

CHURCHES PROJECT UPDATE 2021/22.



St Lawrence, Gumfreston, South Pembrokeshire. (PRN 3687).

Peter Rowland.

April 2022

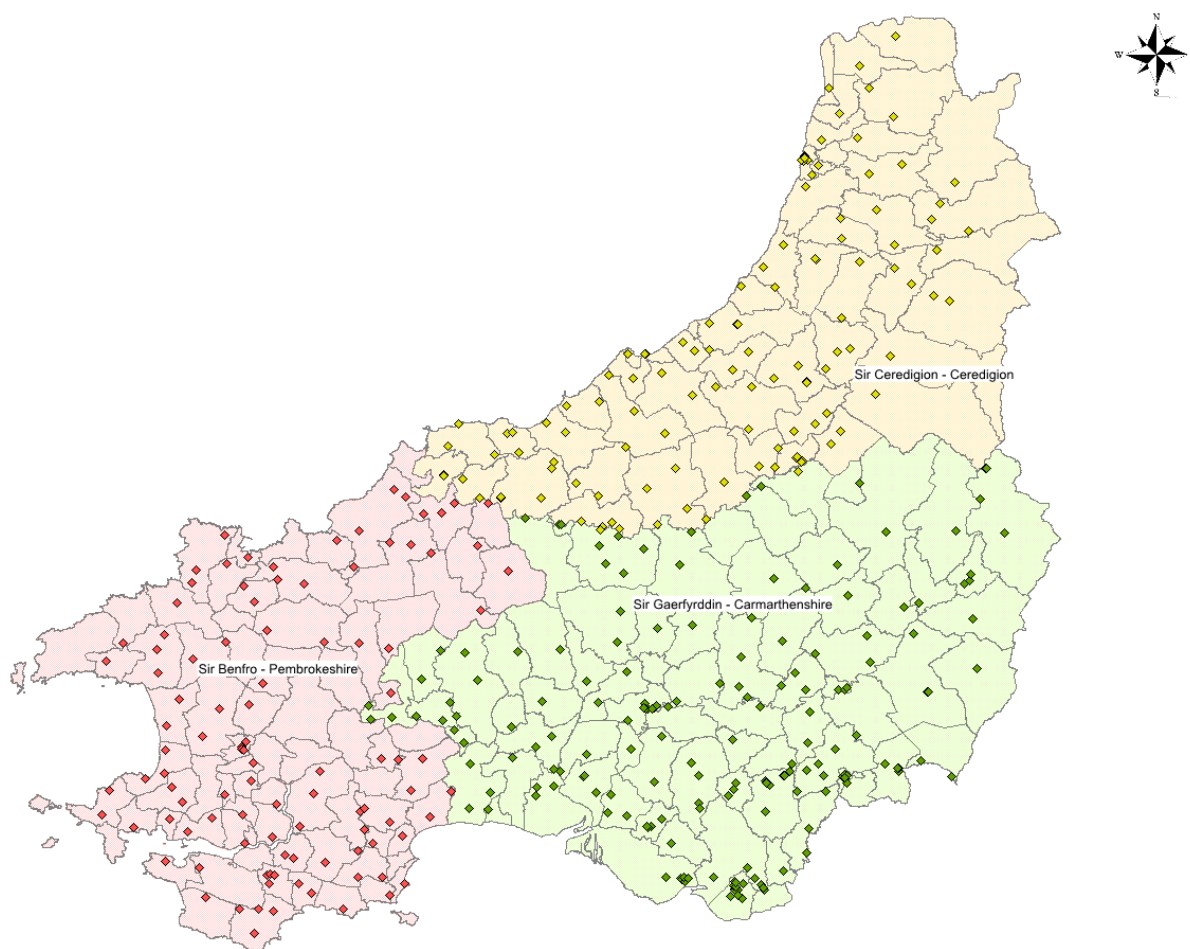
Introduction.

In the late 1990s Dyfed Archaeological Trust rapidly surveyed historic churches in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire as part of a pan-Wales survey, grant-aided by Cadw and carried out by the four Welsh archaeological trusts.

The aim of the project was to provide a record of all pre-nineteenth-century churches under the ownership of the Church in Wales. Churches rebuilt in the nineteenth century on the site of earlier churches were also recorded. Redundant churches and deserted church sites were not recorded. In total 273 churches were recorded in the three counties.

In addition, county overview reports were produced, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire split into two reports, north and south. These are available on the website:

<https://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/wp/discovery/projects/churches/>



An indication of the positions of churches in the project.

At the start of 2020 the whole world started to experience the disruption caused by the Covid19 virus, the freedom of movement we have always enjoyed abruptly came to an end. In Wales people could only travel short distances, as little as 5 miles, from their homes, and only for essential shopping and exercise, for some even this was not allowed. Most working people had to work from home or were furloughed.

During 2020 Dyfed Archaeology Trust (DAT) decided to take the opportunity and revamp their website that had become a little dated and add projects that had not been publicly available before. This included the "Churches" project that was carried by Neil Ludlow around 1998. The new look was viewable around March 2021.

Once online it was obvious that work was needed, principally to add missing images of individual sites, around 120 of the 273 had no image, plus replace poor quality images already used with new ones. It is over 20 years since the original work was completed and things have moved on beyond recognition on how material can be sourced. Computers were not as powerful as they are now, and the World Wide Web was still relatively new.

It was decided in June 2021 to start updating the website.

Actions.

The first action taken was to produce spreadsheets so that a proper assessment could be made of church reports with an image and those without. During this process it became obvious that the selection buttons available to present the individual counties were not working as they should. This was highlighted and quickly this was rectified, meaning production of the spreadsheet was much more straightforward.

During this process it was also noted that where a building was reported as listed, they were all recorded as listed 1998. It was decided to update the listed detail in the spreadsheet, including the reasons for listing, and also add this information to the individual reports. In the original County Reports buildings not listed were highlighted so it was decided to use these lists and show those that have been listed since the original reports. These lists are used again in this report for the individual areas.

It was planned to identify churches that are no longer in use, i.e., redundant. Due to Covid restrictions all of the Dyfed churches were locked down and it proved quite difficult to assess whether in use or not. In some instances, judgement was based on pandemic rules signage or simply looking through a window to see if

there were social distancing measures in place, i.e., hand sanitisers and pew closures using tape, obviously not an ideal situation.

Possibly a more accurate method is the use of the Church In Wales – Find a church website. I am grateful to the Vicar of St Martins Church in Laugharne for pointing out this facility as it certainly helps. Basically, if the church appears on the site, it is still in use, otherwise it was assumed to be redundant. This is how the information is recorded in the spreadsheets. However, just prior to visiting the final few sites the above was brought into question. During discussions with the keyholder at St Mary's, Bletherston it was pointed out that this church was no longer classed as active but was not redundant. What this means is that it can be used for christenings, weddings and funerals, there are no normal regular religious services. The question now is how many others are like this?

The result of this so far is there are 37 churches that are no longer in use. The individual churches are listed in the individual county reports below.

Once the spreadsheets were usable the planning for visiting sites could be made. It was decided to work on one county at a time, starting with Carmarthenshire, followed by Ceredigion then South and finally North Pembrokeshire.

Site visits started in July 2021 and completed in March 2022, a total of 262 days from first to last.

Where to now?

Like all projects of this type, the information recorded includes items that can easily change. Examples in this case, an unlisted church can become listed, an active church can be made redundant, and the use of the building changed, e.g. made into a residence. These need to be updated as and when.

A number of the churches now have images of the insides, including stained glass. It would be good to see more sites updated so. Churches are beginning to open up a bit more so hopefully this can happen.

Really what needs to be addressed is the Active/Redundant church status. The Church in Wales have an office in Abergwili, Carmarthenshire dedicated to the Redundant Church issue. Hopefully I can arrange a meeting sometime in the future to discuss this subject. Very much work in progress.

All photographs taken and used for the project have been saved as High-Resolution Tiffs (HR Tiffs) and JPEG's for the web (For Web); all saved to their respective counties. A further use of these could be to add the building images to the Archwilio PRN locations and possibly the British Listed Buildings website.

I have permission from Mike Salter to scan and use a number of church plans from his book "Medieval Churches of Wales", published 2017. This is still to be done.

I wonder if the project name "Churches" could be changed. The project defined the churches to be included and I feel the single word does not really indicate that there was a selection process. I wonder if something like "Dyfed's Historical Churches", might be better.

There are a couple of issues re the search facilities within the website, but it would be better to discuss/demonstrate these rather than include here.

Finally:

On a personal note, this has been a fascinating and enjoyable 9 months where I have visited places I did not know existed in the three counties. I have met a lot of really nice people, many when I have been totally lost in a system of narrow lanes. Everyone proved very helpful with directions and also all showed great interest in what I was doing. I suspect a lot of these individuals have now visited the website. My thanks to Dyfed Archaeology Trust for allowing me to work on updating this importantly valuable project.

See the reports for the individual counties below.

Carmarthenshire.



St Cathan's, Llangathen, Carmarthenshire. (PRN 709).

1998 Report link:

<https://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/wp/wpcontent/uploads/carmarthenshirechurches.pdf>

Note: No images, information or detail in the original individual church reports has been altered. The bulk of the 1998 Report is still relevant and all new information 2021-22, recorded in the individual church reports, is additional.

2022 Comment.

Listed Buildings:

At the time of the original survey 40 of the 77 churches were listed Grade II, II* or I. At the time of writing this report only 11 of the other 27 remain unlisted, meaning 56 of the 77 buildings are listed. The details of the unlisted buildings in 1998 with the 2022 status are as follows.

PRN 17407	St David's, Abergwili	Grade II	2003
PRN 2251	St Lucia, Abernant	Grade II	2008
PRN 4872	St David's, Betws	Grade II	1990*
PRN 20697	St Teilo, Brechfa	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5516	Capel Gwynfe	Grade II	1999
PRN 3897	Cyffig	Grade II	2000
PRN 4967	St David's, Henllan Amgoed	Not Listed	2022
PRN 3958	St Brynach, Llanboidy	Grade II	2001
PRN 5360	St Maelog, Llandyfaelog	Grade II	2004
PRN 16233	Llandyry	Grade II	2002
PRN 17349	St Cain's, Llangain	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17374	St Gwynog's, Llangennech	Grade II	1999
PRN 17379	St Gedwyn's, Llanglydwen	Grade II	1999
PRN 1736	St Ceinwr's, Llangynnwr	Grade II	2004
PRN 2174	St Cynog's, Llangynog	Grade II	2001
PRN 5367	St Llawddog's, Llanllawddog	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17352	St Sadwrnen's, Llansadwrnen	Grade II	2001
PRN 17353	St Gwinio's, Llanwinio	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17381	St Cwrda's, Llanwrda	Grade II	1999
PRN 3972	St David's, Meidrim	Grade II	2002
PRN 17356	St Martin's, Merthyr	Not Listed	2022
PRN 2253	St Michael's, Newchurch	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5388	St Mary's, Pencader	Not Listed	2022
PRN 1690	St John's, Pontyberem Capel Ifan	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5251	St Teilo's, Trelech a'r Betws	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5045	St Mary's, Whitland	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17406	St Paulinus, Ystrad-ffin	Grade II	1999

Note - Recorded as Not Listed in 1998 Report, however, recorded as Listed in 1990 on British Listed Buildings and the Cadw Listed Building websites.*

Redundant Churches:

Of the 77 churches in Carmarthenshire only 6 (7.8%) appear to be redundant, of which 3 are listed. Sorted by PRN the redundant churches are:

PRN 3833	St Lawrence, Marros	Grade II
PRN 3905	St Odoceus, Llandawke	Grade II FoFC
PRN 4967	St David, Henllan Amgoed	Not listed
PRN 5516	Capel Gwynfa, Capel Gwynfa	Grade II
PRN 17349	St Cain, Llangain	Not listed

PRN 17356 St Martin, Merthyr

Not listed

I suspect there are more Non-Active churches in this area.

Ceredigion.



St Cynon's, Capel Cynon, Ceredigion. (PRN 5276).

1998 Report link:

<https://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/wp/wpcontent/uploads/ceredigionchurches.pdf>

Note: No images, information or detail in the original individual church reports has been altered. The bulk of the 1998 Report is still relevant and all new information 2021-22, recorded in the individual church reports, is additional.

2022 Comment.

Listed Buildings:

At the time of the original survey 40 of the 67 churches were listed Grade II, II* or I. At the time of writing this report 22 of the other 28 are still unlisted, meaning 46

(68.7%) of the 67 buildings are listed. The details of the unlisted buildings in 1998 with the 2022 status are as follows.

PRN 5283	St David's, Bangor Teifi	Not Listed	2022
PRN 9462	St Bledrws, Betws Bledrws	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17491	St John's, Betws Ifan	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5130	ST Lucia, Betws Lleucu	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5162	St David's, Blaenpennal	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5230	St Mary's, Brongwyn	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5276	St Cynon, Capel Cynon	Grade II	1964*
PRN 4823	Holy Trinity, Cilcennin	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5660	St Vitalis, Dihewyd	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17118	St Gartheli, Gartheli	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5911	St David's, Henfynyw	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5282	St David's, Henllan	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5179	St Afon, Llanafan y Trawscoed	Grade II	2004
PRN 5161	St Padarn, Llanbadarn Odwyn	Grade II	1963**
PRN 17122	St Padarn, Llanbadarn Trefeglwys	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5146	St Mary's, Llanfair Clydogau	Grade II	1997***
PRN 5190	St Michael's, Llanfihangel Geneu'r Glyn	Not Listed	2022
PRN 20473	St Michael's, Llanfihangel Lledrod	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5163	St Ceitho, Llangeitho	Not Listed	2022
PRN 16987	St Carannog, Llangrannog	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5490	Llantrisant Church, Llantrisant	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5158	St Gwnnws, Llanwnnws	Not Listed	2022
PRN 4850	St Llwchaiarn, Llanychaern	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17368	St Cynon, Nantcwnlle	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17375	St Sulian, Silian	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17369	St Hilary, Trefilan	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5479	St John the Baptist, Ysbyty Cynfyn	Grade II	2004
PRN 19648	St John the Baptist, Ystrad Meurig	Grade II	2003

Note - Recorded as Not Listed in 1998 Report, however, recorded as Listed in 1964 on British Listed Buildings and the Cadw Listed Building websites.*

*Note** - Recorded as Not Listed in 1998 Report, however, recorded as Listed in 1963 on British Listed Buildings and the Cadw Listed Building websites.*

*Note*** - Recorded as Not Listed in 1998 Report, however, recorded as Listed in 1997 on British Listed Buildings and the Cadw Listed Building websites.*

Redundant Churches:

Of the 67 churches in Ceredigion only 5 (7.5%) appear to be redundant, of which just St Cynllo is listed. Sorted by PRN, they are:

PRN 5230 St Mary. Brongwyn.
PRN 5281 St Mary, Llanfair Orllwyn
PRN 5282 St David's, Henllan
PRN 17366 St Cynfelyn, Langynfelyn
PRN17368 St Cynllo, Nantcwnlle. (Listed).

I suspect there are more Non-Active churches in this area.

Pembrokeshire.

North Pembrokeshire:



St Brynach's, Henry's Moat, North Pembrokeshire. (PRN 1295).

1998 Report link:

<https://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/wp/wpcontent/uploads/northpembrokeshirechurches.pdf>

Note: No images, information or detail in the original individual church reports has been altered. The bulk of the 1998 Report is still relevant and all new information 2021-22, recorded in the individual church reports, is additional.

2022 Comment.

Listed Buildings:

At the time of the original survey 51 of the 86 churches were listed Grade II, II* or I. At the time of writing this report 18 of the other 35 are still unlisted, meaning 68 of the 86 buildings are listed. The details of the unlisted buildings in 1998 with the 2022 status are as follows.

PRN 1285	St Mary's, Ambleston	Grade II	2000
PRN 7731	St Mary's, Cilgwyn	Not Listed	2022
PRN 2411	Margaret, Ford	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17339	St Justinians, Freystrop	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17372	St Catherines, Granston	Not Listed	2022
PRN 3356	St Issell's, Haroldston	Grade II	1971*
PRN 17336	St Madog's, Haroldston West	Not Listed	2022
PRN 4288	St Mary's, Hayscastle	Not Listed	2022
PRN 1295	St Brynach's, Henry's Moat	Not Listed	2022
PRN 3021	St Mary's, Herbrandston	Not Listed	2022
PRN 4552	St Giles, Letterston	Not Listed	2022
PRN 5516	Actually Capel Gwynfe, Llangadog Carmarthenshire.		
PRN 918	St Tysilio, Llandysilio	Grade II	1971**
PRN 17377	St Mallteg's, Llanfallteg	Not Listed	2022
PRN 1285	St Mary's, Llanfair Nant-gwyn	Grade II	2004
PRN 17344	St Mary's, Llanfair Nant-y-gof	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17350	St Brynach's, Llanfyrnach	Grade II	2003
PRN 4944	St Colman's, Llangolman	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17543	St David's, Llanllawer	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17337	St Reithon, Llanrheithan	Not Listed	2022
PRN 3186	St Tudwal, Llanstadwell	Grade II	2004
PRN 2602	St Justinians, Llanstinan	Grade II*	1998
PRN 17347	St Canna, Llantwyd	Grade II	1963***
PRN 1412	St Non's, Llanyceith	Not Listed	2022
PRN 17345	St David's, Llanychar	Grade II	2020
PRN 943	St Dogmael's & St Giles, Mynachlogddu	Grade II	1974****
PRN 1546	St Brynach's St Bernard's, Pontfaen	Grade II	2002
PRN 15265	St Mary's, Puncheston	Not Listed	2022
PRN 3028	St Andrew's, Robeston West	Grade II	1963*****
PRN 3194	St Ismael's St Leonard's, Rosemarket	Grade II	1999
PRN 2999	St Ishmael's, St Ishmaels	Grade II	1998
PRN 2391	St Lawrence, St Lawrence	Grade II	2001
PRN 2472	St Mary's, Spittal	Grade II	2001
PRN 4582	St Michael's. Treffgarne	Not Listed	2022
PRN 3357	St Ismael's, Uzmaston	Grade II	2004
PRN 4460	St Mary's St Peter's, Walwyn's Castle	Not Listed	2022

Redundant Churches:

Of the 86 churches in North Pembrokeshire 16 (18.6%) appear to be redundant, of which 7 are listed. The redundant churches, sorted by PRN, are:

PRN 979	St Dogmael's, Meline	Listed Grade II
PRN 1285	St Mary's, Ambleston	Listed Grade II
PRN 1412	St Non's, Llaneycefn	Not listed.
PRN 2411	St Margaret's, Ford	Not listed.
PRN 2602	St Justinian's, Llabstinian	Not listed.
PRN 2763	St Teilo, Llandeloy	Listed Grade II.
PRN 3027	St Thomas a Becket, Haverfordwest	Listed Grade II.
PRN 3299	St Ismael's, Lambston	Listed Grade II*.
PRN 4461	St Martin of Tours, Calberston	Not listed.
PRN 7731	St Mary's, Cilgerran	Not listed.
PRN 17246	SS Mynnio, David & Angrew, Molegrove	Listed Grade II.
PRN 17337	St Rheithan, Llanrheithan	Not Listed.
PRN17344	St Mary's, Llanfair Nant-y-Gof	Not listed.
PRN 17347	St Illtyd's, Llantwyd	Listed Grade II.
PRN 17377	St Mallteg's, Llanfallteg West	Not listed.
PRN17543	St David's, Llanllawer	Not listed.

I suspect there are more Non-Active churches in this area.

South Pembrokeshire:



St David's, Llanddewi Velfrey, South Pembrokeshire. (PRN 3728).

1998 Report link:

<https://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/wp/wpcontent/uploads/southpembrokeshirechurches.pdf>

Note: No images, information or detail in the original individual church reports has been altered. The bulk of the 1998 Report is still relevant and all new information 2021-22, recorded in the individual church reports, is additional.

2022 Comment.

Listed Buildings:

In 1998 all the churches included were listed Grade II, II* or I.

Redundant Churches:

Of the 40 churches in South Pembrokeshire 10 (25%), are redundant, all are listed. Sorted by PRN, they are:

PRN 562	St Michael's, Castlemartin	Grade 1. FoFC
PRN 596	St Pedrog's, St Petrox	Grade II.
PRN 3240	St Decamus, Rhoscrowther	Grade I. FoFC
PRN 3279	St Daniel, Pembroke	Grade I.
PRN 3280	St Michael, Pembroke	Grade II.
PRN 3598	St Marcellus, Martletwy	Grade II.
PRN 3687	St Lawrence, Gumfreston	Grade II*.
PRN 3883	St Elidyr, Crunwere	Grade II.
PRN 4187	Hodgeston Church, Hodgeston	Grade II*.
PRN 4925	St Teilo, Crinow	Grade II.

I suspect there are more Non-Active churches in this area.