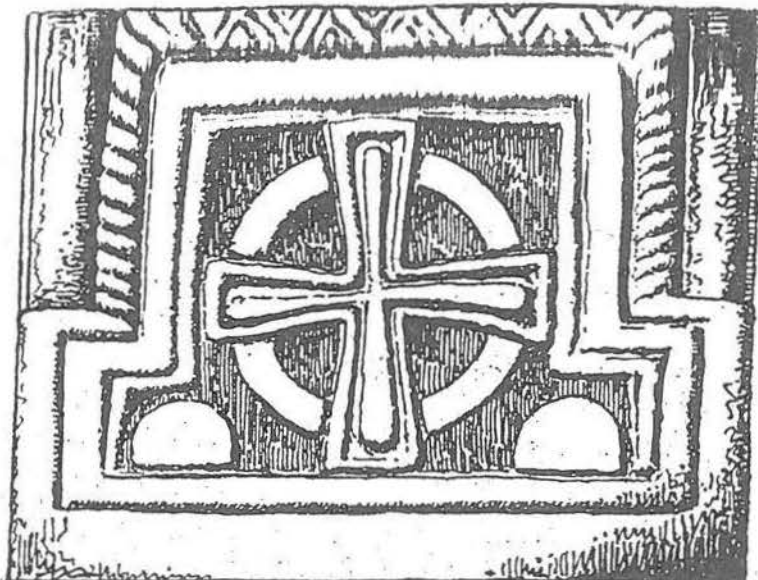


# WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



ILANBEULAN FONT . EAST END . H.H.H

GWYNEDD GAZETTEER - PART 3

CONWY VALLEY

## **Welsh Historic Churches Project**

### **Gwynedd Gazetteer: Conwy Valley**

#### **Introduction**

This church survey was carried out during 1993-5 as part of a Cadw funded project which looked at all the pre-19<sup>th</sup> century Welsh churches in the ownership of the Church in Wales. An introductory report has been written which summarises the information within the gazetteer.

The gazetteer is fairly self explanatory: it is divided primarily into four geographic areas, Anglesey, Caernarfon, Conwy Valley and Meirionnydd, and within each area the churches are listed alphabetically. Each area is separately bound.

Each entry contains basic information e.g. its grid reference and dedication, and also its primary reference number (PRN) through which it can be identified within the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Sites and Monument Record.

Assessment ratings are given for six criteria. These ratings are not absolute, but are relative to the other churches within the project. Further study could well give rise to the need to change many of the ratings, which have been made in the light of a single field visit and present knowledge.

The text description is designed to give an adequate architectural description and history, and to highlight areas of particular importance.

The list of references following each entry are those which have been consulted, but they are not necessarily complete.

Andrew Davidson  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust  
1997

## **Welsh Historic Churches Project**

### **Gwynedd Gazetteer**

#### **Conwy Valley Churches**

Betws y Coed Parish Church  
Caerhun Parish Church  
Capel Curig Parish Church  
Capel Garmon Parish Church  
Conway Parish Church  
Dolwyddelan Parish Church  
Eglwys-Rhos Parish Church  
Eglwysfach Parish Church  
Gyffin Parish Church  
Llanbedr y Cennin Parish Church  
Llanddoged Parish Church  
Llandudno Parish Church  
Llangelynin Parish Church (Crn)  
Llangwstenin Parish Church  
Llanrhychwyn Parish Church  
Llanrwst Parish Church  
Llansantffraid Glan Conwy  
Penmachno Parish Church  
Trefriw Parish Church  
Ysbyty Ifan Church

## BETWS Y COED PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6908

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH79605656

DEDICATION: MICHAEL

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Redundant

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Medium</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Good</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Good</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Very poor</i>

## GENERAL

A church dating from the late 14th century has a continuous nave and chancel with a west bell-cote. It was heavily restored in 1843 when a large north transept was added. The church is mentioned in the Norwich taxation of 1254 (Lunt W E 1926, 190), but there is no visible evidence for an earlier church and, of the remaining fittings, only the font pre-dates the present edifice. The 14th century effigy of Gruffydd ap Dafydd Goch is of note.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is curvilinear in form on the west, north and south sides, where it is followed by a road. The eastern boundary has been formed by utilising the top of the gorge of the river Conwy. The boundary is stone walled and the level of the cemetery does not appear to be raised above the road.

Rising ground on the north side of the churchyard possibly delineates the line of an earlier boundary. If this is the case the churchyard may have been extended on this side prior to the tithe map of c.1840.

There are two entrances to the churchyard, one on the south side and one on the west side with a lych gate, dated by inscription to 1737. There is a sundial to the west of the church dated 1737.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

The church comprises a continuous nave and chancel of the late 14th century, of rubble built walls, which sit on a low plinth higher at the west than the east. The door in the south wall of the nave has a two-centred pointed arch, and is of late 14th century date. Four of the roof trusses are probably from the original roof. The easternmost modern window in the south wall of the chancel occupies an original opening as does the east window. There is a late 14th century tomb recess in the north wall of the chancel into which is set the stone effigy of Gruffydd ap Dafydd Goch. A west gallery formerly existed, although of unknown date (Hughes and North 1924, 112).

## 19TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS

In the 1843 restorations, financed by Lord Willoughby De Eresby, the north chapel was added, with windows in the west, east and north walls and a door at the west end of the north wall. A doorway was inserted at the east end of the south wall of the chancel leading into the south vestry. This was entered from an east doorway and was lighted by a window in the south wall. Two windows in the south wall of the church and the western window were inserted. The belfry was also added at this date as was, possibly, the barrel vault above the chancel.

## FITTINGS

The fittings are 19th century in date with the exception of the 13th century font, 14th century effigy, the 17th century communion table, the combined pulpit and reading desk inscribed 1697, and three grave slabs ranging in date from 1696 to 1699. The effigy (1370-80) is of Gruffydd ap Dafydd Goch, grandson of Dafydd ap Gruffydd (brother to Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, Last Prince of Wales). It is presently situated in a niche under a plain pointed arch in the north wall of the Chancel. The niche is of 14th century date, but it appears that the slab has been cut to fit inside, and therefore not intended for this position. The figure lies on a slab with the head resting on a tilting helmet, and the feet on a lion (Gresham C A 1968, 194). The font is a bowl 60cm square which has been re-dressed but appears to retain incised decoration depicting round and pointed arches, although of a rather odd style, and nothing like the Anglesey examples which are so plentiful; it is possibly of 13th century date. In the west and east windows is re-set 15th and 16th century glass. The pulpit, dating from the 1843 restorations, is a confection of 16th and 17th century panels, and includes sections of Salomonic columns.

## OTHER

Built of large uncoursed rubble with roughly dressed quoins. Roof of old slates.

The external elevations have been pointed with very poor stone definition on all elevations. The internal elevations are totally hidden by plaster, which is in particularly bad condition on the north wall of the chancel and within the north chapel.

The central aisle is stone flagged with timber boards beneath the seating. The floor was lowered 0.4 m during reflooring.

No trace of a drainage trench was observed around the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Clarke M L 1961b Church Building & Church Restoration in Caernarvonshire During the 19th Century *Transactions of Caernarvonshire Historical Society* Vol 22 p  
Glynne Sir S R 1900 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XVII pp 171-172  
Gresham C A 1968 *Medieval Stone Carving in North Wales* pp 194-196  
Hughes & North 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 111-115  
Lewis M 1970 *Stained Glass in North Wales* pp 29  
Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 192  
RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 18-19  
Snowdonia National Park Society 1984 Additional notes on the Churches *Hughes & North - The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 292

## CAERHUN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6916

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH77687040

DEDICATION: MARY

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Good</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Poor</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Medium</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Good</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Very Good</i>

## GENERAL

The site is listed in the Norwich taxation of 1254 (Lunt W E 1926, 190), although its association with Rhyn, son of Maelgwn Gwynedd may place its origins in the 6th century. A church situated within the north-east corner of the Roman fort of Caerhun consisting of a continuous nave and chancel with a south chapel. Initially a small single cell structure, the church was added to in the 15th and 16th centuries, and restored in Victorian times (RCAHMW 1956, 90). The 16th century west belfry and crucifix are of interest.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is rectangular in form, and is located on an area of raised ground overlooking the River Conwy within the north east corner of the Roman Fort of Canovium. The stones exposed at the bottom of the east wall may be part of the Roman wall of the fort. The boundary is a stone wall and the churchyard is raised 1-1.5 m on the east side and 2 m on the north side with the west and south sides level with the surrounding ground. The churchyard was extended on the south side some time before 1897, the date of the earliest grave in this area. The former linear southern boundary is now marked by a line of yew trees. The original churchyard was used for burial until recently. The main entrance is the lych gate dated 1728 with a mounting block on the west side. There is a further entrance on the north side leading to the walled off area of a family plot. There is an out-house in the north-east corner of the churchyard and a sundial dated 1766 in the south-west corner.

## CHURCH

A church of continuous nave and chancel, with a later south chapel. The nave has a south door with a semi-circular head. This is the only architectural dateable feature from the first phase in the 12th century. If this is not a 12th century feature it is most likely to belong to the 16th century.

In the 15th century the chancel was added to the nave and a straight joint, marking the start of this addition, can be seen in the south wall. The east window, of three plain pointed lights, and the internal niche on the north side of the east wall is contemporary with the construction of the chancel. The chancel and nave were roofed at this time, and some of these roof timbers survive in the present church. A south porch was built and the present re-set south window was inserted at this time. The east window of the later south chapel contains a reset 15th century window probably from the south wall of the chancel. The west wall was re-built in the early 16th century and a west door and belfry was constructed. The belfry incorporates a carved 15th century crucifix.

In 1591 a south chapel was built at the east end of the church. This has a south window of three trefoiled lights and a re-set 15th century east window. There is a date stone of 1591 on the south gable. A wooden beam spanning the opening between the south chapel and the chancel is carried on a re-used 15th century corbel. There are two trusses supporting the roof, one of arch-braced collar-beam type with chamfered soffit, and one of queen-post type, both possibly reused, and originally of the 15th century.

## LATER RESTORATIONS

In the 18th century the present nave windows, three in the north wall and two in the south, were inserted. A blocked low arch in the north wall of the chancel, between the central and eastern window probably indicates the presence of a north vestry of 17th or 18th century date. This arch is visible externally and internally. In 1850 the church was restored when the thatched roof was replaced by tiles with some strengthening of the roof beams and in the late 19th century the south porch was converted into a vestry.

## FITTINGS

The seating is 19th century in date and there are two chests, one of the 16th century and another of the 18th century. The font is early medieval in date and there is a 16th century stoup. There is a brass dated 1739 and a marble tablet dated 1721. There was a gallery at the west end of the nave prior to 1850. Hyde Hall describes the roof in the early

19th century as "ceiled with wood painted red and sprinkled with white stars".

#### OTHER

Built of uncoursed rubble with gritstone quoins at the north-east angle and freestone window dressings.

The internal elevations of the nave, chancel and the south chapel are whitewashed and the interior of the south vestry is plastered. The external elevations are pointed with good stone definition.

The altar and aisle are flagged with slate and there is timber boarding beneath the pews in the nave and chancel. The south vestry is timber boarded.

There was no evidence for a drainage trench around the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Clarke M L 1961b Church Building & Church Restoration in Caernarvonshire During the 19th Century *Transactions of Caernarvonshire Historical Society Vol 22* p
- Crossley F H 1944 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XCVIII* pp 92
- Glynne Sir S R 1900 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XVII* pp 172
- Hall E H 1952 *A Description of Caernarvonshire 1809-1811* p 75
- Hughes & North 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 86-93
- Lewis S 1833 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* CAE
- Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 192
- RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 21-22
- Snowdonia National Park Society 1984 Additional notes on the Churches *Hughes & North - The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 290-291

## CAPEL CURIG PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6918

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH71855797

DEDICATION: CURIG LWYD; CYRIACUS; JULIET

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Redundant

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Medium</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Poor</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Poor</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Very poor</i>	Group Value	<i>None</i>

## GENERAL

The original church at Capel Curig still stands, although it was superseded by a new church built in the centre of the village in 1883 (which has also now been declared redundant). The old church is of interest because of its small size and retention of the double square plan (Hughes and North 1924, 136). Few features of medieval date remain.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is rectilinear in form, with a stone-walled boundary, and is raised 0.3 m above the surrounding fields and the lane on the west side. The north boundary by the river bank curves slightly. The churchyard was extended externally on the south side before 1975. The main entrance is on the west side. The churchyard is overgrown.

## CHURCH

The church consists of a continuous nave and chancel which may date from the 13th or 14th century, although there are no dateable features. This date is based on the addition of a south chapel c.1500 and four roof principles possibly 15th century in date.

There is a blocked doorway with a cyclopean head, of uncertain date, at the west end of the north wall of the nave. The head is similar to that of a small blocked window in the south wall of the south chapel, dated c.1500. The roof of the south chapel is early 16th century in date.

The church was restored in 1837 when the west door, the two windows in the north wall of the nave, the window in the south wall of the nave, the east window of the chancel and the east window of the south chapel were inserted. It is possible that the barrel vault above the chancel and the west belfry were built at this time.

## FITTINGS

The seating, pulpit, reading desk and communion rails are 19th century in date. The font is 15th century in date. There is a wooden panel with dates ranging from 1672 to 1727.

## OTHER

Built of uncoursed local rubble, including some very large blocks. All window dressings of undressed local stone. Modern slate roof.

The internal elevations of the church are plastered and the external elevations pointed with good stone definition.

There is timber boarding beneath the pews

There is a drainage trench around the west and south sides of the nave and along the west side of the south chapel. This exposes the foundations of the nave.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

Hughes & North 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 135-137

Lewis S 1833 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* CAP

RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol 1: East* pp 105

Snowdonia National Park Society 1984 Additional notes on the Churches *Hughes & North - The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 293



## CAPEL GARMON PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6963

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH81565545

DEDICATION: GERMANUS

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Redundant

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Very poor</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Very poor</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Very poor</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Good</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Poor</i>

## GENERAL

A modern church built in 1862 now occupies this site, but this is the third church to have stood here. The medieval church formerly stood south of the present structure, but was taken down in 1789 when a new small church was built to replace it; this was in turn taken down when the present building was built. The archaeological potential of the medieval church is of interest.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is rectilinear in form with a curved stone-walled boundary on the south east adjoining the roadway. The churchyard is raised less than 0.3 m above the road and surrounding land. The south-west side of the churchyard is terraced into rising ground and the churchyard has been extended on the north side in 1884 and on the west in 1947 (NLW St Asaph/1987 Deposit/Capel Garmon). Thomas noted that the churchyard had been extended in 1789 but did not specify on what side (Thomas 1911, 307). The former linear western boundary is now marked by a line of yew trees. The original churchyard was used for burial until recently. The main entrance is at the south-east corner and there is another entrance on the north side.

## MEDIÉVAL CHURCH

The medieval church is said to have consisted of a nave and two side chapels called respectively "Capel y Meibion" and "Capel y Merched"; an aisle was added in 1709 (Thomas 1911, 307). This church was taken down in 1789.

## MODERN CHURCHES

A new church was built in 1789 a few yards north of the medieval one. In plan it was a simple parallelogram, small in size with no distinguishing feature (Thomas 1911, 307). This church was taken down in 1862, when a new church was built on the same site to designs by E. G. Paley in the Early English style. It consists of a continuous nave and chancel with a south doorway and porch and a vestry on the north side.

In 1902 the vestry was pulled down and rebuilt re-using the stone from the earlier vestry. A cellar for the heating system and a chimney were added to the vestry. The aisle and chancel were concreted and tiled and timber flooring introduced below the seating (NLW St Asaph/1987 Deposit/Capel Garmon).

An undated addition of a small chapel was made to the south of the chancel.

In 1937 a new communion table, reredos and panelling were added and in 1951 a new pulpit, reading desk and organ screen were introduced (NLW St Asaph/1987 Deposit/Capel Garmon).

## OTHER

Walls of roughly coursed local rubble with dressed quoins and dressed freestone jambs and heads. Modern slate roof.

The west, and north walls of the church and the north vestry are pointed with good stone definition. There are no signs of medieval fabric or stonework. The remainder of the exterior of the church is rendered. All the internal elevations are plastered. Plywood has been fastened over a number of the windows.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

Lewis S 1833 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* GEL

RCAHMW 1914 *Denbigh Inventory*

Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol II* pp 307

## CONWAY PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6924

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH78107750

DEDICATION: MARY

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Very Good</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Very Good</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Medium</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Good</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Good</i>

## GENERAL

Established as a monastic church of the Cistercian order in 1197, the church was damaged during the conquest of 1282, and then changed to parochial status to serve the new borough town of Conway when the abbey was moved south to Maenan. Parts of the original cistercian church remain, although most of the present church is a 14th century rebuilding. It consists of a west tower, nave with north and south aisles, south transept, and a chancel with a north vestry. Further additions took place in the 15th and 16th centuries, and the church was much restored, although not badly, in Victorian times. The church is one of the finer medieval churches in the county, and is notable for many reasons, including the Early English west front, the 14th century architecture, the excellent series of memorials and the surviving woodwork. It is assumed that the monastic buildings formerly stood north of the church. The best references are Hughes (1895, 160-179); RCAHMW (1956, 39-46) and Crossley (1944, 78-83) for the woodwork.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard dates from the foundation of the Cistercian Abbey of Aberconway c.1197. In 1283-4 the abbey was moved to Maenan and the Edwardian borough and castle founded, when the church assumed parochial status.

The churchyard is irregular in form but is almost rectilinear. It is bounded by the high stone walls of the gardens and outbuildings of the properties adjacent to the churchyard. The churchyard deposits form a bank against the inside of the boundary walls. It has entrances on the north-east, north, west and south which are all public thoroughfares. There is a 13th century cross slab set upright to the north-east of the chancel of the church. The churchyard is well kept with recent burial on the north side.

It is probable that a larger enclosure may have existed, surrounding the present churchyard, and defining the precinct of the Cistercian Abbey. It can be suggested that the block of land defined by the line of the High Street, Castle Street, Rose Hill Street and Church Street may represent the fossilised area of the monastic precinct. This conclusion has been reached because of the way this block interrupts the regular grid system of the streets of the Edwardian Borough and it is probable that the Edwardian street was laid out to avoid the area of the precinct.

No details of the monastic layout within the churchyard area were noted from the archive sources, although it has been suggested that these lay to the north of the church. Walls were found within the Castle Hotel yard in 1832 to the north of the church which may be related to the monastic buildings.

## CISTERCIAN CHURCH

The church of the Cistercian Abbey was built c.1190-1220, but only small areas of this church survive, partly because of damage during the conquest in 1282. Part of the original west front of the church with its three lancet windows survives in the west wall of the tower and the parish room. Foundations of this wall were noted continuing over 1.8 m south of the tower in 1937. The outer arch of the north porch re-used late 12th century stones and the jambs of the north door of the north aisle are of this date. There is an original single lancet in the north wall of the parish room of this date. The lower courses of the east wall of the chancel have been dated c.1190 (RCAHMW 1956, 41) but there is little evidence to support this dating.

## THE 14th CENTURY CHURCH

Following the establishment of the Edwardian Borough and castle the Abbey moved to Maenan and the church acquired parochial status. The church was extensively rebuilt in three stages between 1300-1350.

The nave, chancel, south and north aisles, north vestry and the west tower were built c.1300. The nave was separated from the north and south aisles by arcades of three bays of pointed two-centred arches with octagonal piers. The chancel was built, possibly incorporating the lower courses of the late 12th century east wall, with two southern and two western buttresses. The south wall was rebuilt, just to the south of the position of the earlier chancel wall.

There is a contemporary window at the west end of the wall of two pointed lights, and a re-set window of c.1260 at the east end. Beneath the western window was a door, now blocked. The north vestry was built c.1300 and has an east window of two trefoiled lights in a two centred head. The tower, of three stages, was built within the western bay of the earlier nave. The upper stages are reached by an angular stair turret projecting from the west end of the south wall and entered through a doorway in the south-west corner of the ground floor. A line of weathering in the external south wall shows the position of the former extent of the south aisle. An arch, dated c.1235, which was formerly in the chapter house of the Abbey, was re-used as a door below the lancets in the west wall. There is an entrance from the nave on the east side of the tower. There is a blocked window in the north wall of the first stage.

Later in the early 14th century the south transept with its buttresses was built and was divided from the east end of the nave and the south aisle by arched openings of three orders. The south transept was built to a higher standard than the rest of the re-building, and may have employed masons imported to work on the castle. The two windows in the east wall, each of three lights under a two-centred head, the window in the south wall of five lights with modern tracery, and the two light window in the west wall are all built at this time although repaired later. There is a piscina in the south wall. There is a raised doorway for the stair to the rood loft in the north-east corner.

The arches of the arcades between the nave and the south and north aisles were added in the 14th century. The clerestory, which was extensively restored and raised in 1872, has six quatrefoil lights, the two at the west end were reset and the others re-use stones from earlier windows. The original weathering line of the nave roof can be seen in the east wall of the tower.

In the mid 14th century the south aisle was built, with two tomb niches in the south wall, a piscina at the east end of the south wall, and a doorway at the western end of the south wall. It is probable that the south wall extended further east, to meet up with the projected foundations of the west wall of the late 12th century church. This would correspond with the arrangement of the north aisle before it was divided off in the 16th century to provide a charnel house. The presence of a weathering line in the south wall of the tower and around the stair turret above the south doorway supports the suggestion that the south aisle originally extended to the line of the west wall of the earlier monastic nave. The south porch was probably built at this time with the outer arch re-using late 12th century stones.

#### LATE MEDIEVAL ADDITIONS

In the late 15th or early 16th century an additional battlemented third stage was added to the tower incorporating the projecting stair turret.

The east window of the chancel was inserted c.1500 with a relieving arch above. A window, now blocked, was inserted lighting the rood loft in the north wall. The junction of the south wall of the chancel and the south transept was rebuilt and contains two lancets one above the other. A door was inserted in the north wall of the north vestry. The north door of the north aisle was probably built re-using the jambs and opening of an earlier doorway. The 16th century blocking wall between the north aisle and the parish room was built with a doorway at the north end and a window inserted at the western end of the north wall. The north porch was built at this time, and was originally timber framed. It was rebuilt in the 19th century with stone side walls, re-using a 15th century cruck frame as its north archway.

In the early 17th century a window was inserted in the north wall of the chancel, the lower part of which has been subsequently blocked. A window was inserted in the north wall of the north vestry which was re-set in the north wall of the extension in 1925 (NLW B/F/114).

#### VICTORIAN AND MODERN RESTORATIONS

In the 19th century parts of the wall of the north aisle were rebuilt, a door was inserted at the west end of the north wall, a buttress and four windows were inserted in the north wall, two in the west wall and a further window in the east wall. The west wall of the south aisle was built, and the four windows in the south wall and the two windows in the west wall were inserted. There is a straight joint on the north side of the west wall of the south aisle which may imply that there was a doorway here in a similar position to the 16th century blocking wall between the north aisle and the parish room. There is an external stair, re-using 13th century grave slabs by the south wall of the tower leading to an inserted door in the stair turret.

In 1872 all the roofs were renewed when the church was restored by Gilbert Scott. The clerestory was raised and the five quatrefoil lights in the south wall were added.

In 1895 the drainage around the church was introduced, the porches restored, the east window was re-inserted at a higher level (1-1.2 m) and the transept buttresses were repointed. The parish magazine also mentioned a need to re-pave the nave and aisles (NLW B/F/111).

The north vestry was extended in 1925 on the north side. The old vestry chimney stack was taken down and a window inserted in the west wall of the vestry. The early 17th century inserted window in the north wall of the north vestry was re-set in the north wall of the extension. The new and old portions of the vestry were divided by an oak screen (NLW B/F/114).

There is a boiler room below the north porch, which is entered on the east side

#### FITTINGS

There are a large number of pre 19th century memorials. In the chancel there are twenty-four memorials ranging in date from 1586 to 1772. In the south transept there are seven memorials, ranging in date from 1609 to 1776, and a table tomb of 1584. In the nave there are three memorials dating from 1730 to 1738. In the south aisle there is a 14th century cross slab, and a 15th century effigy. In the north aisle there is a 14th century cross slab, two 15th century cross slabs, and other slabs dating from 1667 to 1750. A 14th century cross slab has been re-set in the north porch and there is a memorial of 1718 in the south porch. In the east wall of the vestry is a cross slab of the 14th century. There are a number of tracery and tomb fragments in the north porch (RCAHMW 1956, 43-6; Gresham 1968).

Between 1498 and 1504 the screen between the nave and chancel and the seating in the chancel was installed. The screen and loft, although partly re-built, is extremely attractive and of great importance. It has been described by Crossley in the following terms "even in its mutilated state it remains one of the outstanding contributions of the medieval craftsmen in screenwork to be found either in England or Wales. The beauty of its carvings, and the added interest to be found in its arms and badges scattered amongst its lovely trails, is a fine example of early 16th century treatment of heraldry and history. As far as the principality is concerned, it is unique both in its design and details." (Crossley 1944, 77-83). The badge of Sir Richard Pole (a red eagles claw grasping a silver fish), who was constable of Conway Castle 1488-1504, features prominently in the carvings, and it was likely to have been under his authority that the work was carried out. The screen is set out in five bays each containing four lights with tracery above. The floor of the loft is supported on timber vaulting decoration set out as an example of fan vaulting on both sides of the screen. There are a series of stall ends and fronts in the chancel which are coeval with the screen.

The font of octagonal bowl and shaft is 15th century in date.

The seating in the nave, south transept and the aisles was introduced in the 19th century. Medieval glazed tiles have been set in the south wall of the chancel.

#### OTHER

The walls are of roughly coursed local rubble with dressed quoins and kneelers and gritstone dressings. The roofs are of modern slate.

The level of external pointing of the walls varies but generally it is sufficient to allow any fabric changes or features to be discerned. The walls are masked by plaster internally. Recent re-pointing has been carried out on chancel, south aisle, tower, and south porch.

The nave aisles, the chancel, the west tower and the west part of the aisles are tiled. The two porches are floored with stone slabs. The parish room and the areas beneath the pews have timber boards on joists. The north vestry and the eastern part of the aisles are floored with woodblocks.

There is a stone faced drainage trench, 2 m deep around the south aisle, south transept and the western half of the south side of the chancel. There is a similar stone faced drainage trench, 1.5-2 m deep at the north porch and continuing around the north side to the north-east corner of the north vestry extension at which point the depth of the drain had been reduced to 0.5 m.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Clarke M L 1961b Church Building & Church Restoration in Caernarvonshire During the 19th Century *Transactions of Caernarvonshire Historical Society Vol 22* p  
 Crossley F H 1944 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XCVIII* pp 78-83  
 Glynn Sir S R 1900 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XVII* pp 177-180  
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## DOLWYDDELAN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6929

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH73605230

DEDICATION: GWYDDELAN

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Good</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Good</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Poor</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Poor</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Very poor</i>

## GENERAL

A small single cell church of continuous nave and chancel with a later south chapel. John Wyn, in his "History of the Gwydir Family" records that Maredudd ap Ieuan "removed the church of Dolwyddelan from a place called Bryn-y-bedd to the place where now it is, being part of the possessions of the priory of Beddgelert, and there new built the same as it is now, one cross-chapel excepted which my uncle, Robert Wynn, built. It should seem by the glass window there that it was built in the year 1512, but whether it was in that year glazed (which might be long after the building of the church) I am uncertain". There is a cairn on Bryn y Bedd, and the early medieval bell is said to have come from there. A church of "Doluythelan" is listed in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 190), which presumably refers to the Bryn y Bedd church. The church is notable as an example of simple 16th century architecture with some original door and window openings and original roof trusses and screen.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is rectangular in form with a stone-walled boundary and is raised by 0.5m above the surrounding ground on the north-west and north-east sides. The south side has been encroached by the property boundary of the former school and the churchyard is raised by 0.5 to 2m. The north-east side of the churchyard is slightly curved and bounded by a road. The churchyard is entered by a modern lych gate at the north corner and there is a date stone from an earlier gate, inscribed 1736, next to it.

## CHURCH

A church of continuous nave and chancel which was built c.1500 by Maredudd ap Ieuan (see above). The church has an east window, which is a wide single light with chamfered jambs, and a simple north window lighting the chancel. There are opposing doorways at the west end of the south and north walls. The south doorway was later converted into a window. The screen, which was moved westwards in the late 16th century, is original, and is of three bays either side a wide doorway, with tracery made up of large leaves forming cusps (Crossley 1944, 94). The roof is also original, of four chamfered arch-braced collar beam trusses with cusped wind braces. There is a coved wooden ceiling above the chancel. There was formerly a gallery at the west end.

In the late 16th century a south chapel was built, with an east window which is a wide single light, and a simple south window. Between the chancel and the south chapel is an opening of two semicircular arches. The building of this chapel is attributed to Robert Wyn, of Plas Mawr, Conwy.

In 1850 changes made by Lord Willoughby de Eresby of Gwydir Castle included the addition of the north porch and bell cote, the insertion of a window in the west wall of the nave and the conversion of the south door into a window.

## FITTINGS

There is an early medieval bronze handbell hanging from a roof beam in the chancel. The communion table is 17th century in date, and the bench pews, the reading desk, the pulpit and the communion rails are of the early 18th century. The font is early medieval in date and there is a 16th century stoup. There is a brass dated 1525, a plaster memorial dated 1525 and a small framed piece of parchment dated 1727. There was a gallery at the west end of the nave prior to 1850. There are fragments of stained glass of c.1500 in the east window and in the north window of the chancel, which include remains of St Christopher and the Crucifixion (Lewis 1970, 34). In the sill of the inserted south window of the nave there are three gravestone fragments of 1679, 1685 and 1699.

## OTHER

The walls are built of large slabs of local slaty rock, roughly dressed and coursed. The roofs are of thick rough graded slates.

The exterior is pointed with medium to poor stone definition. The interior is limewashed.

The porch, altar and aisle are flagged with slate and there is timber boarding beneath the pews in the nave and south chapel.

In 1984-5 the church was extensively restored when the plaster was removed and a drainage trench was excavated around the church, to a depth of 0.5 m, and new soakaways excavated.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Clarke M L 1961b Church Building & Church Restoration in Caernarvonshire During the 19th Century *Transactions of Caernarvonshire Historical Society* Vol 22 p
- Crossley F H 1944 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCVIII pp 93-94
- Glynne Sir S R 1900 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XVII pp 181
- Hughes & North 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 124-134
- Hughes H 1913a The Ancient Glass in Dolwyddelan Church *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XIII pp 367-375
- Jones J G ed 1990 *The History of the Gwydir Family and Memoirs by Sir John Wynn* p 55
- Lewis M 1970 *Stained Glass in North Wales* pp 34
- Lewis S 1833 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* DWY
- Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 192
- RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 76-78
- Snowdonia National Park Society 1984 Additional notes on the Churches *Hughes & North - The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 293

## EGLWYS-RHOS PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6932

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH79338032

DEDICATION: MARY

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Poor</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Medium</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Poor</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Poor</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Very poor</i>	Group Value	<i>None</i>

## GENERAL

A cruciform church of medieval origins but heavily restored in the 19th century. The roof trusses are the only features of note (RCAHMW 1956, 91).

## CEMETERY

This church is listed in the Norwich taxation of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 468). The churchyard is rectangular in form with a stone-walled boundary and is raised 1.5-2 m on the west and south sides. There is a road on the west side and a carparking area on the south side. The churchyard was extended on the north and east sides at the turn of the century. The former linear east and north boundaries are now marked by a bank 1-1.5 m high. Recent burials occur in the extended areas of the churchyard. The lych gate of 1820 is on the south side and there is an entrance into the northern extension. An outbuilding has encroached into the north-west corner of the earlier churchyard.

## CHURCH

A church consisting of nave, chancel, north and south chapels and a south porch. The fabric of the lower walls of the nave is possibly medieval in date, although there are no dateable features.

The fabric of the lower walls of the south and north chapels and the chancel is late-medieval and the roof timbers, of arch braced collar beam trusses, are also of this date.

A rood or partition was mentioned in 1739 (NLW SA/FB/1, 243). The north chapel was mentioned in 1736 (NLW SA/FB/1, 246) and a reading desk was noted on the south side of the chancel in 1742 (NLW SA/FB/1, 283).

In 1809-11 the church was described as 80ft long by 30ft wide with two cross aisles and a gallery. The chancel was ceiled in wood panels, having carved roses and grotesque figures at their respective corners (Hyde-Hall 1952, 57).

Lewis states that the east window was put up in 1820 with modern stained glass but that the window of the south transept was 'ornamented with some ancient glass of great brilliancy' (Lewis S 1833, EGL).

## 19TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS

The church was extensively restored in 1820 and the south porch added. The church was restored again in 1865. No documentary details of these restorations appear to have survived. The upper parts of the walls were built, and all the windows and doors were inserted. A north vestry was added at the angle of the north chapel and the chancel, and a heating chamber was added to the north side of the nave with a chimney inserted into the north wall. A medieval carved stone head was re-set in the west side of the belfry.

## FITTINGS

The fittings are 19th century in date, with the exception of an 18th century cupboard. Some roof bosses have been re-set in the nave. There was 15th century stained glass in the east window before it was replaced in the 19th century. The font is a simple stone basin of medieval date. There are three memorials with dates ranging from 1652 to 1737. A 5th century inscribed stone from Tyddyn Holland has been moved into the church.

## OTHER

The walls are of local uncoursed rubble with dressed quoins. Modern slate roof.

The external elevations are pointed with good stone definition. The interior is plastered.

There is timber boarding beneath the pews.



There is no sign of a drainage trench around the church but it is possible that there are some drainage sumps.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Clarke M L 1961b Church Building & Church Restoration in Caernarvonshire During the 19th Century *Transactions of Caernarvonshire Historical Society Vol 22* p
- Glynne Sir S R 1884 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol I* pp 250-251
- Jones Rev H L 1857 Arvona Medieva XI *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol III* pp 43-44
- Lewis S 1833 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* EGL
- Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 468
- Pennant T 1991 *A Tour in Wales Vol II* pp 341-342
- RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 91-92
- Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol II* pp 325-329

## EGLWYSFACH PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6964

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Denbigh

NGR: SH80327053

DEDICATION: MARTIN

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Very poor</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Poor</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Poor</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Poor</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Poor</i>

## GENERAL

This site is now occupied by a church built in 1782 and restored in 1874. The medieval church, of which there are few details surviving, is thought to lie under the present church. The church is listed in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 467). The structure is of interest as an example of 18th century church architecture.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is stone walled and rectilinear in form with a curved stone-walled boundary on the north side. The interior is raised 0.5m on the west, south and east sides and 0.5-1m on the east side. A road bounds the east side. The churchyard was extended on the west side in 1863 and again in 1947, and on the north-west side in 1903 (NLW St Asaph/1987 Deposit/Eglwysfach). The former linear western boundary is now marked by a very low bank. The original churchyard has not been used for recent burial. The main entrance is located at the south-east corner and there is a further entrance on the south-west. There is an 18th century sundial in the south-east corner of the churchyard. There is a stone dated 1858 in the external east wall of the churchyard.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

The medieval church was replaced in 1782. It was described in 1749 as consisting of "one long aisle and a gallery" (Thomas 1911, 310). No other references to the earlier church have been found. Two windows from this church were used in the new church.

## MODERN CHURCH

The present church was built in 1782 and completely replaced the medieval church (NLW SA/FB/2, 106). It has an aisled nave, south and north aisles, and a west tower. The arcades are of squared pillars with round headed arches. The west window of the ground stage of the tower has been inserted into a blocked doorway. Two square headed windows, with round headed double lights, probably of the 16th century, were reset high up in the west gable, on either side of the west tower. At the west end of the north wall is a blocked round headed doorway, mentioned in 1792 (NLW SA/FB/2, 106). There was a gallery at the west end of the church (NLW SA/FO/4).

The south porch was added in 1837.

The church was restored in 1874 when the seating was replaced and the church was refloored (NLW SA/FO/4, 106, NLW SA/FB/3, 318-21). The north door was blocked up and the west gallery removed. The east window and the four windows in the south and north walls were inserted. The pulpit and reading desk were moved to the east end of the church and all the memorials were removed. The west doorway in the tower was probably blocked at this date.

Two outbuildings were built against the west wall on either side of the tower.

## OTHER

The walls are of local roughly coursed rubble. Slate roof. Sandstone dressings.

The exterior is pointed with medium to poor stone definition. The east wall has ivy growing on it. The interior is plastered.

The aisle and chancel are tiled and there are timber floors beneath the pews.

No surrounding drainage was visible.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Crossley F H 1946 Screens & Lofts in North Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCIX pp 16  
Hubbard E 1986 *The Buildings of Wales - Clwyd* pp 158  
Lewis S 1833 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* EGL  
Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol II* pp 308-310

## GYFFIN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6934

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon  
 DEDICATION: BENEDICT  
 DIOCESE: Bangor

NGR: SH77657694

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Good</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Good</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Medium</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Poor</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Medium</i>

## GENERAL

A church formerly owned by the Cistercian Monastery of Aberconwy, and possibly founded by them in the 12/13th century, although it may have earlier origins. The dedication to St Benedict is certainly Cistercian influenced. The church consists of a long nave, extended c. 1500, and a chancel with a north and south chapel. The north chapel is modern, and replaces a former east aisle. Of particular interest in this church are the 15th century painted panels on the roof above the altar. Also important is the parclose screen separating the south chapel from the chancel, and the original south door with hinges (RCAHMS 1956, 93-7; Hughes and North 1924, 61-72; Glynne 1900, 182; Crossley 1944, 94-6)

## CEMETERY

The church is assumed to be a foundation of 13th century date and built by the Monks of Aberconwy. The church is listed in the Norwich taxation of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 190). The churchyard is irregular in form with a curved stone-walled boundary from the north-east around north to the north-west. The churchyard is raised on the north side 1-1.5 m but level with the surrounding ground on the other sides. The eastern side has been encroached by a property boundary. The churchyard was extended on the south side in 1866 (NLW B/C/38). The former linear boundary is now marked by a low bank to the south of the church. The original churchyard was used for burial until recently and there appears to have been some gravestone clearance to the north of the church when the ground level was lowered to provide access to the cellar door in the north wall of the north chapel. The mounds in the churchyard were levelled in 1900 (NLW B/F/157). The churchyard is entered from the south side and there is a small entrance on the east side to a footbridge over a stream.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

A church consisting of a long nave, a chancel, and north and south chapels.

The chancel has a blocked south door of three orders with a transitional early 13th century pointed head and capitals decorated with stiff leaf foliage, which was recorded and sketched in 1905 (NLW B/F/157). The jambs of this doorway are all that survives the re-building and narrowing of the wall. The wall to the west of the blocked door widens and continues to a straight joint just to the east of the south porch. There is a corresponding straight joint in the north wall of the nave. These were the original walls of the early 13th century nave and the straight joint suggests it was extended westwards. The straight joints in the east wall between the chancel and the north and south chapels may indicate that the chancel continued to this point and is in fact early 13th century in date. There is no indication that the chancel walls were rebuilt in the 15th century or that the chancel was extended at this date. Some frescoes were noted in 1847 on the north wall of the chancel (Hughes and North 1924, 62).

In the 15th century the nave was extended westwards as evidenced by the segmental arched south doorway of that date. At this time the nave and chancel were roofed using nine arch-braced collar beam trusses: the painted panelled ceiling is probably contemporary with the re-roofing.

In the 16th century the south chapel with its parclose screen was added, with windows in the south and east walls and a window inserted in the east wall of the chancel. The roof of the chapel and a porch were built at this time. The former north aisle, now rebuilt as the north chapel, may also date from this period.

Some modern windows were noted in the north wall of the chancel in 1847 presumably in the north wall of a narrow aisle which has a wooden arcade of the 17th century (Hughes and North 1924, 62). A bell-cote was added at this time and there is a date stone of 1694 in the west wall. The west gable and the south-east and north-west angles appear to have been rebuilt possibly when the bell cote was added.

## 19TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS

The church was restored in 1858 when the north aisle was pulled down and replaced by a larger north chapel, with a large

cellar below, entered by a north door. A vestry was also added. New windows were inserted in the north and west walls of the nave. The eastern window in the south wall of the nave has the blocked base of an earlier window below it. The upper south gable of the south chapel was rebuilt when the south window was inserted. The west gallery was removed, and the chancel arch, of uncertain date, was replaced. The porch was re-built with a timber framed east wall and a stone west wall which re-used the window mullions from the church.

In 1900 the chancel was restored and the early 13th century south door was blocked and a doorway opened at the north end of the west wall of the south chapel. The 1858 the vestry door was blocked and the door from the vestry to the north chapel was opened. The sanctuary was re-floored, and the pulpit and reading desk moved. The west wall was re-pointed and a 0.6 m trench excavated against the wall and around part of the sides. The internal west wall was re-plastered. Sumps were excavated for the downpipes of the church. The specification with before and after plans for these works have survived (NLW B/F/157).

In 1927 the large cellar below the north chapel was re-used as a heating chamber (NLW B/F/159).

#### FITTINGS

The south door and hinges are of 15th century date. The communion rails are of c.1700 and there is a chest dated 1700. The seating is 19th century in date. The font is 13th century in date. There is a fragment of a 13th century grave slab and two early 14th century grave slabs re-set against the internal west wall of the porch and two dated 1691 and 1710 which were lifted from the chancel floor and re-set in 1900.

The canopy over the chancel is divided into 16 compartments which form a canopy of honour over the 15th century altar and painted with figures of saints and evangelists' symbols. There was a gallery at the west end of the nave prior to 1858. The parclose screen between the south chapel and the chancel is 16th century in date and the wood arcade between the nave and chancel early 17th century.

#### OTHER

The walls are of uncoursed rubble with large quoins. Modern slate roof. Modern limestone dressings.

The exterior is pointed with good stone definition. The interior is plastered.

The sanctuary is tiled and the aisle stone flagged with timber boarding beneath the pews.

There is a recent gravel filled drainage trench around the north and west wall of the north chapel and the nave. There is a concrete path by the side of the west and south walls of the south chapel.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Clarke M L 1961b Church Building & Church Restoration in Caernarvonshire During the 19th Century *Transactions of Caernarvonshire Historical Society* Vol 22 p
- Crossley F H 1944 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCVIII pp 94-96
- Glynne Sir S R 1900 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XVII pp 182-183
- Gresham C A 1968 *Medieval Stone Carving in North Wales* pp 73 96 136-137
- Hughes & North 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 61-72
- Lewis S 1833 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* HAL
- Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 192
- RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 93-96
- Richards G 1975 The Church and Parish of Gyffin *Transactions of Caernarvonshire Historical Society* Vol 36 pp 53-70
- Snowdonia National Park Society 1984 Additional notes on the Churches *Hughes & North - The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 290
- Williams S W 1895 Sepulchral Slabs and Monumental Effigies in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XII pp 112-115

## LLANBEDR Y CENNIN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6945

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH76066957

DEDICATION: PETER

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Good</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Good</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Poor</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Very poor</i>

## GENERAL

A church, listed in the Norwich taxation of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 190), which may contain 12th century masonry, but is mainly of the 15th century. An attractive church, but one with few architectural features of individual merit, except the possible 12th century doorway, which would be unusual in this area. The medieval chest and 18th century fittings are of note.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is curvilinear in form with a curved stone-walled boundary. The boundary has been encroached on the south-east side by a road, and is slightly raised above the surrounding ground level. The churchyard was used for burial until recently. The entrance to the churchyard is on the south-east side. The area of the churchyard was given as 1 rood and 65 sq yards in a terrier of 1834 (GAS X/M/9918). Six yews dominate the interior.

## CHURCH

A church of continuous nave and chancel, with a large south chapel and a south porch.

The nave is structurally earlier than the chancel, which is dated to the 15th century from its roof trusses. The nave is therefore earlier than the 15th century, but the only medieval feature surviving is the south door which is a plain opening with a semi-circular head. On Anglesey this would be assumed to be 12th century, and could even be so in this situation, although imposts would be expected. Unfortunately there is insufficient evidence to date it more accurately than saying it is earlier than the 15th century and later than the 12th. The nave also contains a blocked window at the east end of the north wall of uncertain date, originally built to light the rood.

In the 15th century the chancel was added and the roof of the nave and the chancel of 20 collar-beam trusses was constructed. The chancel is divided from the nave by a straight joint which is visible in the north wall.

In the late 16th century a south chapel and south porch were built. The original roof in the south chapel, of three arch-braced collar beam trusses with cusped windbraces, has survived.

## 19TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS

In 1842 the church was restored by Henry Kennedy. New windows were inserted in the south, west and north walls of the nave, the north and east walls of the chancel and the east and south wall of the south chapel. An arcade of two bays was inserted between the south chapel and the chancel. The bell-cote was rebuilt. A gallery at the west end was removed.

In 1875 stove pipe heating was introduced.

In 1919 a faculty was granted to re-open a small blocked window (NLW B/F/219). Although not specified it is probable that this was the blocked window in the north wall of the nave. If this is the case it does not appear that this faculty was carried out.

Some time after 1924 a 17th or 18th century window was re-set in the east wall of the south chapel. This window does not appear on the 1924 plan (Hughes and North 1924, 94). There is a blocked doorway of uncertain date at the south end of the east wall of the south chapel.

## FITTINGS

The communion rails, the bench pews, the reading desk, the pulpit are of the early 18th century (the reading desk is dated 1724). The font, a plain round bowl with tapering sides, is 13th century in date. There is a medieval chest in the chapel.

## OTHER

The walls are of uncoursed rubble, with dressed quoins at the north east corner, and long quoins in the south chapel.

The external elevations are pointed with good stone definition. The interior is plastered.

The church is stone flagged.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Clarke M L 1961b Church Building & Church Restoration in Caernarvonshire During the 19th Century *Transactions of Caernarvonshire Historical Society Vol 22* p
- Crossley F H 1944 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XCVIII* pp 93
- Glynne Sir S R 1900 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XVII* pp 186
- Hughes & North 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 93-99
- Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 192
- RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 97-99
- Snowdonia National Park Society 1984 Additional notes on the Churches *Hughes & North - The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 291



## LLANDDOGED PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6965

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Denbigh

NGR: SH80606380

DEDICATION: St Doged

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Poor</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Good</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Medium</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Poor</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Very poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Medium</i>

## GENERAL

A double-naved church heavily restored in the 19th century. The fittings, including box-pews and a three-decker pulpit with paintings behind are of interest. A holy well lies north of the church.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is curvilinear in form with a stone-walled boundary and has a road on the south, west and north side. The churchyard is raised 1.5-2 m above the road and surrounding land. No trace of an extension is visible, but it is possible that the line of yew trees on the north side of the church may have marked a former boundary. The churchyard was used for burial until recently. The main entrance to the churchyard is at the south-west corner. A stone was noted in the churchyard wall in 1885 with the inscribed dates of 1710 and 1722.

## CHURCH

A double-aisled church, of which the north aisle, which retains medieval fabric in its walls, was originally the nave and chancel.

Although it has been stated that the church was re-built in 1838 it is clear that the re-building involved the insertion of windows and the rebuilding of the upper parts of the walls and the east and west gables. The east windows, of three round-headed lights, appear to be 16th century, which probably give the date for the building of the south aisle. There is a straight joint visible between the north and south aisles, which clearly shows that the church was not completely re-built in 1838.

## 19th CENTURY RESTORATIONS

In 1838 the church was re-built, and the south porch and north vestry were built. A chimney was added to the south west corner. The north and south walls were rebuilt above the lower medieval courses. Much of the east and west gables retained medieval fabric. The windows were inserted at this date. A wooden arcade of seven bays, between the two aisles, may be of this date.

In the 1861 the church was restored but there are no details of the level of restoration.

The chancel was altered in 1938 by moving the chancel step back to the altar and placing the altar rails on the ground (NLW St Asaph/1987 deposit/Llanddoget).

## FITTINGS

The 19th century seating includes box pews and raked pews at the west end. The reredos is of the 17th century panelling, possibly erected in its present form in the 19th century. There is a three-decker pulpit, with paintings behind of the Royal Arms, and possibly Moses with Commandments. There is a stepped west gallery. The octagonal font is medieval.

## OTHER

Walls of roughly coursed local rubble with squared quoins. Modern slate roof.

The exterior is pointed with good stone definition. The interior is plastered.

The aisles are stone flagged with timber boards beneath the seating.

Slight traces of a drainage trench were observed next to the north and west walls.

Date Visited: 1994/5



LIST OF REFERENCES

Hubbard E 1986 *The Buildings of Wales - Clwyd* pp 190-191

Lewis M 1970 *Stained Glass in North Wales* pp 53-54

RCAHMW 1914 *Denbigh Inventory*

Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol II* pp 317-319

Yates N 1991 *Buildings, Faith and Worship* p 81

## LLANDUDNO PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6961

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH76978382

DEDICATION: TUDNO

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Medium</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Medium</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Medium</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Poor</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Very poor</i>

## GENERAL

A church of continuous nave and chancel with no structural division, of which the nave is probably 12th century in origin, to which the chancel was added in the 13th or 15th century, when much of the nave was also re-built. The windows, with one exception, are modern. The church became derelict in 1839 following a storm, and was restored in 1855, largely with money provided by William Henry Reece, a Solicitor from Birmingham. The font and early window are of interest, as evidence of 12th to 13th century work is rare in Caernarfonshire churches and the presence of two carved stones of the early 14th century helps confirm the former importance of this site. The 15th century roofs are also noteworthy.

## CEMETERY

The earliest known churchyard was curvilinear in form with a stone-walled boundary. It was extended on the east side after 1840, possibly in 1897 when the present south-east lych gate was built. It was also extended on the south and west sides in 1903 (NLW B/C/57) and further extended on the south-west side in 1914 (NLW B/C/59). The former curvilinear south and west boundaries are now marked by a bank, 0.5 m high, to the south and west of the church. Traces of the walling of the earlier eastern boundary can be observed. The original churchyard was used for burial in the 19th century. The churchyard is entered by a gate to the north-west of the church and a lych gate of 1897 to the south-east. The churchyard has been terraced into the surrounding land and is raised 1 m above the road on the north side. There is an 18th century sundial to the east of the church.

## CHURCH

A church of continuous chancel and nave with a medieval north porch, modern vestry and modern west bell-cote.

The north wall of the nave is 12th century, dated by the original single light round-headed window towards the east end. The chancel is later, as indicated by a straight joint in the north wall which is further east than indicated by the Royal Commission (1956, 111). The face of this stretch of walling is made from bands of stones of different sizes, which does not occur on the other walls. There is no indication of a corresponding straight joint in the south wall of the church. It is possible that the chancel was built in the 13th century, suggested by the pointed piscina noted in 1852 in the east wall of the chancel (Glynne 1900, 188), although a 15th century date is just as likely.

The west wall of the nave, with its broad buttress on the north end, and the south wall were rebuilt in the 15th century, as dated by the west door with flattened two-centred head, and the roof of arch-braced collar-beam trusses. The chancel roof is of a slightly different type, of probable late 15th century date, with mouldings on the underside of the arch.

The church formerly contained a square headed two-light window in the south wall and one of three lights under a square head in the east wall, both of late 15th century date (Glynne 1900 188; Jones 1856, 59-63), but now replaced.

## 19TH CENTURY AND LATER RESTORATIONS

In 1839 the church was damaged by a storm and was restored in 1855. Wall paintings were discovered within the church but were not retained (Hughes and North 1924, 29). The rubble within the church was levelled and a wooden floor laid on it.

In 1906 the church was re-floored to the pre-1855 level and the windows replaced. It is not clear whether the present windows were inserted at this date or in 1855, but probably the former as Jones (1865, 61) does not mention new windows, although his plan does show an additional window at the west end of the south wall.

## FITTINGS

The seating is 19th century in date and there is an 18th century chair. The font is of the late 12th or early 13th

## LLANGELYNIN PARISH CHURCH (CRN)

PRN: 7012

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH75127373

DEDICATION: CELYNIN

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Occasional use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Good</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Good</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Medium</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Good</i>

## GENERAL

A beautifully situated church, and surely one of the most photogenic. Although considerable alterations have taken place through time, there is much of interest here, both in the early nave and in the later development of the church by the addition of the chancel, porch and chapels, and the later demolition of the south chapel. But the principal features of interest are the fittings, including the painted text, which is of particular importance, the 18th century pulpit, the 17th century reredos, the remains of the rood screen etc etc. Within the cemetery is a well. An early drovers way passes the site, and to the south is a circular structure, said to be a cockpit (Hughes and North 1924, 72-85), but perhaps with Prehistoric origins. The church is listed in the Norwich Taxation of 1254.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is irregular in form with a stone-walled boundary. The churchyard has been extended on the south side to incorporate the well in the south-west corner. The original churchyard was used for burial until recently. The entrance to the churchyard is on the south-east side.

## CHURCH

A church of continuous nave and chancel, with a north chapel, a south porch, and the foundations of a former south chapel.

The nave is assumed to be medieval in date although it has no dateable features, but is earlier than the chancel, which can be dated to the 15th century.

The chancel has an east window of the 15th century, of three trefoiled lights under a square label, which has been inserted. Alongside the inserted window is part of a trefoiled niche of 14th century date, suggesting that the earlier arrangement had been a single or two light window flanked by niches (RCAHMW 1956, 128). The roof is of arch-braced collar-beam trusses, which are probably original. Part of the rood screen separating the chancel from the nave survives. *17. closely built to support plaster barrel ceiling.*

Also of probable 15th century date is the south porch (although the RCAHMW believe 16th century), which contains a single arch-braced truss and stone seats along the two walls. The south door of the nave contains a 15th century wooden frame. *Door changes look like 16th/17th*

The north chapel, probably of the 16th century, contains a re-set ogee headed window of the 14th century in the east wall, and a larger rectangular window in the gable. The remains of an original wood screen separates the chapel from the chancel. The roof of the chapel is of two arch-braced collar-beam trusses with original purlins and windbraces, all of the 16th century. *2 foliated*

The south chapel was probably also added in the 16th century, but that was removed c. 1800, although the foundations are still visible. *+ lateral beam across top.*

The roof of the nave, of rough trusses with evidence for former tie beams which have been raised, is c. 1700.

A west gallery was erected c. 1800, of which the front beam only now remains.

In the 19th century the church was restored. Single windows were inserted in the south wall of the nave and of the chancel.

## FITTINGS

The octagonal font is possibly 13th century in date (may be 15th). Separating the nave from the chancel are the remains

of a former 15th century rood screen, of which the lower part remains on the north side. The reading desk re-uses 16th century panels. The remains of the screen to the north chapel is 16th century in date. The reredos, communion table and rails are 17th century in date. Text of the early 17th century survives on the east wall, it includes the Creed and the Ten Commandments in Welsh: the survival of these is unusual. The pulpit, now standing in the north chapel, is of the 18th century. Some elements of 18th century box pews have been re-used in the benches.

## OTHER

The walls are of uncoursed rubble with gritstone dressings. Modern slate roof.

The exterior elevations are pointed with medium to poor stone definition. The interior is plastered.

There is timber flooring beneath the pews, the aisle is concreted and covered with slate slabs.

There is an indication of a shallow drainage trench around the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Clarke M L 1961b Church Building & Church Restoration in Caernarvonshire During the 19th Century *Transactions of Caernarvonshire Historical Society* Vol 22 p  
 Crossley F H 1944 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCVIII pp 108  
 Glynn Sir S R 1900 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XVII pp 314-315  
 Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 192  
 RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 128-129  
 Snowdonia National Park Society 1984 Additional notes on the Churches *Hughes & North - The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 290

*Recently restored - c. 1987. - re-roofed? + pointing.*

## LLANGWSTENIN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7019

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon  
 DEDICATION: CWSTENIN  
 DIOCESE: St Asaph

NGR: SH82207922

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Very poor</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Medium</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Poor</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Medium</i>

## GENERAL

A modern church built in 1843 on the site of a medieval church. The medieval glass preserved in the vestry window is of interest.

## CEMETERY

The small cemetery is overgrown in places and surrounded by a stone wall with an entrance to the south west. It was extended to provide a cemetery on the north side of the church in 1915; traces of the original enclosure can be seen in a raised bank. During road widening in 1928 a portion of the west end of this addition was removed. The cemetery was extended again on the south side in 1933. The graveyard slopes down to the road on the west side. The path around the church is some 0.3m lower than the ground surface.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

The medieval church was taken down in 1843. It is assumed to underlie the modern church. Hyde-Hall described it as "a small parallelogram of considerable antiquity in a confined churchyard where stand some very fine yew trees. At the east gable end a head rudely carved. The chancel is divided from the body of the church by an open wooden screen, and is ceiled with wood. At the east end it is lightened by a window of three compartments, into which is introduced some painted glass in tolerable preservation". Later on he says "This place is now in a state of the most abject decay".

## 19TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS

The church was entirely rebuilt in 1843 and consists of a single aisle with a western gallery and bell-cote for a single bell.

## FITTINGS

The late medieval glass described by Hyde Hall is now in the vestry window, and appears to show St Peter, St George slaying the dragon, St Nicholas, St Catherine, and Christ rising from the empty tomb. There are six memorials of 17th and 18th century date. The small octagonal font has been retooled and dates to the late 17th or 18th century.

+ Early chintz hand bell.

## OTHER

The walls are of uncoursed rubble with modern dressings. Modern slate roof.

The exterior walls are pointed and the interior walls are plastered. Stone flags at the west end of the church include memorials dated from 1625 to 1799.

Gravel covers a 1.5m wide drainage channel extending from the boiler room on the west side of the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

Lewis M 1970 *Stained Glass in North Wales* pp 66-67

RCAHMS 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 133

Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol II* pp 324

## LLANRHYCHWYN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7031

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH77486161

DEDICATION: RHYCHWYN

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Occasional use

**ASSESSMENT RATINGS**

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Very Good</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Very Good</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Medium</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Medium</i>

**GENERAL**

This is a medieval double nave church dating from the 12th century with 15th and 16th century additions. It is first listed in the Valuation of Norwich of 1254 (Lunt W E 1926, 192). It is traditionally known as Llewelyn's old church and may have been used by Llewellyn ap Iorwerth before he built the church at Trefriw in 1230. The church is of interest for its 12th century work, and later medieval work, which have not undergone modern restoration. The fittings, particularly the glass and woodwork, are also of note.

**CEMETERY**

The church is situated on a rocky outcrop with an irregularly shaped cemetery. The west side is curvilinear bordering a farm track while the north and south sides have been straightened. It is enclosed by a stone wall. The interior of the cemetery is raised above the surrounding ground surface by 2m to the north, 1m to the east and 0.5m to the south. The lych gate was built in 1762 on the north side of the graveyard where the boundary is close to the church, the door and frame are original. A tree which has collapsed to the east of the lych gate has demolished a section of the graveyard wall. There are no traces of extensions or former boundaries.

**CHURCH**

A church of two equal aisles, of which the south aisle is the older, and forms the nave and chancel of the church.

The masonry of the west end of the south aisle is 12th or 13th century, dated by the round-headed south door. The east end of this aisle is of later date, and probably of the 15th century, the date of the east window of two trefoiled lights in a square frame; the window was probably reset in 1753, the date given by a stone set above the window. The south wall contains two windows, of which the west is dated 1737 on the lintel, whereas the east, although of similar date in its present form, appears to reuse medieval jambs. The roof contains 16 close-coupled trusses.

The north aisle was added in the early 16th century, and bears a close resemblance to the style adopted at Dolwyddelan which was built by Meredydd ab Ieuan, so the north aisle at Llanrhychwyn was also quite possibly built under his influence. It is separated from the south aisle by a row of three square piers which support a horizontal beam, as opposed to the usual arches. The east window is a wide single light under a four-centred arch cut from a single stone. There is a window at the east end of the north wall, of two lights with chamfered jambs, and a former door at the west end, now converted into a window. There is a stone bench or plinth along the interior of the west wall. The roof is of five bays with collar-beam trusses, which get closer together at the west end, and cusped wind-braces (see RCAHMW 1956, 157).

**19TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS**

Few references to restoration work have been found, although the report in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* of 1929 refers to work involving underpinning of the south wall of the sanctuary in that year (Higgins 1929, 337-9).

**FITTINGS**

The straight-sided tapering font set against the western pillar is of 12th century type. The communion rails bear the date 1636. The hexagonal pulpit and reading desk are dated 1691. The east window of the chancel contains 15th century glass, which includes the Trinity, and the east window of the north aisle contains 16th century glass (Lewis M 1970, 72-73; Hughes H 1927, 113-27; RCAHMW 1956, 158-9). Glass of the 18th century is also to be found in the windows of the north aisle.

**OTHER**

The south aisle is built of coursed and dressed local stone: the north aisle is of long slabs, coursed and dressed. The dressings are sandstone. The outer roofs are of small fairly thick slates, the inner roofs of modern slate.

The exterior of the church is pointed with good stone definition. The interior has patchy whitewash and plaster. The slate flagged floor is lower towards the chancel with a step down. There is a possible drainage trench around the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Evans A O 1931 Three Old Foundations *Y Cymmrodor* Vol XLII pp 78-83  
Glynne Sir S R 1900 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XVII pp 317-318  
Higgins M A 1929 Burial in the Church Wall at Llanrhychwyn *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol LXXXIV pp 337-338  
Hughes & North 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 101-110  
Hughes H H 1927 Llanrhychwyn Church and its Painted Windows *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol LXXXII pp 113-127  
Lewis M 1970 *Stained Glass in North Wales* pp 72-73  
Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 192  
RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 156-159  
Snowdonia National Park Society 1984 Additional notes on the Churches *Hughes & North - The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 291-292



## LLANRWST PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7034

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Denbigh

NGR: SH79746161

DEDICATION: GRWST

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Good</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Very Good</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Medium</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Good</i>

## GENERAL

An interesting church of c. 1500, with a chapel added in 1633. A number of restorations and modern additions have been carried out, including the tower and north aisle. The site is older than the present church; it is mentioned in the Valuation of Norwich of 1254 (Lunt W E 1926,467), and it is possible that the church had to be rebuilt following destruction by William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, during the Lancastrian wars (Jones e.d. 1990). It was visited by Pennant during his Tour of Wales in 1781 who described the tombs and brasses inside the church (Pennant T 1991). Although largely rebuilt this medieval church retains some features of note, in particular the rood screen and loft, and the Wynn chapel with its fittings.

## CEMETRY

The churchyard is approached from the centre of Llanrwst along Tan y Eglwys between almshouses, founded by Sir John Wynn c. 1610 (Hubbard 1986, 236). The curvilinear churchyard is bounded by Afon Conwy to the south. It has been encroached by the adjacent property to the north west where there is now a linear boundary. The churchyard is entered through a 19th century arch, to the south east of the church, of squared rubble with freestone coping and arch voussoirs. The broad arch has a hood-mould with head stops and ornamental wrought iron gates beneath.

## CHURCH

The church was built in the late 15th century. It consists of a continuous nave and chancel with an early 19th century west tower, a later 19th century north aisle, a south porch and the Gwydir Chapel at the south east corner.

The south wall of the nave has square headed windows surmounted by hood-moulds. The most westerly and the most easterly are 19th century windows with a central 15th century window of three cinquefoil lights. To the north east of the tower the nave has a window of three lights under a three-centred arch. The east window of the nave c 1500 has four lights with brattished transom and panel tracery. The nave has a 15th century arch-braced roof with small cusped wind braces. Gwydir Chapel, in late Perpendicular style, was added to the south of the chancel in 1633-4 by Sir Richard Wynn. It has a castellated parapet with pinnacles to the south and stepped buttresses. The east and west windows are of four cinquefoil cusped lights under panel tracery. The two south bays have similar windows but of three lights. The round headed entrance doorway has a heraldic shield over it recording the founding of the chapel. The chapel has an elaborate low pitched camber-beam oak ceiling, wall panelling, stalls and screens.

The church still retains its 15th century rood screen and loft at the entrance to the chancel. A detailed description and illustrations of these features can be found in Crossley's article in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCIX (Crossley F H 1946).

## 19TH RESTORATIONS

The west tower and south porch were rebuilt in the early 19th century and the north aisle c 1880. The main church was largely rebuilt in 1882-1884 by Paley and Austin (Hubbard E 1986,234).

The square castellated tower has three storeys. The ground floor stage has single light windows with gothic arches under square lintels. The second stage has single light windows with arched heads in the north and south walls and a window of two light under a four-centred arch in the west wall. The bell stage has two arched windows on each face. The tower is stepped up to the west to support the carved stone cross and has diagonal buttresses.

The north wall of the north aisle has three windows, two of three lights and one of two lights, with panel tracery above. There are stepped buttresses between the windows. The west gable of the aisle has an arched doorway with a two light window to the north. The arcade of three bays has elongated octagonal piers.

The 19th century south porch is half timbered with a Perpendicular doorway.



## FITTINGS

Gwydir Chapel contains contemporary woodwork and several memorials. These include a large stone coffin, said to be that of Llewelyn the Great who died in 1240, a stone effigy of Hywel Coetmor c1440, described in 'Medieval Stone Carving in North Wales' (Gresham C A 1968, 205-207), and another to members of the Wynn family including Sir John Wynn, who died in 1559, and his wife Sydney, who died in 1639. A series of 17th century engraved brasses have been moved from the floor to the walls of the chapel.

## OTHER

The church is built of uncoursed grey rubble with pale limestone dressings. The tower is of roughly coursed rubble with limestone dressings and Gwydir Chapel is of coursed grey stone with pale limestone dressings.

The floor of Gwydir Chapel is stone flagged.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Cadw 1993 *Llanrwst - Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest* pp 36-37  
 Crossley F H 1946 Screens & Lofts in North Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XCIX* pp 34-39  
 Dineley T 1888 *The Official Progress of the First Duke of Beaufort Through Wales in 1684* pp 138-147  
 Glynne Sir S R 1884 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol I* pp 254-255  
 Gresham C A 1968 *Medieval Stone Carving in North Wales* pp 205-207  
 Hubbard E 1986 *The Buildings of Wales - Clwyd* pp 234-235  
 Jones J G ed 1990 *The History of the Gwydir Family and Memoirs by Sir John Wynn* pp 33-34  
 Lewis M 1970 *Stained Glass in North Wales* pp 73  
 Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 467  
 Pennant T 1991 *A Tour in Wales Vol II* pp 152-154  
 Pennant T 1991 *A Tour in Wales Vol II* pp 152-154  
 RCAHMW 1914 *Denbigh Inventory* pp 147-148  
 Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol II* pp 332-340

## LLANSANTFFRAID GLAN CONWY

PRN: 7081

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Denbigh

NGR: SH80407610

DEDICATION: FFRAID

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Poor</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Medium</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Medium</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Poor</i>

## GENERAL

A church mainly dating from a rebuild of 1839, but which also incorporates some medieval masonry from the earlier double nave church. The late medieval glass in the west window is of interest.

## CHURCH

The present church consists largely of a structure rebuilt by John Welch in 1839, of undivided nave and chancel. It was formerly a double nave church, but Welch "removed the door to the west end, between two small towers, added a small apse at the east end, and a vestry on the north side; the pillars were removed and an open roof of a single span substituted." (Thomas 1911, 346). The church was further restored in 1908 by Hoare and Wheeler, when the "chancel and apse were screened off, the gallery taken down, the nave furnished with open oak seats and an organ provided. The font of granite, which had lost its lining of lead, was renewed and carved with sacred emblems." (Thomas 1911, 346).

## FITTINGS

The principal fitting of note which remains from the earlier church is the stained glass now in the west window. This is of c. 1500, and contains figures of St John the Baptist and St Catherine. The font is probably late medieval, but re-cut in modern times. There is also a funerary tablet of 1643 commemorating Ellen, wife of Edmund Williams, of Cowny, and three further table-tomb fragments of similar date with heraldic carving. Also a memorial of 1772 to Thomas Jones, Kilglassyn.

## OTHER

The walls are of snecked rubble with local limestone dressings. Modern slate roof.

The exterior is pointed with good stone definition. The interior is plastered.

Date Visited:

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Glynne Sir S R 1885 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol II* pp 46  
Hubbard E 1986 *The Buildings of Wales - Clwyd* pp 239  
Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol II* pp 345-347

## PENMACHNO PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7053

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH79445028

DEDICATION: TUDCLUD; ENCLYDWYN

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Poor</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Medium</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Poor</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Good</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Good</i>

## GENERAL

An interesting site, initially occupied by two churches of which one must have become redundant by the 17th century. The remaining church was rebuilt on the original foundations in the mid 19th century, with the exception of the former south chapel which was initially incorporated, but later taken down, although the lower walls still stand. The presence of five 6th century inscribed stones are of particular interest.

## CEMETERY

The graveyard is bounded by a road on the south and has been encroached by housing to the north and east. There is also housing to the west of the church. The interior is raised from 0.3m in the north to 2.5m in the south from the surrounding areas. There are raised areas to the south of the church and in the east of the graveyard which may suggest the location of previous buildings. In the 19th century there were seven styles into the churchyard when it was used as a public playground. This has been reduced to four entrances in the south west, north west, south east and north east. The path has been lowered by 0.3-0.5m.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

There were formerly two churches on this site: St Tudclyd's, which was replaced by the present church in 1857, and Enclydwyn's, which is thought to have fallen into disrepair shortly after the reformation.

Of Enclydwyn's church there is very little information, and most of it from Owen Gethin Jones's "Gweithiau Gethin", which includes his "Hanes Plwyf Penmachno" (1884). Gethin Jones says that he remembers the foundations of the church being dug up during grave digging, that they contained mortar, and that the church was 18yds long, with a south transept at the east end. It presumably lay east of the present church.

St Tudclyd's church is better remembered, and a description by Glynne (1900, 319) and by Gethin Jones has survived. Glynne describes the church as of a continuous nave and chancel with a large south chapel and a west bell-cote. The east window was of three trefoiled lights. The chapel opening was an "ugly misshapen arch springing from imposts". The roof of the nave "not a bad specimen, the timbers being rudely foliated"; the chancel was boarded with a panelled ceiling. The principal feature was the late medieval rood screen. There was an old west gallery.

From Gethin Jones we learn that the "the stonework was rather ordinary on the whole, except for the windows facing east. One was of red gritstone, skilfully made in the perpendicular style; there was much stained glass in it, some depicting faces etc. The woodwork showed the best skill. The Dylasau seat was remarkable for its corner carvings; there were four of them, one at each corner, carved, two of them, to represent the head and face of a man, and the two others show the head and face of two women. The wainscot around the altar was also good, but the old choir was the most remarkable of any in the country except for the great rood-screen in Llanrwst church". The roof was of well made couples "there were over 260 wooden dowels in each couple and the wood was six inches thick and two feet wide at the base. There was an arch above the altar hiding one bay of the roof. The arch had been framed and grooved in panels all round, with much linfold work along its length and more carving". Elsewhere in the history, Gethin Jones mentions a major rebuilding of the church in 1621 - this seems a possible date for the south chapel.

## MODERN CHURCH

The present church consists of a nave with bellcote, a slightly lower and narrower chancel, a north porch and a small south vestry.

The church was built in 1862 by Lloyd-Williams and Underwood of Denbigh (Clarke 1961, 26) when the present openings were inserted. Alongside the vestry are the remains of the walls of the south chapel of the former church, standing c. 1m high, which was initially built into the church of 1862. The church was renovated in 1895 when a cellar was built under the robing room in the south chapel for a boiler and heating pipes were installed in the church. This chapel was later

demolished and the present vestry built. The church has since been re-roofed.

#### FITTINGS

Five 6th century inscribed stones are now on the north wall (Nash-Williams 1950, 92-3). The oval sandstone font probably dates to the 12th century. At the west end of the church is a 12th or 13th century slab bearing an incised cross which, according to Hughes and North, used to be under the east window of Enclydwyn's church (Hughes & North 1924, 120). Two 16th century painted oak panels, part of a Flemish triptych, are kept in the vestry. They were presented to the church in 1713 by Roderick Lloyd, and have been fully described by Hughes (1906, 315-320).

#### OTHER

The walls are of grey rubble with limestone dressings.

The exterior is pointed with good stone definition.

There is a drainage trench 0.3m wide and 0.6m deep around the north and west sides of the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Clarke M L 1961b Church Building & Church Restoration in Caernarvonshire During the 19th Century *Transactions of Caernarvonshire Historical Society Vol 22* p
- Crossley F H 1944 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XCVIII* pp 111-112
- Glynne Sir S R 1900 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XVII* pp 319
- Hughes & North 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 115-122
- Hughes H 1906a Painted Panels at Penmachno Church, Carnarvonshire *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol VI* pp 315-320
- Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 192
- Nash-Williams V E 1950 *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales* pp 92-93
- RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 168-169
- Snowdonia National Park Society 1984 Additional notes on the Churches *Hughes & North - The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 292-293

## TREFRIW PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7074

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH78066323

DEDICATION: MARY

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Arllechwedd

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Medium</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Good</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Poor</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Medium</i>

## GENERAL

A church, said to have been founded by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth to save his wife, Princess Joan, the walk to Llanrhychwyn (Pennant 1781, 154), but of which the earliest remains are now of the 15th century. A double nave church, much restored in the 19th century, and only the roof trusses are now dateable. The 17th century pulpit is of note. The church was almost undoubtedly surrounded by a bond village, with the Llys of Llywellyn to the south-east (GAT Report. Llys and Maerdref).

## CEMETERY

Rectangular, but with rounded corners, and curving north end. Bounded by roads on the south-west, south and east sides. Stone wall boundary. Raised by some 1.5 above the surrounding area. Main entrance from south-east corner, path rises up steps to south side of church.

## CHURCH

A Denbighshire style church of double nave, with a modern west vestry and south porch. All the windows are modern, so dating is difficult.

The south aisle is the older, dateable by its roof (now rebuilt) of arch-braced collar-beam trusses to the 15th century. The north aisle is of the 16th century according to the blocked remains of a north door with four-centred head. Also the roof trusses, although similar to those on the south, form a shallower angle, and have decorated windbraces. Remains of a blocked window is visible at the east end of the north aisle.

In the 19th century (c. 1850) the church was re-built, when new windows were inserted, the arcade was re-built, the west vestry was erected on the end of the north aisle, and the south porch was built. The bell-cote is also of this date.

## FITTINGS

A pulpit of hexagonal plan, with date 1633 inscribed on panel, although it is of mid-19th century date re-using 17th century carving; 17th century communion table, now at the west end of the church; three 18th century benches. Memorial to the poet Ieuan Glan Geirionydd d. 1855. Considerable stained glass of modern (1930's) date.

## OTHER

The walls are of uncoursed rubble with modern dressings. The roofs are modern slate.

The exterior is pointed with reasonable stone definition; the interior is plastered.

A recently dug drain lies along the north side of the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Glynne Sir S R 1900 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XVII pp 320  
 Hughes & North 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 99-101  
 Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 192  
 Pennant T 1991 *A Tour in Wales Vol II* pp 154-155  
 Pennant T 1991 *A Tour in Wales Vol II* pp 155  
 RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 181-182  
 Snowdonia National Park Society 1984 Additional notes on the Churches *Hughes & North - The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 291

## YSBYTY IFAN CHURCH

PRN: 7080

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH84404890

DEDICATION: JOHN

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Poor</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Medium</i>
Potential for architectural investigation	<i>Poor</i>	Potential for archaeological investigation	<i>Good</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Good</i>

## GENERAL

This church belonged to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem; it was founded in 1190 and its endowments were increased by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth 1221-4. Following the suppression, the church became parochial. The medieval church was built over in 1861, when the present church was built. The 14th century grave slabs and 16th century effigies are of interest. The possibility of a former south arcade raises the archaeological potential, as does the former site of the hospice.

## CEMETERY

The cemetery is rectangular in shape, with the main entrance on the south-east. There is a raised area slightly east of the chancel, which continues south past the yew trees. The north vestry sits on a pronounced mound which runs into the raised area.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

The medieval church was taken down in 1858 prior to the construction of a new one. It appears that the new church overlay the foundations of the old one.

A number of descriptions of the earlier church survive, although these all post-date a partial re-build of 1790. From a plan of the old church (Evans J 1860, 113) it appears to have been of continuous nave and chancel, with north and south chapels (Pantglas and Voelas families), and a south porch. It would appear that with the exception of the east window, all the windows were then modern. The east window was of four cinquefoil headed lights with a transom, and vertical tracery under a four-centred arch. Glynne (1884, 256) records traces of an arcade in the south wall of the nave, with the former presence, therefore, of a south aisle. Thomas (1911, 352-5) includes a picture of this church, which confirms Glynne's description, and shows a bell-cote with two bells. Thomas also states that "when this church was taken down in 1858 two niches with pointed arches were discovered in the east wall, and also portions of freestone tombs and window jambs belonging to an earlier edifice".

## MODERN CHURCH

The present church was built in 1861 to a design by George Benmore of Llandegai in the Early English style. It is of nave with smaller chancel, a north vestry and south porch. There is a west bellcote with two bells.

## FITTINGS

There are the remains of three decorated slabs in the church (Gresham 1968, 153 - 216): part of a slab bearing the picture of a shield and a sword, with an inscription around the shield which translated reads "Here lies Cynwrig son of Llywarch, may whose soul be in peace"; a slab decorated with a floriated cross, with part of an inscription which shows it was the gravestone of Margaret, wife of the grandson of Cynwrig ap Llywarch; a small fragment of a slab with part of a stepped cross, and a small part of an inscription. Also on the floor of the church are three effigies, which are of Rhys ap Meredydd, a standard-bearer to Henry VII at Bosworth, his wife, and his son Robert.

## OTHER

The walls are of local rubble with modern dressings. Modern slate roofs.

The exterior elevations are pointed with good stone definition.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Glynne Sir S R 1884 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol I pp 256  
Gresham C A 1968 *Medieval Stone Carving in North Wales* pp 153-155 214-216

J E 1860 Yspyty Ifan or the Hospitallers in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol VI* pp 104-124

RCAHMW 1914 *Denbigh Inventory*

Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol II* pp 352-355

