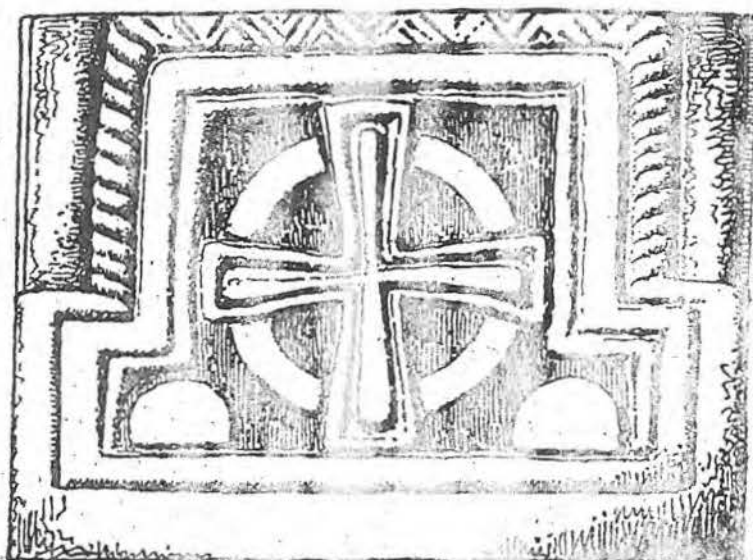


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# WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



LLANBEULAN FONT . EAST END . W.A.H.

GWYNEDD GAZETTEER - PART 4

MEIRIONNYDD

## **Welsh Historic Churches Project**

### **Gwynedd Gazetteer: Meirionnydd**

#### **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 Monuments 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 academic 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

#### Meirionnydd Churches

Dolgellau Parish Church  
Ffestiniog Parish Church  
Llanaber Parish Church  
Llanbedr Parish Church  
Llandanwg Parish Church  
Llandderfel Parish Church  
Llanddwywe Parish Church  
Llandecwyn Parish Church  
Llanegryn Parish Church  
Llanelltyd Parish Church  
Llanenddwyn Parish Church  
Llanfachreth Parish Church  
Llanfair Parish Church (Mer)  
Llanfihangel y Pennant Parish Church (Mer)  
Llanfihangel y Traethau Parish Church  
Llanfor Parish Church  
Llanfrothen Parish Church  
Llangelynin Parish Church (Mer)  
Llangower Parish Church  
Llanuwchllyn Parish Church  
Llanycil Parish Church  
Llanymawddwy Parish Church  
Maentwrog Parish Church  
Mallwyd Parish Church  
Pennal Parish Church  
Tal y Llyn Parish Church (Mer)  
Trawsfynydd Parish Church  
Tywyn Parish Church

## DOLGELLAU PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6928

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH72751785

DEDICATION: MARY

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ysymaner

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Poor</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>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Medium</i>

## GENERAL

An impressive church built in 1716 in largely classical style, replacing an earlier church of which there is now no sign. Features of note include the 14th century effigy of Meurig ab Ynyr Fychan; the Georgian church with its tower and apsidal chancel and internal wooden columns, of which there are very few examples in Gwynedd; and some interesting modern stained glass, some by Clayton and Bell. References include RCAHMW (1921, 24); Gresham (1968, 190-192) and Hemp (1949, 315).

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is irregular in form with a curved stone-walled boundary on the west side. The churchyard is raised 1-1.5 m above the roads on the west and south-east side. In 1793 the churchyard was extended by 10 roods (2.5 acres) on the north-west side (NLW B/C/29). It has been severely encroached by buildings and property walls on the south, east and north sides. The churchyard contains a large collection of 17th and 18th century gravestones and is entered through entrances at the south-east and west sides. There is a window mullion set on the west wall of the churchyard wall to the south of the west entrance.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

There is no visible evidence of the medieval church, and neither has any description of the former church been found. The effigy of the knight Meurig ab Ynyr Fychan of c.1345 from the medieval church has been re-set within the present church. There is a re-used chamfered mullion on the west churchyard wall which probably comes from the earlier structure.

## MODERN CHURCH

The present church was built in 1716. It consists of a nave and apsidal chancel, north and south aisles and a western tower. The windows are large and round headed. The nave is divided from the aisles by arcades of wooden beams. The church was restored in 1874.

## FITTINGS

The effigy of the knight Meurig ab Ynyr Fychan of c.1345 from the medieval church has been re-set within the present church. There is an assortment of Victorian glass, including some by Clayton and Bell. The seating dates from the restoration of 1864.

## OTHER

Built of rubble masonry with squared stone voussoirs to windows and doors.

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

The aisles of the church are floored with tiles and there is timber boarding beneath the pews.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Gresham C A 1968 *Medieval Stone Carving in North Wales* pp 190-192  
 Hemp W J 1949 *Dolgellau Church Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol C* pp 315  
 Lewis S 1833 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* DOL  
 Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 196  
 RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 24



## FFESTINIOG PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6933

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH69944190

DEDICATION: MICHAEL

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

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

## GENERAL

The medieval church was replaced in 1843-5 by one designed by Henry Kennedy to the west of the earlier church (RCAHMW 1921, 32).

## CEMETERY

The churchyard was rectangular in form but is now irregular due to the extension of the churchyard and has a stone-walled boundary. The churchyard is raised 1-1.5 m on the south side, 1 m on the east side and 0.5 m on the west side. The north side of the churchyard has been encroached by buildings. A linear wall bounds the road on the eastern side and the churchyard was extended on the west side in 1843-4, with land donated by Lord Newborough when the new church was built (GAS Z/PE/1/20). The former linear west boundary cannot be traced within the churchyard other than a general dating of the gravestones to the east of the present church. The original churchyard was used for burial until recently. A recent extension has been made on the north-west side. The main entrance to the churchyard is at the east and there is a further entrance to the west. There is a lane on the south side and the east side of the churchyard faces the square. The medieval church lay within the eastern area of churchyard and its location can be determined by the area occupied by post 1844 gravestones, covering an area measuring 16m in length and 12m wide. Old gravestones have been used to cap the south wall.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

The date and plan of the medieval church, demolished in 1843 (GAS Z/PE/1/20), is not known; its location is described above. Within the vestry minutes there is a sketch plan of the west end of the church showing the seating of the west gallery and a south window in 1829 (GAS Z/PE/1/20). In 1839 a Mr Johens of Chester made a report on the state of the church accompanied by a plan which was sent to the Incorporated Society for the Building and Enlargement of Churches in London and the Diocesan Church Building Society. No copy of this plan has been found within the diocesan records deposited in the National Library of Wales.

Lewis described the old church as being in the ancient style of English architecture in which a gallery was erected in 1829 (Lewis S 1833, FES).

## MODERN CHURCH

The present church was built in 1843, by Henry Kennedy, on a green field site to the south west of the medieval church. Plans and specifications were drawn up which were sent to Archdeacon Newcome (GAS Z/PE/1/19). However, no copies have been found within the diocesan records deposited in the National Library of Wales. The church is neo-norman, with a large nave, a chancel separated by a horse-shoe shaped arch, and a south door.

The church was restored by Harold Hughes in 1913 when a south porch was added to the nave and a north vestry with an external doorway was added to the chancel (B/F/149).

In 1932 a new heating boiler and pipes were added, and the nave and chancel replastered.

There are no fittings or memorials from the medieval church.

## OTHER

Walls of roughly coursed quarried blocks. Slate roof. Limestone dressings.

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

The aisle and altar of the church are floored with tiles and there is timber boarding beneath the pews.

There is no trace of a drain around the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

LIST OF REFERENCES

Lewis S 1833 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* FES

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 32



## LLANABER PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6936

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH59931802

DEDICATION: BODFAN; MARY

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Very Good</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 superb church which exhibits some of the finest Early English work in Gwynedd. It is unusual in being an almost perfectly preserved 13th century building, despite substantial restoration work, consisting of an aisled nave with clerestory and a south porch, and a raised separate chancel with a north vestry. The chancel arch is unusual in an area where most churches are of a single cell. All the windows are single lancets. The founding of the church has been attributed to Hywel ap Gruffydd ap Cynan, a benefactor of Cymer Abbey, and great-grandson of Owain Gwynedd, who ruled from 1202 to 1216 (RCAHM 1924, 47; Radford C A R 1949, 303-4).

## CEMETERY

The churchyard at Llanaber is irregular in shape, stone walled and terraced into sloping ground above sea cliffs. The earliest dating evidence for the site is the late 12th century church. The churchyard was extended to the south in 1861, when the road to the cottage, which is located to the south-west of the church, was re-routed to the south and the original east-west road was incorporated into the churchyard (NLW B/DL/98). The southern boundary of this extension can be traced as a low linear bank. A further low linear bank, located nearer the church, may indicate an earlier southern extension. The churchyard has been significantly disturbed on the western side by the erection of a retaining wall and on the east side has been encroached by gardens and the main road. A gable finial and window mullions are reset by the western entrance. There are entrances to the south-east, with a lych gate of 1861, and to the cottage on the west side. Recent burials have occurred in the southern extensions.

## CHURCH

The church consists of a nave with north and south aisles, a south porch, and a chancel with a north vestry. Although later alterations have been carried out, it appears that the whole was conceived and built as a single structure in the early 13th century.

The chancel is lit by a series of lancet windows: one single light in the east wall, three single lights and a double light in the south wall, and two single lights in the north wall. A shouldered doorway of c. 1300 in the north wall now leads into a modern vestry. The chancel arch is of three orders with carved capitals. The nave has two five bay arcades, with drum columns and capitals ornamented with stiff-leaved foliage, and moulded arches. The south doorway, of four orders each with triple columns is also possibly later 12th century. The original windows were all single lancets, including the clerestory windows of four small lancets on each side. The porch, although restored, was probably contemporary with the doorway.

The 15th century chancel roof of arch-braced collar beams has a panelled ceiling and coloured bosses over the altar. The plain trusses within the nave are of unknown date, but possibly post-medieval. A rood-screen formerly existed across the chancel arch, of which some parts remain (Crossley 1945, 160).

## LATER RESTORATIONS

Two rectangular blocked windows of probably 16th century date, were noted, one at the eastern end of the south aisle and the other at the east end of the south clerestory.

The eastern window in the south wall of the nave was widened by 1.2 m in 1726, the sanctuary stone flagged and a ditch excavated along the outside of the east wall of the chancel (GAS Z/PE/10/9).

A painting of 1849 (NMR) shows a chapel, of unknown date, on the north side of the church which was demolished and replaced by a vestry in 1858-60. This chapel was noted in a terrier of 1793 and was 7.5 yards in length and 6.5 m wide (NLW B/TERR/350). It had two rectangular windows, one above the other in the north wall and a similar window in the west wall. A straight joint was observed below the eastern window of the north aisle which probably relates to the northern addition noted in the painting of 1849. This window was probably rebuilt in the same style as the others in



the north aisle.

Restoration work during 1858-60, supervised by W W E Wynne, included rebuilding the western wall with its bell-cote and two modern lancets, and parts of the walls of the chancel. Other work involved the construction of the present porch, and the removal of the north chapel to be replaced by the present vestry.

In 1910 the reredos was added, the porch re-roofed and the altar rails and choir stalls were replaced (NLW B/F/189 & 190).

#### FITTINGS

The church contains two inscribed stones, both found at Barmouth, currently placed in the north aisle. In the nave there is a 13th century grave slab and a 16th century font. There are two marble memorials dated 1832 and 1836.

Fragments of a rectangular window sill and a finial cross are located above the western entrance to the churchyard.

The seating and the pulpit are modern.

#### OTHER

The walls are of mainly uncoursed local rubble, with dressed blocks used on the modern quoins and buttresses. Freestone dressings. Modern slate roof.

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

The central aisle of the nave is stone flagged with timber flooring below the seating and has probably been lowered. The chancel and aisles are stone flagged.

A substantial stone walled drainage trench, 1-1.5 m deep at the east end, has been excavated around the chancel, and the north and south aisles. This showed the upper level of the foundations of the chancel 0.5 m below the present level of the churchyard on the south side.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol. XCVIII pp 160  
 Freeman E A 1856 The Ecclesiastical Architecture of Wales & the Marches *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol II pp 221-243  
 Glynn Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol LVI pp 133-134  
 Gresham C A 1968 *Medieval Stone Carving in North Wales* pp 99-102  
 Radford C A R 1949 Llanaber Church *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol C pp 303-304  
 RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 47-48  
 Wynne W W E 1858 Llanaber Church Merionethshire *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol IV pp 314-316  
 Wynne W W E 1858 Llanaber Church, Merionethshire *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol IV pp 314-316  
 Wynne W W E 1859 Llanaber Church, Merionethshire *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol V pp 142-143

## LLANBEDR PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6943

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH58492698

DEDICATION: PETER

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

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

## GENERAL

A church of nave and separate chancel of probable 15th and 16th century date is unusual for this area where the continuous nave and chancel is typical. Later restorations have removed most of the early features. Gresham states that the dedication to St Peter goes back at least to the 13th century (Gresham n.d.). Until the 19th century the church was a dependant chapel annexed to the rectory of Llandanwg.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard at Llanbedr is bounded by a stone wall and retains a curvilinear element to its eastern side. It has a lych gate to the west, which was restored between 1987-92. It is raised above the surrounding gardens, which have encroached upon the north, west and southern sides of the churchyard and it has been used for recent burial. The earliest dating evidence for the site is derived from the church of 1400-1500.

## CHURCH

A church of nave with belfry, a separate chancel, and a modern north vestry.

All the present windows are modern, but before the restoration of 1883, Glynne described it as having "no windows on the north side or at the west end. The east window is of two lights, mutilated, and on the south of the altar is a single rude light" (Glynne 1901, 134). The lack of original windows makes dating the structure very difficult. The west end of the south wall of the nave is thicker than the remaining eastern section (a straight joint is visible by the west window in this wall), which implies this section is of an earlier date. However the door looks 15th century in date and does not appear to be inserted. The pointed chancel arch is crudely made, and probably of late 15th century date. One possibility is that we are looking at an original single cell church of unknown date, but probably early 15th century, which was rebuilt in the late 15th or early 16th century when the chancel was added. The east wall contains two small recesses either side the altar, one with a pointed head and one square headed. There is also a square recess in the north wall of the sanctuary. Glynne mentions a "low rude arch in the north wall of the chancel, whence it seems likely that there was one aisle or chapel adjoining" (Glynne 1901, 134) but an organ now stands against that wall hiding any detail.

In 1883 the upper half of the west wall was rebuilt, the north vestry added, the church was refloored, all the windows were replaced and the roof renewed. This work was carried out by the architect F.R. Wilson of Alnwick.

The roof appears to be late 17th century in date and was partially restored in 1883.

## FITTINGS

The memorials and seating are 19th century in date. The church contains a prehistoric stone with an incised spiral decoration (brought in from elsewhere), and three mortars or querns, all by the font. The octagonal font has been described as 17th century (RCAHMW 1921), although it could be earlier.

## OTHER

The walls are of roughly coursed rubble, with modern sandstone dressings. Modern slate roof.

The external and interior elevations have been pointed with good stone definition on all elevations.

The central aisle of the nave and chancel is stone flagged with timber boards beneath the seating. The floor was probably lowered to accommodate this flooring. However, the difference in height between the interior of the church and the deposits in the churchyard is not significant.

A shallow drainage trench was noted around the circuit of the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

LIST OF REFERENCES

Glynne Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol LVI* pp 134

J W H 1992 *Llanbedr St Peter's* pp 1-4

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 53-54

## LLANDANWG PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6949

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH56872824

DEDICATION: TANWG

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Medium</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>Very poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Good</i>

## GENERAL

A simple church of continuous chancel and nave much threatened by sand inundation. The present remains may be of 13th century origins, with an eastern extension of the 15th century. It was derelict for much of the 19th century following the building of a new church in Harlech in 1841. In 1884 it was restored and re-roofed by the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings. The presence of two 6th century inscribed stones and a cross-incised stone imply early activity at this site, as does the dedication to St Tanwg, traditionally a Breton saint who accompanied Cadfan to Bardsey. Although there are no individual features of great merit, the church and site are of interest because of the early foundation and the potential for demonstrating the development of a medieval church with its subsequent decline. Principal references are RCAHMW (1921, 60-61) and Richards and Lloyd (1935, 70-86). Access could not be gained to the interior of this church.

## CEMETERY

The form of the churchyard cannot be determined as much of the site lies buried beneath sand dunes. The present churchyard is rectilinear and stone walled. There is a curvilinear ditch, centred on the church, outside the present east wall of the churchyard. Although this is presently used as a drainage ditch, it is probable that this is the original boundary of a curvilinear churchyard, the remainder of which has been lost beneath the sand dunes. The churchyard is no longer used for burial but has many 17th and 18th century graves at different levels exposed in the sand dunes around the church. The sand dunes were cleared around the church, between 1884-1992, to a depth of 2-3 m, to provide access to the west door and to alleviate pressure on the walls of the church. The area of clearance is 1.35 m from the south and north walls and much wider at the east and west sides. The churchyard is entered through a lych gate of 1955 on the east side. The dimensions of the churchyard were given as 142 foot in length and 96 feet in width in a terrier of 1906 (NLW B/TI/2). The churchwardens accounts in the vestry minute book contains many references to the repair of the churchyard wall between 1777-1894 (GAS Z/PE/8/3). In these minutes the repair of a porch, with a new road to it, was mentioned in 1790 and 1809 (GAS Z/PE/8/3). There is no evidence for a porch attached to the church and it is probable that this refers to an earlier lych gate.

## CHURCH

A building of continuous nave and chancel with a rood screen, and a small west bell-cote.

Dating is difficult because of the lack of architectural features. However, there is a straight joint visible in the south wall just east of the centre. The blocked south doorway with its simple pointed arch of stone voussoirs could be 13th century in date. The chancel is probably early 15th century from the date of the east window and roof trusses. We are therefore looking at a possible 13th century church of undivided nave and chancel, with an extension to the east added in the early 15th century. There is a plinth at the bottom of the north and west walls. However, the termination of this plinth does not correspond with the straight joint in the south wall. It is possible that this has been removed by the re-building of a 4 m stretch of walling consisting of large boulders, observed at this point. The stone work of the lower courses above the plinth is of flat shale slabs.

In the late 14th or early 15th century the chancel was extended. The new east window was unusually tall, of two-centred pointed head, with external jambs of two hollow chamfered orders with a pointed hood moulding terminating in two stone heads. The east window was blocked and the sill raised in the 17th century when a new window was inserted into the opening. At the east end of the north wall of the chancel is a window of two lights with ogee arches and trefoiled cusping to the lights, within a square label which is of 15th century date; the lights have been reduced in height by raising the sill. At the east end of the south wall of the chancel is a much rebuilt square headed window with similar jambs to that in the north wall. The head of the window has been severely eroded on the west side but it would appear to have been of a similar date to that in the north wall. There is a square label above this window with a carved head label stop on the west side.

The three eastern arched-braced collar beam roof trusses are of 15th century date. These were ceiled, possibly in the 16th century, with wood boards on which original paintings were still visible in 1935 (Richards and Lloyd 1935, 77). An oak rood screen was also installed, probably in the 15th century, of which only the top beam now remains with some projections on the underside which suggest the usual central doorway flanked by three compartments (Crossley and Ridgeway 1945, 160-63).

In the 17th century the west doorway and the windows in the centre of the south and north walls were inserted. It is probable that a 4 m stretch of the centre of the north wall was re-built when the north window was added to the church to light the rood screen. The date of these alterations is probably recorded by the initials and date REP 1685 cut into the cross incised stone on the west gable.

There was formerly a gallery across the west end of the nave of uncertain date, of which only the supporting beams remain (Richards and Lloyd 1935, 77).

#### 19TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS

In 1884 the nave was re-roofed, and the church restored and re-floored. The north window and the south door may have been blocked at this time. The present west door dates from this restoration.

Sometime after 1884 the bell-cote was rebuilt, the church re-pointed, and the floor re-paved.

#### FITTINGS

There were traces of paint on the north wall near the screen and lettering on the south wall in 1935 (Richards and Lloyd 1935, 77-8). There are two 6th century inscribed stones, one re-set in the north window of the nave, the other in the east window. There is a 7th to 9th century cross-inscribed stone re-set in the outside west gable. The seating is 19th century in date. The octagonal font of the 15th century has been moved to the church in Harlech.

#### OTHER

The walls are of uncoursed local rubble, with longer stone quoins. Gritstone dressings. Modern slate roof.

The interior elevations are plastered. The external elevations have been pointed with good stone definition on all elevations allowing fabric changes or features to be observed.

The church is floored with stone slabs.

The sand dunes around the church were dug out to form deep trenches around the church between 1884-1992.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCIII pp 160-163  
 Glynne Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol LVI pp 135  
 Nash-Williams V E 1950 *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales* pp 169  
 RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 60-61  
 Richards & Lloyd 1935 The Old Church of Llandanwg *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XC pp 70-86



## LLANDDERFEL PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6952

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH98163706

DEDICATION: DERFEL

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Penllyn

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>Very poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Very poor</i>

## GENERAL

A church of continuous nave and chancel, rebuilt in late medieval times (c. 1500) which is unusual in Merioneth. However the patron saint, Derfyl, was very popular, and this could account for the availability of resources at a time many other churches were struggling. Similar re-building occurred in Anglesey and Caernarfon (e.g. Clynog, Llaneilian) for the same reason. It contains a fine rood screen, and, of most interest, a wooden horse which formerly accompanied an image of the saint. The image was removed by Cromwell's men and burnt in London with a Jesuit priest called Forest but the horse remains. The site may have been in use from Early Medieval times, but there is no evidence until 1254, when it is mentioned in the Norwich taxation of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 473; RCAHMW 1921, 68-70).

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is curvilinear in form, with a curved stone-walled boundary from the west around to the south-east, and a linear stone wall above the escarpment on the south side. The churchyard is raised 0.5 m on the west side and 1-1.5 m on the north and east side. The churchyard has been encroached by a property boundary on the east side and bounded by a road on the north side. The churchyard was widened in 1820 but the location of this probable extension could not be determined by fieldwork (GAS Z/PE/16/17). The original churchyard was used for burial until recently. The main entrance to the churchyard is by a lych gate at the north east corner and an entrance on the south side, which was blocked in 1822 (GAS Z/PE/16/17).

## CHURCH

A church of continuous nave and chancel with north and south (now the vestry) porches and a west bell-cote.

The church appears to have been rebuilt c. 1500, probably on the foundations of an earlier church. The whole church sits on a wide foundation plinth 1m high, which is of different masonry to the remainder of the church, and may reflect the pre-1500 building, particularly west of the central window, where the masonry changes. There are three windows in the north and south walls, all of three lights with cinquefoil heads under wide four-centred arches with hood-moulding terminating in corbel-heads. Some of these windows are modern. The east window is similar but of four lights with perpendicular tracery above. The north and south doors are of similar date. Glynne records a west door, which is now blocked and a window inserted (Glynne 1885, 33). The roof retains its six original trusses.

Separating the nave from the chancel is a fine screen, which, although having undergone various restorations is still in good condition. The screen of nine bays, four either side a central door, with cusped four-centred arches is of mid 15th century date. Above the screen is part of the original loft which was built onto the loft c. 1500. In the 18th century the loft was taken down and used to form part of a gallery at the west end, then, when the church was restored in 1870, the surviving eastern parapet of the loft was replaced on top of the old screen but turned round to face west (Gresham n.d.; Crossley and Ridgeway 1945, 163-5).

The north and south porches are later additions. The south porch is now in use as a vestry and the south door and east windows are blocked.

## MODERN RESTORATIONS

The church was restored in 1870 by Pountney Smith, but the documentation for this restoration has not been found.

In 1921 the church was re-pointed and a drainage trench excavated. The west end of the floor of the nave was replaced with concrete and finished with woodblock.

In 1954 the heating system in the south porch was replaced.

The churchwarden's accounts for 1726-1758 (GAS Z/PE/16/12) and the vestry minutes for 1811-1905 (GAS Z/PE/16/17) and

1907-53 (GAS Z/PE/16/18) contain references to numerous repairs to the church.

#### FITTINGS

The memorials and seating are 19th century in date. Within the porch are the intriguing remains of a wooden statue of St. Derfel's horse, a delightful creature with his legs tucked under his body. The tales surrounding the horse are well-worth reading, but it is sufficient to say here that it is of medieval date and is one of very few surviving medieval relics (RCAHMW 1921, 69; Gresham n.d.).

#### OTHER

The walls are of roughly coursed local rubble with buff coloured dressings and gable copings. The foundation plinth contains shorter stones east of the central window. Modern slate roof.

The external elevations have been pointed with medium to good stone definition on all elevations. The interior elevations are plastered.

The aisle of the nave and the chancel is tiled with timber boards beneath the seating and the west end of the nave is floored with woodblock.

A shallow drainage trench was noted around the circuit of the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XCIII* pp 163-167  
Glynne Sir S R 1885 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol II* pp 33-34  
Griffiths G M 1955 A Report of the Deanery of Penllyn and Edeimion *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society No 3 Series 1* pp 22-26  
Jennings R 1861 Llandderfel, Merionethshire: Parochialia *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol VII* pp 76-81  
Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 473  
RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 68-70  
Thomas Ven D R 1913 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol III* pp 95-99  
Williams R S 1955 The Church of St Derfel Gadarn, Llandderfel, Merioneth *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society Vol II* pp 240



## LLANDDWYWE PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6955

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH58642234

DEDICATION: DWYWE

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Medium</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Poor</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 of continuous nave and chancel with a north chapel and south porch. The structure is mainly of late medieval and post-reformation date, and shows the strong influence of the Vaughan's of Corsygedol, who were responsible for much of the work, including the north chapel and screen. The latter is of particular interest. Llandwywe is mentioned in a Roll of 1292-3, and it is possible that the foundations and some of the masonry are of an earlier date than the architectural dates would suggest (RCAHMW 1921, 76; Gresham n.d.). The close association with Corsygedol house is also of interest, and raises the group value of the structure.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is curvilinear in form with a stone-walled boundary. The south and east sides of the churchyard have been slightly encroached by roads and the west side by farm buildings, where there is a substantial drop. The churchyard is raised 1 m above the surrounding ground levels on the north, east and south sides. The churchyard was extended on the north-east side in 1906 and the former curvilinear boundary here is now marked by a very low bank (NLW Bangor Parochial Records - Llanenddwn and Llanwywe 6B). The original churchyard was used for burial until recently. The entrance to the churchyard is on the south side. The circumference of the churchyard was given as 153 feet in a terrier of 1793 (NLW Bangor Parochial Records - Llanenddwn and Llanddwywe/1) and the area of the churchyard was given as 2 roods and 20 perches in a terrier of 1899 (NLW B/T1/2).

## CHURCH

A continuous nave and chancel of possible late 15th century date according to the east window and arch-braced collar-beam roof trusses, although RCAHMW suggest a complete re-building in 1593, a date over the porch. The east window is pointed with perpendicular tracery. The south and north doors may also be of 15th century date.

In 1593 the present south porch was built, commemorated by a date-stone in the gable.

In 1615 the north chapel was added with a north window, two east windows, a west window (now blocked) and west doorway. The chapel is dated both internally and externally. All the windows are plain lights with round heads and the door has a four-centred arch.

An open screen with moulded mullions with central doors dated 1620 separates the north chapel from the chancel (Crossley and Ridgeway 1945, 167-9).

In 1663 the east end of the south wall was rebuilt and a date stone inserted to mark the re-building.

In the 18th century the chancel and nave were separated by railings.

## LATER RESTORATIONS

In 1853 the west wall of the nave, the belfry and the south porch were re-built and the two present windows were inserted in the south and west walls (NLW B/F/234).

In 1901 the heating system was introduced and a chimney built into the west end of the south wall. The heating pipes crossed the nave to a grill in the central aisle. A window was inserted at the west end of the north wall of the nave and the blocked doorway to the east of this window was re-opened. A drain, 3 feet deep, was inserted along the east wall of the porch, and the south and east walls of the church, with a drainage trench crossing in front of the porch to the south-west. A sump with two connecting drains was excavated to the north of the nave. The nave was re-floored with oak blocks and the chancel with tiles. The pews were replaced and the vestry in the south-west corner of the nave was refitted using some panelling from the benches. The roof was repaired and the walls replastered. Plans, elevations and sections of this restoration by C. Hodgson Fowler of Durham have survived (NLW B/F/234).

In 1925 the church was repointed and the screen repaired (NLW Bangor Parochial Records/ Llanenddwn and Llanddwye/4).

A restoration was carried out in 1963 for which no details were available.

In 1993 the interior of the north chapel was plastered.

#### FITTINGS

There are six memorials dating from the early 17th century to the 19th century in the north chapel. The font is 16th century in date.

#### OTHER

The walls are of uncoursed local rubble with gritstone dressings. Modern slate roof. Ribbon pointing on all but the west wall. The interior elevations are also pointed.

The flooring is of wood block in the nave and north chapel and the chancel is tiled. The central aisle is stone flagged.

There is a drainage trench, excavated in 1901, on the south and east sides of the nave and chancel.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofits in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCIII pp 167-169

Glynne Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol LVI pp 135

Lloyd-Roberts E 1981 *The Story of the Church at Llanddwye* pp 1-4

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 76-77

Ward M 1993 Llanddwye Church *Archaeology in Wales* No 33 pp 87

## LLANDECWYN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6957

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH63213745

DEDICATION: TECWYN

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Occasional use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

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

## GENERAL

A new church of 1879-80 was built slightly to the north of the former medieval church. The potential archaeology of the medieval church and the inscribed stone are of interest.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is curvilinear in form with a stone-walled boundary. The southern boundary has been staighened by a road. The churchyard is raised 1.5-2 m on the north, south and west sides. The east side is raised less than 1 m as the hill slopes down towards the church. The churchyard is encroached by a 17th century cottage on the south-west side. A plan was made of the churchyard in 1880 (NLW B/C/50). The churchyard was used for burial until recently. The lych gate is located at the west end of the south wall. The churchyard has commanding views over the surrounding countryside.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

A single cell church of continuous nave and chancel. A terrier of 1816 gave the dimensions of the church as 18 yards in length and 5 yards wide and noted that there was a gallery at the west end (NLW B/TERR/525).

A new church was built on the site in 1880, and, although the Royal Commission suggest that the one was built incorporating the other, consecration records suggest that the new church was built on a new site north of the medieval church (NLW B/C/50). A strange inscribed stone, seemingly impossible to interpret but of 11th century date was found in the walls of the old church, and is now in the present church (RCAHMW 1921, 80-81).

## MODERN CHURCH

The present church was built in 1880, by Thomas Roberts, to the north of the site of the medieval church (NLW B/C/50). Detailed plans, elevations and sections by the architect in 1879 have survived (GAS Z/PE/35/11-13). The church has a continuous nave and chancel with a porch on the south side of the nave. The foundation trenches were 2 feet 6 inches deep and trenches 2 feet deep were excavated within the church for the bases of the timber floor.

## FITTINGS

The 11th century inscribed stone, found within the walls of the medieval church and a small stone basin can be found within the church. There is a recess on the south side of the chancel which may be a re-set medieval feature. There is a slate memorial of 1706 re-set in the easternmost buttress of the south wall.

## OTHER

The walls are of roughly coursed local rubble with a string course of squared blocks visible at the west end. Modern slate roof.

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

There is timber boarding beneath the pews and the aisle and chancel are tiled.

There is no trace of a drain around the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 80-81

## LLANEGRYN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6971

1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH59610579

DEDICATION: MARY

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ysumaner

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

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

## GENERAL

The church is of continuous chancel and nave of probable 14th century date, with a medieval south porch, and modern north vestry and organ chamber. The glory of the church is the superb 16th century rood screen and loft which dominates the interior of the church. Most of the windows are 19th century. The site is at least of the 13th century as evidenced by the cross-incised stone, the font and the inclusion of the church in the Norwich taxation of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 196). In addition to the screen the roof trusses and font are noteworthy.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is polygonal in form with a stone-walled boundary. It is raised 1.5 m above the surrounding ground levels on the south and west sides and is on the same level on the east and north sides. There is a stream running under the churchyard, to the east of the church, which may have formed the original eastern boundary. No trace of the earlier eastern boundary could be seen in the churchyard but the burials to the east are later than 1883. The churchyard was extended eastwards in 1883 and was reported as being curvilinear. The only evidence to support this is the angle of the south-west boundary which may represent a straightened section of a curved boundary. The present eastern lych gate was moved to the east end of the extension and there is a stile in the south wall. The north boundary appears to have been encroached by farm buildings. There is part of a late 15th or early 16th century window head and a jamb re-set in a farm building bordering the north boundary of the churchyard.

## CHURCH

A church of continuous nave and chancel, separated by a remarkable screen with loft, with a south porch, and a modern north vestry and organ chamber.

The date of the continuous nave and chancel cannot be determined with any certainty, because of the 19th century restorations. However, a 14th century east window, and one of slightly later date in the west wall, was noted in 1850 (Glynne 1901, 136). In addition there were two 15th century windows in the south wall and a late 15th or early 16th century window in the north wall of the chancel. Glynne also noted a west gallery.

The present church retains a late 15th or early 16th century window at the east end of the north wall of the nave, which was moved from the chancel in 1858. There is part of a similar late 15th or early 16th century window head and a jamb re-set in a farm building bordering the north boundary of the churchyard. The date of the south porch is uncertain but may be late medieval.

The roof retains arch-braced collar-beam trusses, with quatrefoil decoation between the struts and was repaired in 1770.

## 19th CENTURY AND LATER RESTORATIONS

The church, including the rood screen and loft, was restored during the 1840's and 50's, under the patronage of W W E Wynne of Peniarth. Few details of these restorations have survived, but the windows and south door probably date from this time. The church was further restored in 1876 by E G Ferrey, when the north vestry and organ chamber were added. It would appear from the stonework that the west end was rebuilt during this period.

In 1931 the heating system was introduced and a boiler room added to the west end of the north vestry. A door was inserted in the north wall of the nave leading to the boiler room (NLW B/F/280).

In 1965-6 the church was re-roofed, a new heating system introduced and some restoration work carried out on the rood screen.

## FITTINGS

There is a cross inscribed stone of possibly 11th or 12th century date. There are two marble memorials of 1714 and 1729. There is a small 16th century helmet set by the altar. The seating is of the 19th century. The square font may be 12th century in date.

The rood screen and loft, probably of early 16th century date (although Gresham (n.d.) says late 15th century), is of seven bays; the door is located in the central double bay. It has been fully described by Crossley and Ridgmont (1945, 169-74) and was carefully restored under the guidance of W W E Wynne.

#### OTHER

The walls are of uncoursed local rubble, except for the west wall which is of coursed rubble, and the west end of the north wall which contains longer stones and is roughly coursed. These differences suggest the west end of the church has been rebuilt. The walls of the vestry and organ chamber are roughly coursed. Older dressings of gritstone. Modern slate roof.

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

The flooring beneath the seating in the nave and chancel is of timber boards. The area by the font, the sanctuary and the aisles are tiled.

There is a drainage trench, excavated 1986-1993, along the south wall.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCVIII pp 169-174  
 Glyme Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol LVI pp 136-137  
 Gresham C A n.d. *History of Merioneth* Vol 2 (Unpublished)  
 Hughes W R c1970 *Llanegryn Church* pp 1-8  
 Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 196  
 RCAHMS 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 91  
 Wynne W W E 1879 History of the Parish of Llanegryn *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol X pp 114-139



## LLANELLYD PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6973

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH71751954

DEDICATION: ILLTYD

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ysbymaner

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>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Very poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Very poor</i>

## GENERAL

A small church of continuous nave and chancel, with north and south porches, a west bell-cote and two unusual dormer windows on the south side. It has been heavily restored, but the 15th century roof is of note. The 12th century inscribed stone is of particular interest.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is curvilinear in form with a stone-walled boundary. The churchyard is raised 1-1.5 m on the north side, 1.5-2 m on the east side and up to 3 m on the south and west sides. To the south of the nave the churchyard boundary has been encroached by the property boundary of Ty'n Llan. There is a raised bank, 1 m high, just to the west of the church which may be a natural feature or the line of earlier raised graves or tombs. The churchyard was extended on the west side in 1881, outside the earlier churchyard, for which a plan has survived (NLW B/C/64, NLW B/DL/395). The original churchyard has not been used for burial since the extension of the churchyard and there has been limited grave clearance. The main entrance to the churchyard is on the north side, where it has been slightly encroached to provide access from the adjoining road. There is a secondary entrance on the south-east side to give access to Ty'n Llan. There is a disused and blocked entrance on the north-west side.

## CHURCH

The church consists of a continuous nave and chancel with north and south porches.

The structure has been much restored, and the lack of architectural detail makes dating difficult. The roof, of six arch-braced collar-beam trusses with decorated windbraces, is of the later 15th century. The lower walls, made up of large blocks, are presumably of this date, or could they be even earlier, perhaps 12th century.

Apart from the two dormer windows on the south side, all the present windows are modern; a single light on the west, 3 lights under a four-centred arch on the east, and three round headed windows in the north and south sides. Below the present east window are the remains of a possible 15th century window. The west jamb stones and sill of an earlier window have survived the insertion of the present eastern window in the south wall of the chancel, as have the east jamb stones of the corresponding eastern window of the north wall, and the west and east jamb stones and sill of the western window in the north wall. There was probably a window where the south porch is now located given the evidence of the gabled dormer window above. The two doors, with flattened arches, are of unknown date.

A date stone of 1636 to the east of the north porch probably indicates a restoration of the church at that time and it is possible that the two gabled dormer windows above the windows in the south wall were added then. Old prints suggest that similar windows were located on the north side (JWH 1990).

The south porch was probably added in 1779, the date inscribed on the wooden door. The north porch was probably added in the 19th century as, according to the church pamphlet, it does not appear on an 18th century print (JWH 1990).

## 19th CENTURY AND LATER RESTORATIONS

A date of 1834 on a stone to the north of the west window may refer to the restoration of the church at that date. It is possible that the west window and the three windows in the north and south walls were inserted at this time. The east window may have been restored in 1859, the date of the stained glass.

Major restorations were undertaken in 1899. The present east window was probably inserted then, with its higher sill. It replaced an earlier window of two lights as shown in the faculty plan for the restoration (NLW B/F/283). The architect for the restoration of the church was C. Hodgson Fowler. At this time a new reredos was added, the pews were replaced, the gallery removed and the pulpit, choir stalls and reading desk re-arranged. Detailed plans showing the pre- and post-restoration seating arrangements have survived. The 17th century pew panels were re-used to panel the

internal walls. The font was replaced and an internal vestry was added to the west end. It is assumed that the church was also re-floored at this date.

The church was further restored in 1976, the details for which were not available for consultation.

#### FITTINGS

The seating is 19th century in date. The 17th century pew timbers have been re-used to panel the walls. There is a marble memorial of 1792 on the north wall of the chancel and a funeral hatchment of 1859 on the west wall. There is a small font dated 1689. The present font was introduced in 1899. In the south porch is a stone tub, which must be an earlier font, possibly 12th century. A stone of possible 12th century date has been set up against the west wall of the church and bears the inscription "Vestigi(u)m Kenyric tenetur in capite lapidis et ipsemet antequam p(er)egre profectus est" which is translated as "The footprint of Denyric is affixed on the top of the stone and he himself is bound [by his vow made] before he set out on a journey" (J W H 1990). It was found in 1876 among debris in an outbuilding near the church.

#### OTHER

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

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

The central aisle and sanctuary are tiled and there are timber boards beneath the pews.

There is no trace of any drainage trenches.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol. XCVIII pp 174

Glynne Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol. LVI pp 137

J W H 1990 *St Illtud's Llanelltyd* pp 1-7

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 97-98



## LLANENDDWYN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6974

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH58242343

DEDICATION: ENDDWYN

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Poor</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Poor</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 cruciform church of continuous nave and chancel with north and south transepts and south porch. It was heavily restored in the 19th century, and little medieval work remains. It is probably an early foundation, and certainly of 12th century date (Gresham n.d.), but the only dateable features to remain are the re-used roof trusses and the south chancel window, which are of c. 1500.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is rectilinear in form with a stone-walled boundary. The original churchyard was used for burial until recently. The entrance to the churchyard is on the south-east side. The churchyard was extended by 1400 sq yards on the west side in 1899 (NLW Bangor Parochial Records - Llanenddwyn and Llanddwye/2). The former western boundary can be traced as a low bank. The churchyard has been slightly encroached on the south side by the property boundary of the rectory. The circumference of the churchyard was given as 520 feet in a terrier of 1793 and a lych gate was noted (NLW Bangor Parochial Records - Llanenddwyn and Llanddwye/1). The area was given as 2 roods and 30 perches in a terrier of 1899 (NLW B/TI/2).

## CHURCH

A cruciform church of continuous nave and chancel with south and north transepts, south porch and west bell-cote.

The lower fabric of the nave and chancel and the south chapel is almost undoubtedly medieval in date. However, the earliest dateable feature on the site is the re-used roof, which is c. 1500, and the south window of the chancel, which is probably 16th century.

Although it has been suggested that the north chapel was added in the 19th century it is mentioned in a terrier of 1793 (NLW Bangor Parochial Records - Llanenddwyn and Llanddwye/1). This terrier gives the dimensions of the church as 69 feet in length and 19 feet wide with two aisles (chapels) 10 feet in length and 18 feet wide. It also mentions a gallery at the west end.

It appears that the church started as a small single-cell structure with a chancel and south chapel, possibly in the 16th century, and a balancing north chapel was added in the 18th century. Of the seven re-used trusses, five are more ornate, and may have roofed the nave, and the two plain trusses were added later to roof the extended chancel (Gresham n.d.).

## 19th CENTURY RESTORATIONS

The church was restored in 1883 by Henry Kennedy and much of the walling rebuilt (NLW B/F/289). A south porch to the nave and a vestry to the north of the chancel were added. The north and west walls of the north chapel and the north wall of the chancel were taken down and rebuilt. New windows were inserted in the east wall of the chancel, the south wall of the south chapel, the north wall of the north chapel and two windows were inserted in the north wall of the nave. The seating was re-arranged and the memorials and gallery were removed. The church was refloored with timber boards beneath the pews and tiles in the walkways. The internal elevations were replastered.

In 1914 the floor of the south chapel was replaced in woodblock and re-seated and in 1924 a new oak reredos was added (NLW B/F/235 & 290).

## FITTINGS

The seating is 19th century in date and there are no pre 19th century memorials.

## OTHER

The walls are roughly coursed local rubble with squared gritstone kneelers, modern dressings and modern bell-cote of

squared stone. Modern slate roof.

The exterior is pointed with good stone definition. The interior is plastered and part panelled.

The central aisle and sanctuary are tiled and there are timber boards beneath the pews.

There is no trace of drainage trenches.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

Gresham C A n.d. *History of Merioneth Vol 2 (Unpublished)*

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 101-102

## LLANFACHRETH PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6979

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH75462248

DEDICATION: MACHRETH

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ysbyranner

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>Good</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Very poor</i>

## GENERAL

A modern church of 1874, with a slightly older tower of 1822, was built on the site of a medieval church. The new church was built to a different plan, and archaeological remains of the medieval church could remain in situ. The church was listed in the Norwich taxation of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 196).

## CEMETERY

The original churchyard was curvilinear in form with a stone-walled boundary from the north around the west to the south side. The churchyard is raised 3-4 m on the south side and 1-1.5 m on the north side and 1 m on the west side. There is a road curving around the east, south and west sides. The churchyard was extended on the north-east side before 1876 and then further extended to the north in 1934 (NLW B/C/65). The former curvilinear east and north-eastern boundary is now marked by a low bank and a line of yew trees. The north and west sides of the churchyard are encroached by property boundaries. The original churchyard was used for burial into the late 19th century. The main entrance to the churchyard is by a lych gate on the south side and there is a further entrance on the north-west side. The lych gate was mentioned in a terrier of 1776 (NLW B/TERR/658).

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

The medieval church was demolished in 1871 (NLW B/F/296) and cannot be traced within the churchyard or within the masonry of the present church which was built partly on the site of the old church in 1874 to a new ground plan (GAS W/PE/1/11, GAS W/PE/1/12, NLW B/F/293).

The church had a nave and separate chancel, with transeptal chapels on the north and south sides. The dimensions of the church were given in a terrier of 1776 as 60 feet in length and 36 feet wide, with a small aisle, 10 feet in length and 16 feet wide on the north side (NLW B/TERR/658). A west gallery was also mentioned.

A terrier of 1826 notes that in 1820 a south chapel was added, 15 feet in length and 18 feet 2 inches wide, and the north chapel was rebuilt, 18 feet 6 inches in length and 24 feet 1 inch wide (GAS Z/PE/22/15, NLW B/TERR/660). The terrier also notes that the west tower, 12 feet square and 37 feet 6 inches high, was built in 1822 and had a spire 30 feet high. The tower was retained when the present church was built in 1874.

## MODERN CHURCH

The present church was built on the site of the old church in 1874 (GAS W/PE/1/11, GAS W/PE/1/12, NLW B/F/293). The church was built over part of the old church to a different ground plan. It consists of a nave, a separate chancel, a south porch and a north vestry.

The west tower, built in 1822 was retained and has an external first storey entrance and a west door at ground level.

In 1886 the north vestry was enlarged to the east and a porch was added to the east side of the vestry with a boiler room below (NLW B/F/297). The east window of the chancel was also replaced. A plan and elevation of the enlarged north vestry have survived within the faculty records.

The church retains good monuments to the Vaughans of Nannau, who built the church, including a large marble monument to Anne Nanney, d. 1729. The furnishings are all modern.

## OTHER

The walls are of roughly coursed quarried rubble, with modern dressings. Modern slate stone roof.

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

There is 2-2.5 m deep trench around the north vestry which continues, 1 m wide and 1.5 m deep, along the north wall of

the nave. There is a flight of steps down to the entrance of the boiler room.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

Harris M C 1964 History of Religion in the Parish of Llanfachreth *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society Vol IV* pp 340-346

Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 196

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 105

## LLANFAIR PARISH CHURCH (MER)

PRN: 6985

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH57762906

DEDICATION: MARY

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Medium</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>Poor</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 certainly present in 1188, when visited by Gerald of Wales and Archbishop Baldwin, but it has been considerably restored since. In the 15th century a new chancel was built onto an existing church of small continuous nave and chancel, onto which a north chapel (now gone) was added in the 16th century. The much restored rood screen of 16th century date and the east window are of interest.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is irregular in form with a curved stone-walled boundary on the north-east and east sides and linear walls on the other sides. The form suggests that the churchyard may once have been curvilinear in form but was then extended on the north and west sides and encroached on the south side. The churchyard was extended externally to the north of the church in 1919 (NLW B/F/331). There is a raised area with a low bank to the north of the church which supports the argument for an extension. There are traces of a low curvilinear bank, centred on the church, within the churchyard extension on the north-west side which suggests that the present churchyard boundary may have encroached on the original churchyard area. The churchyard is raised 0.5-1 m on the south side, 1 m on the east side, and 1-1.5 m on the north and west sides. The original churchyard was used for burial until recently. The foundations for a north chapel adjoining the chancel were noted in the churchyard in 1851. There is an 18th century lych gate on the south-west side (NLW B/TERR/736).

## CHURCH

The church comprises a nave, which was formerly a continuous nave and chancel, a later undivided chancel, and a modern north vestry.

There is a straight joint in the north wall showing the former length of the nave. There is no corresponding joint visible in the south wall. There are no surviving features with which to date the nave, but it is assumed to be earlier than the extension of the late 14th century.

In the late 14th or early 15th century the church was extended by the addition of a chancel of the same width as the nave, dated by its original east window of three cinquefoiled lights with tracery under a pointed arch with hood moulding and carved stone head stops. There was formerly a 15th century window in the south wall of the chancel (RCAHMW 1921, 109). There is a piscina in the south wall of the chancel. The roof trusses confirm a difference between the west and east parts of the church: those to the west are arch-braced collar beam trusses but with a more rounded arch and with cusping above, those to the east have a more pointed arch with no cusping.

In the 16th century there was a chapel on the north side of the chancel, a window of which has been re-set in the north wall of the present vestry. The church appears to have been re-floored at this time and the buttresses added.

The dimensions of the church were given as 29 yards in length and 6 yards wide in a terrier of 1773 (NLW B/TERR/736)

## 19TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS

The church was restored c.1852-1858 by Kennedy when the north vestry was added, possibly on the site of the ruinous north chapel. The five windows in the south wall, the three windows in the north wall and the west doorway and window were inserted. Much of the walling was re-built and a new bell-cote was built. The church was re-floored at this date.

## FITTINGS

There is a font of the 16th century. The rood screen has been much restored, but is probably of 16th century origin (Crossley and Ridgeway 1945:174-6). The seating is 19th century in date.

## OTHER

The walls of the western half of the church are of roughly coursed even shaped rubble, those of the eastern half contain more mixed stone and hence the coursing is less. Modern dressings. Modern slate roof.

The external elevations of the nave have been pointed with good stone definition. The internal elevations are totally hidden by plaster.

The flooring is of stone slabs with timber boarding beneath the pews.

There is a gravel filled drainage trench around the north, east and south sides of the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales: *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XCVIII* pp 174-176

Glynne Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses: *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol LVI* pp 137

Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 196

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 109

## LLANFIHANGEL Y PENNANT PARISH CHURCH (MER)

PRN: 7001

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH67140886

DEDICATION: MICHAEL

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ysymaner

STATUS: Occasional 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>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Poor</i>

## GENERAL

A typical Meirionnydd church of continuous nave and chancel with north chapel. It has been much restored, with little medieval architecture remaining, although parts of the nave walls may be 12th/13th century, and the chancel walls 15th century. The north chapel is typical 16th century, now used as a vestry. The most interesting feature is the 12th century font, which is unusual in Gwynedd outside Anglesey.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is curvilinear in form with a stone-walled boundary the sides of which have been straightened slightly. The deposits within the churchyard rise against the boundary wall to form a bank and there is a stream bounding the site on the east and south sides. The churchyard is raised 0.5 m above the surrounding ground levels. The churchyard was extended on the west and north west sides before 1940. The former curvilinear western and northern boundaries are now marked by a very low bank. The original churchyard was used for burial until recently. There is a lych gate on the east side.

In 1899 the churchyard area was 1/4 of a acre and the boundary was partly stone walled or earth banked (GAS Z/PE/12/19). The wall was repaired in 1902 and new walls were built on the banks (GAS Z/PE/12/19).

There is a gravestone to the east of the church which is supported by two stone drums which may be gateposts, arcade pillars or stones from Castell-y-Bere. There is a sundial dated 1786 in the churchyard.

## CHURCH

The church consists of a continuous nave and chancel with west bellcote and south porch, and a north chapel. It has been much restored, with little left to aid dating. The walls of the nave and chancel are probably medieval, possibly 15th century in date, although a change in the stonework indicates that the chancel has been extended so perhaps the west end of the church is older. The single narrow light in the north wall of the nave is of uncertain date, possibly 13th century but may be later.

In the late 15th or 16th century the north chapel was added and there is a small two light round-headed window of this date in the east wall. The window at the joint of the north transept and the nave was widened to form a squint. The west jambs of a north window have been re-used as a door jamb.

Glynne (1901, 138) records the presence of a rood screen and west gallery, but these have now gone.

There are three modern inserted windows in the south wall and one in the east wall. The south porch appears modern. A door has been inserted in the north wall of the north transept. The west wall of the church has been rebuilt in modern times, as have the upper parts of the south wall.

Further restoration work was carried out between 1930-7. At this date the internal fittings were renovated and a deep trench was excavated along the north, west and south walls.

## FITTINGS

The font is of the 12th century, a rectangular bowl with scalloped base, sitting on a round pillar which in turn sits on a solid base with scalloped upper edge; the base is probably later. The seating, pulpit, reading desk and communion rails were added in the early 19th century and 1930's.

## OTHER

The walls are of roughly coursed local rubble with some longer stones either side the window jambs. Modern dressings. Modern slate roof.



The exterior elevations have been recently repointed with medium stone definition, except for the east end which retains earlier pointing with poor stone definition.

The flooring is of tiles with timber boards beneath the pews.

A recent drainage trench capped with concrete was observed around the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol XCVIII* pp 174

Glynne Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol LVI* pp 138

Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 196 uncertain

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 113

## LLANFIHANGEL Y TRAETHAU PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7003

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH59523526

DEDICATION: MICHAEL

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Poor</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>Good</i>

## GENERAL

A church of continuous chancel and nave, of which the chancel is later than the nave. The masonry is mostly medieval, but no architectural features survive the 19th century restorations. Of particular interest is the inscribed stone in the cemetery describing the construction of a church in the 12th century.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is rectilinear in form with a stone-walled boundary. The north-west corner is curved. The churchyard is raised 0.1-0.5 m on the east and south sides, 1.5 m on the north side where it is bounded by a lane, and there is a quarry on the west side. The churchyard was used for burial until recently. The entrance to the churchyard is on the south side. The most interesting feature of this church, is the 12th century inscribed stone to the west of the church, which records the construction of a church on this site in the 12th century. It reads "Hic est sepulcrum Wleder matris [H]odeleu qui primum edificavit hanc ecclesiam in tempore Ewini Regis" translated as "Here is the tomb of Wleder mother of Hoedliw who first built this church in the time of King Owain".

## CHURCH

The church consists of a continuous nave and chancel with bell-cote and west door.

The masonry is essentially medieval in date. There is a joint in the north wall between the central and eastern window which has been keyed in showing that the nave originally pre-dated the chancel. The west doorway was originally pointed, of the 13th to 15th century (Glynne 1901, 138). The western upper jambs and springings of the arch of earlier windows of uncertain date can be seen to the west of the inserted central and east windows in the south wall. The east window, although modern, may have copied an original 14th-century window.

## 19th CENTURY RESTORATIONS

The church had been restored before 1861 when new windows were inserted and the roof was renewed.

In 1884 the church was restored by Henry Kennedy from which plans and elevations have survived (GAS Z/PE/6/17). The western porch and the north vestry were built and the modern existing windows inserted. Underfloor ventilation was introduced and a drainage trench dug along the south wall.

In 1909 five inscribed stones, possibly later gravestones, were noted as being broken up and used for the padstones of the roof of the chancel.

Panelling was added behind the altar in 1958 (GAS Z/PE/6/19).

## OTHER

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

The external south, east and west elevations are pointed with good stone definition. The north external elevation is heavily pointed with poor stone definition. The internal elevations are hidden by plaster and panelling.

The central aisle and sanctuary are tiled and there are timber boards beneath the pews. The floor appears to have been lowered 0.5 m.

There are no visible signs of drainage trenches around the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCVIII pp 176
- Glynne Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol LVI pp 138
- Lloyd J 1958 Llanfihangel y Traethau *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society* Vol VI pp 137-141
- Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 196 uncertain
- Nash-Williams V E 1950 *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales* pp 169
- Parry T L D J 1848 Inscribed Stone at Llanfihangel y Traethau, Merionethshire *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol III pp 224-228
- RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 162

## LLANFOR PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7005

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH93833680

DEDICATION: DEINIOL

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Penllyn

STATUS: Redundant

## 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>Medium</i>
Value of documentary evidence	<i>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Very Good</i>

## GENERAL

A late 19th century church of continuous nave and chancel with a west tower built on the foundations of the medieval church. The site is of interest because of the possibility of the earlier church having a 12th century tower, implying a church of high status. The church was included in the Norwich taxation of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 473). A well preserved medieval ring-work lies a short distance north of the church, and a sequence of roman forts lie to the south.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is irregular in form with a curved stone-walled boundary on the north and south sides. The churchyard appears to have been curvilinear originally and has been extended on the east side and encroached by housing on the west side. The former curvilinear north-eastern boundary is now marked by a low bank. The original churchyard was used for burial until recently. There is a lych gate on the south side and other entrances on the west and east sides. There is a sundial dated 1745 to the west of the church, the shaft of which may belong to a churchyard cross.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

The earlier church consisted of a continuous nave and chancel with an unusual west tower, and a later north chapel and south porch. The church was demolished in 1874, when the new church was built.

Descriptions of the earlier church are found in Thomas (1913, 104-9) and Glynne (1901, 34).

The church appears to have been of relatively undistinguished appearance in the 19th century, with the exception of the west tower, described by Thomas as "a low but massive tower, with a stepped saddleback; a Norman arch formerly opened into it from the nave", which certainly suggests the presence of a Norman tower. The north chapel of the Rhiwlas family was 16th century in date.

The foundations of the north chapel and south porch of the medieval church lie within the churchyard adjacent to the present church.

## MODERN CHURCH

The present church was built in 1875 by the architect E B Ferrey on the foundations of the old church, excluding the north chapel and south porch. The new tower was built on the foundations of the earlier one. The walls are of roughly coursed local stone with modern dressings.

In 1887 a mausoleum was built in the northern half of the churchyard (NLW St Asaph/1987 Deposit/Llanfor).

## FITTINGS

A memorial of 1599 and a 6th-century inscribed stone are re-set in the tower of the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCVIII pp 176-178  
 Glynne Sir S R 1885 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol II pp 34-35  
 Griffiths G M 1955 A Report of the Deanery of Penllyn and Edeirnion *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society* No 3 Series 1 pp 14-19  
 Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 473  
 Nash-Williams V E 1950 *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales* pp 170  
 RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 117-118  
 Thomas Ven D R 1913 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph* Vol III pp 104-109

## LLANFROTHEN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7006

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH62234117

DEDICATION: BROTHEN

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Closed

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Very 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>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Poor</i>

## GENERAL

An attractive church and of the typical plan of continuous nave and chancel, but of particular importance for its triple lancet east window of the 13th century. In addition there are opposing doors, probably of the same date, and a later medieval roof and screen.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is irregular in form with a curved stone-walled boundary. The churchyard was used for burial until recently. The main entrance to the churchyard was originally on the north.

## CHURCH

The church consists of a continuous nave and chancel 72 feet and 6 inches in length and 26 feet wide (Gresham n.d.). The building, according to the east window, which is a triple lancet of which the jambs are of small local stone laid horizontally, is of 13th century date; there is a similar single lancet in the west wall, although this one is larger, and probably of later date, possibly even 19th century.

There are opposing doorways at the west end, of which the north one has a pointed arch of long thin voussoirs; the south door is probably similar, but has been plastered over. The north door is now blocked.

The arch-braced roof trusses and purlins appear late medieval (15th century?) in date.

In the late 17th or early 18th century single lancets were inserted in the north and south walls of the chancel.

There is a modern south porch and the other windows were inserted in the 19th century.

## FITTINGS

The rood screen is of nine bays, four either side a central door, with a wainscot of two horizontal planks, in which oblong openings have been sawn. The bays are divided by moulded uprights, which are jointed into a moulded head beam, now severely mutilated, although its original mouldings can still be seen at either end (Crossley and Ridgeway 1945, 178-9). The screen is not easy to date, but it may be original to the construction of the church, or of slightly later (15th century) date. East of the screen is another beam resting on the wall plates with a series of triangular cuts on the underside, which presumably once formed part of the rood loft. Behind the altar is a length of carved plank decorated with a vine-leaf pattern and supported between two 17th century bench-ends; it is thought to have once been part of the roof timbers, possibly situated above the Rood (Crossley and Ridgeway 1945, 178-9). The octagonal font is of the late 15th century, and is situated in a corner between a small box pew and a bench: there is a horizontal rail some 30cm off the ground in an arc around the font between the pew and the bench. There are some 17th century bench ends. The seating was added in the 19th and 20th centuries.

## OTHER

The walls are of local uncoursed stone with gritstone dressings.

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

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

Crossley & Ridgeway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol. XCIII pp 178-180  
RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 122-123

## LLANGELYNIN PARISH CHURCH (MER)

PRN: 7013

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH57120720

DEDICATION: CELYNIN

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ysnymaner

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>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Poor</i>

## GENERAL

A picturesque church right on the edge of the cliff above the sea. It consists of a continuous nave and chancel of possible 12th century date, with a north porch which has a bell-cote above its gable. It is of interest for its early date, and the fittings and wall paintings.

## CEMETERY

The churchyard is rectangular in form with a stone-walled boundary. The churchyard is raised 0.5 m on the south side, 1.5-2 m on the west side, 0.8-2 m on the north side and the eastern side has been terraced into the sloping ground. The churchyard was used for burial until recently. The main entrance to the churchyard is by a lych gate, which was restored in 1884 on the east side. There is a stile next to the gate.

## CHURCH

The church consists of a continuous nave and chancel, with a south porch which has a steeple on its gable.

The nave and chancel are possibly of 12th century date: there is no structural difference between them, and there is a slit window with an internal round arch probably of this date in the west wall. There are two tomb niches on either side of the altar which date from the 14th-century.

In the 15th century the present hammer-beam roof was built and windows of two lights with rounded-heads and square label were inserted in the east ends of the north and south walls of the chancel. A squint, now blocked, lit the rood screen. The south door and porch with its unusual steeple on the gable may be of this date.

In the 19th century the central south window and the two western windows of the north wall were added.

## FITTINGS

There is an unusual chancel screen which incorporates elements of an earlier late medieval rood screen. The present pews date from 1823; many of them have their owners names on them. There are 17th century paintings on the north wall of the chancel. There is a marble memorial of 1785.

## OTHER

The walls are of local rubble; the lower courses use thinner slabs, whereas the upper courses have squarer blocks. Gritstone dressings. Modern slate roof.

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

The church is stone flagged.

There is a drainage trench around the porch.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCVIII pp 180-181  
 Glynn Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol LVI pp 139  
 Hirst A c1980 *A Guide to the Ancient Church of Llangelynnin* pp 1-8  
 Hughes & North 1924 *The Old Churches of Snowdonia* pp 72-86  
 Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 196  
 Palmer A N 1886 The Portionary Churches of Medieval North Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol III pp 191-192





## LLANGOWER PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7016

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH90423226

DEDICATION: CYWAIR; GEORGE

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Penllyn

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	Poor	Survival of fittings	Poor
Potential for architectural investigation	Poor	Potential for archaeological investigation	Good
Value of documentary evidence	Poor	Group Value	Poor

## GENERAL

A single cell church with bell-cote and a south porch, dating mainly from restorations of the late 18th century and 1871, with no medieval architecture other than the lower courses of masonry remaining. The mound in the churchyard is of interest.

## CEMETERY

The large squarish graveyard with rounded corners is cut into the natural slope, it is bounded by a stone wall on the east side, and a stone bank on the other sides. Entrances are found in the east and south boundaries. Traces of an earlier boundary are visible in the south part of the cemetery. The area around the church is slightly raised falling off quite steeply to the west. There is a large yew tree on a mound to the east of the church, and a low mound on the south side of the church with older gravestones clustered on and around it.

## CHURCH

A small church of continuous nave and chancel with west bell-cote and south porch.

It was described in 1729 as "small and very dilapidated, consisting of a continuous nave and chancel, the latter, equal to nearly one-half of the church, mounded and wainscotted, with a small ruinous gallery at the west end" (Thomas 1913, 111).

The church was re-built between 1778 and 1782, and again in 1871.

The lower courses of masonry are probably medieval, but much re-building has taken place. The roof has been raised, and the original height can be seen in the east gable. There are blocked openings visible in the east end and the west end of the north wall.

The present church has three modern two light wood framed windows in the south wall, and two in the north wall, with a similar triple lancet in the east wall. The roof is modern.

## FITTINGS

The font is a cylindrical bowl of probable medieval date on an octagonal stem of late-medieval date. There is a datestone of 1773 on a stone above the central window in the south wall (RCAHMW say 1772).

## OTHER

The walls are of roughly coursed local stone. Modern slate roof.

Render completely covers the west wall and bell-cote while the others are pointed with reasonable stone definition. The interior is plastered. The floor has been lowered, and covered with timber boards. Bad structural cracks are apparent in the east and north walls.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

Glynne Sir S R 1885 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol II pp 35

Griffiths G M 1955 A Report of the Deanery of Penllyn and Edeirnion *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society* No 3 Series 1 pp 19-22

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 131

Thomas Ven D R 1913 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph* Vol III pp 111-113

## LLANUWCHLLYN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7037

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH87363030

DEDICATION: DEINIOL

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Penllyn

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

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

## GENERAL

A modern church built in 1873 on the site of a medieval church. It is assumed that the earlier church lies under the modern one. Of note is the 14th century effigy which lies in a recess in the sanctuary of the present church.

## CEMETRY

The churchyard was almost circular until it was extended to the east and south west. It is enclosed by a raised dry stone wall with traces of a former raised internal boundary on the east and south sides close to the church. The lych-gate, in the north west of the boundary wall, was built in 1725. There is a sundial dated 1763. The path has been lowered.

## MEDIEVAL CHURCH

The medieval church was taken down in 1872 when the present church was built. It consisted of a chancel and nave with a south aisle of five bays added in the 17th century by Rowland Vaughan of Caergai (recorded on a tablet in the present church). A western gallery was put up about 1745, probably when the rood loft was taken down (Thomas Ven D R 1913, 115).

## MODERN CHURCH

The present church was built in 1873 to designs by E B Ferrey. The church has two parallel aisles, although the south aisle stops short of the west end of the nave. The chancel occupies the east end of the north aisle with a vestry to the south. There is a north porch and west bell-cote with one bell.

## FITTINGS

The font is a plain octagonal bowl of medieval date. In a recess in the north wall of the chancel is an effigy of Ieuan ap Gruffydd ap Madog ap Iorwerth as a knight in armour, dated 1395 (Gresham C A 1968, 195-198).

## OTHER

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

The exterior walls are pointed with good stone definition. The chancel is paved with glazed tiles.

There are drainage channels, obscured by vegetation, around the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Glynne Sir S R 1885 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol II* pp 35-36  
 Gresham C A 1968 *Medieval Stone Carving in North Wales* pp 195-198  
 Griffiths G M 1955 A Report of the Deanery of Penllyn and Edeirnion *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society No 3 Series I* pp 9-14  
 Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 472  
 Pennant T 1991 *A Tour in Wales Vol II* pp 85  
 RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 141  
 Rowlands E W 1977 Llanwenllwyfo Churches *Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society 1977-1978* pp 147-158  
 Thomas Ven D R 1913 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol III* pp 113-117

## LLANYCIL PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7040

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH91473485

DEDICATION: BEUNO

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Penllyn

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>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Medium</i>

## GENERAL

A church of medieval origins, which contains Roman brick in the lower courses, but which was fully restored with new windows and roof in the later 19th century. The 18th and 19th century memorials are of note.

## CEMETERY

The large well kept rectangular graveyard is surrounded by a dry stone wall. The churchyard was enlarged in 1897 to the north, and again in 1944 to the east (Z/PE/20/110). The Victorian lych gate at the north west corner was renovated in 1987. The RCAHMW record a few semi-circular stones in the graveyard wall close to the entrance, thought to have been the steps of a former cross and later dial (RCAHMW 1921, 146), but these were not noted during this visit.

## CHURCH

The church consists of a continuous nave and chancel with west bell-cote, a north porch and a south vestry.

The church was largely re-built in 1881 by E. B. Ferrey, and only the lower walls are of medieval date. Roman brick or tile, mentioned by Edward Lhuyd (1660-1709) as coming from Caergai, can be seen in the lower courses of the walls where the porch meets the north wall.

The windows are all modern, and are assumed to date from the restoration of 1881. There are three square headed and one pointed in both the north and south walls, the pointed window being at the east end on each wall, each is of one or two cinquefoil lights. The east window is of three lights, the stained glass of which was fitted in 1883 (DRO ZPE/20/24).

## FITTINGS

An old bench in the church is dated 1657. At the west end of the south wall of the church on the outside is a tablet to John Vaughan of Cefn Bodig dated 1671. There are 18th century memorials within the church. Within the cemetery is the grave of Thomas Charles (1755-1814), famous for his preaching and leadership of the Welsh Methodists, to whom a statue was erected in Bala in 1895.

## OTHER

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

The exterior is pointed with good stone definition, although this is somewhat obscured by ivy to the west of the south wall and on the vestry. The interior is plastered.

Drainage channels are visible outside the north, south and east walls.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

Crossley & Ridgway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCVIII pp 181-182

Glynne Sir S R 1885 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol II pp 36

Griffiths G M 1955 A Report of the Deanery of Penllyn and Edeirnion *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society* No 3 Series I pp 2-9

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 145

Thomas Ven D R 1913 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph* Vol III pp 118-123

## LLANYMAWDDWY PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7041

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH90331904

DEDICATION: TYDECHO

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Cyfeiliog and Mawddwy

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>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Poor</i>

## GENERAL

This church is first mentioned in the Valuation of Norwich of 1254 (Lunt W E 1926,471), but has been almost entirely rebuilt in the 19th century. The medieval font is of interest.

## CEMETERY

The graveyard is very large with a road on the south west side which, along with the west side, is curvilinear. Bounded by dry stone walls. To the north the ground is terraced and rises steeply up to a boundary bank surmounted by a field wall. The ground falls away to the west of the church. The north west boundary has been straightened and a bank possibly denotes the original boundary on the west side which was superseded by the road c1846. There is a modern lych-gate at the southern entrance to the graveyard. The path has been lowered by 0.3m and the western end has been surfaced with tarmac.

## CHURCH

This church consists of a nave with bell-cote, chancel and south porch.

The present structure appears to have been rebuilt from foundation level in the 19th century, although no archive information has been found to say when and by whom. All the windows are modern double or single cusped lancets, except the east which is triple; the doorway is pointed and modern, and so, probably, is the pointed chancel arch. The roof is modern. The vestry is in the north-west corner with a boiler room below.

The lower part of the south wall below sill level may be of medieval date, and there is a plinth visible at the foot of the west wall which is probably medieval.

## FITTINGS

The font is the only medieval fitting, of probable 14th century date it is octagonal with scalloped decoration, and is presently sitting on a millstone.

## OTHER

The walls are of roughly coursed local rubble with modern dressings. Modern slate roof.

The exterior is pointed. The interior west wall is panelled and the chancel is pointed. The flooring has been lowered to the north. There are stone flags at the west end, raised timber under the pews and tiles in the aisle and altar.

A drainage trench 1m wide and 0.3m deep is visible around the north and south of the nave and chancel.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 471  
 RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 145

## MAENTWROG PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7047

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH66454053

DEDICATION: TWROG

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

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

## GENERAL

This site is now occupied by a modern church built in 1896 on the site of a medieval building. The present church still incorporates original fabric in the lowest courses of the north and south walls.

## CEMETERY

The cemetery is rectilinear and bounded by a stone wall 1m high. The main entrance is a timber framed lych gate, with slate panels, of 1897 with a small spire and clock. There is a narrow path between houses to the church. There is a small gate to the north and a door into a garden in the south east. There are three old yew trees to the south of the church. The stone of Twrog has been erected to the east of the south porch with a gravestone dated 1691 next to it.

## CHURCH

The present church consists of a nave with narrower chancel, a north vestry, a south porch, a square tower and spire. It was built to a design by John Douglas in 1896. This church replaced a previous one built in 1814, which in turn replaced the medieval church. It is possible that some of the fabric of the lowest courses of the north and south walls of the nave is medieval but no dateable features survive.

No details or descriptions of the medieval church have been located.

## FITTINGS

All the fittings, with the exception of a memorial of 1703, appear new. The stone of Twrog (Maen Twrog), a sandstone pillar 1.2m high, has been erected to the west of the south porch.

## OTHER

The walls are of coursed rubble with ribbon pointing. The roof, tower and spire are of slate.

There are drainage features with sumps and channels around the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- Brown R L 1987 The Parish of Ffestiniog with Maentwrog *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society Vol X* pp 241-243  
 Gresham C A 1971 A Roman Inscribed Stone from Maentwrog *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society Vol VI* pp 225-226  
 RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 154



## MALLWYD PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7048

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth  
 DEDICATION: TYDECHO  
 DIOCESE: Bangor

NGR: SH86281235

RURAL DEANERY: Cyfeiliog and Mawddwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Good</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>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Poor</i>

## GENERAL

An interesting church, with some medieval work, but mostly of the 17th century, with a wooden tower of a style which is typical of areas east and south of Mallwyd. The 17th century work is associated with Rev. John Davies, who was responsible for compiling "The Welsh and Latin Dictionary" of 1632. The church is listed in the Valuation of Norwich of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 471). This church was visited by Pennant during his Tour of Wales in 1781 who was struck by the fact that, in defiance of the archbishop, the altar was situated in the middle of the church (Pennant T 1991, 92). A good description of the church is given by Hughes in 1916 with little having changed since (Hughes 1916).

## CEMETERY

The cemetery is curvilinear with a stone wall boundary. The wall is capped by large slate slabs around most of the circumference apart from a short stretch to the south east. There are two entrances, the main gate being to the south west of the church and the other to the north east. The main gravel path to the south porch has been lowered by 0.3m. The small path to the north east has frequent slate slabs and has not been lowered. The church is situated on a rock outcrop and the cemetery is raised by 5-6m above the road to the north and the lane to the west. To the south the ground is 1-2m above a farm track and is bounded by a house and garden to the east. There is a small cottage against the north east boundary wall and the old heating house with chimney against the western boundary. There is an ancient yew tree to the south of the church and the head of a three-light window dated 1613 beside a cut down yew tree to the south east of the chancel. The most recent burial took place, in a family plot to the south of the porch, in 1985 of a local woman who lived to be 100 years old.

## CHURCH

A church of continuous nave and chancel with a wooden tower forming a bell-cote at the west end and a south porch.

The nave is earlier than the chancel, as can be seen by the change in wall thickness towards the east end. The nave walls are possibly 13th century, a date suggested by the presence of a blocked lancet window in the west wall, but they could be of 15th or 16th century date. There is a blocked door in the south wall of about this date with a segmental arch of rough voussoirs. The present south door is 17th century, and there is a square headed door to the tower at the west end. Another blocked door at the east end of the south wall has a shouldered arch. Also in the south wall are two 17th century windows, lengthened into dormers in the 19th century. There is a blocked window and possibly a blocked slit window to the west of the eastern window in the south wall. There is a change of fabric visible in the south wall, to the east of the central blocked doorway, which is not discernible in the north wall. In the north wall are two windows of 18th century date, a 17th century window extended into a dormer and a modern window at the east end. There is a blocked window to the east of the two square windows.

The seats at the west end of the church are raked up to rest on the old gallery beam. Late medieval roof trusses in the nave have been mutilated by the removal of the tie-beam and struts below the collar beam. The chancel has a wooden ceiling supported on curved principals. The feet of the brackets of the second principal from the east are carved. The southern bracket shows a lion, now painted red, and the northern bracket shows a unicorn, painted white, with a gold-painted fleur-de-lys below.

The west end of the church now houses the vestry, and also the 17th century timber tower, supported on massive angled timbers with a sill piece between.

The chancel was added in the 17th century, and has a perpendicular window of three lights with segmental arch of probable 17th century date. There is a blocked square headed doorway in the south wall. The roof trusses are formed from massive timbers with arched moulded tie-beams.

The porch is dated 1641; heavy upright timbers support tie beam trusses with diagonal struts and wooden pegs. The date AD 520 has been carved on the tie beam above the church door. The wooden roof has rafters with horizontal ribs and

panels. There is a small rectangular opening in the east wall. The floor is of slate slabs, the walls are plastered and the roof is of slate. A large animal rib and another bone are fixed above the outside of the porch arch, which were found locally nearly two hundred years ago.

The tower, containing three bells dated 1642, 1685 and 1738 (Hughes 1916, 75), is weatherboarded with a pyramidal slate roof. There is a sound louvre on the east side and sound holes to the north and south. A new board on the south side of the tower is a reconstruction of an older one bearing the perforated inscription "SOLIDEO SANCRUM ANNO CHRISTIMDCI".

A foundation plinth is visible along the west end of the north wall and the east end of the south wall.

#### FITTINGS

The altar has a black marble slab donated in 1734 and a small octagonal font, also of black marble, of the same date. Three bells bear the dates 1642, 1685 and 1738. There is a possible re-used carved stone in the east wall to the south of, and just below, the east window. The pews, two galleries and other furniture are modern.

#### OTHER

The walls are of local rubble. The roof is modern slate with two small dormers to the south of the west end and one to the north. The tower is weather-boarded.

The exterior walls are pointed with medium stone definition and ivy on the north and west walls. The interior is plastered.

There are new raised timber boards under the pews and slate slabs under the carpets in the aisle and chancel. There are 3-4 older boards at the east end of the southern pews containing a commemorative slate plaque to John Davies 1567-1644.

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Glynne Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol LVI pp 140  
 Hughes H 1916 The Church of S. Tydecho, Mallwyd *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XVI pp 67-84  
 Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 471  
 Pennant J 1991 *A Tour in Wales Vol II* pp 92  
 RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 156

## PENNAL PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7057

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH69970039

DEDICATION: PETER AD VINCULA

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Cyfeiliog and Mawddwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Poor</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>Medium</i>	Group Value	<i>Good</i>

## GENERAL

The present church is an 18th century building, but built on the site of a medieval church. The church is mentioned in the Valuation of Norwich of 1254 (Lunt W E 1926,196). The group value is raised by the presence of a roman fort to the south-east and a motte to the south-west.

## CEMETERY

The well kept oval graveyard has roads on all sides. The graveyard is bounded by a stone wall. The interior is raised 0.5m to the south, 1-1.5m to the north west and 1.5-2m to the east. The road to the south was widened in 1991 when part of the graveyard was removed to a depth of 1.5m (Barfoot J 1993). During this work 91 memorials were recorded identifying 174 inhumations. The memorials removed were subsequently laid flat inside the walls. No archaeological evidence for any earlier structures was found but finds included fragments of Roman tile and opus signinum. Roman brick can be seen at the eastern end of the north wall of the church and in the graveyard wall to the south of the west gate. The south west corner of the graveyard, having been lowered, is now gravelled. There are no traces of former boundaries or of extensions to the graveyard. There are entrances to the west and south east of the church, the latter having a lych gate of uncertain date. The path has been lowered by 0.3m and surfaced with tarmac.

## CHURCH

The church consists of a continuous nave and chancel probably built in the 18th century with an added south porch, north vestry and low square tower. It is built of long regular shaped dressed blocks with those of the upper east wall and upper south wall being narrower.

The nave has two square headed windows in the north wall and three in the south wall. The eastern window in the south wall is inserted into a doorway that was blocked in 1867 (Z/PE/30/9). The western window appears to be an insertion of inferior quality. There is a square headed Georgian window in the west wall and a round headed window in the east.

The square belfry above the western gable end is surmounted by a pyramidal tiled roof and has four slatted rectangular openings. The roof retains some of the original late 16th or early 17th century timbers. Wooden arches at the west end of the church may indicate the location of a former gallery. The tiled south porch is located at the west end of the nave with the roof level with the eaves of the church roof. The doorway has a rounded chamfered arch.

The tiled vestry, designed by Henry Kennedy and built c1900, is located at the west end of the north side of the nave. The apex of the roof is slightly above the eaves of the main church roof. There is a round headed window in the north wall of the vestry and a square headed window in the east wall. Below the vestry is a boiler room accessed by outside stairs on the east side. The church has an under floor heating system.

## FITTINGS

The font is 18th century. There is a bronze age urn in a glass case by the door to the north vestry. Marble memorials inside the church bear dates of 1717, 1772 and 1797.

## OTHER

The walls are of coursed stone blocks with modern dressings. Slate roofs.

The exterior of the church is pointed with good stone definition. There are large subsidence cracks in the south east and north east corners of the church possibly outlining the rebuild with the upper south and north walls.

The interior of the church is plastered.

The internal floor area was lowered by 2'6" c1901 (B/F/431). The floor has timber boards under the pews with tiles in

the aisle. The west end is carpeted. There is wooden panelling around the altar with ornate altar rails.

A drainage trench 2m wide and 0.8m deep with gravel in the bottom is located on the north side of the nave

Date Visited: 1994/5

#### LIST OF REFERENCES

Barfoot J 1993 Pennal Churchyard *Archaeology in Wales No 33* pp 86-87

Lunt W E (ed) 1926 *The Valuation of Norwich 1254* pp 196

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 160

## TAL Y LLYN PARISH CHURCH (MER)

PRN: 7070

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH71070939

DEDICATION: MARY

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Cyfeiliog and Mawddwy

STATUS: Occasional 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 small church of medieval date, but much restored so that dating its origin is not possible. It consists of a continuous nave and chancel with later south chapel and south porch. Its principal feature of note is the painted barrel ceiling above the chancel, of unknown date but possibly 16th century.

## CEMETERY

Elongated and polygonal, the church lies on the long edge of the north-west side. There is a raised area west of the church. It is bounded by stone walls, with open fields on the south and east sides. The east end of the cemetery is probably a later extension. There are two entrances, both with lych gates, in the north and west sides.

## CHURCH

A church of continuous nave and chancel with south chapel and south porch. Restoration has removed nearly all early evidence. The masonry is medieval, and the nave and chancel appear to be one build, with the south chapel probably added in the 16th century. However, there is a slight difference of alignment visible along the north wall between the nave and the chancel, so perhaps the latter is of later date. The south chapel is separated from the chancel by a wooden partition.

The most interesting feature is the boarded ceiling divided into square panels with carved bosses at the intersections, each square with an alternate red and white rose on white and red. RCAHMW (1921, 164) suggest it is 1600 in date. Oddly, Glynne, who visited the church in 1850 does not mention it, although a drawing of the ceiling was done in 1841 (Crossley and Ridgeway 1945, 182). The latter believe it pre-dates 1600.

The church was restored in 1876, when all the windows were renewed, and the roof, although retaining some original timbers, was re-built. Large parts of the east and west walls appear to have been re-built also, although some of this work was done in 1914 by Harold Hughes (NLW B/F/466).

## FITTINGS

Traces of the rood screen remain (Crossley and Ridgeway 1945, 182).

## OTHER

The walls are of roughly coursed schist slabs with modern dressings and modern slate roof.

The exterior of the church is pointed with good stone definition, the exterior of the south chapel is rendered. The interior is plastered.

There is a drain around the south chapel.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

Crossley & Ridgeway 1945 Screens & Lofts in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCVIII pp 182

Glynne Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol LVI pp 140

RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 164

## TRAWSFYNYDD PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7071

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH70653570

DEDICATION: MADRYN

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ardudwy

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Poor</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>Poor</i>	Group Value	<i>Medium</i>

## GENERAL

A double-aisled church with a south porch and bell-cote which has been much restored.

## CEMETERY

The curvilinear cemetery is bounded by a stone wall. The south east corner has been cut out to form a car park. There is a large extension to the west but the original stone-walled boundary is retained within it and is raised by 1.5m. There are entrances with a gate into the lane to the north east and a lych gate into the road to the south. The lych gate is of roughly coursed rubble under a slate roof with a bench niche in the east wall and a wrought iron gate. There is a blocked doorway in the 2-3m high wall adjoining a property to the north. The main concreted path from the lych gate to the south porch has been lowered by up to 1m. The path to the north east gate is laid with slate gravestones slabs. There is a small walled enclosure to the west of the north aisle which has been lowered by 0.5m allowing access to the west door.

## CHURCH

A church of two aisles, of which the northern aisle is the original church of continuous nave and chancel, although it has been lengthened to the west, and the southern one a probable 16th century addition. It has been heavily restored, and little of the original church now remains. There is a straight joint slightly to the south of the centre of the east wall to show where the south aisle was added.

The north wall has two single light windows, one double light and a blocked square window at the east end. There is a projecting section of wall 0.3m out towards the west end of the north wall. The bell-cote above the western gable of the north aisle has a rectangular opening with a single bell. The south porch, built at the same time as the south aisle, is of roughly coursed rubble under a slate roof. It has a segmental arch of local unworked stone above the double wooden doors.

The church was completely restored in 1853-4, when all new windows were fitted, the roof was re-built using some 14th century arch-braced trusses, the original arcade was completely rebuilt using wood piers, roofs, the arcade (the pillars are wood). There was a fire in 1978 which destroyed the western end of the church. This has since been restored and the church re-roofed.

## FITTINGS

There is an old font but other fittings are modern.

## OTHER

The walls are of roughly coursed rubble and are clearly pointed. Internally there is newly painted plaster.

The floors are slate paved with timber boards under the pews.

There is an earth and gravel filled drainage channel along the east end of the south wall with gullies on this wall and at the south east corner of the south porch. There are no drainage features elsewhere.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

Glynne Sir S R 1901 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis Vol LVI* pp 141-142  
RCAHMW 1921 *Merioneth Inventory* pp 180



## TYWYN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7078

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH58820095

DEDICATION: CADFAN

DIOCESE: Bangor

RURAL DEANERY: Ysbyrmaner

STATUS: Regular use

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of Medieval architecture	<i>Very Good</i>	Survival of fittings	<i>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

This site is that of an early Clas church, and the present building retains the nave and aisles of a 12th century church. It was described by the poet Llywelyn Fardd (mid 13th century) as "the glory of Meirionnydd" with "three magnificent altars famed for miracles", the three altars were dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, St Peter and St Cadfan (Gresham n.d.). Initially a cruciform building, the medieval tower collapsed to be replaced by a west tower in the 18th century. The church was rebuilt to a cruciform plan in the 19th century. The nave with its 12th century aisles, arcades and clerestorey windows is unique in Gwynedd, and of great importance. The fittings, particularly the inscribed stone, but also the two effigies, are also important. A holy well formerly stood a short distance from the church.

## CEMETERY

A rectilinear cemetery, bounded by a stone wall. It is surrounded by roads on the west and south sides, but encroached by buildings on the north and east. The interior is raised by some 1.5 - 2 m from the outside. The path on the south side has been lowered. The main entrance is through a lych gate (of 1908) south-west of the church. There are possible re-used stone mullions north-west of the church. A free-standing chapel is recorded as having stood in the north-west of the churchyard, although there is no sign of this now (OS Card SH50SE 14). Work carried out in 1908 (B/F/471) included re-building the south churchyard wall on a new alignment because of road widening, and building a new lych gate. The south side was curved prior to this straightening.

## CHURCH

A cruciform church of aisled nave, north and south transepts and chancel.

With the exception of the nave the present church is largely modern, built in the 19th century to replace a former cruciform church with central tower of 12th century date. In 1692 the central tower fell down, but it was not rebuilt at that time; instead a west tower was built to replace it, over the west end of the nave. This was in turn taken down during the major re-building of 1884 (not 1848 as stated in RCAHMW).

The nave is the only medieval part remaining. This, however, has north and south aisles of 12th century date. The arcades are of three bays (there were four before the construction of the 17th century tower), of plain circular piers without capitals, and semi-circular arches. On each side of the clerestorey are four small typical 12th century windows with rounded heads and deep interior splay; the east window on the north has been renewed. All the aisle windows are modern. The west wall with its triple lancet window is modern, but traces of the former 18th century tower are visible. The arch-braced roof of the nave is 14th century. The north arcade is supported by arched buttresses built out over the aisle, probably during the 17th century work. Glynne (1901, 141) describes the church before the 1884 restoration, where he states "the transepts open to the aisles by smaller arches than those in the nave, very low and small, but of like form.", thereby confirming the 12th century date for the original transepts.

The present tower, chancel and transepts were built in 1884 by the architect John Pritchard of Llandaff, when the 1792 tower was taken down and a new west wall built, excluding the previous fourth bay of the nave. A new south door was inserted. The aisle windows also date from this restoration. The chancel appears to have been built on the foundations of the former one (NLW B/F/469)

## FITTINGS

Two early 14th century effigies, one an unnamed priest, the other an unnamed knight but traditionally that of Gruffydd ab Adda of Dolgoch, in modern niche's in the north wall of the chancel and sanctuary (Gresham 1968, 164-193). An inscribed stone of 7th to 9th century date bearing the earliest known inscription in Welsh (Nash-Williams 1950, 172), upright in the north aisle. On the outside of the south side of the tower a pillar stone with an incised cross. Octagonal font of probable 14th century date.

## OTHER

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

The nave interior is plastered and whitewashed. The exterior of the church is pointed with good stone definition.

Date Visited: 1994/5

## LIST OF REFERENCES

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