

Site Name: CHURCH OF ST. LLAWDDOG.

Site File Ref. No.: CILG/CHLL

Site Type: Church

N. G. Ref.: SN 1905 4307

Period: Early Medieval; Medieval; Post-Medieval; Modern

History:

A Fifth or Sixth Century early Christian inscribed stone stands in the churchyard. It bears a Latin inscription, part of it now beneath the present ground level, and a faint Ogam inscription. At Brawdy Church in western Pembrokeshire, an early Christian stone is dedicated "MACUTRE [??] FIL CATOMAG. This makes an interesting comparison with the stone here, which is inscribed "TRENIGUSSI FILI MACUTRENI" in Latin and "TRENIGUSSI MAQI MACUTRENI" in Ogam. It has been suggested that the second element in the place-name "Alltrheiny" in Cilgerran parish may be related to the name on the inscription.

The first church here may have been established by St. Llawddog between 566 and 600 A. D. It is claimed that Llawddog was the brother of Baglan, Eleri, Tegwy and Tyfrydog. The Saint's Day for Llawddog was celebrated annually on August 10th, and following the introduction of the new Calendar, on August 19th and 20th. In the 12th Century the Norman invaders attempted to change the dedication of the church to St. Lawrence, but the older dedication proved resilient. One of several Holy Wells in west Wales dedicated to St. Llawddog was located in the adjacent parish of Bridell. On May 23rd 1208 the Pope banned church services, including marriages and consecrated burials, in England's territories in retaliation for King John's seizing of church revenue. John then confiscated all church property in retaliation. Discontent was surprisingly limited. The interdict was lifted in May 1213.

On May 20th 1283 Adam de Cardigan was the Rector of the parish Church of St. Llawddog. The church of Cilgerran was valued in 1291 at £4 per annum, Thomas David being the Rector at that time. On December 3rd 1325 the advowson of the church [i. e. the right to nominate persons to serve as parish priest], which was valued at 6 marks (£4) per annum, passed to Thomas le Blount and his wife, Juliana le Blount. She had formerly been the wife of John de Hastings, a tenant-in-chief, before his death. The property was hers as dower from her late husband. On July 26th 1387 John Hyggendon of Kidwelly exchanged his living of Manordeifi in order to become the Rector of Cilgerran. His predecessor had been Thomas ap Gwilym, who had received the post at some point after 1375 from King Richard II by reason of his custody of the son and heir of John de Hastings, the Earl of Pembroke. On May 2nd 1394 Clement Charles became the Rector after John Hyggendon resigned.

On October 9th 1495 David ap Thomas became the Rector of Cilgerran, following the resignation of his predecessor, Thomas Lloyd. Earl Jasper Tudor presented the position. The church tower was built or rebuilt about the year 1500. In 1513 and 1517 the church was exempted from payment of the King's Tithes, possibly on the grounds of poverty. On January 29th 1524 Henry VIII presented William Vaughan with the position of Rector. On November 17th 1534 the Act of Supremacy was passed, and King Henry VIII became the Head of the Anglican Church.

In 1535 the church was valued together with that of Bridell, at £9 per annum. The Queen, acting as the Marchioness of Pembroke, presented the church to Thomas David, as the

new Rector the same year. In 1539 the Six Articles affirmed the surviving Catholic dogma in English churches and the Great Bible was distributed to English Churches as the Church of England was instituted. In 1547 Edward VI became the King and the Six Articles were repealed. English replaced Latin in church services. On January 15th 1549 the first Act of Uniformity made the Catholic Mass illegal. The first Book of Common Prayer was published in June of that year. On January 18th 1549 Griffith Williams described himself in his will as being of "...*Cilgerran, clerk...*", probably as he was the Rector here. In January 1550 Parliament encouraged iconoclasm – the destruction of Catholic icons, and the persecution of Catholics and heretics. In January 1552 the Second Act of Uniformity was passed and the Second Book of Common Prayer was published. On July 15th 1553 Mary became the Queen and in September of that year Protestant Bishops were arrested and Catholic replacements were appointed. On November 30th 1554 Parliament supported a return to Roman Catholicism and the Heresy Acts were revived. Many Anglicans and Protestants were burned for heresy the following year. On January 23rd 1559, with Elizabeth now Queen, the Third Act of Uniformity and the Act of Supremacy settled the religious question.

Dr. Thomas Phaer of Forest was interred here in 1560. In 1563 the Anglican Church was officially founded. An Act of Parliament that year sought that all Welsh churches should be provided with a Welsh Bible and a Book of Common Prayer by March 1st 1567. On September 16th 1567 Einon David may have been the Rector of the church. Reference was made on September 26th 1577 to "... *David ap William Pris, parson of Cilgerran, yeoman...*" William Pris, the Parson's father, was a Cilgerran tailor. In 1580 Rice Powell was the Rector of Cilgerran. In 1618 Thomas Panton, the Rector of Cilgerran, was bequeathed some sheep by Ellen Garnons, the widow of John Garnons. Thomas Panton was still the Rector of the parish in 1620.

On January 26th 1622 Edward Provand was presented the Church by the King. He is referred to as leasing the King's Weir at Cilgerran in 1625. By June 28th 1633 lands in Bridell parish were also in his tenure. In 1644 Christmas Day was a fast day enforced by Parliament. On January 3rd 1645 the Directory for Public Worship replaced the Book of Common Prayer. It omitted Christmas, which was not observed that year. In October 1646 the Anglican episcopacy was abolished. In June 1647 the celebration of Easter, Whitsun and Christmas was banned. In 1650, following an Act of Parliament favouring Puritanism, the church was stripped of decorations. In 1654 Parliament decreed that vacant Anglican positions were to be taken by Puritans. Edward Provand was still the Rector of the Church in 1661. Following the Restoration, in 1662 the Puritans fell from favour and the Anglican Church adopted a more modern aspect and reintroduced the Book of Common Prayer and religious holidays.

On September 20th 1669 John Jones became the Rector of St. Llawddog's, following the death of his predecessor. On December 31st 1671 David Davies, the Curate of Bridell Church, became the Curate here also. He wrote his will on August 6th 1686 and probate was made on July 14th 1687. In April 1686 John Harries may have been the Curate of Cilgerran. In May 1688 the Declaration of Indulgence was read out in the church, permitting Nonconformity. Methuselah Davies was the Curate of Cilgerran in 1692-93 and John Jones remained the Rector. On March 25th 1700 Rev. Philip Phillips was presented the church by the King. In 1705 John Gwynne was the Curate. On April 13th 1706 Rev. Humphrey Brynton was presented with the position of Rector by the Queen, succeeding Rev. Philip Phillips. That year David Parry was the Curate, and was referred to as such again in 1707. Between 1708 and 1711 John Thomas of Forest was the Churchwarden. According to J R Phillips:

"...During the rectorship of the Rev. Humphrey Breynton, in the year 1715, the royal arms were, according to Act of Parliament, set up in this church, and were fixed on the rood-loft between two little wooden tables, on which were painted the Decalogue, the Paternoster, and the Credo..."

In 1721 Rev. James Thomas was the Curate. In 1722 Richard Lewis was the Curate. In 1724 John Garnon was the Curate. Rev. Humphrey Breynton died and was buried here on July 1st 1727. On July 22nd 1727 it was stated that Rev. Sutton Morgan had become the new Rector of Cilgerran. Elsewhere it is stated that on April 30th 1730 Rev. Sutton Morgan, M. A., succeeded Rev. Humphrey Brynton, who had died in 1727, and was presented the position by King George II. On January 9th 1736 King George II presented Rev. Rees Evans with the position of Rector after his predecessor, Rev. William Laugharne, was instituted to Newport in Monmouthshire. In 1748 Rev. David Davies was the Curate. In 1750 David Morgan was the Curate.

On March 28th 1758 King George II, following the death of Rev. Rees Evans who was interred in the cemetery here on January 17th 1758, presented Rev. William Cleaveland with the Rectorship. On January 8th 1778 Rev. Thomas Price became the Rector after Cleaveland was instituted to Haverfordwest. King George III presented the position. In 1784 Rev. Walter Price was the Curate. In 1786 Rev. David Jones was the Curate. On August 19th 1805 Rev. Thomas Price wrote his will, referring to his wife, Anne Price, and their children – including Rev. John Price. Thomas Price was a Justice of the Peace for Pembrokeshire.

On September 16th 1806 Rev. David Jones jnr., M A, the chaplain to the Countess of Glencairn and the son of the Rev. U Jones, the Rector of Llangan, became the Rector of Cilgerran following the death of Rev. Thomas Price in July 1806 at the age of 56 years. The position was, again, presented by the King. From 1806 until 1844 Rev. David Jones was the Rector of Cilgerran. Rev. Thomas Price was buried in the chancel on July 17th 1806, but his memorial was destroyed during a later rebuild. In 1809 the yearly value of the church from glebe lands and tithes was estimated at £140. In 1810 Richard Fenton visited Cilgerran and described the church:

'...I visit the church, that seen from the bottom of the little woody dingle, at the head of which it stands, forms a very interesting subject for the pencil; but there is nothing in the structure within or without worthy of particular observation, if you except a beautiful fragment of the rood loft yet remaining, of the same character, and most probably of the same age, with that most perfect and elegant specimen of the kind, in the little church of Patrishaw, in Brecknockshire...'

This fragment of carved oak rood screen was a rare survivor of the Reformation in Pembrokeshire.

In 1825 Thomas Lloyd of Coedmore, Llechryd, challenged David Powell Lucas of Cardigan to a 30-mile race across the Preseli hills and won. Enthusiastic supporters smashed the bells of St. Llawddog's to pieces with their wild pealing. Abel A. Gower of Glandovan paid to have them repaired. John Rudhall supplied the new bells the following year. New gates and piers were erected at the churchyard in 1833 at the expense of Abel A. Gower of Glandovan. The church at that time was a double church with two west entrances, the southerly of which had a rude porch. The charnel house still stood at that time – a four-walled enclosure with no roof. The windows were mainly narrow single lancets. The E. fenestella to the chancel was a plain, square-headed sash. The E aisle window was a 3-light, with mullions dividing the lights. A stained glass figure head was depicted here. A fragment of the rood loft survived at that time, and the roof was constructed of massive oak rafters. According to Samuel Lewis, writing in 1833:

"...The church, dedicated to St. Llawddog, is an ancient structure, in the early style of English architecture, and in tolerably good repair, with a square tower at the western end; in the churchyard there is a rude stone, bearing an inscription now illegible, but evidently a Roman monumental stone..."

It was resolved at a vestry meeting early in 1836 that a rate should be assessed for restoring the church. The nave and aisle were demolished and, unfortunately, many memorial stones were destroyed. The chancel was left standing and was used for services during the building phase. The rood-loft and the charnel-house were destroyed. The local architect Daniel Evans was employed on the building. The cost was £312. 8s. 4d. The nave and aisle were rebuilt using wooden pillars of white deal to support a ceiled roof with rafters of the same material. The pulpit was positioned against the north wall of the nave, about half-way between the tower and the chancel. The nave and aisle had square-headed windows, but the old East window remained. In 1838 the tithes amounted to £191. In early 1839 the rebuilding of the church had been completed.

On February 14th 1844, following the death of Rev. David Jones, the Lord Chancellor presented Rev. David Evans, who was then the Curate of Llangathen, with the position of Rector of Cilgerran. From 1844 until 1871 Rev. David Evans was the Rector. In 1851, according to a religious census, Rev. David Evans had a congregation of 150 persons attending on Sunday mornings, plus 80 scholars, and 110 attendees in the evenings. By 1853 the inferior deal timbers used in the nave and aisle had decayed to such an extent that the building was considered unsafe. In 1853 the church was:

'...levelled to the ground...for reasons of safety...'

Between 1853 and 1855 the church was rebuilt, save for the Fourteenth Century tower, to designs by the architect Benjamin Ferrey of London at a cost of £700. In 1854 the stained glass east window was begun by Wailes, and the south aisle east window by O'Connor. On May 19th 1855 the following appeared in the '*Cardiff & Merthyr Guardian*':

"...THE CHURCH. KILGERRAN CHURCH, CARDIGANSHIRE.—

This elegant edifice having been finished in a very superior manner by the contractors for the rebuilding of it—Mr. John Davies of Kilgerran, and Mr. John Thomas, Llechryd – was opened again for Divine worship on the 9th inst..."

Between 1855 and 1860, J. G. Howe designed two chancel side windows. The 1855 pulpit was carved by J. E. Thomas. On August 18th 1859 the *Cambrian Archaeological Association* visited. They observed:

"...Cilgerran Church, a new edifice, lately rebuilt and fitted up in a highly satisfactory manner, was first inspected, and subsequently the incised stone in the church-yard....The inscription reads -

TRENEGVSSI FILI

MACVTRENI HIC IACIT.

There are also Ogham characters on the edge of the stone, and a rude cross, of equal limbs, on one of its sides. The Rev. D Evans, the rector, stated that there were still indications of the name in his parish, where there is a farm called Penallt-trieni..."

A temporary exhibition that year displayed thirteen pennies of King Henry III and a Scotch penny of the same date, found near a stone coffin in the churchyard. About the year 1860 Ballantine installed three windows in the north wall of the nave. About 1865 a vestry and organ-chamber were added in an identical style to the body of the church. In 1866 John Rowland Phillips, in his '*History of Cilgerran*', wrote of the original structure:

"...the church..which existed some thirty years ago, was a double church, built on the same site, and to a great extent harmonizing with the style or architecture displayed in the

present edifice, though slightly differing in the details. There were two entrances thereto at the western end – one from the north and the other from the south. At the southern entrance was constructed a rude porch. The spot whereon now stands the newly-erected vestry room, close by the northern entrance to the chancel was then occupied by the ghostly charnel-house, where all the human bones disinterred in grave-digging were heedlessly jumbled together. The old charnel house mere consisted of an enclosure within four walls, without any roof. The windows were very simple, all those in the nave and south side of the aisle being of single lights, lancet shaped. The eastern fenestella in the chancel was a plain square-headed sash window, but the eastern window of the aisle evinced a higher style of architecture, and consisted of three lights divided by mullions. A beautiful figure-head in stained glass of very exquisite colouring, appeared in the middle light, and is now preserved with the rector. The interior was much the same as the present edifice; the arches were exactly similar; but high, ugly, and incommodious pews occupied the body of the church, instead of the present low-backed seats. The font was a circular basin on a pedestal, and stood opposite the present tower entrance. In this structure, however, the chief object of observation was a beautiful fragment of the rood-loft, which was of the most elaborate carving...

...The roof was of an exceedingly firm construction, consisting of rafters, beams and couples of solid oak, of massive proportions; and the walls of the nave and chancel, it appears, were studded over with memorial tablets, most of which were unfortunately destroyed when the building was demolished for re-erection, in the year 1836...

He had the following to say of the 1836 replacement:

“...there never was a greater waste of money; for instead of the strong building that previously existed, a mere temporary structure was erected...Wooden pillars of white deal, surmounted by a cross-beam of the same material, formed the only supporters of the roofs of the nave and aisle, which had been ceiled. In the interior arrangements this erection differed considerably from its predecessor. The pulpit was attached to the northern wall of the nave, about midway between the tower and the chancel...The nave and aisle windows were square-headed, of the domestic school of architecture; but the old eastern window in the aisle was permitted to remain in its place. Neither the porch on the south side, nor the charnel house on the north were re-erected; and the heap of bones that had accumulated in the latter were only slightly covered over with a few clods of earth...”

Rev. David Evans died aged 67 years on June 19th 1871, and was succeeded as Rector by Rev. Thomas Charles, who took up the post on July 18th that year and was the Rector of St. Llawddog's until 1880.

On October 5th 1877 a faculty was granted for the erection of a reredos – the decorative screen on the wall at the back of the altar. The reredos was indeed erected in 1877 in memory of Louisa Charlotte Stewart, and the chancel was re-floored, both tasks being undertaken under the supervision of Benjamin Ferrey. On March 27th 1879 a faculty was granted for the installation of a plain oak re-table – the structure forming the back of the altar. On August 14th 1880 the following item appeared in the 'Cardigan Observer':

“...DEATH OF THE VICAR OF CILGERRAN.

On Sunday evening last, about half-past eight, the Rev. Thomas Charles, Vicar of Cilgerran, expired suddenly through the rupture of a blood vessel. It appears that the rev. gentleman had been conducting Divine service at the church in the evening, and had gone to his house, sat down, feeling as usual, when all at once blood forced itself from his mouth, and in a very short time he expired before medical assistance could be procured. It appears the rev. gentleman had taken occasion on account of the sad accident which befell the coachman of Coedmore the previous Thursday, to preach that evening from the words, "Be ye also ready, for in the hour ye know not the Son of Man cometh." Deceased was a hale man, and

his death has cast a gloom over the neighbourhood. The funeral took place on Thursday last, and was very largely attended..."

On October 30th 1880 the Lord Chancellor made Rev. Thomas Jones the new Rector of Cilgerran, following the death of Rev. Thomas Charles on August 8th 1880, at the age of 55 years. On September 7th 1888 Rev. Thomas Jones accepted another posting, at Penbryn. On November 29th 1888 Rev. Thomas Parry became the Rector of Cilgerran. The church and the early Christian stone were briefly described in the 1899 Cardigan Guide. On December 31st 1907 Rev. Thomas Parry resigned as Rector of St. Llawddog's, due to his failing eyesight.

On March 20th 1908 Rev. David Jenkins, B. A., was inducted as the new Rector of Cilgerran. The Lord Chancellor presented the position to him. On September 10th 1909 an extension of the graveyard was consecrated, with the new wall built by William Joshua. The church had been renovated by Messrs. D. Jenkins and J. Morgan, and the interior redecorated by James Williams, contractor. On January 9th 1914 Rev. David Jenkins was instituted to Penboyr, and his successor as the Rector here, from May 13th 1914, was Rev. John Jenkin Jones. On February 28th 1915 a new organ was dedicated. The organ of 1855 was extended by Messrs. Blackett & Howden of Newcastle-On-Tyne. On June 11th 1926 the Bishop dedicated a World War I memorial tablet and new electric lights. The church was described that year:

'...The Church of St Llawddog, a building of stone in the Decorated style, consisting of chancel, nave, west porch and a western tower containing 3 bells, was entirely re-erected in 1855, except the tower, which is very ancient: the church has a cruciform appearance due to an extended organ reception and vestry room on the east side: there are marble monuments to Abel Anthony Gower esq. late of Glandovan, d. 1 Oct. 1837; Sir Erasmus Gower knight. Admiral of the White, d. 21 June, 1814; and his sister, Letitia Bowen, late of Glandovan; to John Lloyd esq. of Kilrhiwe, d. 11 July, 1657; James Lloyd esq., his brother, d. 1707; Griffith Griffith, surgeon, who perished with all on board HMS Confiance, in a gale off the coast of Ireland, 21 April, 1822; Mrs Margaret Owen, Rhusayson, d. 23 Feb. 1716; and to Abel Gower Esq. of Glandovan, d. 26 March, 1783; all the windows except two on the south side are stained, and there is a memorial window to Captain Colby, 98th Regiment, of Ffynone, Rhosygilwen, killed by a tiger at Rawul Pindi, India, 27 March, 1852, and to his sister, Mrs. Eliza Bearcroft, of Meer Hall, Worcestershire, given by their mother, Mrs. Colby, of Rhosygilwen: there are 350 sittings: in the churchyard on the south side of the church is a monument 8 feet high, 1 1/2 feet wide and about the same in thickness, formed of the hard grey stone of the neighbouring Preseley Hills and inscribed:- "Trengussi Filii Macutreni Hic Iacit" - (the body of) Trengussus the son of Macutrenus lies here. The register dates from the year 1708. The living is a rectory, net yearly value £325, and residence, in the gift of the Bishop of St David's and the Board of Patronage, and held since 1914 by the Rev. John Jenkin Jones, of Durham University...'

On June 24th 1927 tenders were being sought for repairs to the church roof. On January 22nd 1928 Rev. John Jenkin Jones announced his forthcoming retirement. On August 23rd 1928 Rev. Henry Howell was inducted by the Bishop as the new Rector of Cilgerran. In 1930 a large heating chamber was installed at the church. Rev. Henry Howell died on October 1st 1933 aged 49 years. On November 17th 1933 Rev. David Lewis Daniel, who had formerly been the Vicar of Llangeler, was appointed as the new Rector of Cilgerran, and took up his post on January 15th 1934. In 1936 Rev. David Lewis Daniel wrote "*Esboniad ar yr Epngyl yn ol Sante Marc*" for the S. P. C. K. Lightning struck the church on November 7th 1936, destroying the electrics. At Easter 1939 there were 147 communicants. On November 9th 1941 the Archdeacon of Cardigan dedicated a new organ. On January 3rd 1943 the Bishop dedicated a new memorial altar dedicated to the memory of G. M. Thomas (1895-1941) of Tymawr, Cilgerran, and donated by his widow and son. The church is marked on the 1951 O. S. and other maps. On January 16th 1952 the church became a listed building.

On 29th January 1954 Rev. David Lewis Daniel (d.19/08/1955) retired, having announced his retirement on July 12th 1953. On February 6th 1954 Rev. David Jones Lloyd became the Rector of Cilgerran until 1980. In about 1958 a new oak lectern was donated in memory of Captain E. W. Gower, Captain E. F. Gower and Pilot Officer D. Gower. In 1958 the organ was renovated and converted to electricity at a cost of £1, 400 by the firm 'Osmonds.' On May 31st 1970 two new stained glass windows designed and installed by Celtic Studios and a pulpit Bible were dedicated. In 1976 Canon Rev. David Jones Lloyd was still the Rector. In August 1979 it was proposed to remove and re-align some of the headstones in the churchyard. Rev. Canon David Jones Lloyd ceased to be the Rector of Cilgerran on June 30th 1980.

Rev. M. H. John was the Rector of Cilgerran in 1982. On August 15th 1982 a new font cover was dedicated, having been made by Mr. Paynter of St. Dogmaels, and dedicated to the memory of Brinley James Lewis. In January 1983 Mrs. A. Owens retired after many years service as caretaker of the church. In 1984 Rev. Euros L. Thomas became the Rector of Cilgerran and remained so until 2012. He had graduated in Bristol in 1975 before attending Llandaf College from 1977 until 1980 and then acting as the Curate of St David's Church in Llanelli from 1980 until 1984. From there he moved to Cilgerran. The Gower and Logan Memorial and the churchyard entrance were listed in 1998. In May 2003 Rev. Euros L. Thomas became a Canon. In 2007 Cilgerran and Eglwysrwr were united under Rev. Euros Lloyd Thomas. He retired due to ill health in autumn 2012 and sadly died soon afterwards in January 2013 aged 59 years. He was buried at St Llawddog's Church on 7th February 2013.

In 2014 efforts were being made towards raising funds for a proposed £300, 000 renovation of the church roof. On April 26th 2015, Rev. Peter Radcliffe, aged 47 years, became the new Rector of Cilgerran, Eglwysrwr and Bridell and was the Rector from 2015 until 2021. Born in the Wirral and raised in Lincolnshire, he spent ten years as a Methodist preacher before becoming an Anglican lay reader in 1997. After three years of training in Cardiff, he been the Curate at St Peter's in Carmarthen, after which he spent two years as the Vicar in Llanpumsaint. His wife was named Ruth, and they had three children. In March 2016 Bishop Wyn of St David's attended a Confirmation Service at St Llawddog's Church. The church was re-roofed and repaired in 2016-17. Bishop Joanna – the first female Bishop of St David's – attended the re-opening ceremony on May 7th 2017. In June 2017 a charity box was stolen from the church. In March 2020 the church was temporarily closed owing to the COVID-19 virus.

Description:

The building was described by CADW in 1998:

“...EXTERIOR – W tower, nave, S aisle and chancel. N vestry and S organ chamber added c.1865. Cilgerran stone, slate roofs, coped gables and stone cross finials. Tracery in Bath stone and some moulded slate. Plain W tower with cornice, single cusped C14 bell-openings, two with small carved face in apex. Plain chamfered openings below. C20 W doorway. 1853-5 work is in Decorated Gothic style with unusually finely detailed tracery. Hoodmoulds and bicoloured voussoirs to windows. 2-light windows, 3 to nave N, one to vestry N presumably reset from S aisle, one to chancel N and S, two to S aisle. Elaborate 3-light chancel E window with intersecting ogee arches, typical of Lincolnshire. S aisle has equally elaborate 3-light E window, copied from NW window of Castle Ashby Church, Northants. Organ chamber has small traceried rose window. Windowless W end.

INTERIOR – Vaulted tower, plastered walls, open rafter roofs. Stone 3-bay arcade with octagonal piers, chancel arch without capitals, and window reveals. Much 1850's stained glass, among the best in Dyfed, E window by Wailes c.1854-5, the S aisle E by O'Connor c.1854-5, three nave N windows c.1860 by Ballantine and the two chancel

windows by J. G. Howe c.1855-60. S aisle two of c.1970 by Celtic Studios. Ornate Bath stone octagonal font said to be copied from St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford. Bath stone pulpit carved by J. E. Thomas with marble shafting. Encaustic tiles in chancel and reredos of 1877 by E B Ferrey. N door moulded and shafted externally.

MONUMENTS – At W end John Lloyd of Cilrhue (d.1657) with columns and broken pediment; Griffith Griffith (d.1822) oval slate with marble shield and sarcophagus by Daniel Mainwaring of Carmarthen; Abel A. Gower of Glandovan (d.1837) by T. Marsh of London, Gothic white marble; On N wall, J R Phillips (d.1887), author of the History of Cilgerran; C20 memorial to Thomas Phaer of Fforest (d.1560). In S aisle W end, Abel Gower of Glandovan (d.1788) white marble, curved front; Margaret Owen of Rhiwsaison (1730's) with fluted columns and triglyph cornice, by William Palmer; Sir Erasmus Gower (d.1814) oval with urn and leaves. On S wall, Abel A Gower (d.1857) heavy neo-Grec.

In the churchyard to S, C5 to C6 standing stone inscribed 'TRENIGUSSI FILI MACUTRENI HIC IACIT' – a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There are also faint traces of a former Ogam script.

GOWER AND LOGAN MEMORIAL IN CHURCHYARD – Later C19 memorial in grey granite, comprising a raised pedestal with moulded cap some 3m long on which stands, centrally, a slim granite cross with pedestal, octagonal shaft, cap and foliated head. From each side extends a low broad granite platform with moulded plinth and three ridge-backed and hipped-ended granite slabs, each with an inscription on the S sloping side and an incised encircled star on the end slope. The pedestal has an incised trefoil on each end. The inscriptions commemorate on the W side: Hart Logan (d.1873); Sir William Logan (d.1871); and Abel Lewes Gower of Castle Malgwyn (d.1849). On the E side the first is uninscribed; then Louisa Stewart of Rhosygilwen (d.1877); and Elizabeth Gower, nee Logan (d.1876). On the pedestal end is an added plaque of 1975 commemorating Sir William Logan's work on the Geological Survey of Canada 1847-69.

Low outer granite plinth with ornate low iron rails.

CHURCHYARD GATES AND PIERS – 1833 gates and piers. The piers are rusticated Cilgerran stone with plinth and pyramid capstone. Below the capstone, fluted panel and horizontally reeded angles. The right hand pier is inscribed '1833 the gift of A A Gower Esq of Glandovan'. Short length of square rubble stone wall with slate coping each side. In the wall to the left is a plaque reading '1833 these pillars, iron gates, grating and adjoining wall together with the wall to enlarge the approach to the entrance gates and stone hedge to the glebe land were done at the expense of A A Gower Esq of Glandovan out of reverend respect to the mother church and for the accommodation of the Rector, parishioners and those frequenting it'.

Pair of broad wrought iron gates with down-curved top-rails, spearhead dog-bars and scroll work to dog bars and hanging stiles..."

According to Dyfed Archaeological Trust's notes:

"...St Llawddog, Cilgerran, is a 5-celled church, of large size. It retains approximately 20% pre-19th century core fabric, confined to the west tower. The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single bayed organ chamber south of the chancel west bay, a single bayed transeptal vestry north of the chancel west bay, a single bayed south transept, a 2-bayed south aisle and a 3-storey west tower which includes the church entrance. There is also an attached, below-ground heating chamber between the south aisle west wall and the tower south wall. Construction is in good quality, medium-large slate rubble, roughly squared and coursed; good mortar pointing, mainly from 1853-5;

rendered/plastered within, also mainly 1853-5. Roofs are mainly slated gables, the nave always roofed at a higher level; the organ chamber roof is a slated lean-to, and the heating chamber has a flat roof. The west tower roof was not seen. A deep external earth-cut cutting runs along the south walls, containing a drain. There is no evidence for floor level changes. Suspended floors are present, with an underfloor void. There is an external below-ground heating chamber between the aisle and tower, from 1930; no internal crypt/vault is evident. There is no evidence for any former components beyond those present. Some memorials lie significantly close to the west, east and south walls. The west tower was constructed c.1500, and includes the main west doorway into the church; it is stylistically characteristic of the region. The remainder of the church was entirely rebuilt, twice, in 1839 and in 1853-5. Little can now be reconstructed of the form of the rest of the pre-19th century church, but it may be that the present structure has closely followed its plan..."

"...The 3-storey west tower is from c.1500. It is fairly typical of the region and is tapered throughout. The fabric is well squared and coursed slate rubble. A square spiral stair turret projects from the north-east corner and retains its slit-lights unaltered. The ground floor is vaulted with a 2-centred barrel-vault of c.1500 and is floored as the nave (see below). It is entered from the exterior through a 2-centred west door rebuilt, with a moulded oolite surround, in 1853-5. The remainder of the openings are from c.1500, and include single cusped lights in the second stage, and a single, 2-light louvered opening into the belfry, with a cinquefoil pierced spandrel; the oolite surrounds are original. The crenellated parapet lies on a corbel table typical of the region; the crenellations were renewed in 1853-5. All detail in the remainder of the church is, like the core fabric, from 1853-5 and 1865 and neo-Decorated in style. The 3-light chancel east window is traceried, in a 2-centred oolite surround. There are similar 2-light windows with pierced spandrels in the remainder of the church. The exterior of the 1853-65 fabric exhibits stepped and coped buttresses throughout. The 2-centred chancel arch is of simply moulded oolite, without capitals; the organ chamber arch, and vestry door, have similar profiles. The softwood roof is from 1853-65 as is the tile floor. The nave is divided from the south aisle by a 3-bayed arcade of 2-centred arches on octagonal piers, with moulded slate capitals. A simpler arch, like the chancel arch, leads from the aisle into the south transept. The west door into the tower has a 2-centred surround. The softwood roofs of the nave, aisle and transept are from 1853-5, as are the softwood seating, suspended floor and tiled passages. There has been some further work. The reredos was erected in 1877 when the chancel was refloored, both undertaken by Benjamin Ferrey. The plain oak retable was installed in 1879. A large heating chamber lies externally, between the west wall of the south aisle and the tower south wall. It was built in 1930, mainly below ground, but with low slate rubble walls and a flat roof above ground level; it is reached by a (largely internal) flight of steps. The font is from 1853-5, and an imitation of that in St Mary Magdalene, Oxford. The church was Grade II listed in 1998. An ECM, the 'Trenagussus Stone', stands in the churchyard. It is an inscribed stone, with Latin and Ogam characters, and there is a faint incised cross. 13th century coins were found in a cist grave within the yard in 1853-5..."

ADDITIONAL – Altar consecrated 03/01/1943 has carved tracery to front. Pulpit by Mr. Thomas of London.

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