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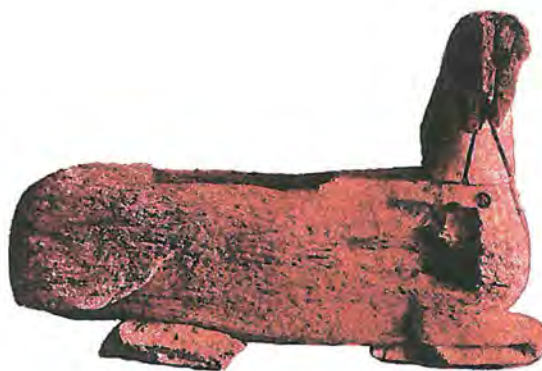
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Historic Churches of Gwynedd Gazetteer of Churches

Diocese of St. Asaph

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Report No. 392

Prepared for



CADW

WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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Diocese of St. Asaph

Report No. 390

by
Andrew Davidson

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Welsh Historic
Churches
Project.*

Welsh Historic Churches Project

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Gazetteer of Churches

Introduction

This church survey was carried out during 1993-5 as part of a Cadw funded project which looked at all the pre-19th 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 into diocese, and then alphabetically by church name.

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

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
2000

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: CONWY VALLEY

CAPEL GARMON PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6963

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH81565545

DEDICATION: GERMANUS

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Redundant

GENERAL

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

CEMETERY

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

MEDIEVAL CHURCH

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

MODERN CHURCHES

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

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

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

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

OTHER

Walls of roughly coursed local rubble with dressed quoins and dressed freestone jambs and heads. Modern slate roof. The west, and north walls of the church and the north vestry are pointed with good stone definition. There are no signs of medieval fabric or stonework. The remainder of the exterior of the church is rendered. All the internal elevations are plastered. Plywood has been fastened over a number of the windows.

Date Visited: 1994/5

LIST OF REFERENCES

Lewis S 1833 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* GEL

RCAHMW 1914 *Denbigh Inventory*

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

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: CONWY VALLEY

EGLWYS-RHOS PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6932

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH79338032

DEDICATION: MARY

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

GENERAL

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

CEMETERY

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

CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

19TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS

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

FITTINGS

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

OTHER

The walls are of local uncoursed rubble with dressed quoins. Modern slate roof. The external elevations are pointed with good stone definition. The interior is plastered. There is timber boarding beneath the pews. There is no sign of a drainage trench around the church but there is evidence of drainage sumps.

Date Visited: 1994/5

LIST OF REFERENCES

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

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: CONWY VALLEY

RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I - East* pp 91-92

Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol II* pp 325-329

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: CONWY VALLEY

EGLWYSFACH PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6964 ✓

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Denbigh

NGR: SH80327053

DEDICATION: MARTIN

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

GENERAL

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

CEMETERY

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

MEDIEVAL CHURCH

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

MODERN CHURCH

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

The south porch was added in 1837.

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

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

OTHER

The walls are of local roughly coursed rubble. Slate roof. Sandstone dressings. The exterior is pointed with medium to poor stone definition. The east wall has ivy growing on it. The interior is plastered. The aisle and chancel are tiled and there are timber floors beneath the pews. No surrounding drainage was visible.

Date Visited: 1994/5

LIST OF REFERENCES

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

LLANDDERFEL PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6952

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH98163706

DEDICATION: DERFEL

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Penllyn

STATUS: Regular use

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. Clynnog, Llaneilian) for the same reason. It contains a fine rood screen, and, of particular interest, a wooden effigy of a horse or stag 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 effigy of the animal 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 the masonry in these windows is 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

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: MEIRIONNYDD

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 & Loftis in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XCVIII 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 Edeirnion *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

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: CONWY VALLEY

LLANDDOGED PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 6965

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Denbigh

NGR: SH80606380

DEDICATION: St Doged

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

GENERAL

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

CEMETERY

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

CHURCH

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

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

19th CENTURY RESTORATIONS

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

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

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

FITTINGS

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

OTHER

Walls of roughly coursed local rubble with squared quoins. Modern slate roof. The exterior is pointed with good stone definition. The interior is plastered. The aisles are stone flagged with timber boards beneath the seating. Slight traces of a drainage trench were observed next to the north and west walls.

Date Visited: 1994/5

LIST OF REFERENCES

- Hubbard E 1986 *The Buildings of Wales - Clwyd* pp 190-191
Lewis M 1970 *Stained Glass in North Wales* pp 53-54
RCAHMS 1914 *Denbigh Inventory*
Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph Vol II* pp 317-319
Yates N 1991 *Buildings, Faith and Worship* p 81

LLANFOR PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7005 ✓

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH93833680

DEDICATION: DEINIOL

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Penllyn

STATUS: Redundant

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). It 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

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: MEIRIONNYDD

LLANGOWER PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7016 ✓

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH90423226

DEDICATION: CYWAIR: GEORGE

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Penllyn

STATUS: Regular use

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, mudded 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

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: CONWY VALLEY

LLANGWSTENIN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7019

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH82207922

DEDICATION: CWSTENIN

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

GENERAL

The present church was built in 1843 on the site of a medieval one. The medieval glass preserved in the vestry window is of interest.

CEMETERY

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

MEDIEVAL CHURCH

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

19TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS

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

FITTINGS

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

OTHER

The walls are of uncoursed rubble with modern dressings. Modern slate roof. The exterior walls are pointed and the interior walls are plastered. Stone flags at the west end of the church include memorials dated from 1625 to 1799. Gravel covers a 1.5m wide drainage channel extending from the boiler room on the west side of the church.

Date Visited: 1994/5

LIST OF REFERENCES

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

RCAHMW 1956 *Caernarvonshire Vol I: East* pp 133

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

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: CONWY VALLEY

LLANRWST PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7034

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Denbigh

NGR: SH79746161

DEDICATION: GRWST

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

GENERAL

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

CEMETRY

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

CHURCH

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

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

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

19TH RESTORATIONS

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

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

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

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

FITTINGS

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

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: CONWY VALLEY

OTHER

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

Date Visited: 1994/5

LIST OF REFERENCES

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

GAZETTEER OF CHURCHES: CONWY VALLEY

LLANSANTFFRAID GLAN CONWY

PRN: 7081

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Denbigh

NGR: SH80407610

DEDICATION: FFRAID

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

GENERAL

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

CHURCH

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

FITTINGS

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

OTHER

The walls are of snecked rubble with local limestone dressings. Modern slate roof. The exterior is pointed with good stone definition. The interior is plastered.

Date Visited:

LIST OF REFERENCES

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

LLANUWCHLLYN PARISH CHURCH

PRN: 7037 ✓

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Merioneth

NGR: SH87363030

DEDICATION: DEINIOL

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Penllyn

STATUS: Regular use

GENERAL

A modern church built in 1873 on the site of a medieval church. It is assumed that the earlier structure 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; 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).

NINETEENTH CENTURY 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 1 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

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 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. By the entrance on the exterior of the cemetery wall are a number of semi-circular steps, thought to have been the steps of a former cross and later dial (RCAHMW 1921, 146).

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. It has been claimed the rebuilding was undertaken by E. B. Ferrey, although no confirmation of this was found, and references in the parish papers refer to Spauls of Oswestry. 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 post-medieval, 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 1 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

YSBYTY IFAN CHURCH

PRN: 7080 ✓

PRE 1974 COUNTY: Caernarfon

NGR: SH84404890

DEDICATION: JOHN

DIOCESE: St Asaph

RURAL DEANERY: Llanrwst

STATUS: Regular use

GENERAL

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

CEMETERY

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

MEDIEVAL CHURCH

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

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

POST-MEDIEVAL CHURCH

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

FITTINGS

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

OTHER

The walls are of local rubble with modern dressings. Modern slate roofs. The exterior elevations are pointed with good stone definition.

Date Visited: 1994/5

LIST OF REFERENCES

- Glynne Sir S R 1884 Notes on the Older Churches in the Four Welsh Dioceses *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol I pp 256
 Gresham C A 1968 *Medieval Stone Carving in North Wales* pp 153-155 214-216
 J E 1860 Ysbyty Ifan or the Hospitallers in Wales *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol VI pp 104-124
 RCAHMW 1914 *Denbigh Inventory*
 Thomas Ven D R 1911 *The History of the Diocese of St Asaph* Vol II pp 352-355

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