

98 No. 8

Gumfreston

Church and Yard 3687 3688

Formerly Eglwys Gunniau, birth-place of St. Teilo, latter part of the 5th century. The church consists of nave, chancel and north transept, over which is the tower. This, including the transept, has five storeys, each vaulted and fire-proof. Under the tower, and at its junction with the chancel, is a squint. To guard against the weakness caused in this passage, stones of cyclopean dimensions have been bonded into the wall. There is an apsidal baptistry and on the south

side a mortuary chapel with a groined roof. The porch at the west end is vaulted, and a stoup remains in situ. In the chancel there is a decorated piscina. A sancte bell and pewter communion service (16th century) are preserved in the church. On the northern wall of the nave are some stencil drawings of a martyr with implements of torture. In the yard on the northern side is the stump of a cross, and in the south eastern corner are three wells; the water of one is chalybeate; all are charged with carbonic acid gas. These wells are walled round and perhaps the traditional sanctity of Gumfreston is due to their presence. Arch. Camb. I, iv, 194 (illustrated); IV, xi, 335. Little England, 53, 56, 72, 206, 389, 381, 383.