault and mid-late 19th century timberwork. Floors and finishes: mid-late 19th century

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep wide cutting around 40% of church, primary; shallow external drain around 60% of church; former component beyond 20% of church?; levels lowered in 75% of church exposing footings; suspended floors above a void in 40% of church; few external memorials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good - very good. 100% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings, vaults, south transept arch, blocked door and steps.

Group value: high. Medieval landmark church, with tower; large triangular churchyard.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel/nave, C12-14.

Phase 2 - South transept (and former south porch), C15.

Phase 3 - West tower, early C16.

Phase 4 - Restored mid-late C19, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

Reynalton Church is a 3-celled church, of small size. It retains approximately 100% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel/nave, without structural division, a single-bayed south transept and a 2-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone rubble; the exterior has been extensively, and poorly repointed in the 20th century with some render on the north wall; the interior is plastered. The west tower ground floor is barrel-vaulted, medieval. The tower and south transept arches are medieval, as are some windows; other openings are mainly mid-late 19th century, neo-gothic, with plain limestone dressings. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel/nave east wall has a pronounced external basal batter. The double lancet chancel east and north wall windows are from the mid-late 19th century, as may the single, square-headed light in the east bay south wall. The south door has plain 2-centred head and appears to have been rebuilt in the mid-late 19th century; to the east, the internal face of the south wall exhibits a stoup in a chamfered segmental-headed recess, 15th - 16th century. The softwood collar-rafter roof trusses are bolted, and mid-late 19th century; plastered above. The slate flagged floor is probably mid-late 19th century, and the level appears to have been lowered exposing the internal footings.

The south transept is entered through a very depressed semicircular arch, chamfered, on 'corbelled' impost stones, all late 15th century. It is lit by a double lancet window in the south wall, like the chancel/nave windows and similarly mid-late 19th century. A flight of steps is built into the west wall, leading up to a blocked doorway which can only have led to a parvis over a former south porch. Roofed as the chancel/nave. The floor is fully carpeted, flagged?; there is an underfloor void.

The west tower is not typical of the region, comprising just 2 storeys and lacking an external batter and string-course. It is not tapered. A square spiral stair turret projects from the east half of the north wall, which terminates as a gable below the summit of the belfry stage. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a plain 2-centred arch, from the early 16th century. The low west door has been blocked, and the double-lancet window above, like the rest, is from the mid-late 19th century, but occupying a 16th century embrasure. The 2-centred barrel vault is pierced for bellropes, and early 16th century. The floor is flagged as the chancel/nave, but over a void. The belfry stage has single-light, square-headed openings in all 4 faces, early 16th century, the crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, also 16th century.

A wide, deep earth cutting runs around the north and east walls, primary, where the church is built into the hillslope; no corresponding platform. A shallow external drain runs around the remainder of the church. There may be below ground evidence for a possible former south porch. Floor levels have been lowered in the chancel/nave and south transept exposing internal footings. Floors are suspended above a void in the west tower and south transept. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

Vertical offsets at either end of the internal faces of the chancel/nave walls, 1-2m in from the present end walls, may define the original extent of the chancel/nave; 12th - 13th century?, extended in the 13th - 14th century?. The form of the south transept arch suggests a later 15th century date. The west tower was added in the early 16th century. A south porch, with a first floor parvis, may formerly have adjoined the south transept and have been contemporary with it; a plan of 1953 depicts an 'enclosure' between the south door and the transept east wall, which may represent footings of a porch that were then still visible (Kay, 1953).

In 1833 the church was in a 'very dilapidated condition' (Lewis, 1833). It was restored in the mid-late 19th century, to judge from the window openings, but neither the precise date, nor the architect, is known (Nicholas, 1995, 3). The restoration was low impact, comprising refenestration, rebuilding the south door, reroofing the nave and transept, and reflooring, reseating and replastering the interior.

There has been little further work beyond repointing.

The softwood pews and tower vestry screen are from the mid-late 19th century. The chancel fittings are later 20th century.

The limestone font has a square bowl and stem, probably 13th century, on a modern base.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

Reynalton Church was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It was a possession of the Priory of St Thomas, Haverfordwest, with an annual value of £2 13s 4d in 1538-9 (Green, 1913, 256).

At the dissolution, the patronage passed to the crown and then into private hands. In 1833 the living, a perpetual curacy, had recently passed from the patronage of the Rector of Begelly to that of the Bishop of St Davids; it was endowed with £600 royal bounty and £200 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

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

The dedication is unknown but is occasionally given as St James (RCAHM, 1925, 305).

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

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

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Green, F., 1913, 'Pembrokeshire Parsons', West Wales Historical Records Vol. III.

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**ST DECUMANUS,
RHOSCROWTHER,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3240

RB No. 3085

NGR SM 9039 0220

Listed Building No. 6591

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large, cruciform. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south chapel, 2 bays; north transept with skew-passage, 1 bay; south transeptal tower, 4 storeys; north porch; vestry (south of nave west bay), 1 bay; medieval. Coalhouse (north of nave west bay), 1864-1908. Limestone and ORS rubble construction; some 18th - 19th century external render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; coalhouse with slate lean-to; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in transept, tower and porch; medieval tower openings and arch, chancel arch and blocked rood-loft doorway, chapel arcade, transept and skew-passage arches, sanctus bellcote, east window dressings, north and south doors, piscinae, north porch statuary and mouldings, stoups and tomb recesses; blocked medieval slit-lights and door, blocked medieval windows. Other openings are from 1915, neo-gothic, with oolite and ORS dressings.

(Medieval tomb-recesses and effigy; two 13th century cross incised stones)

Roofs: medieval vaulting and timberwork from 1915. Floors: 1915. Finishes: 18th - 20th century

Condition - fair. Church closed; roof damaged; some external ivy.

Archaeological potential - excellent. Earthwork platform 'terrace' beneath 50% of church; shallow external drain around 100% of church; internal levels unaltered; suspended floors in 15% of church; no external memorials or burials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 90% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval vaulting, tower openings and arch, chancel arch and blocked rood-loft doorway, chapel arcade, transept and skew-passage arches, sanctus bellcote, east window dressings, north and south doors, piscinae, north porch statuary and mouldings, stoups and tomb recesses; blocked medieval slit-lights and door, blocked medieval windows.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower in coastal location; medieval churchyard cross base; churchyard contains 1830s schoolhouse; associated C19 rectory; nearby holy well

Phasing:

- Phase 1 - Vestry (former chapel/cell?), C13.
- Phase 2 - Chancel and nave, late C13 - early C14.
- Phase 3 - North (and south) transept, mid C14.
- Phase 4 - South chapel, late C14.
- Phase 5 - North porch, mid C16.
- Phase 6 - Tower (over south transept), late C16.
- Phase 7 - Coalhouse, 1864-1908.
- Phase 8 - Restored 1897, medium impact; tower partly rebuilt.
- Phase 9 - Restored 1915, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

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

The present church is cruciform and consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a 2-bayed south chapel, a single-bayed north transept with a skew-passage, a 4-storeyed south transeptal tower with a former skew-passage, a north porch, a coalhouse north of the nave west bay, and a single-bayed vestry (former chapel) south of the nave west bay. Construction is in limestone rubble, with some Old Red Sandstone. The transept, tower and porch are barrel-vaulted. The tower openings and arch, the chancel arch and blocked rood-loft doorway, the chapel arcade, the transept and skew-passage arches, the sanctus bellcote, some of the east window dressings, the north and south doors, the piscinae, the north porch statuary and mouldings, the stoups and the tomb recesses are medieval; there are blocked medieval slit-lights and a door, and blocked medieval windows in the north transept. Other windows were largely (re)built in 1915, in neo-Gothic style, with dressings in Old Red Sandstone and oolite. There are the remains of 18th - early 19th century external render on the chancel, chapel and north transept; pointing is mainly from 1915 but there is poor, later ribbon-pointing on the south walls. The interior is plastered. Roofs are slated gables, the chancel with 'fish-scale' slates; the coalhouse has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen.

Medieval tomb-recesses and effigy; two 13th century cross incised stones.

The chancel east window has a slightly pointed, semicircular rear-arch, medieval; the outer arch was rebuilt in 1915 as a 2-centred arch with a drip-mould, containing a 2-light, cusped window with a central trefoil, re-using some 14th century dressings in yellow oolite. An architect's plan (Bartosch, 1990) suggests that there may be an aumbry to the north of the window, concealed by the present reredos. The north wall features extensive remains of 18th - early 19th century external render. It appears to have been always blind. Internally, the east bay features a tomb-recess from the late 14th century, with a surround of 5 straight cants with sink cusps, and a hood-mould with crockets and pinnacles; the recess, which is now empty, is shallow and the rear face has 20th century slate cladding. The surround interrupts an earlier plain, square aumbry lying to the east. At the east end of the south wall is a piscina with a plain segmental head and a scalloped bowl, from the 13th century?. The lowish, 2-centred chancel arch is very plain, with square stops, and probably dates from the late 13th - early 14th century; north of the arch is a slight, semicircular squinch to the nave north wall, associated with the former rood-loft?, while to the south is a 2-centred recess with a stepped sill, representing a blocked rood-loft doorway?. Above, an empty, single sanctus bellcote lies eccentrically on the gable, with a semicircular headed opening from the 16th-17th century and a stepped profile to the north, above the gable apex. The softwood chancel roof is from 1915 and in the 'Arts & Crafts' tradition; it has collar-rafter trusses, every other pair of which is arch-braced from contemporary wall corbels. The plain tiled floor, in a similar style, may also be from 1915; there is no underfloor void.

The nave side walls have a slight, external basal batter. The north wall is pierced by a central doorway with a plain, 2-centred head from the late 13th - early 14th century; externally, a figure sculpture (of a king?) lies above the door while a plain stoup, with a triangular head, lies west of the door. A similar doorway, now blocked, lies opposite in the south wall. To the east of the former south door is a cusped 2-light window, set high in the wall, with a 2-centred outer arch and surround in grey oolite from 1915; below it is a plain, square internal stoup. An internal corbel on the north wall of the east bay, and three corresponding corbels on the south wall, were associated with the former rood-loft. The west, gable wall is pierced by a 3-light window with cusped, simple geometric tracery and a 2-centred drip-mould, in yellow oolite from 1915. The softwood nave roof is from 1915 and has king-post trusses, arch-braced from contemporary wall corbels. The plain tiled floor is like that in the chancel, with no underfloor void.

The south chapel communicates with the chancel via a 2-bayed arcade of slightly pointed semicircular arches with plain, square sections, chamfered into an equally plain central octagonal pier, without a base; the arcade cannot be closely dated but it is probably late 14th century. Above the arcade is a line of corbels at the wall-top, some of them medieval, which support the present wall-plate apparently reflecting their original function. The chapel is lit by a 2-light window in the east wall, with cusped neo-Perpendicular tracery in a 2-centred surround and drip-mould, with plain stops, all of yellow oolite from 1915; the 2-centred outer arch may be medieval. A medieval, internal splayed aumbry, with a segmental head, lies beneath and south of the window. There are 2 further, contemporary windows in the south wall, each of 2 cusped lights with a central quatrefoil, in a 2-centred surround of chamfered Old Red Sandstone, but without outer arches. Between them is a stepped external buttress, from 1915. The east end of the internal face of the south wall features a piscina with a cusped, ogival head from the later 14th century and a scalloped bowl replaced in the 20th century. The west half exhibits 2 late 14th century tomb recesses, cusped like that in the chancel but without the surrounds, crockets and pinnacles and with depressed, 2-centred profiles. The east recess contains the recumbent, limestone effigy of a lady, dateable to the late 14th century, while the west recess is empty. The west wall is shared with the former south transept and skew-passage; the passage was truncated when the chapel was added but the segmental arch through the wall, like that in the north transept and similarly from the mid 14th century, survives. The softwood chapel roof is from 1915 and has collar-rafter trusses, arch-braced from the wall-plates. The plain tiled floor is like that in the chancel and nave, but with a suspended board floor over a void in the southern half.

The north transept is entered from the nave through a 2-centred arch which reflects the profile of its vault. It is lit by a cusped 2-light window in the north wall, with a 2-centred surround, in Old Red Sandstone from 1915, inserted through the 18th - earlier 19th century external render, with infill. Beneath the window is a tomb-recess, now empty, its plain segmental head with voussoirs like the transept arches and with a similar mid 14th century date and with a sill that projects out as 'benching'. A blocked window is visible as an internal recess in the east wall; it is tall, splayed, with a segmental head, medieval?, with vague indications of blocking visible externally. A similar blocked window lies in the west wall, the outline of the blocking being visible beneath the external render; this window may have been blocked when the north porch was added in the 16th century (see Structural Development below). The plain, 2-centred barrel-vault has a slightly rounded profile. Floored as the nave. The skew-passage is entered through a low irregular arch and has a depressed segmental vault which exits into the chancel as an arch; the passage is lit by a cusped, 2-light window in its outer wall with a square surround in chamfered Old Red Sandstone from 1915. The north transept is traditionally known as the 'Hendleton Chapel' (RCAHM, 1925, 306); in 1925 it apparently contained the 'pedestal of a 15th century shrine' (ibid.).

The former south transept now forms the ground floor of the 4-storeyed tower. The south and west walls were rebuilt, or refaced and thickened, in large, coursed and squared limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble when the upper stages were added in the later 16th century, to create a tower that, in detail, is unlike any other in South-west Wales. It lacks the basal batter typical of the majority, the exterior is divided by a number of string-courses, and the parapet has corner pinnacles, but the tower does feature a basal, moulded string-course and a spiral stair turret, which projects from the south-west corner, is entered from the ground floor through a door with a low, monolithic segmental head, from the later 16th century,

and is lit by regular, square slit-lights. The ground floor is entered from the nave through a 2-centred arch which reflects the profile of its vault, like that in the north transept and of similar mid 14th century date. It is lit by window in the south wall with a 2-centred opening, partly 16th century, with 2 cusped lights and a central quatrefoil in a 2-centred, yellow oolite surround partly from the 16th century but rebuilt in 1915. The barrel-vault is like that in the north transept, with an inserted, circular bell-raising port. Floored as the nave. The second stage was partly rebuilt in 1897. It is defined externally by 2 external string-courses, copied from the original tower, with a third string-course lower down on the stair turret, and is lit by an uncusped single lancet in the east wall with a square, Perpendicular oolite surround and sunk spandrels. The third stage was similarly partly rebuilt and is lit by a simple, semicircular headed lancet in the east wall. The belfry stage, also partly rebuilt, has 2-light openings with simple semicircular heads in the east and west walls, and similar, single-light openings in the north and south walls. The tall, crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, has been rebuilt, including the rainwater chutes on the south face, and the plain corner pinnacles with the basal fillets, but all rebuilding is in imitation of the original, late 16th century work.

The north porch doorway is a wide, full-centred semicircular arch from the 16th century with large vousoirs, a central weathered figure sculpture and 2 flanking shield devices, mouldings which were apparently brought from the nearby church at Angle (RCAHM, 1925, 306).. Internally the side walls exhibit masonry benching, medieval but with slate seating from 1915. The 2-centred barrel-vault is also 16th century. The flag and cobble floor is 20th century and laid directly upon the substrate.

The vestry was converted from a medieval chapel or cell in 1915. It is entered through the south wall of the nave west bay through a plain, 2-centred arch, from the late 13th - early 14th century; it is also entered from the churchyard through a doorway in the west wall with a double roll-and-cavetto moulded, 2-centred opening in a square surround with trefoil-moulded spandrels, in yellow oolite from 1915. The east wall features a blocked slit-light with crude, 2-centred, splayed embrasure from the 13th century; to the south is a blocked doorway with a segmental head that may be later medieval. The south, gable wall features a similar blocked slit-light and an inserted single lancet with a cusped, oolite surround and dripmould from 1915. A blocked fireplace lies in the south-west corner with a square chimney offset to a square ashlar stack with trefoiled, gabled smoke-vents. The softwood, north-south running close-coupled roof is from 1915. Floored as the nave.

A small coalhouse was inserted in the angle between the north porch west wall and the nave between 1864 and 1908 (see Structural Development below). The walls are of Old Red Sandstone and limestone rubble but the north, lean-to wall is concreted and pierced by a simple doorway with a concrete lintel. The lean-to roof continues the porch roof western slope.

The church is surrounded by a shallow external drain, deeper around the north porch and north transept. The church lies upon an earthwork platform 'terrace', with an east-west running scarp south of the building which appears to project as a semicircle south of the tower. Internal levels appear to be unaltered and floors are suspended only in the south chapel. No external memorials or burials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The vestry has traditionally been regarded as a former chapel or 'cell', and as the earliest component of the present fabric; there appears to be no reason to suggest otherwise and the blocked slit-lights suggest a 13th century date. The component may have stood alone until the nave and chancel were added in the later 13th or early 14th century. The north transept, and the south transept in its original form, were probably added in the mid 14th century during the widespread trend for transept construction. The south chapel can be dated on stylistic grounds to the late 14th century. The highly decorative north porch was added in the mid 16th century; the tower, which with its string-courses and pinnacled parapet is unlike

any others in South-west Wales, may have been constructed over the south transept somewhat later in the 16th century. The sanctus bellcote appears to be 16th - 17th century in style.

The church was described by Lewis, in 1833, as 'a venerable structure of very great antiquity, in the early style of English architecture, but is not distinguished by any remarkable architectural details' (Lewis, 1833). A drawing of the church from the north-east, from c.1852 (Freeman, 1852, pl.) shows the building much as it exists at present. However, a medieval, cusped 2-light window appears to be shown in the north wall of the north transept and the chancel and south chapel east walls exhibit square sash-windows inserted into partially-blocked, 2-centred ?medieval outer arches. The north transept east wall window was already blocked, but there is no window into the skew-passage.

The tower was 'rebuilt' in 1897, according to a plaque within the church, but the work replicated the original arrangements including the parapet pinnacles, which are shown on the c.1852 drawing (ibid.). The coalhouse was added at some period between 1864 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 first edition) and 1908 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 second edition).

The remainder of the church remained more-or-less unrestored until 1915, and then the restoration was of low impact, under the architect W. D. Caröe (Caröe, 1915). The present fenestration was inserted, and the chapel/cell was converted into a vestry with a fireplace and door. The church was reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated, in the 'Arts & Crafts' tradition..

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

The softwood pulpit is dated 1868. The large organ in the north transept is dated 1870 and has softwood and oolite railed enclosure. The plain oak stalls and reader's desk, the low, oak altar rail, the plain box-pews and the plain benches in the south chapel are in the 'Arts & Crafts' tradition and from 1915. The commandment panels either side of the west window may be contemporary. The softwood, Gothic, panelled altar table and reredos appear to be early-mid 20th century and may be among the fittings recovered from the nearby church at Pwllcrochan in 1982, but there is a similar screen between the nave and vestry. The south chapel altar table and reredos are similar to those in the chancel, dated 1931 and known to have been brought from Pwllcrochan. Also in the chapel is a second softwood pulpit, earlier 20th century, presumably also from Pwllcrochan.

The limestone font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, from the later 12th century. A similar font lies loose in the north porch, from Pwllcrochan?.

There are 3 bells in the tower, recast in 1884 and 1885 (Bartosch, 1990).

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

The two wheelhead-cross incised slabs lying loose in the south chapel church have been dated to the late 13th century (RCAHM, 1925, 306); they appear to be grave slabs. A loose, square ?stoup bowl also lies in the chapel.

There is a medieval cross-base in the churchyard.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-
Celtic dedication; probable former 'bishop house'; nearby holy well.

St Decumanus, Rhoscrowther, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. The living was a rectory, in the hands of the Earls of Pembroke by the 14th century at least (Green, 1913, 257). The church was assessed at £13 6s 8d in 1291, the sum payable being £1 6s 8d (ibid.). An alternative name for the site appears to have been 'Llandegeman' (Rees, 1932).

By the 16th century the right of presentation had been acquired by the crown (Green, 1913, 257) with which it was vested in 1833 when the rectory was rated in the king's books at £15 12s 11d (Lewis, 1833)..

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

One of the pre-Conquest bishop houses of Dyfed stood at or near the site, and there is an associated holy well also dedicated to St Decumanus.

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ROBESTON WATHEN CHURCH, SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE

Dyfed PRN 3587

RB No. 3177

NGR SN 0845 1574

Listed Building No. 6092

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

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

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 2 bays; south transept, 1 bay; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. North aisle, 3 bays, 1875 (replacing medieval north transept). Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in tower; medieval tower openings and stoup. All other openings, including the chancel arch, are from 1875, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings.

Roofs, floors and finishes: 1875.

Condition - good. Tower damp with poor pointing.

Archaeological potential - good. Shallow, earth-cut drain around 100% of church; external levels truncated around 30% of church; internal levels truncated, exposing footings, with deep underfloor void in 80% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; few external memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good. 60% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings, stoup and vault.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower, in hilltop location; central within village.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, south transept (and former north transept), all C14?

Phase 2 - West tower, earlier C15.

(?Phase 3 - Restored 1836-40, low impact?).

Phase 4 - Restored 1875, high impact; north aisle built replacing north transept.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

Robeston Wathen Church is a multicelled church, of 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 aisle (absorbing former north transept), a single-bayed south transept and a 3-storeyed west tower. Construction is in limestone rubble; pointing is mainly from 1875, with some ?contemporary external render and poor 20th century repointing, and the interior is plastered. There is barrel-vaulting in the tower. The tower has retained some medieval openings, including a stoup and a 16th -17th century west window; other openings, including the chancel arch, are mainly from 1875, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings. Roofs are slated gables; the tower roof was not seen.

The 2-light chancel east window is from 1875 and has a moulded surround with 'Decorated' tracery. The south wall features a similar 3-light window but with a square surround, also from 1875; internally, to the east is a 20th century piscina. Internal corbelling below the side wall eaves may be pre-19th century. The moulded chancel arch is from 1875. The softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling is from 1875 and has bosses at the frame intersections. The passage is tiled, with suspended board floors over a deep void, from 1875.

The nave is lit by a 3-light window like that in the chancel south wall, from 1875 but possibly occupying an opening from 1836. The roof is ceiled like the chancel but features tie-beams with king-posts, again from 1875. The passages are carpeted but feature heating flues and an underground chamber for a 'Porritt's' stove, with suspended board floors over a deep void, all from 1875.

The north aisle is from 1875, replacing a medieval north transept from which none of the fabric was retained. It communicates with the chancel west bay via a full-centred, moulded semicircular arch from 1875. The arcade into the nave is contemporary and comprises 2 moulded, 2-centred arches. The aisle east bay is separated from the central bay, as a vestry, by 2 similar arches on a cylindrical pier, also from 1875; a stepped external buttress is built against the north wall opposite. The aisle is lit by a cusped, single lancet in both the east and west end walls, from 1875, and 2- and 3-light windows in the north wall, like the chancel south wall window and also from 1875. In the angle between the west wall and the tower is a buttress containing the flue from the Porritt's stove, from 1875. The roof is like that in the nave, from 1875. The aisle has a suspended timber floor above a very deep void.

The south transept is entered through a plain 2-centred arch rebuilt in 1875. It is lit by a window in its south wall, from 1875 and again like the chancel south window. Ceiled as the chancel, and floored as the north aisle over a deep void. The south transept is now a chapel.

The west tower may be an earlier example of the type, lacking the external string-course typical of the region and having no external batter. It is not tapered. A square spiral stair turret projects from the north end of the west wall, entered through a simple square-headed doorway and lit by simple loops. The west door has a 2-centred chamfered surround of medieval date and apparently occupying an earlier opening, the southern jamb of which is visible; a 2-light window above has square heads of 16th - early 17th century date. Internally, the ground floor south wall features a stoup with a massive crude bowl in a recess with an asymmetrical arched head, again suggesting an early date; a horizontal line of sockets above may be associated with a former west gallery, 18th - early 19th century. The 2-centred arch into the nave reflects the profile of the 2-centred barrel vault. The ground floor is flagged, from 1875? Re-used flags?. The second stage is lit by a simple square light in the east wall; a ?relieving arch in the north wall is of unknown function. The belfry stage has 2-light, square-headed openings in the east and south walls, of medieval date; the similar single-light openings in the north and west walls are larger and may be later. The crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, much restored.

A shallow, earth-cut drain surrounds the church. External levels have been truncated along the north and west walls. The underfloor void is particularly deep, especially so beneath the north aisle where it may be vaulted, and internal levels truncated, particularly in the tower exposing its footings internally. There is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the east end.

Structural development

The chancel, nave, south transept and former north transept may all have been of one build, and 14th century. A number of features of the tower suggest that it is early, possibly earlier 15th century.

The church was illustrated by Dinely in 1684 in a view from the south, in which the nave and chancel can be seen, roofed continuously, and the south transept and tower (Nicholas, 1992, 3).

Some restoration may have been undertaken in 1836 when reroofing, raising the walls and inserting a window in the nave north wall were discussed in a vestry meeting (Pembs. R. O., HPR/37/8); the roof itself was restored in 1842 under the local architect Thomas Lewis, of Narberth (Cadw, 1997, 28).

The church was again restored in 1875 (NLW, SD/F/581, to the designs of the architect T. G. Jackson of the Temple, London. The restoration was high impact. The north transept was demolished, and the north aisle built instead. The chancel arch, and south transept arches were rebuilt. The church was refenestrated and reroofed. Levels, both internal and external, were truncated, and the church was refloored over a very deep void which may be vaulted in the north aisle (over a tomb?). The interior was replastered and reseated.

The oak stalls and pews, north aisle vestry screen and the pulpit are from 1875. The clock in the tower is from 1885 (Cadw, 1997, 28). The 'Renaissance' altar rail is from 1911 (Nicholas, 1992, 8). The chancel beam is from 1940, the timber sanctuary canopy is from 1941, the screen in the south transept is from 1942 and the painted reredos is dated 1943.

The font is 20th century, but the base and stem of a Classical, wineglass font of 18th century date lie loose within the church.

The tower contains a peal of 6 bells, 2 from 1682, and 4 from 1947 (Anon., n.d.).

The church was Grade II* listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

Robeston Wathen Church was a chapelry with a parish of its own during the post-conquest period (Green, 1913, 260), annexed to Narberth rectory in the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. The living was still consolidated with Narberth rectory in 1833 (Lewis, 1833).

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

The dedication of the church is unknown.

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**ST FLORENTIUS,
ST FLORENCE,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3539

RB No. 2428

NGR SN 0823 0115

Listed Building No. 6008

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 100% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, large, cruciform. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays, with choir-recess/organ chamber; nave, 5 bays; vestry (north chapel), 1 bay; south chapel, 2 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south transept, 2 bays with 4 storeyed tower; south porch; medieval. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry, choir-recess/organ chamber and south chapel with slate lean-to roofs; tower roof not seen. Medieval vaulting in chancel and choir-recess/organ chamber, vestry, south transept, and porch; medieval tower openings and arch, chancel arch, rood-loft corbelling, many internal openings and arcades, south door, porch door, window opening and some dressings, former skew-passage, ?piscina recess and stoup; early 17th century blocked window. Other openings mainly rebuilt 1870, in neo-Gothic style, with limestone dressings; some as copies of originals. (External medieval tomb-recess; internal Elizabethan monument.)

Roofs: medieval vaulting and timberwork from 1870. Floors: 1870 and 1997. Finishes: 1870 - 1997.

Condition - good. Renovated 1995-7.

Archaeological potential - very good-excellent. Shallow external drain around 100% of church; medium-depth cutting around 50% of church exposes footings; below-ground heating chamber beneath 10% of church; external stairwell beneath footings of 5% of church; floors raised in 60% of church; below-floor heating ducts 80% of church; few external memorials significantly close to 25% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 100% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval vaulting, tower openings and arch, chancel arch, rood-loft corbelling, internal openings and arcades, doorways, window opening and some dressings, former skew-passage, ?piscina recess and stoup; early 17th century blocked window.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower in central planned village location; large churchyard with good memorials, medieval churchyard ?cross-shaft and sundial stem from 1841 pulpit.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave west bays, C12.

Phase 2 - Chancel and nave east bays, C13.

Phase 3 - South transept, mid C14.

Phase 4 - North chapel, choir-recess/organ chamber and south porch, earlier C15.

Phase 5 - South chapel, c.1500.

Phase 6 - Tower (over south transept), earlier C16.

Phase 7 - North transept, early C17.

Phase 8 - Restored 1870, low impact.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Florentius, St Florence, 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 2-bayed chancel with a choir-recess/organ chamber, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed vestry (formerly a north chapel), a 2-bayed south chapel, a single-bayed north transept, a 2-bayed south transept with a 4-storeyed tower over the southern bay, and a south porch. There is a below-ground heating chamber beneath the vestry. Construction is in limestone rubble, with good medieval quoins. The chancel and choir-recess/organ chamber, the vestry, the south transept and the south porch are barrel-vaulted. The transept/tower openings and arch, the chancel arch and rood-loft corbelling, the vestry and choir-recess/organ chamber internal openings, the south chapel arcade, the south door and porch door, a nave window opening and some window dressings, a former skew-passage, a ?piscina recess and stoup are medieval; there is an early 17th century blocked window in the north transept. Other openings were rebuilt in 1840, 1843 and 1870, in neo-Gothic style, with limestone dressings; some of the windows, at least, may be faithful copies of the originals. Pointing is from 1870 with some earlier 20th century repointing of the west wall and extensive repointing, particularly of the tower, from 1996-7. The interior is plastered except the voussoirs, replastered in 1997. Roofs are slated gables, reslated in 1995; the vestry, choir-recess/organ chamber and south chapel have slated lean-to roofs and the tower roof was not seen.

External medieval tomb-recess; internal Elizabethan monument.

The footings of the chancel east wall are visible and follow the original ground line which crests in the centre of the wall. The east window has a triangular rear-arch which may be medieval (13th century); the present graduated, uncusped triple-lancet window with chamfered limestone surrounds is from 1843 but may be a faithful copy of a 13th century original. To the west, the lower half of the north wall is chamfered back from the nave (see below); this has been interrupted by a projecting, lean-to roofed recess that was added to the north wall, between the contemporary north chapel (now the vestry) and the nave east wall, in the earlier 15th century. It has a north-south, depressed 2-centred barrel-vault which opens to the chancel as a segmental-headed arch with irregular stops, communicates with the vestry through a contemporary 2-centred doorway, without a surround, and is lit by a single uncusped lancet in its north wall, with a cavetto-moulded, limestone surround, rebuilt in 1870 but retaining some 15th century dressings. The recess may be a 'choir-recess' or an organ chamber (see Structural Development below); a below-ground stairwell to the heating chamber beneath the vestry, from 1870, runs along the north wall, exposing its footings which are supported on an inserted prop wall. The plain, rounded 2-centred chancel arch is rather crude and from the 13th century; it springs from the chancel side walls, without stops, where the lower halves of the latter have deep chamfers opening towards the nave. The southern chamfer exhibits a vertical line of 3 corbels associated with the former rood-screen and loft; there are 2 similar corbels on the south wall of the nave east bay and one on the north wall. The chancel has a 2-centred barrel-vault which may be secondary. In 1996 it had a Minton-tiled floor from 1870, with underfloor

heating ducts, which appears to have respected the medieval level; the sanctuary flooring incorporated 4 memorial slabs from the 18th and 19th centuries, not in situ.

The east half of the nave north wall was refaced in 1870 in squared and coursed limestone rubble, with contemporary corbelling at eaves level and a north door that was rebuilt with a 2-centred chamfered sandstone surround. The opposite, south door has a 2-centred, chamfered sandstone surround, probably rebuilt in the 15th century with a head that was replaced in 1870. The nave is lit by 3 wide single uncusped lancet windows in the north wall, from 1870, with cavetto-moulded limestone surrounds that may imitate earlier openings. The 2 south wall windows are similar but the western has a tall, semicircular embrasure from the 12th century. The west wall has a slight external basal batter and is pierced by an uncusped triple-lancet window in chamfered limestone, in a square limestone surround with a simple label, from 1840. Against the original external facework of the nave west bay is a low, wide coped projection which houses a wide, shallow, 2-centred recess; The recess was opened in 1835 when it was apparently found to contain a medieval stone coffin which was subsequently removed (RCAHM, 1925, 370)., The nave has a softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling from 1870, and has king-post trusses, arch-braced from contemporary wall corbels. The passages are quarry-tiled from 1870, on a floor level raised by c.1m in 1835, with suspended board floors.

The vestry occupies what was a north chapel added against the chancel, as a lean-to, during the earlier 15th century and separated from it by a slightly offset vertical joint. It originally communicated with the chancel via a 2-bayed arcade of segmental arches, now blocked, the outer order of which, supported on a central corbel, is visible in the vestry south wall. The western arch, at least, was blocked at an early date but featuring a doorway, itself now blocked, with a crude, 2-centred head and plain imposts, from the later 15th century?. The vestry is also entered from the churchyard via a simple, 2-centred doorway, from 1870, in the west, lean-to wall. It is lit by an uncusped 2-light window in the east wall, with a square surround with sunk spandrels, in chamfered limestone from 1870; this wall terminates at the north end as a plain, original buttress. A heating chamber was inserted beneath the vestry in 1870, entered via a below-ground doorway, with brick jambs and a concrete lintel, beneath the west wall doorway. The heating chamber flue ascends the north wall terminating as a plain, square shouldered stack with a plain string-course, from 1870. The chapel has a depressed, segmental barrel-vault with a cut-out in the centre of the northern limb - to a former component?. The tiled floor is from 1870 and laid on concrete.

The south chapel was also added against the chancel as a lean-to, and is separated from it by a vertical joint. It replaced an earlier skew-passage from the northern bay of the south transept, the end of which survives as a low, crude, semicircular arch in the west wall. The chapel communicates with the chancel via a 2-bayed arcade of 4-centred, chamfered arches, with chamfered stops featuring plain imposts and a central, cylindrical pier including a chamfered, 'cushion' capital, with 4 device mouldings, and a similar base; the eastern stop features a square-headed niche that may have been a piscina but which now contains a loose, Acanthus moulding. The arcade is in limestone ashlar and can be dated to c.1500. The chapel is lit by an uncusped single lancet, with a chamfered limestone surround from 1870, in the east wall. The south wall is blind and features a secondary repair in regular limestone blocks, and an external recess is stepped back in the upper half of the west end to allow light into the adjacent, earlier south transept window (see below). Internally, a large Elizabethan floor-mounted monument lies against the east wall; it has a Classical surround with a broken pediment, is dated 1601 and is in fair condition but weathered. The softwood, simple lean-to roof is from 1870 and braced by a soulace to a contemporary corbel on the north wall; there are some implications that the chapel may originally have been gabled (Cadw, 1996, 1). In 1996 it had a suspended board floor above heating ducts, over material imported in 1835 when the level was raised by c.1m, which was partly removed in 1997 (Trethowan, 1997). The chapel is traditionally known as 'Brinning's Aisle' and may have been, originally, a mortuary chapel (Cadw, 1996, 1).

The north transept is entered from the nave through a plain 2-centred arch, with chamfered stops, from the early 17th century. It has noticeably thin walls and is lit by a cusped 2-light window in the north, gable wall, with plate tracery featuring a quatrefoil and a 2-centred surround and drip-mould, in limestone from 1870; the gable itself was rebuilt in 1870. There is a blocked window in the east wall, visible

externally as a square surround, from the early 17th century, in weathered sandstone. The stairwell to the heating chamber beneath the vestry begins against this wall, exposing its footings which are supported on a prop wall. Roofed as the nave. In 1996 the passage was tiled with a suspended board floor above heating ducts, over material imported in 1870, when the level was raised by c.1m, which was partly removed in 1997 (Trethowan, 1997). The transept is traditionally known as 'Tonk's Chapel' (Cadw, 1996, 1).

The southern bay of the south transept now forms the ground floor of the tower but, from the first, appears to have been intended as a chapel. The tower was added in the earlier 16th century, in coursed and squared limestone rubble unlike the random facework of the transept itself. It appears that, in order to receive the tower, the south, east and west walls of both transept bays were thickened internally, the west wall as a blind arcade in the form of 2 full-height, 2-centred arches on a central plain, square pilaster. The tower is tapered and fairly typical of the area but comprises 4 stages in all and lacks a basal batter and string-course. A spiral stair turret projects slightly from the eastern half of the south wall; it is entered from the ground floor, over the south-east corner of which it is squinched, through a doorway with a plain lintel from the earlier 16th century, and is lit by simple slit lights. The transept is entered from the nave through a 2-centred arch, possibly rebuilt in the earlier 16th century, reflecting the profile of its vault. It is lit by windows in all 3 external walls. In the centre of the east wall is a large, 2-centred embrasure from the mid 14th century which descends to floor level and may have originally represented an altar; it houses an uncusped single lancet in weathered, chamfered limestone also from the mid 14th century, while to the south lies second, similar recess with an asymmetrical head that may represent a second altar. The south wall is pierced by an uncusped single lancet with a surround like that in the east wall but partly replaced in 1870. The west wall window lies in the northern internal arch and is a single lancet, from the mid 14th century, without a surround. Both east and west walls feature square, through-sockets of unknown function. The 2-centred barrel vault is from the earlier 16th century and is pierced for bellropes; the northern bay carries a slated gable roof. Floored as the nave.

The second stage of the tower is lit by simple square openings in the east and north walls; the third stage has a smaller square opening in the north wall. The belfry stage has 2-light openings in each face, with chamfered limestone surrounds from the earlier 16th century; those in the east, west and south walls have 2-centred heads, while those in the north wall have square heads. The crenellated parapet lies on an external offset and string-course and appears to have been entirely rebuilt, probably in c.1890, replacing an original corbel table (see Structural Development below).

The south porch doorway has a 2-centred, chamfered arch, with an inner roll-moulding, from the earlier 15th century but the head was restored, in sandstone, in 1870. Internally the side walls exhibit crude masonry benching from the earlier 15th century. In the internal angle between the east wall and the nave is a secondary, crudely cut recess with a worn limestone stoup bowl, medieval, date?, re-used?. The 2-centred barrel-vault is also 16th century. The flagged floor is weathered and may predate the 1870 restoration; it is laid directly upon the substrate.

The church is surrounded by a shallow, concreted external drain; this lies within a medium-depth secondary cutting around the eastern half of the church, including the transepts, which exposes their footings. There is a below-ground heating chamber beneath the vestry, with an external stairwell along the north transept east wall and the choir-recess/organ chamber north wall, both walls being supported on secondary prop walls. The floors in the nave, transepts and south chapel were raised by approx. 1m in 1835, on material possibly derived from drain excavation; the surfaces were superficially re-excavated in 1997. The chancel floor level is unchanged. There are below-floor heating ducts in the chancel, nave, transepts and south chapel, partly extended in 1997. There may be many burials beneath the south chapel. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the north walls, and the south chapel and south transept.

Structural development

The western 3 bays of the nave can be dated by a surviving window to the 12th century; the 12th century church apparently terminated as an apsidal chancel on the site of the 2 present nave east bays (Burn and Thomas, n.d.). The nave was extended when the present chancel was constructed in the 13th century (*ibid.*), and the present uncusped triple-lancet east window may replicate the original window. The south transept, formerly with a skew-passage, was added in the mid 14th century during the widespread trend for transept construction. The vestry was added in the earlier 15th century (but nb. post-medieval according to Cadw, 1996, 1), alongside a projection from the chancel which may represent a 'choir-recess' more often seen in central Pembrokeshire, eg. at Loveston, Herbrandston and Johnston churches, but also occurring nearby at Jeffreyston and at Pendine, Carmarthen; its form is unusual, connecting as it does with the north chapel, and it may alternatively represent an organ chamber. The south porch is contemporary (*ibid.*). The south chapel can be dated on stylistic grounds to c.1500. The tower was constructed over the south transept in the earlier 16th century. The thin-walled north transept is probably early 17th century (*ibid.*).

A drawing of 1835 (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1450), taken from the west, shows the church much as today but with a casement west window and a corbelled parapet on the tower.

The church was reseated in 1835, when the nave, transept and south chapel floors were raised by approximately 1m (Cadw, 1996, 1). The casement west window was replaced with the present 3-light window in 1840, and the present east window was inserted, replacing a square window, in 1843 (*ibid.*). An undated drawing of the interior, from around the middle of the 19th century (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1747), shows similar arrangements to present church but a doorway with a moulded, 2-centred surround is clearly shown in the south wall of the south chapel; there is now no evidence for an opening in this location. Also shown are box-pews and a triple-decker pulpit, from 1835 (Cadw, 1996, 1), while a west gallery was present (Burn and Thomas, n.d.).

The church was restored in 1870 (*ibid.*) but neither the details, nor the architect responsible, are known. The remainder of the present fenestration was inserted and the church was reroofed, refloored, replastered and reseated, the west gallery and box pews being removed. The nave north wall was refaced. Part of a 'foliated double light' window was apparently recovered from the church and built into the vicarage stable (RCAHM, 1925, 370).

The tower parapet may have been rebuilt when the belfry was restored c.1890 (Cadw, 1996, 1).

The concrete drainage channel around the exterior of the church is dated 1937. The interior of the tower was renovated in 1963 (Cadw, 1996, 1).

The roofs were reslated in 1995 and the church was extensively repointed, particularly the tower, in 1996-7. The south chapel and transepts were refloored in 1997 when a new heating system was installed largely in the pre-existing ducting (Trethowan, 1997, 2); the church was replastered at the same time, when areas of the existing plaster were removed, but no features of archaeological interest were revealed by the latter works (*ibid.*).

The oak altar table and rail are 19th century. The arcaded oolite reredos, with a pediment, the octagonal oolite pulpit on Purbeck marble shafts, the free-standing, oak stall benches and the plain, softwood pews are probably all from 1870. The large organ in the south chapel is from c.1890 (Cadw, 1996, 1) and was restored in 1966.

The limestone font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem and a square base, from the later 12th century. A loose, square bowl in the porch, on a conical stem, may not belong to the church; it is damaged.

There are 6 bells in the tower; the earliest is dated 1639, and 2 were added in 1963 when the bells were restored (Burn and Thomas, n.d.).

The church was Grade II* listed in 1998.

There is a medieval ?cross-shaft in the churchyard.

Fenton, writing c.1810, described the vicarage as having 'a detached building near it, now used as a stable, with an arched (ie. vaulted) roof... and might have been the portion of some monastic edifice' (Fenton, 1903, 242). The function of this building is unknown.

SITE HISTORY

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

St Florentius, St Florence, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke, associated with an important planned and planted settlement of the 12th century (Kissock, 1993, 7-8). The living was a rectory and a vicarage, both in the hands of the Earls of Pembroke by the 14th century at least. The church was first mentioned in 1248 (Cadw, 1996, 1) and was assessed at £13 6s 8d in 1291, the sum payable being £1 6s 8d (Green, 1913, 290).

By the 16th century the patronage had been acquired by the crown (ibid.) and in 1594 George Owen of Henllys described the rectory as 'a free church without cure of souls' (ibid.). By 1810 the living, as a rectorial sinecure, had been appropriated to St John's College, Cambridge, the rector being the patron of the vicarage (Fenton, 1903, 241). In 1833 the sinecure rectory was rated in the king's books at £16 12s 1d and in the patronage of the Master and Fellows of St John's College, while the vicarage, which was discharged, was rated at £4 18s 4d and endowed with £400 royal bounty and in the patronage of the Rector (Lewis, 1833); the Bishop of St Davids had formerly collated to the vicarage.

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

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**ST ISSELL,
ST ISSELL'S,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3642

RB No. 3396

NGR SN 1325 0582

Listed Building No. 6093

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 40% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, large. Consists of a chancel, 1 bay; nave, 4 bays; north aisle, 5 bays; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. South aisle, 4 bays; south porch; 1864. Vestry (transeptal, north of north aisle east bay), 1 bay, 1910. Limestone and shale rubble construction, some remains of 18th - early 19th century external render, internal walls mainly with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; south aisle with slate lean-to roof; tower roof not seen. Medieval chancel arch and north aisle arcade; medieval openings in tower. Remainder of openings mainly from 1864, and neo-gothic, with oolite dressings.

Roofs: 1864 and 1910. Floors: later 19th - 20th century. Finishes: 18th - 20th century.

Condition - good. Tower damp.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, narrow external cutting around 20% of church; shallow external drain around 80% of church; evidence for former components beneath 15% of church?; levels unchanged; suspended floors above a void in 80% of church; external memorials significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - good-very good. 40% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval chancel arch, arcade, and west tower with openings.

Group value - high. Landmark church with medieval tower; large churchyard with medieval churchyard cross (Grade II listed), an early 19th century building, 3 sets of iron gateposts (all Grade II listed), and 5 iron grave slabs (Grade II listed).

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, north aisle (and former south porch and south transept), all later C14?

Phase 2 - West tower, early C16.

(?Phase 3 - Former component south-west of nave, C18 - early C19?).

Phase 4 - Restored 1864, high impact; south porch and transept demolished, south aisle and new south porch built.

Phase 5 - Vestry, 1910.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Issell, St Issell's, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 40% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a single-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a 5-bayed north aisle, a 4-bayed south aisle, a south porch, a single-bayed transeptal vestry north of the north aisle east bay, and a 3-storeyed west tower. Construction is in largely in shale rubble, from 1864; surviving medieval work is in limestone rubble. Pointing is mainly from 1864 but there are the remains of earlier render in the tower, which also has some 20th century repointing; the interior is plastered except in the porch. The chancel arch, the north aisle arcade and the west tower, with its openings, are medieval; The remainder of the openings are mainly from 1824 and neo-gothic, with oolite dressings. Roofs are slated gables; the south aisle has a slated lean-to roof and the tower roof was not seen.

The chancel was almost entirely rebuilt in 1864 on the same site as its predecessor. The external walls are all from 1864 with single, double and triple lancet windows, both cusped and uncusped. There is an external decorative string-course. The tall, 2-centred chancel arch is in ashlar, with roll-moulded stops, chamfered imposts, from the later 14th century; the chamfered bases were rebuilt in 1864. The softwood chancel roof is scissors-braced throughout, the trusses also being arch-braced from wall corbels, matchboarded above, all from 1864. The 'marble' flagged floor is mid 20th century.

The nave is open to both the north and south aisles. The softwood roof is without trusses, the rafters all having collars and scissors-braced throughout, matchboarded above, all from 1864. The oolite flagged floor may be later 19th century, with suspended board floors.

The north aisle, like the chancel, was almost entirely rebuilt in 1864 on the same site as its predecessor. The east bay communicates with the chancel through a very depressed 2-centred arch, in ashlar, on chamfered stops with chamfered imposts; the detail, however, is sufficiently similar to that of the chancel to assign the same general later 14th century date. It communicates with the nave through an arcade of 4 similar arches, but with 2-centred heads; they are also later 14th century with chamfered bases partly rebuilt in 1864. The external walls are all from 1864 and have an external string-course like the chancel. They are pierced by uncusped single and double lancet windows, but the east window is in a 2-centred surround with plate tracery. Roofed as the nave, from 1864, and floored as the nave, later 19th century?

The west tower is from the early 16th century and exhibits the basal batter and external string-course typical of the region. A square spiral stair turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a simple, square-headed doorway, 16th century, and is lit by simple loops. The west door has a chamfered, 2-centred surround with a square drip-mould, 16th century but restored in 1864; the 3-light mullioned window above has a similar drip-mould but appears to have been entirely rebuilt. The chamfered, 2-centred arch into the nave is in ashlar. The timber ceiling is suspended on wall corbelling, 19th century?; a line of earlier corbels lies below which themselves are secondary, interrupting the arch head. The quarry-tiled floor is from 1864 and lies at a much lower level than the nave from which it is reached by a flight of 9 steps, also from 1864. The second stage is lit by simple square-headed lights in the north wall, 16th century. All 4 faces of the belfry stage are pierced by 2-light openings with semicircular heads in Old Red Sandstone surrounds, 16th century; the crenellated parapet lies on an external moulded offset, 16th century.

The south aisle was added in 1864, with a contemporary 4-bayed arcade into the nave copying the north aisle arcade. The south wall is pierced by single lancets and the east and west end walls by 2-light windows like the north aisle; there is a string-course like that in the chancel and a contemporary south door with a chamfered surround. The softwood, lean-to roof is braced by soulaces from wall corbels and is matchboarded, from 1864. Floored as the nave.

The south porch is also from 1864 and is battered beneath the external string-course. The side walls have internal masonry benching. The softwood roof is from 1864, lacks trusses, all common rafters having collars, and is matchboarded above, floored as the chancel. The 2-centred door has a moulded surround from 1864 and is reached by a flight of 5 semicircular external steps (re)built in 1978.

The transeptal vestry was added in 1910. It is entered from the north aisle east bay through a contemporary tall, chamfered segmental arch on plain square bases. There is a single lancet in the east wall, from 1910, and the 2-light window in the north wall is re-used from the 1864 north aisle. The vestry is entered from the yard through a doorway with a Caernarfon surround, from 1910. The softwood roof, and the floor, are also from 1910. The vestry is now occupied by a pipe-organ.

There is a deep, but narrow external cutting around the north-eastern quarter of the church, and a shallow drain around the remainder. Evidence for former components possibly survives beneath the south aisle. Floors lie at a number of levels but there is no evidence for floor level changes. The floors are suspended above a void. External memorials lie significantly close to the north wall.

Structural development

St Issell, St Issell's, was largely rebuilt in 1864. However, the chancel arch and north aisle arcade belong, stylistically, to the later 14th century, and the west tower is early 16th century. From the sources (chiefly NLW, PG4244, Picton Castle Deposit 1985, no. 143, 1859) it would appear that the pre-1864 church comprised the present chancel and nave, possibly rebuilt in the later 14th century when the north aisle was added, a south transept and south porch in the area now occupied by the south aisle, and the present west tower. In addition, a further component is shown against the west end of the nave south wall - a bier house?, or limehouse?.

The church was restored in 1864 to the designs of the architect F. R. Kempson, of London (Saundersfoot Community Council, 1996), when the south transept, south porch and southern component were demolished. In addition, the outer walls of the chancel, nave and north aisle were demolished and rebuilt, a south aisle was added and a new south porch was built. The roofs and finishes date from this restoration; the floors may be rather later.

The vestry was added in 1910 (NLW, SD/F/607) to the designs of the architect E. V. Collier, of Carmarthen.

The iron railings in the north aisle may be from 1864. The organ now occupying the vestry was installed after 1910. The chancel fittings, including the reredos, and the south aisle altar fittings, are 20th century. The oak pulpit is from 1920 (NLW, SD/F/609) with a canopy dated 1945. The stalls are from 1925 (NLW, SD/F/611). The simple pews, and the tower screen, are later 20th century.

The limestone font has a square scalloped bowl with moulded, foliated decoration, and a square stem and a scalloped base, all late 12th century.

The tower contains 3 bells, one of which is pre-Reformation (Saundersfoot Community Council, 1996); the other 2 are from 1719 and 1787.

The church was Grade II* listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

Site of pre-conquest 'bishop house'; Celtic dedication; churchyard originally subcircular.

St Issell, St Issell's, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It was initially a possession of the Abbot of Se  z in Normandy (through Monkton Priory?), who later granted the church, along with Jeffreyston, S. Pembs., to the canons of St Davids Cathedral (Green, 1913, 297); the two churches were consolidated in 1339. In 1291 the church was assessed at £13 6s 8d (ibid.).

In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage, in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of St Davids, rated in the king's books at £3 17s 6d and endowed with £600 royal bounty and £400 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

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

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**ST PEDROG,
ST PETROX,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 596

RB No. 2923

NGR SR 9707 9756

Listed Building No. 6015

Grade II listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 50% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium sized. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays, with 'choir-recess'; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 1 bay; south porch; west tower, 3 storeys; medieval. Vestry (transeptal, north of chancel west bay), 1 bay, 1854-5. Old Red Sandstone and limestone rubble construction, much of the ORS facework from 1854-5 and snecked; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; tower with a masonry dome. Medieval vaulting in nave, transept, tower and porch; medieval tower openings, arch, transept arch and blocked north door. Other openings, including chancel arch, are from 1854-5, neo-gothic, with ORS dressings.

Roofs: medieval vaulting and timberwork from 1854-5. Floors and finishes: 1854-5.

Condition - good. Tower damp.

Archaeological potential - good - very good. Deep, wide drainage trench, primary?, around 60% of church; shallow, concrete-lined drain around 40% of church; suspended floors over void; external memorials significantly close to 50% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 50% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings, vaults, transept arch and blocked door.

Group value - high. Landmark church with medieval tower, in hilltop location; churchyard cross; good memorials.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, C13.

Phase 2 - North transept, earlier C14.

Phase 3 - West tower, chancel and south porch, all late C14?.

Phase 4 - Restored 1858, high impact; vestry built, south walls and porch rebuilt/refaced.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

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

The present church consists of a 3-bayed chancel with a 'choir-recess', a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed north transept, a south porch, a 3-storeyed west tower, and a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay. Construction is in Old Red Sandstone rubble, much rebuilt/refaced in 1854-5 with snecked facework; the medieval west tower is in limestone rubble. Arches and openings, except in the tower, and the double sanctus bellcote were entirely (re)built in 1854-5, in neo-Gothic (late Early English) style, with Old Red Sandstone dressings. Pointing is mainly from 1854-5, and the interior is plastered. The church, except the chancel and vestry, is barrel-vaulted throughout, including the tower roof which is a masonry dome; other roofs are slated gables.

The chancel is faced with snecked rubble from 1854-5. The 3-light east window is from 1854-5 and has geometric tracery in a 2-centred surround with a drip-mould on human mask stops. The east bay north wall is pierced by a cusped single lancet from 1854-5, while the south wall has a central, uncusped double-lancet window also from 1854-5. The south wall of the west bay is projected externally as a square 'choir recess', a medieval feature of some Pembrokeshire churches but here entirely rebuilt in 1854-5; the internal recess has a segmental head and the outer walls are blind. The 2-centred, chamfered chancel arch is from 1854-5; the upstand above carries a double, gabled sanctus bellcote with 2-centred openings, also (re)built in 1854-5 and now empty. The softwood roof is from 1854-5 and has collar-rafter trusses cusped into trefoils, matchboarded above. The tiled floor is also from 1854-5.

The nave south wall facework is in snecked rubble, from 1854-5 like that in the chancel, with a contemporary stepped buttress at the west end; the north wall is in random medieval rubble, has a slight external batter and is now blind. The nave is lit by 2 windows in the south wall, both from 1854-5; an uncusped 2-light window in a 2-centred surround, with a plain circular light in the spandrel, lies to the east, and to the west is an uncusped single lancet. The south door lies further west still and has a chamfered, 2-centred surround also from 1854-5. Opposite the south door is a blocked north doorway, with a plain 2-centred head in Old Red Sandstone, occupying a cut-out in the batter and probably from the 13th century; immediately to the east is an area of amorphous masonry that may represent a blocked window but is situated fairly low down in the wall. The 2-centred barrel vault is from the 13th - 14th century. The passages are tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1854-5.

The north transept is entered from the nave through a 2-centred, chamfered arch reflecting the profile of its vaulting, and is lit by an uncusped 2-light window in a 2-centred surround, with a plain circular light in the spandrel, from 1854-5, in the north wall. There is no evidence for a former skew-passage. Vaulted and floored as the nave.

The south porch is also vaulted as the nave, but was substantially rebuilt/refaced in snecked rubble in 1854-5, with a contemporary 2-centred doorway. Internally the side walls exhibit masonry benching, also rebuilt in 1854-5. Floored as the nave passages, 1854-5.

The west tower, comprising 3-storeys in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble with distinct quoins, is not typical of the region and may be early, being similar in many respects to the 14th century tower at Loveston, Pembs.. It is slightly tapered but lacks the 'typical' external string-course, has only a slight external batter, and does not feature a west door. A square spiral stair turret projects slightly from the north-west corner; it is entered through a narrow doorway, with a 2-centred surround from 1854-5, and is lit by simple loops. The 2-centred arch from the ground floor into the nave reflects the profile of the 2-centred barrel vault from the late 14th century. The west wall is pierced by a single lancet with an uncusped circular light above, beneath a 2-centred drip-mould on human mask stops, all from 1854-5 but

probably occupying an earlier embrasure. The floor is like that in the nave. The second stage is lit by a simple, late 14th century square-headed light in the north wall. The belfry stage has 2-centred single-light openings, with 2-piece heads characteristic of the late 14th century work at Loveston, in the east, west and south walls, that in the west wall being 2-light; there is a simple, late 14th century square-headed light in the north wall. The tall, crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, from the late 14th century but restored; within the parapet is a shallow masonry dome (RCAHM, 1925, 382).

The vestry is from 1854-5 with snecked rubble facework, and adjoins the north transept with which it forms a double-gable. It is entered from the chancel through a contemporary doorway with a 2-centred surround and lit by a cusped double-lancet window in the north wall. A flue in the dividing wall with the transept leads into a square, brick chimney-stack, from later in the 19th century?. The softwood roof, and the floor, are from 1854-5.

The nave, north transept, tower and south porch are surrounded by a deep, wide drainage trench, primary?, secondarily deepened and partly revetted; a shallow, concrete-lined drain runs around the chancel and vestry. Floors are suspended above a void. External memorials lie significantly close to the south walls.

Structural development

The blocked north door surround may date the vaulted nave to the 13th century. The vaulted north transept is unlikely to be contemporary; there is no evidence for a corresponding south transept and it may thus be an addition of the earlier 14th century. The unvaulted chancel may be later still; the 'choir-recess' is probably a faithful rebuild of a Pembrokeshire feature that is more typical of the late 14th-15th century (cf. Herbrandston, Johnston and Loveston churches, Pembs.). The south porch was largely rebuilt in 1854-5 but is vaulted and may preserve the core of a 14th-15th century original. The tower exhibits a joint to the nave and may be later 14th century, sharing its characteristic 2-piece headed openings with the late 14th century tower at Loveston, Pembs.. The vestry is a 19th century addition (see below).

The chancel was wainscoted and 'otherwise adorned' in c.1700, and new altar rails were fitted (Fenton, 1903 edn., 232).

The church was restored in 1854-5 to the designs of the architect R. Kyrke Penson (Anon., 1992), when the vestry was built and the south porch (re)built. The south walls of the chancel and nave were refaced and possibly at least partially rebuilt. The church was refenestrated; the chancel arch, north transept arch, 'choir-recess', and south door were rebuilt, and the south wall was given an external buttress. The sanctus bellcote was (re)built. It was reroofed and the interior was refloored, reseated and replastered. The work is similar in style to that at Stackpole Elidor Church, undertaken to the designs of Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1851; the two benefices were united and the imitation of his work may have been deliberate.

The altar fittings are from 1854-5 and the late 19th century and include 2 commandment tablets, probably from 1854-5. The softwood pews and pulpit are probably contemporary. The simple oak reredos is dated 1965.

The oolite font has a square, scalloped bowl, a cylindrical stem with a cable moulding and a square base, from the 19th century, 1854-5?.

There is one bell in the tower, inscribed 'recast by John Lord of Cawdor, 1809' (Bartosch & Stokes, 1994, 11). The double sanctus bellcote is now empty.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

There is a cross in the churchyard, rebuilt in the 19th century on the medieval base (RCAHM, 1925, 382).

SITE HISTORY

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

St Pedrog, St Petrox, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. The rectory appears from the earliest times to have been appendant to the Manor of Stackpole Elidor (Green, 1913, 303). St Petrox was, in 1291, assessed at £10 (ibid.).

By the 18th century the living was in the patronage of the Earls of Cawdor, at Stackpole Court (ibid.). In 1833 the living was a discharged rectory, in Cawdor patronage and rated in the king's books at £7 3s 9d (Lewis, 1833). The living was united to the rectory of Stackpole Elidor in 1839 (Green, op. cit., 303).

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

The rectangular churchyard appears to be imposed upon a north-south system of long, linear, co-axial field boundaries. However, the date of these boundaries has yet to be firmly established and their framework, at least, may have prehistoric origins.

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Pictorial sources

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**ST GWYNOG,
ST TWYNNELLS,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 569

RB No. 2924

NGR SR 9495 9759

Listed Building No. 6018

Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 5 bays; south transept, with skew passage, 1 bay; west tower, 2 storeys over the nave west bay; south porch; medieval. Vestry (north of chancel west bay), 1 bay; coal cellar (east of vestry), 1 bay; later 19th century. Former north transept?. Limestone rubble construction; limited remains of early render; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry and coal cellar with slate lean-to roofs. Medieval vaulting in nave, transept, tower and porch; medieval tower openings, stoup, rood-loft corbelling and blocked door and window. Other openings, including chancel arch, are mainly from 1858, neo-gothic, with ORS dressings.

Roofs: medieval - later 19th century. Floors and finishes: 1858 - later 19th century.

Condition - good. Plaster damp in areas.

Archaeological potential - good - very good. Deep, wide revetted cutting around 30% of church; former component beyond 20% of church?; suspended floors above void; below-ground floor in 5% of church; few external memorials significantly close to 10% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings, vaults, blocked openings, corbelling and stoup.

Group value - high. Landmark medieval church with tower.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave central bays, C13?.

Phase 2 - Nave east bays, chancel, C13-14.

Phase 3 - South transept (and former north transept?), south porch, C14.

Phase 4 - West tower (and nave west bay?), C15.

Phase 5 - Restored 1858, low-medium impact.

Phase 6 - Vestry and coal cellar, later 19th century?.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Gwynog, St Twynells, 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 5-bayed nave, a single-bayed south transept and skew passage, a south porch, a 2 storeyed west tower over the nave west bay, a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel west bay, and a coal cellar east of the vestry. Possible former north transept?. Construction is in limestone rubble; there are the limited remains of early 19th century external render and the pointing is mainly from 1858; the interior is plastered. The nave, south transept and south porch are barrel-vaulted, while the west tower is barrel vaulted in all 3 stages. The chancel arch and principal openings are from 1858, neo-gothic, with Old Red Sandstone dressings; there is a medieval window embrasure and blocked medieval doors and window. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry and coal cellar have slated lean-to roofs.

The moulded, triple-lancet chancel east window is from 1858., as are the single lancets in the chancel side walls. The 2-centred chancel arch is in oolite, rebuilt in 1858; corbelling for the former rood-loft is present around its west face. The softwood roof is from 1858 and lacks trusses, all common rafters having scissors-braces; matchboarded above. The passages are tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1858.

The nave is lit by single, double and triple lancets like those in the chancel, with infill, and also from 1858. That in the east bay north wall is inserted through a possible area of blocking, defined as a thinner area of walling beneath a 2-centred arch - site of former north transept arch?. The south wall is wider in the 3 western bays and at the junction is an external buttress, (re)built in 1858. The 2-centred south door is from 1858 but opposite is a blocked medieval north door, blocked in 1858?. To the west the north wall exhibits a blocked, 2-centred window opening. The 2-centred barrel vault is from the 13th - 14th century. The passages are tiled, with suspended board floors, from 1858.

The south transept is entered through a 2-centred, chamfered arch reflecting the profile of its vaulting, and is lit by a 2-light window in its south wall, from 1858. Vaulted and floored as the nave. The skew passage has a segmental-profiled barrel vault and is lit by a single lancet from 1858 in the outside wall, possibly occupying a medieval embrasure.

The south porch is also vaulted as the nave. The 2-centred doorway, with infill, was inserted in 1858; above it lies the lintel from the medieval door. Internally the side walls exhibit masonry benching, medieval. A plain, medieval stoup lies in the nave south wall. Floored as the nave passages, 1858.

The 3-storey west tower was erected over the nave west bay, which forms its ground floor and through which is inserted a window like that in the south transept. It is tapered, vaulted in each succeeding stage and all 15th century work. A square spiral stair turret projects from the west wall with plain slit lights from the 15th century. The second stage is lit by a semicircular-headed single-light window, 15th century, in the east wall and a slit light in the north wall. The belfry stage has a similar opening in the north wall, and a 2-light opening in the east wall; the crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table.

The vestry may be later than 1858 with openings that are stylistically unlike those in the rest of the church. It is entered from the chancel through a Caernarfon-headed doorway and lit by a 2-light, Caernarfon-headed window in the north wall. A flue in the dividing wall with the chancel leads into a square, moulded chimney of good quality. The softwood lean-to roof, and the floor, are contemporary. To the east, the coal cellar has low walls and a lean-to roof up to the vestry; there is a plain, square doorway in the north wall with steps down to the below-ground floor.

A deep, wide revetted cutting runs along the nave north wall, truncating possible below-ground evidence for a former north transept?. Floors are suspended above a void. The coal cellar floor is below-ground. Few external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

Structural development

The central bays of the nave have a wider south wall than the east bays and may be earlier, 13th century?. The remainder, and the chancel, may be 13th - 14th century. The south (and former north?) transept, skew passage(s) and south porch may be later 14th century, while the west tower was added in the 15th century (Thomas, 1964) and the nave may have been extended to the west to carry it, and have received its vaulting. The vestry and coal cellar were added in the later 19th century.

The church was restored in 1858 (Anon., 1992), when it was refenestrated; the chancel arch, south door, and south porch doors were rebuilt, the chancel was reroofed and the interior was refloored and resealed. The vestry is stylistically unlike the 1858 work and may be later.

The softwood stalls, pews and pulpit are from 1858.

The font has a square, scalloped bowl that may be 12th century but has been retooled.

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 Gwynog, St Twynnells, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. Until 1260 it had been a possession of the Benedictine Priory of St Nicholas at Monkton (Pembroke), but in that year was appropriated by the prior to the canons resident of St Davids Cathedral (Green, 1913, 305). In 1291 it was assessed at £12, the amount payable being £1 4s (ibid.).

In 1833 the living was a discharged vicarage, in the patronage of the Sub-Chanter and Minor Chapter of St Davids and rated in the king's books at £3 17s 11d (Lewis, 1833). From the 16th century, the tithes had been leased by the Orielson Estate (Green, 1913, 306).

In 1998 St Gwynog, St Twynnells, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with St Petrox, Stackpole Elidor and Bosherston (Benefice 809) in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, Rural Deanery of Castlemartin (St Davids, 1997-8).

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Map Evidence

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**SS JAMES AND ELIDYR,
STACKPOLE ELIDOR,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 593

RB No. 2925

NGR SR 9872 9730

Listed Building No. 6020

Grade I listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 70% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, large, cruciform. Consists of a chancel, 2 bays; nave, 4 bays; south chapel, 1 bay; north transept, 1 bay; south transept, with skew passage, 1 bay; tower, 4 storeys, north of the north transept; medieval. South porch; vestry (north of chancel west bay), 1 bay; 1851. Boilerhouse, north of nave; coal cellar (north of vestry), late 19th century. Limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry, boilerhouse and coal cellar with slate lean-to roofs. Medieval barrel vaulting in transepts and tower, rib vaulting in chapel; medieval tower openings, skew passage openings, piscina, tomb recess. Rebuilt nave, south porch (with barrel vault) other openings, including chancel arch, are mainly from 1851, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings. (Medieval effigies; 17th century monument.)

Roofs: medieval vaulting and 1851 timberwork. Floors: 1851. Finishes: 1851 - 20th century.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - good. Deep, wide revetted external cutting around 30% of church, primary, secondarily extended; shallow external drain around 70% of church; internal levels altered?; floor lowered in 10% of church; suspended floors above heating flues; internal burials beneath 15% of church; external memorials significantly close to 30% of church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 70% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval tower openings, vaults, arches, piscina, tomb recess.

Group value - high. Medieval landmark church with tower; ECM; large churchyard with good memorials, medieval churchyard cross-shaft and 19th century masonry building; 20th century lych-gate.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave, C12?.

Phase 2 - Transepts and skew passage(s), (and former south porch), C14.

Phase 3 - Tower, early C15.

Phase 4 - South chapel, C16.

Phase 5 - Restored 1851, high impact; vestry built, south porch rebuilt, nave partly rebuilt.

Phase 6 - Boilerhouse and coal cellar, late 19th century.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

SS James and Elidyr, Stackpole Elidor, is a multicelled church, of large size. It retains approximately 70% pre-19th century core fabric.

The present church is cruciform and consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 4-bayed nave, a single-bayed transeptal south chapel, a single-bayed north transept, a single-bayed south transept and skew passage, a south porch, a 4-storeyed tower north of the north transept, a single-bayed vestry between the chancel and north transept, a boilerhouse between the nave and north transept, and a coal cellar north of the vestry. Construction is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble; the pointing is mainly from 1851 but there is some poor 20th century repointing, and the interior is plastered. The transepts and all stages of the tower have medieval barrel-vaults, while the south chapel is rib-vaulted; the south porch barrel-vault is from 1851. All openings except in the tower, and the transept and skew passage arches, are from 1851 including the chancel arch, neo-gothic, with grey oolite dressings; there is a medieval piscina and tomb recess(es), some with effigies, and 17th century monuments. Roofs are slated gables; the vestry, boilerhouse and coal cellar have slated lean-to roofs.

The 3-light chancel east window has cusped, neo-Geometric tracery and was inserted in 1851. In the north wall is a fine, Decorated tomb recess with a crocketed and finialled surround from the 14th century; an ogee-arch moulded chest is mounted by a contemporary effigy. The large, hoodmoulded, 2-centred chancel arch is in oolite and from 1851; to the north an internal flue from the heating ducts emerges as an octagonal moulded chimney, also from 1851?. The softwood roof is from 1851 and is unusual, with windbraced, 2-centred rafters matchboarded above. The glazed (Minton?) tile floor is also from 1851.

The external nave walls were rebuilt, or at least refaced, in 1851, but the south wall retains a corbel relating either to a former rood-screen or former roof. The west wall features a low external plinth. The south door has a moulded, 2-centred surround and is entirely from 1851. There are 3 windows in the south wall, and one in the west wall, all like the chancel east window (but of 2 lights in the south wall) and from 1851; the north wall is blind. The softwood roof is from 1851 and has tie-beamed, king-post trusses; all common rafters are arch-braced and matchboarded above. The passages are tiled, above heating flues, with suspended board floors, from 1851.

The transeptal south chapel is entered through a wide, depressed semi-circular headed arch, 16th century, which truncates the skew passage from the south transept lying to the west. Lying within the arch is a tomb chest with a moulded arcade of cusped arches upon which is a female effigy, 14th - 15th century and possibly in situ?. The chapel is lit by a 2-light, ogee-headed window in the east wall which occupies an earlier embrasure and may be an 1851 copy of a 16th century original, and by a single lancet in the south wall, all from 1851. The chapel has a 2-centred, simple rib-vault, 16th century. The flagged floor includes a number of memorial slabs and is probably all early. A fine Jacobean dresser tomb, from 1613, occupies the south wall; the chapel is known as the 'Lort Chapel'.

The north transept is entered from the nave via a plain 2-centred arch from the 14th century. It is lit by a single lancet, from 1851 but occupying a medieval opening (with drip-mould?). The north wall has an external buttress, pre-19th century. The transept has a 2-centred barrel vault, 14th century. Floored as the nave.

The 4-storey tower adjoins the north wall of the north transept, and is entered through a 2-centred arch reflecting the profile of its vault; The tower is not typical of the region; it lacks a basal batter and string-course, is rather narrow, and the succeeding 3 stages are also vaulted. All these details may indicate an earlier date, early 15th century?. It is tapered, and a square spiral stair turret projects from the north-west corner, entered through a simple, square-headed doorway, medieval, and lit by simple slit-lights. The ground floor is lit by a 2-light window in the north wall like those in the nave and also from 1851; the boarded floor is suspended and ?raised. The second stage is lit by a simple lancet in the east wall, and there is a blocked single light in the north wall. The third stage is lit by a square-headed light in the north wall. The belfry stage has a semicircular-headed single-light window in all 4 faces, early 15th century; the contemporary crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table.

The south transept is entered through a plain 2-centred arch reflecting the profile of its vaulting, 14th century, and is lit by a 2-light window in its south wall, like those in the nave and also from 1851. A piscina, represented by a 2-centred recess without a bowl lies in the internal face of the east wall; the 'Decorated' tomb recess in this wall is from 1879 but may occupy an earlier recess. To the north is the segmental-headed opening into the similarly vaulted, but altered, skew passage, 14th century. Floored as the nave.

The south porch is was entirely rebuilt, or at least refaced, in 1851 in squared and coursed Old Red Sandstone with internal masonry benching; it is vaulted as the nave, possibly rebuilt in 1851. The moulded 2-centred doorway is from 1851. Floored as the nave.

The vestry is from 1851, when it was converted from a former skew passage which opens into the chancel via a 2-centred arch with a double chamfer, and to the north transept via a segmental headed arch, both 14th century. The outer walls are from 1851 and there is a contemporary double lancet window in the east wall. The softwood lean-to roof, and the tiled floor, are also from 1851.

The boilerhouse was constructed between the nave and north transept between 1851 and 1880. It occupies a deep cutting and is entered through a segmental-headed doorway in its west wall. A brick-lined flue ascends a chase within the nave north wall. The lean-to roof rises up to the nave north wall. The coal cellar north of the vestry is contemporary, and also occupies a deep cutting with a lean-to roof up to the vestry north wall; a chute lies in the east wall.

A deep, wide revetted external cutting runs around the northern half of the church except the tower, partly primary where the church has been built into the hillside but ?deepened and extended around the vestry and coalhouse in 1851. A shallow external drain runs around the rest of the church. The interior lies at a number of levels which may have been altered; the tower floor, at least, may have been lowered. Floors are suspended above heating flues. Many known internal burials lie beneath the south chapel. External memorials lie significantly close to the east and south walls.

Structural development

The pre-1851 chancel arch was semicircular-headed and may have been 12th century; it may date the chancel or the nave. The latter, however, was largely rebuilt in 1851. The transepts and skew passages, and the former south porch, are 14th century. The tower may be early 15th century. The south chapel is 16th century and was built as a mortuary chapel.

The interior was 'richly embellished' in 1766 (Lewis, 1833). This work may represent the wainscoting of the '3 chancels' (ie. Transepts) and new altar rails referred to in 1810 (Fenton, 1903 edn., 232n.). The windows of the time were casements, 'not one of which opened' in 1848 (Anon., n.d.). The pre-1851 chancel arch and east window are shown in a contemporary drawing (ibid.); the former was low and semicircular-headed, the latter a square sash window.

Two effigies present in the north transept or tower in 1810 (Fenton, 1903 edn., 233) have now disappeared.

The church was restored in 1851 to the designs of the architect Sir George Gilbert Scott (Anon., n.d.). The nave walls were largely rebuilt, the south porch rebuilt, and the vestry added. The church was refenestrated, reroofed, refloored, reseated and replastered, and the chancel arch was rebuilt. During the restoration a wall -painting was exposed, apparently occupying a 'niche' in the south transept and representing a cross and the shield of St George; the painting has since been lost, but did it occupy the east wall recess?

The boilerhouse and coal cellar had been added before 1880, when they are shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition.

The pews, vestry screen and the glazed (Minton?) tiled reredos are from 1851. The organ in the vestry is dated 1874 and the pulpit is later 19th century.

The oolite font is 20th century.

The tower contains 3 bells, from the 17th - 18th century, recast in 1971 (Anon., n.d.).

An ECM (Dyfed PRN 594) lies in the south chapel; it is a Latin-inscribed stone and is probably not *in situ*.

The church was Grade I listed in 1998.

SITE HISTORY

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

SS James and Elidyr, Stackpole Elidor, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. It appears to have always been in the patronage of the Lords of the Manor of Stackpole Elidor.

The living consisted of both a sinecure rectory rated in the king's books at £15 12s 11d, and a discharged vicarage rated at £3 18s 4d and endowed with £600 royal bounty; both were in the patronage of the Earl of Cawdor (Lewis, 1833). The offices were merged in 1814 (Anon., n.d.).

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

The 'Elidyr' of the dedication may be equated with St Teilo, but in this case may be secondary.

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**ST MARY,
TENBY,
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE**

Dyfed PRN 3713

RB No. 3666

NGR SN 1342 0044

Listed Building No. 6177

Grade A listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 80% pre 19th century core fabric. The largest medieval parish church in Wales.

A multicell church, very large. Consists of a chancel, 4 bays above crypt; nave, 5 bays; north chapel, 3 bays, south chapel, 2 bays; tower (south of chancel west bay), 3 storeys, with spire; north aisle, 5 bays; south aisle, 5 bays; south porch (formerly with parvis?); medieval. North porch, 1862-66. Vestry (2 storeys, south of chancel east bay), 1 bay, 1885. Limestone rubble construction, some ORS; internal walls with render/plaster. Tower and porch barrel-vaulted; chancel, nave and south aisle with medieval oak roofs. Slate gable roofs; tower with medieval spire. Medieval arcades (open, with mouldings), chancel arch, few windows, doors (open and blocked), piscinae, tomb recesses with effigies, south porch vault, doors and parapet, medieval tower with vault, openings, rood loft stair (blocked), parapet and spire; dressings mainly in yellow oolite. Few early 17th century windows. Windows mainly from 1862-66, and 1885, neo-Perpendicular, with yellow and grey oolite dressings. (15th century altar table, 17th century pulpit, 16th-18th century memorials).

Roofs: medieval vaults, late 15th century oak roofs and c.1840 softwood roofs. Floors: 1862-66. Finishes: 1862-1966.

Condition - good. (Effigies and tomb recesses poor.).

Archaeological potential - excellent. Surviving below-ground archaeology around ?100% of church; former component beyond 5% of church; church; very shallow, concrete external drain around 100% of church; levels unchanged; crypt beneath 20% of church; below-ground floor in 10% of church; suspended floors over heating ducts in 80% of church; below-ground heating chamber in 5% of church; marked burials beneath 80% and evidence for earlier church plan(s); no external memorials significantly close to church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - very good. 80% pre-19th century core fabric; medieval arcades, chancel arch, windows, doors, piscinae, tomb recesses with effigies, south porch vault, doors and parapet, medieval tower with vault, openings, rood loft stair, parapet and spire; early 17th century windows.

Group value - very high. Important medieval landmark church with tower, the largest medieval parish church in Wales, in coastal clifftop location; at centre of historic walled town; churchyard with associated remains of medieval 'college' of chantry priests, medieval town hall and gaol.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Nave, chancel west bays (and former south aisle), C13.

(Phase 2 - Former south transept, south porch, and ?north transept, c.1300.)

Phase 3 - South chapel, tower (and spire), north aisle, c1400.

Phase 4 - South aisle, chancel east bay, mid-late C15.

Phase 5 - North chapel, late C15.

Phase 6 - South porch, c.1500.

(Phase 7 - Vestry, early C19.)

Phase 8 - Restored 1862-66, medium impact; north porch built.

Phase 9 - Restored 1885, medium impact; vestry rebuilt.

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St Mary, Tenby, is a multicelled church, of very large size, being the largest medieval parish church in Wales. It retains approximately 80% pre 19th century core fabric.

The present church consists of a long, 4-bayed chancel, partly over a crypt and formerly featuring a loft-chapel, a 5-bayed nave, a 3-bayed north chapel, a 2-bayed south chapel, a single-bayed, 2-storeyed vestry east of the south chapel, a 3-storeyed tower, with a spire, south of the chancel west bay, a 5-bayed north aisle, a north porch, a 5-bayed south aisle, and a south porch, formerly with a parvis?. A ?cruciform west porch was formerly present. Construction is in local limestone rubble, with some local Old Red Sandstone. The chancel arch and arcades are medieval, and some openings. Other openings are from 1862-66 and from 1885, neo-Perpendicular, Gothic, with yellow oolite dressings. Pointing is mainly from 1862-66, 1885 and the 1960s; the interior is plastered. The tower and the south porch are barrel-vaulted, and there are late 15th century carved oak wagon-roof ceilings. Roofs are slated gables; the tower carries a medieval masonry spire. (There are a 15th century altar table, a 17th century pulpit, medieval effigies, and a number of good 16th - 18th century memorials.)

The external levels surrounding the church have been much altered through time, but the survival of below-ground archaeology was demonstrated during recent excavations of the former west porch (Williams and Brennan, 1994, 26-9). There is structural evidence for many former components that have been absorbed into the present church. The church is surrounded by a very shallow, concrete external drain. There is no evidence for internal floor level changes. A medieval crypt lies beneath the chancel east bay. The vestry ground floor is below-ground, from 1885. Floors are suspended over heating ducts, and there is a below-ground heating chamber in the nave. Many marked burials lie beneath the south chapel, and occur throughout the church. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The chancel

The chancel is very long, and the east end lies over a medieval crypt that is partly above-ground (not seen); the sanctuary is thus approached up a flight of 11 steps. The chancel is also unusual in the region in having clerestorey level openings, cf. Haverfordwest St Mary, but here lighting a former loft over the chancel which served as a chantry chapel to St Anne (Thomas, 1984, 7) which was founded in the late 15th century (Walker, 1978, 303) and entered from the south chapel (see below); it was dissolved in 1545-47. The name St Anne's Chapel has occasionally been applied to the entire chancel (eg. Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1610).

The east wall has very large, crude quoins in limestone and Old Red Sandstone. The large, 5-light east window has neo-Perpendicular tracery in a 2-centred surround and dripmould on lozengic stops, all in yellow oolite and from 1855 (Thomas, 1984, 7); there is a large, 2-centred outer or relieving arch above the window, of medieval date. The gable apex was rebuilt with a small square opening into the roof space, with a triangular surround, probably during the 19th century but before 1855 (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1753).

The side walls are largely arcades to the flanking chapels, but the east bay projects beyond their end walls; the north wall, however, exhibits an offset at $\frac{3}{4}$ height which represents the roof-creasing for a former lean-to building, which had gone by the mid 19th century and is of unknown nature. The offset coping forms the head of a 3-light window, of ogival openings with simple neo-Perpendicular tracery in a square surround, of yellow oolite, probably from 1855. The sill of this window corresponds with the creasing for a second, ?earlier lean-to roof, possibly late medieval and associated with 2 blocked arches that lie below. These both have segmental heads from the late 15th century and represent a former arcade into the crypt, the vault of which lies within; the eastern of the two arches lies at a higher level and a window has been inserted through the blocking, having 3 square-headed lights in a square surround, in weathered limestone, from the early 17th century.

The south wall of the east bay was similarly a former outside wall and the impression of a large, blocked segmental-headed window is visible internally; this was blocked in 1885 when the vestry was built against the wall, which entered through a doorway, from 1885, with a 4-centred, double chamfered surround in yellow oolite.

The side walls of the 3 western bays are arcades. The northern arcade comprises three 4-centred arches, on slender piers formed by a cluster of 4 attached shafts with plain abaci and tori, in oolite from the late 15th century; a low wall lies within the arches, added in the 19th century. There is a visible horizontal joint above their apices, above which the wall leans outwards. The 2-bayed arcade into the south chapel has narrower, 2-centred arches of roll- and cavetto-moulded yellow oolite, on similar piers, with foliated abaci, all from c.1400. The westernmost bay is occupied by the arch into the tower ground floor (see below).

The chancel arch springs from the side walls and is nearly full height, with a 4-centred profile, is in triple-chamfered oolite and has a plain impost on the northern limb, all from the late 15th century.

Internally, the chancel side walls exhibit moulded corbels for the roof timbers. When the internal plaster finishes were stripped during renovations of the 1960s a line of internal sockets was revealed high up in the south wall, and small, blocked clerestory windows in both side walls (NMR, Pe 0721-0775), associated with the flooring and lighting of the former 'St Anne's Chapel' (see above). Four of the windows were reopened and have 2 square-headed lights in square surrounds, in limestone, probably from the 16th or earlier 17th century. A medieval piscina has been relocated within the crypt (Thomas, 1984, 7).

The chancel roof occupies a continuous level with that in the nave. It is an oak wagon roof ceiling with a 2-centred profile, and substantial frames and plaster panels, from the late 15th century; at the frame intersections are carved, mainly heraldic bosses, while the transverse timbers are carried on the wall-corbels via carved figurines. The whole was extensively restored in the 1960s (NMR, Pe 0721-0775).

Much of the floor is occupied by the 11 steps up to the sanctuary, which overlies the crypt; both floor and steps comprise yellow oolite flags, probably from 1862-66 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/78/125), and incorporate earlier memorial slabs.

The nave

The nave side walls are both pierced by inserted arcades (see below), but the west, gable wall is pierced by what was the main, processional church entrance, with a former west porch (see Structural Development below). The doorway has a double-ogee head, in alternate, shallow roll- and cavetto-mouldings to form 3 orders, the outer order with moulded tablet flowers. Above it is a band with the raised Latin inscription 'Blessed be God in his gifts' and above this, in turn, a double-ogee dripmould on out-turned stops. The whole is in weathered yellow oolite from the very late 15th century, but its asymmetric appearance suggests that it has been at least partly rebuilt. Above the door is a large 5-light window with neo-Perpendicular tracery featuring a large, quatrefoil spandrel, in a 2-centred surround and drip-mould on lozengic stops, in yellow oolite from 1868. There is an area of blocking below sill-level and a disturbed area of masonry north of the window, associated with a ?medieval window; the internal semi-circular line of dressings above the present rear-arch relate to a post-medieval window, possibly that shown in drawings of 1838 and 1862 (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1390 & 1993/71), which had 5 lights beneath a 4-centred head.

The nave has an oak wagon-roof with a semicircular profile, of slighter frames than that in the chancel, without the corbelled figurines but with carved figurine bosses, and plaster panels; it is of a similar late 15th century date to that in the chancel but similarly restored in 1966.

The floor is oolite flagged like that in the chancel, over heating ducts from 1862-66.

The north chapel

The north chapel is traditionally known as 'St Nicholas' Chapel' although, during the medieval period, it was called 'The Aisle of the Rood of Grace' and was a chantry chapel founded in the late 15th century (Walker, 1978, 303) and dissolved in 1545-47. A rood (with a screen?, see below) was formerly present at the east end.

The east, gable wall has been much rebuilt. A window was inserted in 1885 (Thomas, 1984, 9), into a wall that has previously been blind here and is shown thus in a mid-19th century drawing (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1753) when the roof creasing of the former lean-to against the chancel north wall, noted above, was still visible; the 3-light window has neo-Perpendicular tracery, a 2-centred head and drip-mould on human mask stops, and a similar internal surround, all in grey oolite. Probably contemporary with the window is the refacing of the northern half of the wall in larger rubble; the buttress at the northern corner is later still and divided by a vertical joint. The outline of an earlier, lower gable is visible externally, this had been heightened, in small limestone rubble, by the mid 19th century (ibid.); also visible the creasing for the lower, ?earlier lean-to roof seen on the chancel south wall, and a vertical joint low down in the wall which may represent the northern jamb of a former light. The mid 19th century drawing (ibid.) also shows a small squinched area high up in the angle between the east wall and the chancel; this may have been associated with a former rood-loft.

The north, side wall has a low, basal batter. The uppermost metre of the wall was, like the east wall, raised/rebuilt in small rubble before the mid 19th century. The wall is pierced by 3 large windows, all like that in the east wall but both 3- and 4-light, similarly from 1885 but possibly occupying earlier openings; the windows were square-headed, with labels, and of 2 - 3 lights in 1862 (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1993/71). Towards the west end is an area of rubble blocking, visible high up on the external face; function?. Against the east end of the internal face is a Jacobean chest tomb, with the recumbent effigy of Margaret Mercer, d.1610, and the kneeling figure of her husband Thomas ap Rees, both painted; the chest has a moulded frieze of weepers, and the back has a rich entablature supported on debased Corinthian columns, acroteria and a crown with a device motif.

The south wall is represented by the aisle into the chancel described above; in the eastern arch is a plain chest tomb with the recumbent limestone effigy of Robert Tully, Bishop of St Davids d.1481, in Episcopal dress and mitre, with brass inlaid characters.

The wagon roof ceiling has a 2-centred profile, is framed and plaster-panelled, and is entirely painted; it does not appear to be medieval and may be part of the re-roofing of the church in the 1840s.

The floor is oolite flagged like that in the chancel, incorporating memorial slabs from 1457 - 19th century.

The name St Nicholas Chapel is derived from a nearby street name, which continued in use when the chapel was re-dedicated in 1899 (Thomas, 1984, 11).

The south chapel

The south chapel is traditionally known as 'St Thomas' Chapel'; it contains a very large number of memorials, including an assemblage of wall-monuments and tablets from the 17th-19th century.

The solid east end wall rises above the gable of the adjoining vestry to the east, with which the chapel communicated via a doorway with a 2-centred surround, square head and neo-Perpendicular moulded tympanum, from 1885 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/78/125). To the north is a Carolian monument, at floor level, with a kneeling figure of William Risam, d.1633; the entablature, supported on Ionic columns, has a crown with a device motif, and an illegible inscription that by tradition was damaged during the Civil War.

The north wall is represented by the aisle into the chancel described above. Above the western arch is a corbel table, which presumably survives from the earlier, pre-chapel chancel. Below it is a socket and corbel associated with the former 'St Anne's Chapel' over the chancel, described above. In the eastern arch is an alabaster, double chest tomb (set end-to-end) with extravagantly moulded, neo-Perpendicular chest sides and recumbent limestone effigies of Thomas White and his son John, both probably from 1507.

The south, side wall is in roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble, with a cavetto-moulded oolite corbel table for the roof eaves, from 1885. There are 2 large 3-light windows like those in the north chapel, similarly from 1885, and again possibly occupying earlier openings, but in yellow oolite that perhaps retains some weathered elements of the 15th century surrounds. At the west end is a small, 2-light window set high in the wall, with cusped heads in a cavetto-moulded, square, yellow oolite surround, 16th-17th century but re-opened and restored in the 1960s (NMR, Pe 0721-0775). Below the window is an external, blocked square opening with a chamfered yellow oolite surround, above which is an area of infill; the whole represents the blocked doorway to a gallery which was approached via an external stair, was lit by the window mentioned, and led from the chapel into 'St Anne's Chapel'. Internally, at the east end of the wall is a piscina with a cusped, 2-centred head, in chamfered limestone, probably 14th century and relocated from the chancel when the chapel was built. To the west, between the 2 windows, is a Jacobean oolite chest tomb, simply moulded with panelled sides and a plain back, without effigies, to Ralph Mercer d.1613.

The softwood, wagon roof ceiling has 6 straight cants, framed and matchboarded, and is entirely painted; it may be part of the re-roofing of the church in the 1840s. The medieval roof-line was higher (Thomas, 1984, 9).

The limestone flagged floor is 20th century, and features 18th-19th century memorial slabs.

The tower

The 3-storey tower occupies a position, unusual within the area, south of the chancel west bay and in the angle with the south aisle. It is also stylistically unusual and was assigned an early (13th century) date by Thomas, 1964 and 1966, but is probably from c.1400 (see Structural Development below). It is very large, it lacks the basal batter and string course typical of the region, and is only slightly tapered, characteristics which it shares with the nearby tower at Pembroke St Mary. The external facework is all in roughly squared and coursed muddy limestone rubble, with good quoins, and appears to represent a single build.

The ground floor opens, via 3 tall, 2-centred arches, into the chancel, south chapel and south aisle; the south external wall is slender meaning that the corners of this stage are effectively piers, deeply chamfered towards the tower interior, that carry the second stage. The south-west corner also houses the main spiral stair which projects as a clasping buttress from the south and west faces and lit by plain slit-lights; it was entered from within the tower but access is now from the churchyard, through a plain 2-centred doorway, of 19th century date but with an incomplete head, in its south face. The north-west corner is occupied by a second spiral stair entered from the nave east bay through a small, square-headed doorway in its north face, now blocked, which formerly led to the rood-loft. The door was temporarily unblocked in 1906 and the stairwell interior was apparently found to feature a medieval mural painting of the Crucifixion (Thomas, 1984, 15); to the west of the door is a piscina beneath a full-centred semicircular arch.

The arch from the tower ground floor into the chancel has deeply chamfered external stops that do not continue into the arch itself. The arch to the south chapel is similar but only the northern stop has an external chamfer; a 2-centred recess was probably for statuary and a corbel above is associated with the former chapel roof. The similar arch into the south aisle is deeply chamfered in just the southern stop, the chamfer continuing into the secondary thickening of the wall added later in the 15th century (see below). The south, external wall of the tower ground floor is pierced by a doorway into the churchyard, with a chamfered, 2-centred surround in weathered limestone from c.1400. Above the door is a window with a 2-centred embrasure from the 15th century but now containing a 3-light window with simple, uncusped tracery and a drip-mould on plain stops, all in yellow oolite from the mid-19th century.

The ground floor has a barrel-vault from c.1400 which springs from the 4 corners and is pierced by a central bell-raising port. It is now occupied by an organ, and the floor is not visible.

The second stage is lit by a deep, simple, single-lancet in all 4 faces, from c.1400. It formerly served as a chapel and retains a stone altar table in the east lancet embrasure, and a piscina (Thomas, 1984, 16). The belfry stage has contemporary, similar single-lancet openings in all 4 faces, but larger. The contemporary crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table.

The tower is surmounted by a spire, in limestone ashlar, that may be contemporary; it lies within the parapet but is broached up to a string-course, and octagonal above. It was repaired during the 18th and 19th centuries before the upper part was rebuilt in 1963 (Thomas, 1984, 16).

The north aisle

The gabled north aisle is the same width as the nave, with which it communicates through an arcade of five wide, 2-centred arches which are roll- and cavetto-moulded into 4 orders, without capitals or bases, in yellow oolite; in its present form the arcade dates from c.1400 (see Structural Development below).

The aisle also communicates with the north chapel through a tall, wide 2-centred arch in yellow oolite inserted in the late 15th century when the chapel was added (see Structural Development below), similar to the south aisle arcade but roll-moulded into 3 orders, and with plain abaci and tori. Externally, the gable rises above the chapel roof; the upstand carries a weathered apical pinnacle, possibly medieval (shown in 1862 on Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1993/71), and was rendered in the 20th century.

The north wall is in random, small limestone rubble, but the bottom 2 courses are large and roughly squared, earlier?; there is a cavetto-moulded oolite corbel table for the roof eaves, like that in the south chapel and also from 1885?. At the east end of the wall is a large external buttress rebuilt in the 1830s (Pembs. R. O., HPR/78/57) but on the site of an earlier structure; it is in limestone ashlar, with 'lean-to' coping up to the wall face, and incorporates a chamfered, 2-centred arch, without abaci, that is from the 1830s but retains earlier (medieval?) Old Red Sandstone in the jambs, which lie on octagonal bases. The north is now pierced by 4 windows, all 4-light with neo-Perpendicular tracery in yellow oolite and with dripmoulds, like the north chapel windows but from 1862-66 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/78/58); they replaced 'Tudor' 4-light windows with square heads and labels, of unknown date, shown in drawings of 1838 and 1862 (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1390 & 1993/71). The 2 easternmost window interrupt the blocking of earlier windows, which lay somewhat further west and are thus unlikely to represent the ones shown in the drawings, possibly representing blocked medieval windows; at the west end of the wall is a further large area of blocking, again west of the present window but rather amorphous and lying beneath a horizontal line of weathered Old Red Sandstone rubble. The north door lies in the central bay between the two western windows; it is medieval in origin but had been blocked for some time prior to its reopening, and rebuild, in 1862 (shown as such on Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1390 & 1993/71). It has a 2-centred surround in yellow oolite, roll- and cavetto-moulded into 2 orders with a drip-mould in the form of a scroll bearing the date '1860'.

Internally, the north wall features 2 tomb recesses. In the central bay, east of the north door, is a tomb recess from c.1400 and contemporary with the wall itself, with a crocketed, pinnacled, cusped ogival surround in yellow oolite, which interrupts the adjacent window-sill and is in rather poor condition; the limestone effigy, of a recumbent female in 14th century costume, in similar poor condition, was probably relocated from the nave but was turned to face west in the late 19th century (Thomas, 1984, 12). The second recess lies west of the door and is from later in the 15th century, having an uncusped, 4-centred pinnacled surround with a quaterfoliated spandrel, in yellow oolite that is similarly in rather poor condition; it contains an oolite chest that features a moulded cusped arcade and may be derived from a different (earlier?) tomb, on which is mounted a male *gisant* effigy of an unknown ecclesiastic (possibly John Denby, d.1499), also in poor condition.

The west, gable wall has a slightly lower apex than that of the nave; the upstand, from 1866?, lies above an earlier, still lower gable line. It exhibits a joint to the nave west wall. It is pierced by a large, 5 light window with uncusped, intersecting tracery in a 2-centred surround and plain drip-mould, all in yellow oolite from 1860 and shown in a drawing of 1862 (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1993/71); it replaced a 5-light window with a 4-centred head, of unknown date, the lower half of which was blocked by 1838 (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1390) but with an outer arch that can still be seen above the present window.

The oak roof has collar-rafter trusses arch-braced from wall-plates, and boarding, 19th century but possibly later than the re-roofing of the church in the 1840s.

The aisle is floored as the nave, with 18th-19th century memorial slabs. There are also a number of 17th-19th century wall-monuments and tablets.

The north porch

The north porch was added in 1862-66 and does not appear to occupy the site of an earlier building. It is constructed from squared and coursed limestone rubble with stepped angle buttresses on the external northern corners, and lacks internal plaster. The contemporary door has a 2-centred surround in limestone, roll- and cavetto-moulded into 4 orders, on cylindrical, attached, double-nookshafts with acanthus-moulded capitals; there is a 2-centred drip-mould on stiff-leaf corbels. In both side walls is a contemporary window featuring 2 cusped ogival lights with neo-Perpendicular tracery in a segmental surround.

The softwood roof, similarly from 1862-66, lacks trusses, all common rafters having collars, with matchboarding. The quarry-tiled floor is also from 1862-66 and is laid directly on the substrate.

The south aisle

The gabled south aisle is wider than both the nave and the north aisle. It communicates with the nave through an arcade of five wide, 2-centred arches which do not follow the spatial rhythm of the north aisle arcade, and which, in their present form, are from the late 15th century (see Structural Development below); the arches are roll- and cavetto-moulded into 3 orders, with foliated abaci and plain tori, and feature, to the north, hoodmoulds on human mask stops, all in yellow oolite. Except for the western arch, which is weathered, all have been subsequently restored and the easternmost arch, which is higher, was entirely rebuilt in 1828 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/78/57); there is a rounded, projecting offset towards the nave over the unrestored western arch, above which the wall is thicker - representing the pre-arcade thickness?

The east wall was originally the side wall of an earlier south transept (see Structural Development below), which is represented by the thicker, lower section of the wall and the deeply chamfered western half of the tower arch which appears to have led into a skew-passage prior to the addition of the tower. The plain offset back to the tower wall-face may have supported a rood-loft or gallery; the thinner, upper half displays a vertical stop which represents the projecting tower stair turret, into which there is a plain square headed doorway with a sill at offset/?loft level, blocked in the 19th century. When the aisle was rebuilt in its present form the southern half of the wall was thickened externally, in large, squared limestone rubble, with a joint that is visible from the south; it exhibits a blind, external opening near the south-east corner with a square surround and label on human mask stops, all in weathered limestone from c.1600, *in situ*?. Internally, an unusual 'squinch' offset lies at eaves level in the south-east corner.

The south wall has an external corbel table at eaves level, like that in the north aisle and south chapel and also from 1885?. It is the product of a number of builds (see Structural Development below). It now features 3 large windows like those in the north aisle and similarly from the 1862-66 restoration. An area of ?contemporary infill is visible above the windows; that of the westernmost window fills the 4-centred arch of an earlier window of unknown date, which lay somewhat to the west of the present window and the western jamb of which, in oolite ashlar, is represented internally by an offset. The south door lies in the central bay between the two western windows; it has a tall, rounded 2-centred rear-arch from the later 13th century when this bay formed an earlier south porch (see Structural Development below) but the segmental outer arch was rebuilt at a lower level in the 18th century (Thomas, 1984, 16) when the present 2-centred surround was inserted. A simple, single lancet lies above the door, which also belonged to the earlier porch. Beneath the westernmost window is a vertical joint representing the south-west corner of this earlier porch, to the west of which the lowest three facework courses are in large, squared rubble. Further west still are 2 small openings, lying one above the other; the lower is blocked and represented by a square surround in chamfered Old Red Sandstone from c.1600, while the upper opening has a square embrasure and with a wide single lancet in chamfered Old Red Sandstone (re)built in 1862-66. The lower half of the south-east corner of the aisle is chamfered internally.

Internally, a plain, rectangular recess for a medieval piscina lies beneath the easternmost south wall window; the east bay of the south aisle was possibly a former chantry chapel called 'The Altar of Jesus' (Thomas, 1984, 21) the foundation of which may have been early (Walker, 1978, 303). It was dissolved in 1545-47.

The west, gable wall has large, limestone quoins. The north half of the wall is continuous with the nave west wall and represents the west wall of an earlier, narrower south aisle, contemporary with the nave, the south-west corner of which is marked by the vertical joint beneath the aisle west window (see Structural Development below). This earlier aisle was lit by a window of which the segmental head, and the blocking, can be seen externally north of the present window. There is a second vertical joint just north of the south-west corner which, unless it merely represents a break between the construction of the present aisle south and west walls, cannot readily be explained. The present west wall window has 5 lights with

very early neo-Perpendicular cusped tracery in a 2-centred surround and plain drip-mould, from before 1838 (shown as at present in Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1390, from 1838), but after 1822 when a drawing by Charles Norris shows a 4-light window, of early 19th century date?, with simple, uncusped tracery (NLW, Original Drawings, Pemb. B, MSS 15023, 27).

The oak roof has collar-rafter trusses, arch-braced from the wall-head, from the late 15th century (Thomas, 1984, 15) and with ?contemporary boarding.

The aisle is floored as the nave, with some 18th-19th century memorial slabs. There are also a number of 18th-19th century wall-monuments and tablets.

The south porch

The south porch is from c.1500 in a severe style, of large, very roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble. The main door is in the south wall, but there is also an entrance in each side wall. The main door has a wide 2-centred surround in yellow oolite, with shallow roll- and cavetto-moulded divisions into 3 orders, and a 2-centred drip-mould on out-turned stops, all stylistically derived from the nave west door. The side wall doorways are similar but lower, and wider. Above the west door is a small, square-headed doorway that may be inserted; it may have led to a 'parvis' chamber in the roof-space above the present vault. A crenellated parapet runs around all 3 faces of the porch, the central merlon in the south wall rising as a shallow gable; the parapet was 'renewed' in 1726 (Thomas, 1984, 16) and lies on a heavily restored string-course in yellow oolite.

The porch has a segmental barrel vault from c.1500. The post-medieval flagged floor is laid directly on the substrate.

The vestry

The 2-storeyed vestry was added in 1885 (NLW, SD/F/648) replacing an earlier 19th century building, of similar dimensions, which is shown on an estate map of c.1850 (NLW, Picton Castle Colln., Vol. 4, 109). It has snecked limestone rubble facework and is entered from the south chapel through the doorway described above, and from the churchyard through a doorway in its south wall, with a segmental-headed surround and drip-mould, both are from 1885 and open onto a landing of the internal timber staircase connecting the 2 storeys.

The upper vestry is also entered from the chancel through the doorway described above. It is lit by a large, 3-light window in the east, gable wall, with neo-Perpendicular tracery identical to that in the north chapel east window, and a 2-centred drip-mould on simple stops, from 1885; a single cusped lancet in the gable apex, also from 1885, lights the roof-space. There is a disused fireplace in the north wall. The softwood roof is from 1885, as is the suspended timber floor between the upper and lower vestries.

The lower vestry is partly below ground level. It too is lit by a window in the east wall, set low down and comprising 3 cusped, ogival lights with pierced spandrels in a square surround with a label, all in grey oolite and similarly from 1885; there is a blind, square external recess to the south, function?. The external south-east corner is chamfered at this level. The floor is laid directly on the substrate, at a higher level than the floor of the chancel crypt.

Structural development

This large church has a very complex structural history, which has to a large extent been clarified by Thomas. The chronology adopted here is largely that of Thomas, 1966 and 1984. Amendments from the slightly different sequence in Thomas, 1964 are noted; further alterations are those of the present author. In summary, there were 3 main building phases: the late 13th century, c.1400 and the mid-late 15th century.

The nave may be fundamentally 13th century. Also present at an early date was a short chancel and a narrow south aisle now represented by the northern half of the west wall of the present south aisle. To this had been added, by 1300, a south transept, with a skew-passage, represented by the east bay of the present south aisle, and a south porch, the south wall and doorway of which is represented by the south door and adjoining masonry of the present south aisle. The chancel had been lengthened and there may also have been a contemporary north transept on the site of the present north aisle east bay.

Thomas suggests that the tower is also 13th century; however, its overall morphology is in the tradition of the 'mainstream' Pembrokeshire towers of the later medieval period, its features are similar to the later 14th century tower at Haverfordwest St Martin, Pems., and the openings, if not other structural details, are not unlike that of the tower at Kidwelly, Carm., of c.1400. Furthermore, the 3 arches into the tower ground floor, from the chancel, south aisle and south chapel, all appear to be primary pre-supposing the existence of a south chapel. The present south chapel can be dated by its arcade to c.1400 and, though divided from the tower by a vertical joint, may be broadly contemporary. The spire may be also be contemporary with the tower, being similar to that at Bridgewater dated to 1367 (Thomas, 1964, 322). The north aisle can also be dated, by its arcade and *in situ* tomb recess, to c.1400; it absorbed any earlier north transept.

Its arcade dates the rebuilding of the south aisle in its present form to the mid-late 15th century, when the chancel was once more extended eastwards to reach its present length and the chancel arch was rebuilt; the present oak roof is contemporary and can be dated by its boss inscriptions to 1461-75 (*ibid.*). The north chapel can be dated by its arcade and the arch into the north aisle to the late 15th century and it may be broadly contemporary with the effigy, from 1482, lying within. The nave and south aisle roofs are from a similar date.

The nave west door can be dated stylistically to the very late 15th century; it is not known whether there was a pre-existing west door. The south porch is similar, but its detail suggests a stylistic derivation from the west door of a slightly later date, c.1500.

A loft-chapel was established in the chancel at an unknown date; the windows lighting it are, however, from c.1600. The chancel crypt lights are from the early 17th century.

The vestry and north porch are both late 19th century (see below).

A building said to represent the former west porch was demolished in 1831 (Thomas, 1984, 16); an inscription, now in the south chapel, was apparently recovered from the porch and bears the date 1496 (Thomas, *op. cit.*, 9). The area was excavated in 1993 (Williams and Brennan, 1994, 26-9) but the evidence obtained poses more questions than it answers. The porch has, on the basis of documentary evidence, long been supposed to have been cruciform, stylistically similar to - and contemporary with - the nave west door. However, drawings made in the early 19th century, after its conversion into a schoolroom (eg. NLW, Original Drawings, Pemb. B, MSS 15023, 27), show a rectangular, east-west 2-storey building detached from the church. Excavation revealed the corner of such a structure, connected by a former narrow passage to the west door, the mouldings of which it obscured and with which it is thus unlikely to be contemporary.

There is little evidence from the earlier post-medieval period at St Mary, Tenby (but see below for fittings). Expenditure during the 18th-early 19th century chiefly concerned minor repairs to the tower and spire (Pembs. R. O., HPR/78/48 and HPR/78/57). However, the south porch parapet was apparently 'renewed' in 1726 (Thomas, 1984, 16) and the south door was rebuilt during the same century. Two phases of lean-to buildings against the chancel north wall survive as structural evidence, but the buildings had gone by the mid 19th century; the north door had also been blocked. The former west porch had, by the early 19th century, been converted into a schoolroom (see above), demolished in 1831.

More work appears to have been undertaken during the earlier 19th century. The eastern arch of the south aisle arcade was entirely rebuilt in 1828 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/78/57) and the odd arched buttress against the north aisle/north chapel junction, of medieval origin?, was rebuilt in the 1830s (*ibid.*). The north and south chapels, and the north aisle, were at least partly reroofed during the 1840s (*ibid.*) when a timber west gallery was (re)built. Contemporary prints, nearly all taken from the north or west, depict these sides of the church as being fenestrated with 'Tudor'-style windows with square heads and labels, or with 4-centred heads; whilst there may have been a campaign of refenestration in c.1600 it seems more likely that the square windows, at least, were insertions from the earlier 19th century. The south aisle west window is an early example of good neo-Perpendicular tracery, dating from 1822-38 (NLW, Original Drawings, Pemb. B, MSS 15023, 27; Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1390); The mid 19th century chancel east window was an odd feature in idiosyncratic, broadly neo-Gothic style (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1983/1753); it was replaced by the present window in 1855 (Thomas, 1984, 7) when the present south window was probably built replacing a square window. The present north aisle west window had been inserted by 1862 (Tenby Museum & Art Gallery, 1993/71). A vestry had been established on the site of the present building by c.1850 (NLW, Picton Castle Colln., Vol. 4, 109).

The church was partly restored in 1862-66 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/78/58), when the north door was unblocked and the north porch added; the architect responsible is not known. The north and south aisles were refenestrated with the present windows. The timber west gallery was removed. Underfloor heating was installed. The church was refloored, replastered and reseated.

There was a second restoration in 1885. A faculty application was made for the construction of the present vestry and the conversion of the chancel crypt into a boilerhouse and coalhouse, to the designs of the architect J. P. Seddon (NLW, SD/F/648). This was not granted, but work was nonetheless undertaken in a modified form, and to the same designs. The crypt conversion did not go ahead, but the vestry was built. A window was inserted into the north chapel east wall, hitherto blind (Thomas, 1984, 9) and its north wall was refenestrated; the south chapel was also refenestrated. The church was reseated again in 1903.

A major refurbishment of the 1960s exposed the chancel clerestorey windows, a small light in the south chapel south wall and a lancet over the south porch, which were reopened and restored (NMR, Pe 0721-0775). The medieval roofs were restored, particular attention being given to the chancel roof bosses. The upper part of the spire was entirely rebuilt (Thomas, 1984, 16).

The tower was repointed in 1981 (Pembs. R. O., HPR/78/124).

The chancel altar table is 15th century, and was restored to use in 1889 (Thomas, 1984, 7); the remainder of the altar fittings are from the 1960s. The octagonal, panelled rosewood pulpit bears the date 1634, and there is a Jacobean oak chair in the south aisle. The brass weathercock on the spire may be from 1715 (Thomas, 1984, 16) and the sundial over the south porch door is from 1726 (*ibid.*), restored in 1903. The doors in the south doorway are from the 18th century (*ibid.*). The Vowles organ in the tower ground floor is from 1869 but has subsequently been enlarged (Thomas, *op. cit.*, 15). A clock was present in 1650 (Thomas, *op. cit.*, 18) but the present tower clock dates from 1889. The neo-Perpendicular, oak north chapel screen is from 1892 (Thomas, *op. cit.*, 8); its oak altar fittings, pews and panelled dado are from 1966 (Thomas, *op. cit.*, 11). The free-standing oak stalls, and the similar pews?, are from 1903 (Thomas, *op. cit.*, 8). The altar fittings in the south aisle are 20th century. The oak, glazed lobby around the nave west door, and the similar panelled dado either side and extending into the aisles, are from 1965, as is the

neo-Perpendicular oak tower screen. The similar lobby around the north door is dated 1988; the south door lobby may be contemporary.

There are 2 fonts. The main font, in the north aisle, is from 1887 (Pems. R. O., HPR/78/59) and has an octagonal bowl and stem in yellow oolite, both with panelled neo-Gothic recesses and figure sculpture; there is a contemporary oak, neo-Perpendicular font-cover in the form of a spire, with a hoist. The second font lies within the south chapel and has an octagonal bowl and a slender octagonal stem, all in oolite from the 15th century and with notches for a canopy; it formerly stood near the main west door (Thomas, 1984, 9).

There were 5 bells in 1659 (Thomas, 1984, 18), recast several times before 1789 by, *inter alia*, Rudhall of Gloucester. There is now a peal of 8 bells in the tower, including 4 of the 6 bells cast in 1789 by Bilbie of Chewstoke, Somerset. One of the 18th century bells was recast in 1888 when 2 treble bells were added; the remainder was recast in 1951 when the bells were rehung (*ibid.*).

A bell lies loose in the south chapel, inscribed 'SANCTA ANNA' and with the initials of the Bristol founder R. T., from c.1500 (Thomas, 1984, 9).

Part of a damaged female effigy, medieval, and a piece of timber which may be derived from a Jesse Tree, also lie loose in the south chapel.

The church was Grade A listed in 1998.

The churchyard formerly contained a complex of late medieval buildings, the remains of some of which survive. To the south of the church are the remains of the Town Hall and gaol (Dyfed PRNs 3712 and 11615) including the remains of an arch into the yard. To the west of the church are the remains of the east wall of a building known as the 'College' (Dyfed PRN 3708) which probably represents the remains of a college of chantry priests (Thomas, 1984, 21), there having been at least 3 chantry chapels in the late medieval church, which were dissolved in 1545-7 (Walker, 1978, 303). Records exist of other buildings in the north-west area of the churchyard, including the medieval 'White's House' to which a surviving cellar (Dyfed PRN 11603) may relate (Williams and Brennan, 1994, 27). The remains of an undated building, possibly with a fireplace, were excavated in 1993 some 7m west of the north-west corner of the present church (Williams and Brennan, *op. cit.*, 28).

SITE HISTORY

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

St Mary, Tenby, was a parish church during the post-conquest period (Rees, 1932), of the medieval Deanery of Pembroke. Its foundation date is unknown (Walker, 1978, 301) but it was probably established by the 12th century. The rectory was a sinecure normally held by absentee pluralists including Giraldus Cambrensis (*ibid.*). The church was granted, at an unknown date, to the Priory of St Nicholas at Monkton (*ibid.*).

Monkton Priory was suppressed as an alien priory by Henry V, and the advowson of Tenby fell to the crown. It was granted, in 1440, to the Earl of Pembroke (*ibid.*) who in turn granted it to St Alban's Abbey in 1442. The gift was confirmed in 1445 conditional upon the appointment of a vicar (*ibid.*); however the late 15th century Earl of Pembroke, Jasper Tudor, took a great interest in the town of Tenby and its civic enhancement and his personal influence may lie behind the contemporary development of the church. At the dissolution the advowson returned to the crown. There were at least 3 chantry chapels within the church (see above), 2 of which were late 15th century foundations; all were dissolved in 1545-47 but one chantry priest remained as a curate (Walker, *op. cit.*, 304).

In 1833 the benefice, which was in the patronage of the crown, consisted of a consolidated rectory, rated in the king's books at £26 10s 10d, and a discharged vicarage, rated in the king's books at £13 6s 8d (Lewis, 1833).

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

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