

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

THE HISTORIC CHURCHES OF RADNORSHIRE



CPAT Report No 309

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CHURCH SURVEY

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Report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

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Introduction

This report offers a detailed description of every historic church still used as a place of worship in the old county of Radnorshire. In this context 'historic' is taken to mean apply to any church which pre-dates the beginning of the 19th century, or a Victorian church which occupies an earlier site. Excluded are those churches which were built on greenfield sites in the 19th century.

Each church description follows a standardised format. The diocese in which the church is situated, its dedication and where known any earlier dedication, the PRN or Primary Record Number which is attributed to it in the regional Sites and Monuments Record held in Welshpool, and an eight-figure Grid Reference, are all given at the beginning of the description.

General and architectural **summaries** of the church follow, the latter indicating in outline the main building phases of the church, as far as these can be discerned from the architectural details and the fabric.

The **history** of the church is an outline only, drawing on readily available sources of information. Where the history has been thoroughly researched by earlier writers, the story will be much fuller than for the rather more numerous buildings where little documentary examination has taken place.

The **architecture** of the church is considered in detail except where the building is wholly Victorian when only a summary description is provided. The description of each church follows the same pattern: the exterior starting on the north side of the church and moving clockwise around the building, with a discussion of each compartment of the building starting again with the north side, followed by the east, south and west sides where applicable. The interior is then treated in the same way.

Furnishings and fittings are described briefly. The list of those that are of pre-19th century date should be reasonably comprehensive, but that of 19th-century and later features is selective.

The more significant features of the **churchyard** are described including an indication of the earliest monuments and any churchyard furniture, and any earthworks which suggest the enlargement or contraction of the enclosure.

The **sources** used in the compilation of the report are listed and a bibliography is provided at the end of the volume. The following abbreviations are used:

CPAT - Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool

NLW - National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

NMR - National Monument Record (held at Aberystwyth by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales)

SMR - Sites and Monuments Record

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Rhayader	St Clement
Rhulen	St David
St Harmon	St Harmon
Whitton	St David

Abbeycwmhir

Diocese	Swansea and Brecon	Dedication	Mary
PRN	16703	NGR	SO05397130
		Previous dedication	Bridget?

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Mary's church lies on north side of valley carrying the Clywedog Brook, some 10km to the north of Llandrindod Wells. Originally built in 1680 it was completely replaced by a Victorian structure in 1865/66. It contains little of pre-19thC date other than a medieval grave slab.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The whole structure dates from 1865/66.

HISTORY

Founded in 1680, and seemingly then dedicated to St Bridget, one of the rare post-medieval, pre-19thC establishments in region. Williams (in 1818) records a tradition that the monks of Cwmhir Abbey had a fish pond at the spot. The abbey itself may have been extensively quarried to provide materials for the new church.

Until 1831 the church was a chapelry in Llanbister.

Rebuilt by Poundley & Walker in 1866, on a site a little to north of old church; most of the 17thC fittings replaced by Victorian equivalents.

ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of nave, chancel with a polygonal apse, and an intriguing south-west tower over the porch, together with organ chamber and vestry rooms added on to north side. The building has a south-west/north-east orientation, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabric: grey sedimentary stone in rough-textured blocks, randomly coursed. Two horizontal courses of red sandstone, largely decorative, and the same also used for decorative purposes over window arches.

Roofs: not recorded.

Drainage: downpipes but no obvious drainage trench around exterior of building.

Exterior

Wholly Victorian. Chancel slightly narrower than nave.

Windows are neo-Gothic with two-centred arched lights and variably foiled lights above. Buttresses at west and east ends of nave.

Elaborate tower with octagonal spirelet.

Over porch doorway is a relief of the Ascension copied from tympanum in the abbey, the broken original at nearby Home Farm.

Interior

Wholly Victorian. Tiled floor with carpet down centre, covering heating vents (sub-surface boiler room entered from north side). Benches raised on wooden boards. Roof in nave of four bays with large scissor trusses. Walls plastered and whitewashed.

Chancel and sanctuary have more decorative tiling. Angular ceiled roof with ribbed panels. Chancel arch ornately carved.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Coffin lid: of c.1200 (though church guide suggests closer to 1300), lettered with the name of Mabli, an abbot of Cwmhir. Found built into earlier church in 1827.

Architectural fragments: from Cwmhir Abbey, on bench at rear of church. Some of these brought back from vicarage at Llanbadarn Fawr by former incumbent (info. Rev N.Hall).

Monuments: Sir Hans Fowler (d.1771), beneath west window. Two 19thC memorials, one in marble on west wall, the other a brass of 1886 on east wall of nave.

Other Victorian features include:

Pulpit and Font: ornately carved.

Stained glass: 19thC by Heaton, Butler & Bayne, 1866.

Registers: from 1831.

CHURCHYARD

Abbeycwmhir churchyard occupies the bottom of a small valley as it debouches into the broader valley of the Clywedog Brook. The yard encloses the stream on the east, the valley side on the west, and yard itself rises gradually from south to north. As such it is an irregular shape moulded by the topography.

Generally it is well maintained, except for the western valley side, and is used for modern burials.

The boundary takes a varied form: wire fence on north-east reinforced by a hedge and then a drystone wall further north; a modern mortared wall on the north-west; a wire fence on the west; a mortared stone wall surmounted by metal railings on the south, and on the east sparse vegetation and a fence.

Monuments: north side of churchyard used during 19thC and 20thC, but gravestones well spread. To south they are denser and some go back into last quarter of 18thC, though weather conditions prevented a thorough examination. Earliest seen: 1777. At least three cast iron grave markers.

Furniture: none seen.

Earthworks: ground platformed to take church, so scarp bank to 0.5m on south. Otherwise nothing of significance. No ground traces of 17thC church.

Ancillary features: lychgate on south, stone with timber superstructure, built 1900, leading by tarmac path to porch. On south-east, a stone bridge gives access from The Hall. Near north-east corner is a battered metal gate giving access to burial ground.

Vegetation: a couple of immature yews on north and two more on south. Mixed trees and vegetation on slope to west.

REFERENCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1985
CPAT Field Visit: 02 February 1996
Davies, 1905, 268
Haslam 1979, 215
Howse, 1949, 252
Maddox 1975: Church Guide

CONDITION

Exterior appears sound, but bad internally: cracks on west wall, and subsidence suggested by irregularity of tiles at west end and around pulpit. Discoloration and/or mould in porch and to some extent on nave walls.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Poor

Aberedw

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Cewydd

PRN 17243

NGR SO08024731

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Cewydd's church lies high above the River Edw, 5km to the south-east of Builth Wells. Though it probably originated in the early medieval era, the earliest features appear to be 14thC with subsequent medieval modifications and fairly drastic remodelling late in the 19thC. Internally, the late medieval screen is the most notable furnishing. The churchyard is sub-oval but contains nothing of significant interest.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

On the evidence of one window and the north doorway, the present nave was constructed in the 14thC. While it has been suggested that the chancel which is of similar width may be coeval, their stone-tiled roofs are not continuous, and there is some structural evidence to suggest that originally the nave stood alone (or alternatively the chancel was rather narrower than today).

The nave was partially rebuilt and its east end extended, much of south side rebuilt where masonry re-used on old foundation and nave and chancel aligned by incorporation of rough stonework, west end rebuilt against original tower wall. On north side of nave more of original wall survives, but considerable rebuilding in porch area.

The porch is essentially a 15thC feature but may have been rebuilt, retaining original roof?

The chancel which is largely original must be placed in the 16thC. The construction of the tower cannot be attributed chronologically, but a Tudor date for the internal door to the tower is possible which could indicate a rebuild during the 16thC. It was partially rebuilt on south and north sides, probably in 1888, when south door and belfry windows added.

HISTORY

Original foundation of St Cewydd's church has been claimed for the 6thC. St Cewydd himself, the Welsh patron saint of rain, has only one other church dedication - at Cusop (Herefordshire) near Hay-on-Wye.

It appears as 'Ecclesia de Abedo' in the Taxatio of 1291 with a value of £6.13s 4d, and as 'Aberdoy' in the 'Valor Ecclesiasticus' in 1535.

Glynne visited the church, probably in the 1850s, commenting on the large porch with its roof decoration, the ceiled nave, and the school at the west end. Internally there was a square recess in the east wall, the east window had been blocked off, so that no trace of it was left, and the chancel was lower than the nave.

Substantial restoration work undertaken by S. W. Williams in 1888, including windows in nave on south side, belfry windows and door in tower, roof timbers exposed and chancel, previously one step lower than nave, raised up.

Another restoration in 1914 when the present pews were erected, and the south nave windows replaced

existing wooden ones.

ARCHITECTURE

Church consists of nave and chancel in one, west tower and north porch. It is oriented west-north-west/east-south-east, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics: 'A' has medium sized, grey and grey-brown shale slabs with some blocks, randomly coursed; no ashlar quoins.

'B' is similar but cleaner and less weathered, probably representing new masonry or re-use.

'C' consists of thin, clean shale slabs, used for patching, wall-top work etc.

'D' is similar to 'C' but also contains some shale blocks, is well weathered, sports remains of a render coating, and has sandstone ashlar quoins.

'E' consists of both slabs and blocks of shale, not much weathered. Generally all stone work exposed except where residue of earlier render.

Roofs: other than tower, building has shale slates, some moss-covered, with ceramic ridge tiles.

Drainage: broad drainage cut on south side.

Exterior

Tower. General. In Fabric A. Square-sectioned string-courses above 1st and 2nd stages. Pyramidal roof (possibly with slates), weathervane and cock.

North wall: Fabric A with large blocks at foundation level; but, except for western corner, 2nd stage upwards rebuilt in Fabric B. Small rectangular window at 1st stage with slit window above; another slit window with crudely chamfered jambs in 2nd stage and above, a Victorian belfry window replacement with louvre boards, the two lights with cusped heads, label with square stops, all in red sandstone. Part way up 1st stage, triangular ledge juts out to link with west wall of nave - no obvious explanation.

East wall: apex of nave to mid-way up 2nd stage; above window and string-course as north wall.

South wall: Fabric A but rebuilt in Fabric B in central section of wall almost from ground level. Victorian red sandstone doorway with two-centred arch, hoodmoulding and stops, reputedly a replacement; chamfered slit window higher up 1st stage; belfry window as on north side. West wall of nave abuts tower on this side.

West wall: Fabric A, weathered and heavily pointed; rarely, chunks of brick pushed in to block small gaps, but only major insertion is Victorian belfry window to standard pattern. Otherwise small rectangular window low down 1st stage and slit window in 2nd stage.

Porch. General. A large porch with an unusual double bench on each side. Fabric is variation on E, with little weathering; abuts nave wall and clearly rebuilt.

North wall: timber and masonry, dominated by entrance 'arch' consisting of arched-braced gable with quatrefoil and trefoils, the whole internally buttressed (see below).

East and west walls: plain.

Nave. General. Higher than chancel by c.0.3m.

North wall: to east of porch, Fabric B but showing variable weathering and render over much of face; a butt joint with chancel discernible, yet this stops c.0.5m short of present division between nave and chancel. Set

in this part of wall a double lancet window with trefoil heads in dark red sandstone - original and considered to be 14thC Decorated. Much of rest of wall reconstructed in Fabric E (and no render traces) with patching in Fabric C.

East wall: rises slightly above chancel but little visible, for covered in protective sheeting.

South wall: reasonably fresh shale slabs of Fabric C; traces of render ubiquitous; bottom one metre more weathered and with heavier pointing, but some of this probably covered with graveyard earth until drainage cut in recent times. Wall set on foundation plinth below ground level but now exposed for same reason; plinth however does not extend to current division between nave and chancel, but as on north side stops short, though no obvious butt joint above it. Masonry in the interface between nave and chancel is rough and retains much render, but chancel wall set back slightly from nave and it appears that builders have attempted to smooth out this irregularity by adding new stonework. Three two-light windows with trefoil heads, all slightly different in shape and size, all in modern red sandstone (1914 replacements).

West wall: abuts tower. On north side probably Fabric B.

Chancel. General. Chancel of one build in Fabric D, with slightly battered base; windows of 16thC; alignment faintly different from that of nave on south side. Less weathered stonework on south than on north.

North wall: two 16thC, flat-headed windows, each with three two-centre headed lights and chamfered jambs; iron grilles and diamond lights. Four early 18thC mural tablets built into wall, of 1797, 1712 and 1715, the face of the fourth completely flaked away.

East wall: plain with no east window; large ashlar quoins, though some missing at south-east corner.

South wall: Fabric D with patchy render. Two flat-headed windows, that to sanctuary is three-light, the other two-light; both in grey and red sandstone, showing some replacement; both have hollow mouldings, with two-centred heads to lights. Between is a blocked priest's door with shallow four-centred arch and large sandstone jambs; removal of soil against wall, has left base of doorway above ground level. Two mural slabs of 1709 and 1786 pinned to wall.

Interior

Tower. General. Flagged floor, two steps up from nave. Tower open to belfry level. Limited exposure of stonework in 1st stage and nothing of significance.

Porch. General. Flagged floor but central 'aisle' of Victorian tiles. Roof of two bays with main truss at entrance, the middle one with an arched-braced collar; that above south door has original principals and collar but modern tie-beam. Walls of bare stone, unplastered.

North wall: timber gable end with supports. No gates.

East wall: plain but for tomb slab inscribed I H 1604; two-tier bench: in front, low with single massive beam set on shale foundations and slotted into uprights supporting entrance gable, while behind a higher bench with stone-slab seat.

South wall: main doorway with steep, two-centred arch, and moulded dressings in red sandstone, classed as Decorated style; modern door.

West wall: as east wall, but wall slab of 1722 pinned to wall.

Nave. General. Partitioned off just to west of main door for vestry which is raised on wooden flooring above

general level of nave. Nave floor of Victorian tiles, carpet covered in aisle; benches set on raised wooden block flooring. Under floor heating: metal grill just inside entrance. Roof of eight bays with arch-braced collars and braces below set on moulded wooden brackets; a single king-post strut above each collar; over screen, truss has principals with collar and three struts, and against west wall truss has tie beam with diagonal struts to principals, as well as standard collar. Walls plastered and whitewashed, with panelling on north, south and west to height of c.1.2m, made from old box pews at end of 19thC.

North wall: only features are main doorway and splayed window.

East wall: screen.

South wall: as north wall but three deeply splayed windows, all with wooden lintels, some showing clear signs of re-use; most easterly window has a widened splay perhaps a Victorian modification to allow more light to adjacent pulpit, but alternatively to allow a support for the rood loft. Vestry window has engraved date of 1914.

West wall: tower doorway has triangular head, brown sandstone dressings with chamfer but no stops, considered to be Tudor by Haslam.

Chancel. General. Step up from nave to chancel and another to altar. Tiled floor with wooden boards under choir benches; sanctuary has Victorian encaustic tiles. Coved roof with moulded wooden ribs and plaster infill, lower than nave. All walls plastered and whitewashed.

North wall: deeply splayed window with bare stone exposed for rere-arch and internal quoins. Two 19thC brasses and two mural tablets of 1792 and 1793 (see below).

East wall: no window, instead panels with the Decalogue; aumbry to south of altar.

South wall: windows as north side; rere-arches turned in edge-set shale as is priest's door arch; mural tablet of 1783 in more westerly window embrasure.

West wall: screen.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Screen: demarcation of chancel by a Perpendicular screen of Radnorshire type: fourteen bays with ogee tracery; between that and the wall-plate is a 17thC addition of two rows of rails with a large beam on top. Formerly a fine example of practically solid partition between nave and chancel but badly restored according to Crossley and Ridgeway.

Altar rails: cast iron marked Hodges & Wright and given in 1917.

Monuments: James Baskerville (d.1792) and family up to 1820, signed S. Thomas, Brecon. Joan Jones (d.1793) signed R. Millward, Hay. Number of other wall tablets including: three early 18thC examples (deaths of 1712, 1707 and 1715) to members of Watkins family on external north wall of chancel, and tablets of 1709 and 1786 on south wall; a Games (of Talgarth) slab of 1783 in chancel; and one of 1722 in porch, in addition to that inscribed I.H.1604 (contra Haslam).

Font: Original 13thC font taken to St Mauritius, Alltmawr (Breconshire). Present font is of 1854.

Bell: dated 1738.

CHURCHYARD

Churchyard is set on the western edge of the sharply cut Edw valley, the river itself no more than 20m away but much lower. From north a small stream in its own valley converges on the river, meaning in effect that on both the east and most of north the ground falls away beyond churchyard boundary. Within the enclosed area the ground drops gently from south to north.

Churchyard is sub-oval its north side very definitely curved, the straight east side dictated by the Edw valley, but straightish sides too on south and west.

Boundary consists primarily of stone wall in variable state of repair. On north acts as revetment with hedge above, the latter giving way to post and wire fence from north-east through to south-east corner. Along south side wall over 1m high and ground slightly lower externally, and on west similarly higher internally, despite spoil etc dumped against inner face.

Churchyard well maintained and used for recent burials.

Monuments: variable density, both to north and south of church. Modern burials to north of porch; to north of church predominantly 19thC and 20thC burials of variable density. Earlier graves close to church itself on both north and south, but earliest of 1729 and 1738 on north side of chancel.

Furniture: none noted.

Earthworks: none noted.

Ancillary features: main entrance from north-west, giving access from road through village. Here one double wooden gate and also a single wooden one. Near south-west corner a stone stile gives access to the valley and commemorating an airman killed locally in 1987.

Vegetation; three old yews on north side with one less mature example on south. Little other vegetation except around perimeter.

REFERENCES

- Charters 1993 (Church Guide)
- CPAT Field Visit: 17 October 1995
- Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 216
- Glynne 1897, 52
- Haslam 1979, 217
- Silvester 1994, 12
- Sinclair & Fenn 1992, 75, 77

CONDITION

Generally appears to be in a reasonable state, though externally the north walls are untidy. Cracks are appearing in tower at the joints between the original and more modern fabric. Internally sound though some damp as mould is growing on nave doorway to tower.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium

Beguildy

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Michael & All Angels

PRN 16708

NGR SO19447973

GENERAL SUMMARY

A relatively large single-chamber church dedicated to St Michael. Some 12km to the north-west of Knighton, it occupies a spur location between the valley of the River Teme (and the English border) to the north, and a small tributary valley to the south. The church has a 15thC plan but is much rebuilt, and internal features include a fine screen and a 15thC font. It is set within a roughly rectilinear churchyard with hints of a smaller curvilinear enclosure west of the building.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Haslam considers this to have a late 15thC plan and suggests walls are of this date. Priest's door could certainly be of this period, but windows are of consistent appearance and probably early 15thC type. Whatever their date they have been heavily restored. The chancel was restored in 1885, the nave in 1895/96. Possible that walls re-faced rather than rebuilt, but the 1894 Faculty application required the demolition of nave and tower.

HISTORY

The date of the earliest church on the site is not known, though an early medieval origin is a strong possibility. The first documented reference is in the Taxatio of 1291. Beguildy is recorded as 'Ecclesia de Bugeylde' and valued at £10 13s 4d.

Church probably rebuilt in the 15thC.

Some rebuilding work c.1790 evidenced by 1894 faculty which referred to early windows on south side of nave being removed.

Davies in his 1905 edition of Williams's "Radnorshire" recorded that in 1885, the church was in a bad state of repair and the chancel was rebuilt at a cost of £1,000. In 1896 the nave, south porch and screen were restored by W.H.Bryden at a cost of £1,600, and the tower was then taken down and replaced with a triple bellcote.

ARCHITECTURE

Church now has a nave and chancel in one, with a bellcote above its west end and a south porch. It is aligned fractionally north of west.

Fabrics: 'A' is of small to medium blocks and slabs of dark shale, with infrequent sandstone blocks, all regularly coursed. Stone looks reasonably fresh though lichen covered on north side. Date stones incorporated in light sandstone.

Fabric 'B' is not dissimilar to 'A' but has more tabular shale, and appears a little more weathered. Conceivably there could be re-use of earlier stone in 'B'.

Roofs: of reconstituted clay tiles, the ridge tiles of nave, though not chancel, incorporating trefoil ornamentation. Ornate cross finial on chancel.

Drainage: concrete-lined drain, 0.4m wide, along north and south sides but not east, and on east and west sides of porch.

Exterior

Nave. General. Two 1895 date stones low down at north-east and south-east 'ends' of nave. All masonry (Fabric 'A') and dressings are Victorian with no obviously older material. Windows of early 15thC type.

North wall: five cinquefoil-headed, single-light windows; sandstone dressings and relieving arches in shale; each sill has horizontal hole pierced in chamfer.

East wall: not present.

South wall: wall has slightly rusticated appearance with some blocks of stone projecting forward rather than being flush with wall face. Four two-light windows, with cinquefoil heads and relieving arches as on north side; horizontal holes beneath each light.

West wall: changes result from removal of west tower; wall is actually shorter than width of nave in order to utilise tower foundations (and perhaps its masonry), resulting in re-entrants at north-west and south-west corners - these have been partially infilled with angle buttresses; position of original tower walling picked out on west face by heavy pointing, as well as stonework of the tower's north and south walls projecting outwards at ground level. Extent of original masonry survival from tower's east wall is unknown - could be some behind Fabric 'A' facing, and possibly even some original masonry or re-use in central part of west wall. One small window, a rather flat, pointed arch over three cusp-headed lights, all in gold sandstone which is already badly flaking; two courses of relieving arch over window, the upper more weathered and perhaps earlier than the lower; beneath the window is infill with exceptionally heavy pointing and the jambstones of an earlier feature - the tower arch - still in place.

Nave. Bellcote: west wall is upwards extension of nave gable end; lower walls in Fabric 'A' but larger blocks use for bell-housing; pyramidal roof above. East and west sides have wooden, rectangular, three-light, embrasures without louvre boards.

Chancel. General. Fabric 'B'. Windows thought to be early 15thC type as in nave.

North wall: stonework ties into that of nave but wall alignment and coursing lines fractionally different. Ashlar quoins at corner and angle buttress with date stone of 1885; Single-light window with chamfered dressings, cinquefoil head under two-centred arch; stones of the head weathered and probably original, but patched up with cement, as are jambs; relieving arch over. No indication that the vestry included in the 1894 faculty plan was ever built.

East wall: one three-light window, the lights with two-centred heads with cinquefoil tracery and a relieving arch over the three.

South wall: join with nave disguised by one of three buttresses. One two-light window with cinquefoil heads under relieving arch. West of this is a narrow priest's door with four-centred arch and chamfered dressings - possibly one or two of the jambstones might be original.

Porch. General. In Fabric 'A'. Plain with no fenestration.

Interior

General. Plastered and whitewashed except for window and door dressings.

Porch. General. Roof of three bays with tie-beams and queen posts. Walls unplastered. Victorian tiled floor.

North wall: = nave wall. Victorian arched doorway with sandstone dressings and date stone of 1895.

East and west walls: wooden seats against walls.

Nave. General. Tiled throughout, with carpet covering aisle and over heating vents. Benches set on wooden boarding that is flush with tile floor. Roof is late 15thC, arch-braced collar trusses with raking trusses, alternate tie-beams, and three rows of cusped wind-braces, inverted on top row. Iron bands around arched braces, and some replacement of wooden elements. A segmental brace above screen. Vestry partitioned off in north-west angle.

North wall: splayed windows, the bases of the splays sloping down before flattening out. Large deep wall niche between most easterly window and screen - purpose unknown.

South wall: splayed windows as on north side; main church entrance has high doorway, its arch modern; stoup set in wall adjacent to door.

West wall: flattened angular-headed arch, stop-chamfered, and all dressings in sandstone, original. Leads into small chamber in thickness of wall containing bell ropes and also a seat with inscription referring to Craven Arms.

Chancel. General. Tiled floors, with one step up to chancel from nave and another to sanctuary. Roof as in nave.

North wall: window as in nave and weathering of head stones indicates these are original. One mural tablet of 1835.

East wall: window has replacement jambs and one mullion, but head stones and other mullion look weathered and original (in contrast to external appearance).

South wall: from east end: (i) piscina with cusped head, set into wall; (ii) window splay, again with replacement to jambs and mullion, but head looks original; (iii) priest's door with steps down to it, plastered reveal except for arch and quoins, but some indications that could be original.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Screen: "fine Perpendicular screen, either an imported screen from Herefordshire or strongly influenced by English design. And carefully restored. Posts on west side support the loft which survives in situ; plain dado; seven uniform tracery lights either side of a broad shallow-arched central doorhead; carved on the west only. Screen bays have panel tracery above ogees; the triangular doorhead is cusped and sub-cusped and the spandrels are filled with circled quatrefoils. The loft is restored on the west side, but the coving on the east is original, with carved bosses and Tudor roses painted in monochrome on the panels" (Haslam). Drawings made by Rev Parker in 1841.

Stoup: inside south door, and consisting of large hollowed block within trefoil-headed niche composed of Victorian ceramic material.

Font: octagonal bowl, perhaps 15thC. Sharpening grooves on three of eight faces.

Pews: of unsophisticated finish.

Chest: dug-out parish chest, residing in front of vestry.

Desk end: in the choir, the model for the stalls and pew ends.

Altar Rails: 18thC.

Pulpit: basically 17thC with modifications.

Communion table: Jacobean according to Howse.

Panelled vestry: 16thC panels brought from the old vicarage and 18thC rails re-used in construction of the vestry.

Bells: one of 1661, the other two of 1664. Assumed to be in bellcote.

Registers: from 1703.

CHURCHYARD

Beguildy churchyard is rectilinear in shape, its perimeter constrained by the topography of the spur on which it is set. To the north is the River Teme, to the south a small unnamed tributary.

The area is generally tidy and well-kept, and is still used for burial.

Perimeter boundary consists of stone wall on east, the external drop of c.3m and internal drop of c.0.5m largely resulting from the natural fall into river valley; in the north-east corner wall disappears but this could result from soil slip etc. On north stone wall again but more like a revetment. A broad stone wall cuts across spur on west side, with earth etc banked up internally. On south the stone wall continues until the back of a row of cottages acts as revetment. Beyond these, a steep natural scarp with a wall at base curves round to south-east corner.

Monuments: well spread throughout much of yard with some tighter concentrations particularly on west side of church; only area clear of gravestones is south-west corner. Reasonable number of unmarked graves. cursory examination indicates all 19thC and 20thC stones with virtually nothing earlier. One close to priest's door commemorated burials of 1798 and 1810.

Furniture: nothing.

Earthworks: west of church, a broad scarp bank with maximum height of 1.5m describes an arc on north and west. Conceivably it carries round to the south side. Possibly the remains of an earlier enclosure?

Ancillary features: main entrances on south side of churchyard. Half way along south side, high double metal gates with some ornamentation; at south-east corner a single ornate metal gate with a flight of steps up into churchyard. Both linked to porch by tarmac paths. At north-west corner are double metal gates leading from field - a grass path follows a faint holloway towards the church.

Vegetation: of a line of three yews west of church, only one survives, the others have stumps only. Another yew south of porch. Otherwise little vegetation.

REFERENCES

CPAT Field Visit: 10 August 1995

Crossley and Ridgeway 1949, 219
Davies 1905, 208 & 210
Faculty 1894: NLW/SD/F/33
Haslam 1979, 218
Howse 1949, 250 & 256

CONDITION

Generally satisfactory but some cracks in masonry both externally - below north chancel window - and internally - around window splays on both sides of nave. Mould forming on dressings of internal west doorway.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Good/Very Good

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Medium

Bettws Clyro

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Holy Trinity

PRN 16004

NGR SO22794732

GENERAL SUMMARY

The chapel of the Holy Trinity lies remote amongst fields, 5km to the north of Hay-on-Wye. The simple, single cell building was rebuilt in 1878, but the fine medieval roof was retained together with part of a screen, and a font brought from Clyro. The churchyard is no more than a rectangular plot around the chapel and of no interest.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Whole of the masonry structure dates from 1878, but medieval roof incorporated into structure.

HISTORY

Nothing is known of the early history of this chapel although presumably it was a medieval foundation. It was and remains a chapel of ease to Clyro.

It was rebuilt completely in 1878, because of "its state of grievous dilapidation", and the Specification noted that if necessary the foundations should be taken out and rebuilt. The architect was F.R.Kempson of Hereford.

In 1949 Crossley and Ridgeway took the Royal Commission to task for classing the screen as rude, Late Perpendicular and possibly post-Reformation, none of it accurate.

ARCHITECTURE

Bettws Clyro comprises a single cell, undifferentiated externally, with a bell turret over the west end. It has a north-east/south-west alignment, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabric: medium-sized blocks and slabs of olive-grey sandstone, regularly shaped and coursed; dressed sandstone for windows and door in similarly coloured freestone.

Roof: slates, simple terracotta ridge tiles, metal cross finial to chancel.

Bell turret: a simple square louvred turret with a pyramidal cap.

Drainage: none obvious.

Exterior

Nave and chancel. General. Lancet windows with chamfered dressings, larger in nave than in chancel; east wall has three stepped lancets. Doorway has two-centred arch springing from small capitals with broach stops to the chamfers and a relieving arch over. Both ends have external timber trusses on corbels, reinforcing the gables.

Interior

Nave. General. Church has an internal wooden vestibule. Nave floor has red, black and encaustic tiles of Victorian type with matting over it in places; seats to the front and benches behind, the latter raised on wooden plinths. Plastered and whitewashed walls. Medieval roof (14thC) of four bays; of the five principal trusses, two have arch-braced collars, two have large arch-braced scissor trusses with central king-post pendants, the whole supported on corbelled wall posts; also original purlins. Unused wooden corbels project from the wall angles in both the nave and chancel.

Chancel. General. One step up to chancel, a further one to altar; encaustic floor tiles. Walls plastered and whitewashed. The roof of two bays with the central arch-braced collar truss supported on corbels carved with human figures holding shields; original purlins and rafters, and also moulded wall plates.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: circular, tapering bowl of 13thC date, on new cylindrical stem. Bowl came from St Michael's at Clyro.

Screen: inserted below the more easterly scissor beam; two massive moulded uprights with capitals and spandrel pieces supporting the original rood beam; no signs of tracery. The gallery front of twelve pierced bays with ogee-headed tracery has been set on top of it, but the loft has gone. Attributed by Crossley and Ridgeway to the late 14thC or early 15thC.

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is small and rectangular, only a little larger than the church which lies within it. It is set on the upper side of a valley that ultimately runs down to the Wye.

The enclosure is not well-maintained, but is surrounded by a wire and post fence, contains no monuments or graveyard furniture (nor indeed has it in the past) and the church has an access via a single metal gate and a grassy path.

Vegetation: there are pines in the north-west and north-east corners and four more on the south side.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings: 1995
Clew 1981 (church guide)
CPAT Field Visit: 6 June 1996
Crossley and Ridgeway 1949, 220
Faculty 1878: NLW/SD/F36
Haslam 1979, 221
Howse, 1949, 256
NMR Aberystwyth
RCAHMW 1911, 36

CONDITION

There are a few minor cracks, notably in the south window embrasure in the chancel; ivy has been allowed to grow up the north wall, and paint is peeling on several of the internal window embrasures.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Very poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Very Poor

Bettws Disserth

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Mary

PRN 16712

NGR SO11615693

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Mary's church is a small Victorian structure set on the western edge of the Edw Valley about 8km north-east of Builth Wells. It has nothing of pre-19thC significance other than a Perpendicular font and a number of 18thC memorials and a brass from the same century. The churchyard is largely empty.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

A wholly Victorian building.

HISTORY

Nothing is recorded of the early history of Bettws Disserth and no early references have been noted.

The present building was erected in 1883 by J. B. Fowler of Brecon, though Davies put a date of 1872 on the event. Of its predecessor nothing is known.

ARCHITECTURE

St Mary's church consists of a nave and chancel in one, a north porch and a south vestry. The church is aligned on a north-east/south-west axis, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabrics: 'A' is of regular blocks with some slabs of sandstone, grey to buff in colour and randomly coursed. 'B' consists of iron-stained blocks of fine grained sedimentary rock, with some coursing.

Roofs: slates, ceramic ridge tiles which are of ornamented type over chancel but not nave; sockets for finials over both ends of chancel. Bell turret containing one bell, of brick and stone, the former for dressings and quoins.

Drainage: evidence of infilled trench on north side of nave and on east side of chancel but not elsewhere.

Exterior

Nave. General. Most of north wall in 'A', but in 'B' from springer level on windows; all of south wall and perhaps west wall beneath its rough coat of render in 'A'. Windows are simple lancets in brick with stone sills; three on each side. West wall has two long lancets. Buttress with splayed base and brick facing marks nave/chancel divide on north wall. Four 19thC mural slabs lean against west wall.

Chancel. General. Base of north and south walls splayed to c.1.0m and topped by a decorative band of stone that is carried round buttress on north but not around vestry on south. North wall has 'A' below and 'B' above as nave, but only 'A' on east and south; dressed stone quoins at angles. Windows as nave - two on north, one on south - but east window has three stepped lancets in brick with brick relieving arch over.

Porch. General. Walls battered at base; simple entrance with arched-braced collar truss for gable. Plaque recording Inclosure of Bettws Disserth Common in 1885 on east wall.

Interior

Porch. General. An open porch.

Nave. General. Tiled floor with some matting over, and flush plank flooring beneath the benches. The walls plastered and painted green, though the brick dressings to the windows, door and embrasures left bare. Roof of three bays with three braced collar trusses and over the nave/chancel divided two arch-braced collar trusses about 0.4m apart forming a sort of double 'arch'.

North wall: only the window and north doorway embrasures.

East wall: two steps up to the chancel.

South wall: window embrasures and, at the west end, two stone memorials one of the 18thC and one of the 19thC, screwed to the wall.

West end: two window embrasures and eight stone and marble memorials including two of 1723 and 1750, and one brass of 1782.

Chancel. General. Floor and walls as nave, with one step up to the sanctuary. Roof of two bays with two braced collar trusses similar to those in the nave.

East wall: wooden reredos with painted panels.

South wall: ogee-headed lintel to the vestry, and brick jambs which are chamfered with broach stops.

Vestry. General. Not accessible.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: octagonal bowl with plain sides but horizontal girth grooves at the bottom; octagonal stem and splayed octagonal base; Perpendicular.

Monuments: i) marble memorial to David Morgan (d.1723). Stone memorials to ii) Elizabeth Morgan (d.1750) by A Cartwright. iii) Thomas Morgan (18thC but too worn to determine date of death)

Brass: to Hugh Morgan (d.1782) with Latin inscription.

Church plate: chalice of 1651.

Register: from 1731.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Monuments: to Elizabeth Sheen (d.1840) by Price of Builth.

CHURCHYARD

Churchyard is a small sub-rectangular enclosure with a curving northern side. It lies on the western edge of the Edw valley with an immediate drop to the valley floor beneath. The interior is almost flat - there is a slight slope from south to north.

It is well-maintained and is used for modern burials though these are few.

Stone walls form the boundary only by the main gate. On the south is a hedge with minor internal banking and perhaps an external ground level that is fractionally lower. Above the river there is a post and wire fence; and on the north, the hedge incorporates at one point the wall of a small ruined building, and a shallow ditch is visible outside. Around the west side the external ground level appears to be about 0.5m below the churchyard level.

Monuments: a few are set in the south-east corner, two from the very end of the 18thC; and a small group of more recent memorials lie to the north of the path leading to the porch.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: possibly an earthwork across extreme south-west corner could represent an earlier bank, but equally this could be dumped material.

Ancillary features: double iron gates near west corner with tarmac path to porch.

Vegetation: one yew tree of no great age on north side of church; conifers along south and west perimeter.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 5 March 1996 and 1 February 1999

Davies 1905, 316

Haslam 1979, 221

Howse, 1949, 257

Howse 1952, 9

CONDITION

Externally it appears to be fine, but there is evidence internally of subsidence, particularly near the vestry.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Very poor

Value of documentary evidence: Very poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Bleddfa

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Mary Magdalene

PRN 16716

NGR SO20826836

GENERAL SUMMARY

Bleddfa church is dedicated to St Mary Magdalene and lies within a raised sub-rectangular churchyard on a slight spur, towards the head of a U-shaped valley that feeds into the River Lugg about 12km west-north-west of Presteigne. The earliest architecture dates from the 13thC, but there was considerable reconstruction work in the post-medieval era. Other than the font there is little in the way of medieval fittings in the building.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Lancet window in south wall of nave suggests earlier 13thC date for western part of nave; three other 13thC lancets in nave and chancel are later; all other windows inserted.

Tower difficult to date on architectural grounds but considered to be no later than the 14thC, on the evidence of excavation.

West end of nave may have been rebuilt and extended slightly around 1711, porch built at same time. Large parts of chancel and north side of nave rebuilt conceivably in 1907, but much more likely to be at some time early in 18thC.

HISTORY

Traditionally Bleddfa is an ancient site, founded by the Irish saint Brendan in 6thC. No evidence exists to substantiate this, and the location apart there is nothing to indicate an early medieval origin.

Bleddfa appears as 'Ecclesia de Blethevath' in 1291 Taxatio with a value of £5 6s 8d.

Present church building pre-dates Taxatio record. Western part of nave first featured in early 13thC, extended to east in late 13thC. Tower destroyed by fire, reputedly by Owain Glyndwr's troops before the Battle of Pilleth in 1402.

Building re-roofed in 15thC; bellcote added about 1711, together with porch.

In 1818 box pews replaced by benches, with flagstones and boards instead of the earth floor.

Glynne visited Bleddfa, sometime in the middle of the 19thC. The whitewashed church had original lancets in both the nave and chancel but other windows were classed as modern. He thought the interior was dreary but in a better state than many of the other churches in the county.

Restoration by Ernest Collier of Carmarthen in 1907, included buttressing to north and south walls, replacement of wooden windows with new ones in stone, external walls coated with rough-cast render. Tower excavated by L Butler in 1960/63.

Church repairs in 1959 and 1983. Further repairs by Capps and Capps in 1987 to roof timbers: arcade work introduced as strengthening device between tie beams and collars of two trusses at west end. Redecorating and pointing in 1991 and 1992.

ARCHITECTURE

Bleddfa church consists of a nave and chancel, a ruined west tower attached to nave, and south porch centrally placed on south side of nave. It is oriented slightly south of grid east but for and for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabrics: 'A' is medium-sized grey, tabular shale intermittently coursed.

'B' is a variation of 'A' incorporating large slabs of shale up to 1m long.

'C' is also grey tabular shale, of essentially post-medieval use, though perhaps incorporating earlier stone.

'D' includes blocks of other sedimentary rock (?sandstone and micaceous mudstone) with shale.

'E' is of slabs and blocks of olive-coloured micaceous mudstone.

Fabrics A, B and D are thought to be medieval, C is post-medieval or modern and E is probably modern.

Roofs: stone tiles on nave, bellcote and porch, slate on chancel; ceramic ridge tiles. Finial on porch roof.

Drainage: drain obvious around south side, and on east and west sides of porch; not visible on north.

Exterior

Tower. General. Ruined tower excavated in 1960-63, standing to height of c.3.0m, with walls 2m thick. All Fabric 'A'. Wider than nave. Base slightly battered. Wall tops badly overgrown, interior inaccessible with no obvious entrance.

North wall: string-course at height of c.1.4m; massive sandstone quoins at north-east angle; recent heavy pointing.

East wall: see west wall of nave.

South wall: battered but no obvious string-course, c.2.5m maximum height. Large sandstone quoins at south-east angle. Wall overlaps with that of nave for more than 3m.

West wall: maximum height of 2m, string-course at c.1.0m; poor pointing.

Nave. General. Internally there is no division between nave and chancel, simply an altar at east end. However, both internally and externally there is a change in form half way along building, with what would conventionally be termed the chancel marginally wider than the nave and the roof apex c.0.4m higher and with a slightly different pitch. To facilitate description the two units are here termed nave and chancel even though they do not conform to the liturgical usage within.

Simple low nave. Walls on north and south run behind low walls of tower. Masonry consists of Fabrics 'B' and 'C' on north with addition of 'D' on south. Some render and limewash survival. Recent development = ground level of north excavated down to foundation level and gravel path introduced.

North wall: largely Fabric 'B', particularly along lower wall face. Foundations newly exposed and pointed; remnant limewash above. One lancet window towards western end is 20thC insertion with Fabric 'C' around and above; where this runs behind the tower stub, difficult to determine whether it is 'C'. East from lancet window is bulging wall face in Fabric 'B'. Then another larger, inserted patch of Fabric 'C' as far as chancel wall, with the ghost of a window embrasure on its western edge.

East wall: none.

South wall: much of wall in Fabric 'D'. From east to west: i) single 13thC lancet window with sandstone dressings (original); render remnants on wall face, with traces of limewash beneath; ii) fabric change to 'B', probably just to east of: iii) porch; iv) 'B' continues to south-west corner, except for inserted lancet window set in surround of Fabric 'C', as on north wall.

West wall: incorporates east wall of tower. However, present nave wall has been rebuilt to west of former inner face of tower's east wall, and the quoins re-set. This occurred c.1711.

Bell turret: square with horizontal timber boarding, pyramidal roof surmounted by weather vane and arrow. North face has what appears to be small shuttered window, west face likewise.

Chancel. General. Fabric 'D' predominates, and shows frequent traces of render over limewash.

North wall: some limewash residue and flecks of render over 'D' masonry. From west to east: i) inserted double-light Decorated window of 20thC date, with Fabric 'C' above; ii) single inserted lancet window, also within 'C'; iii) stepped buttress of 20thC date; iv)+v) original lancet windows with moulded dressings set in 'D'; vi) north-east angle in Fabric 'C'.

East wall: whole wall in Fabric 'C' with occasional sandstone quoins; modern east window of three stepped lancets.

South wall: from east to west i) first section of wall in 'C'; ii) wall in 'D' containing original lancet window and 20thC stepped buttress; iii) west of buttress top of wall face has intrusive patch of Fabric 'E'; then replacement two-light Decorated window under two-centred arch, coinciding with change from 'D' to 'C', though edge difficult to detect.

West wall: not present.

Porch. General. Appears to be in Fabric 'C', with occasional limewash fragments. Thought to be early 18thC.

North wall: not present.

East wall: plain.

South wall: simple wooden upright jambs support segmental-headed tie beam, the gable above has queen struts and plaster infill.

West wall: most of wall obviously rebuilt, for foundation stones project beyond wall face and projecting sandstone at north end.

Interior

Porch. General. Flagged floor; modern roof with collared trusses, except the outermost ones which lack collars. Bare walls.

North wall: doorway with two-centred arched head of voussoirs, no chamfers and roughly dressed stone. Early heavily studded boarded door with long wrought hinges.

East and west walls: plain; plank benches on stone supports.

Tower. General. Not accessible. In west wall a mural stair visible, descending to a doorway with a monolithic arched head.

Nave. General. West end partitioned off (east of south door) and used for exhibition, formerly a schoolroom; Stone flagged floor throughout, but carpeted down centre. 15thC roof trusses in nave, supposedly earlier than those in chancel; three arched-brace trusses with chamfered tie beams and purlins and in one bay two quadruple cusped windbraces. Further to the west is a plain tie-beam truss with raking struts, but also some replacement for another tie-beam sawn off and the stubs painted over; some re-use of older timber at this end. Early 20thC report that most of roof timbers originally had simple painted designs. Walls plastered and limewashed.

North wall: one splayed window; position of another further east still visible - see nave (exterior).

East wall: not present.

South wall: splayed windows.

West wall: only partially visible because of exhibition display. Triangular-headed entrance to tower, now blocked; thought to be early 14thC.

Chancel. General. Same level as nave, carpeted. Later 15thC roof, of eight bays formed by alternate queen post and arch-braced trusses, the latter all chamfered. Three sets of trenciled purlins and two tiers of chamfered quatrefoil windbraces. Members were clearly at one time painted, fragments of red and white paint survive. Former rood beam tying one of the queen post trusses rests on modern corbels and has painted floral decoration. The paint is interrupted below the queen post and there are slots cut out of the tie beam indicating the position of various fixings for the rood and/or canopy. Walls plastered and limewashed.

North wall: four splayed window embrasures; piscina set in wall with two-centred arch over, completely whitewashed. Mural tablet of 1778.

East wall: splayed window.

South wall: mural tablet of 1867/1884.

West wall: none.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: ?13th/14thC; octagonal with a tapering stem on new cement base.

Pulpit: with some Jacobean panelling.

Chest: long plank-built muniments chest, now in exhibition area.

Communion rails: late 17thC; the balusters cut out to the silhouette of a spiral.

Monuments: memorial to John and Richard Thomas (both d.1778).

Bells: two of 1711.

Note: all furnishings are movable to a design of G. G. Pace to allow other uses for the interior.

CHURCHYARD

Bleddfa churchyard is sub-rectangular though exhibiting a curved eastern side. It occupies a gentle spur and within the yard the ground rises slightly from east to west.

It is well-maintained, still used for burials and shows no obvious indication of having been extended.

On south the boundary consists of a stone revetted bank with a hedge on top, the external ground surface more than 0.5m below that inside. This gives way to a stone wall on the west where the internal level is similarly about 0.5m higher, while on the north the ground drops away progressively eastwards beyond a stone faced bank. Again on the east the ground level inside the stone wall is significantly higher inside.

Monuments: gravestones are spread on the west, south and east sides, with one dense group to north-west of tower, another south-east of chancel. Earliest recognisable stone is of 1808. Nine chest tombs.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: recent work on north side of church has left piles of earth (temporary?). Almost all of the mound that once enveloped tower ruins has been removed.

Ancillary features: ornamental iron gates give access from east. Wooden door in wall to north gives access from rectory. Also old gate in south-west corner. Gravel paths.

Vegetation: three yews in south-east corner; otherwise miscellaneous collection of deciduous and coniferous trees and bushes.

REFERENCES

Butler 1962
Cadw Listed Building Schedule 1992
CPAT Field Visit: 10 October 1995
Faculty: 1905 NLW/SD/39
Glynne 1897, 54
Haslam 1979, 221
Howse, 1949, 257
NMR Aberystwyth

CONDITION

Generally in good condition, but some damp staining on inner face of east wall.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Poor

Boughrood

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** Cynog**PRN** 17716**NGR** SO12783928

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Cynog's church at Boughrood is a mid-19thC structure, lying a little under 15km north-east of Brecon. Nothing of its predecessor has been preserved and the only furnishing of an earlier date is a heavy wooden chest. It is set in a large curvilinear churchyard close to the River Wye.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Entirely rebuilt in 1854.

HISTORY

The location, dedication and the shape of the churchyard point to an early medieval foundation here.

The early history and subsequent development are largely unchronicled although it does appear in the 1291 Taxatio as 'Ecclesia de Boghred' though at the relatively low value of £3 6s 8d.

Jonathan Williams, in 1818, described the predecessor of the present church as consisting of a nave and chancel, divided by a timber partition, a tower containing three bells, and a porch having a lavacrum on the right of the entrance. The interior was dark, irregularly pewed, and contained nothing remarkable.

Glynne on his visit in 1851 found a church accompanied by a small west steeple of stone with a wooden belfry, and a half-timbered south porch. The nave contained bad modern windows and two single windows with trefoiled heads. There were pews in the interior and a 'rude pointed' chancel arch. The old font had been abandoned in the churchyard.

Three years later it was rebuilt 1854 in Geometrical style by C.H. Howell.

ARCHITECTURE

The church comprises a steeply roofed nave with a north aisle, a chancel with a vestry on its north side, a north-west tower outside the north aisle, and a south porch. Its is aligned east-south-east/west-north-west but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabric: consists of blocks of grey, sometimes iron-stained sandstone, randomly coursed.

Roofs: reconstituted clay tiles in red and blue; toothed ridge tiles but only on nave; cross finials at all apices.

Drainage: nothing obvious but the whole perimeter is edged by flat slabs which could cover a drain.

Note: the church was completely rebuilt in 1854 and as a result the following description is a summary only.

Exterior

General. Walls in uniform masonry without any obvious re-used material, plinthed at a height of 0.5m; square buttresses except at east end of chancel where diagonal; fenestration and doorways in yellow sandstone, the windows traceried with relieving arches over. Ornate tower with truncated broach spire and weathercock on top; hexagonal stair turret on east side.

Interior

General. Tiled floors in red and black with carpets down the central aisle, but no obvious heating vents and grilles; benches raised slightly on wooden boarding. Chancel is one step up and the sanctuary rises by a further two steps, the floors of red tiles.

Walls plastered and whitewashed, and the whitening extended to the foliage bands on the arcade capitals and the corbels of the roof trusses. 19thC brasses in the chancel, and angel-corbels also.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Chest: heavy and crude and c.2m long; in room beneath the tower.

Choir stalls: pair with simply decorated arm rests; 19thC? Removed to room beneath tower.

Victorian fittings include:

Font: octagonal with elaborate panelling.

CHURCHYARD

Boughrood churchyard is large and noticeably curvilinear on the south and west sides, while the straighter sides on the north and east may, one suspects, have something to do with the design of the lane than lies beyond the perimeter.

It is located on level ground on the edge of a river terrace beside the Wye which flows a couple of hundred metres to the west. There is in fact a slight drop in the southern part of the churchyard due to the natural descent of the valley floor.

It is generally well kept and is still used for burial.

Boundary: this consists of a wall, drystone in places on the south and perhaps elsewhere, but mortared on the north-east above the road. Only at the southern entrance where the original perimeter has been extended outwards is the wall replaced by a hedge and the original line is shown by a scarp bank up to 1m high. In places material is banked up internally against the wall, but this does not disguise the fact that overall the churchyard is raised above the surrounding ground level, and above the road on the east the difference is in the region of one metre.

Monuments: these are on the whole quite widely spaced, taking up most of the churchyard, but there are localised concentrations, while in parts of the north and south-west there appear to be no graves at all. Some later 18thC graves are sited towards the south gate and there are mid to late 18thC examples close to the south side of the church. West of the church are 19thC and 20thC graves, and those to the north are

all 20thC.

Furniture: the octagonal shaft of a sundial is set about 30m south of the church beside the path; the dial and gnomon have gone.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: double, ornamental metal gates on the east, a metal kissing gate on the south and a wooden farm gate for vehicular access on the north. Grass paths are maintained by mowing except for a tarmac path leading from the east gate to the porch.

Vegetation: there are trees around the perimeter and a couple of yews but not of any great age.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 16 November 1995

Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 223

Davies 1905, 244

Glynne 1897, 53

Haslam 1979, 222

Howse, 1949, 257

CONDITION

Some broken ridge tiles but generally appears to be in reasonable condition.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Medium

Bryngwyn

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Michael

PRN 17248

NGR SO18664948

GENERAL SUMMARY

Bryngwyn occupies a south-east facing hillside about 8km north-west of Hay-on-Wye. Its history and perhaps its architecture date back to the 13thC, but much of the fenestration has been replaced and it is likely that a fair proportion of the fabric is not original. It is notable for several stone fixtures, as well as a number of early graveslabs in the otherwise unremarkable churchyard.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The degree of weathering and lichen cover is too great for an accurate assessment of alterations in the masonry.

The nave is perhaps 13thC on the basis of paired lancets in the nave. Much of north wall (other than eastern corner) could have been rebuilt with one re-set and two new Victorian windows, the west wall re-faced (see below), while the south wall is probably original. The date of the chancel remains uncertain, though again paired lancets and the east window (now in the west wall) point to a contemporary build with the nave.

Some 15thC (or later) modifications are indicated by the Perpendicular south doorway mouldings, as well as a couple of the windows. The chancel roof and perhaps the porch are also pre-Reformation.

The extent of Victorian reconstruction cannot be established.

HISTORY

Bryngwyn is typical of many small rural Radnorshire churches in that very little is known of its history. Its foundation date can only be guessed at, but it does appear in the 1291 Taxatio as 'Ecclesia de Bringwin' when it was valued at £5 6s 8d; and the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535 records it by its present appellation.

It was restored by W. Crick of Hereford in 1874-7. The scale of the works is difficult to gauge and it was reported in The Hereford Times that '...the restoration has been carried out as nearly as possible on the old foundations', suggesting considerable rebuilding. Certainly, new window dressings were put in, the chancel doorway was moved from the south side to the north side, reportedly one new window was put in the north wall of the nave and another in the chancel, the west wall was re-faced, and a new east window was inserted and the old one placed in the west wall.

ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave, chancel, west belfry and south porch. It is aligned on an north-east/south-west axis, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabrics: 'A' of slabs with occasional blocks of small to medium, brown, red and grey sandstone; some coursing and heavy pointing that is almost like render in places. Distinctive brick red colour of some masonry in this fabric and others due to a particular form of lichen.

'B' of slabs of yellowish-grey shaly siltstone, poorly coursed; fresh appearance without much lichen cover.

'C' is similar to 'A' but incorporates large blocks of sandstone; heavily lichen.

'D' medium-sized blocks and slabs of sandstone, heavily weathered and lichen, but perhaps originally brown in colour.

Roofs: reconstituted clay tiles, simple ridge tiles. Cross finial at east end of chancel.

There is a square bell-turret with tiled sides, rectangular louvred wooden windows on the north and south, a pyramidal roof and a cross above it.

Drainage: disturbed area alongside north wall could signal a drainage trench. There are chippings on the west side, and all around the south and east sides as well as north side of chancel, there are old graveslabs which may disguise a drain.

Exterior

Nave. General. Nave is a double square, perhaps of late 13thC date. Fabric largely 'A' on north, 'C' on south.

North wall: plinth lacking chamfered top at height of c.0.9m. Two diagonal buttresses, both with plinths though not at same height as that on wall, and both have stepped coping stones. It is possible that extreme north-west angle is completely rebuilt, and that the buttress at the angle may also be late. Three windows in wall which from west are: i) unusually broad square-headed window, the light having cinquefoil tracery within an ogee-head, and sunken spandrels above. All this is in reddish-brown freestone and a couple of large dressed blocks in similar material built into wall adjacent; chamfered jambs and sill in red sandstone could be later; ii) double lancet window in red sandstone, all Victorian; iii) one lancet, Victorian. West of this window there may be masonry changes suggestive of rebuilding, but the signs could be illusory. Just below this window the wall plinth finally acquires a chamfer and the fabric changes to 'B'.

East wall: nave is c.0.4m higher than chancel and slightly wider. Chamfered plinth continues until covered by chancel wall. On south side, chamfered plinth also visible and looks original. On north side of chancel the wall face is heavily pointed, but in line with the top of the diagonal buttress it is stepped in fractionally, suggesting a rebuild above this level.

South wall: wall face has plinth with slight chamfer and close to ground level a rough batter. From the east the features are: i) pair of small lancets, the dressings replaced; ii) a three-light window with cusped ogee-heads, hollow chamfers, and a rectangular head that integrates a hoodmoulding with human-headed stops; it is in Perpendicular style but the stonework is Victorian and there are faint signs of insertion; iii) porch; iv) mural tablet of 1801.

West wall: weathered masonry could be 'A'. Chamfered plinth. Three-light window with rectangular frame, the lights have two-centred arches with trefoil tracery, hollow mouldings, and a relieving arch over. Window dressings appear wholly Victorian and there are no signs that it has been inserted.

Chancel. General. Largely Fabric D.

North wall: wall has quoin-like blocks at the angle against nave. Triangular-headed embrasure for doorway with dressed sandstone for the unchamfered jambs; the wooden door is deeply recessed and has a two-centred arched top. Also a single trefoil-headed light in a two-centred arch, also in dressed red sandstone. Both these features look Victorian. Wall bowed outwards at north-east corner and the whole of it is perhaps rebuilt; at ground level is a projecting plinth of stones. from the earlier wall?

East wall: ground level plinth continues on this side for no more than 2m. Wall plinth battered to height of

0.8m+. Window has two-centred arch, hoodmould with floral stops and three trefoiled lights with quatrefoils above, all Victorian.

South wall: wall bulges at base, and has outward lean. At the south-west corner for a maximum length of c.1.5m and a maximum height of 0.4m is a projecting plinth that slopes down and peters out at ground level. If this is an original feature, it suggests that rest of wall may be rebuilt. One quoin at south-east angle carries the well-known carved figures (see below). Main window is rectangular with two square-headed lights; shutter and hinge marks on the dressings; a couple of the lower jambs could be original but the dressings are mainly Victorian. Further west are a pair of lancets with massive freestone dressings; these windows must be original, though other jambstones and the mullion are replaced.

Porch. General. Could be Fabric 'A'.

East wall: plain wall but has chamfered plinth, not horizontal.

South wall: chamfered plinth continues, and large blocks of stone used for quoins and some of wall facing. The entrance, closed off by small wooden gates and netting, is a great rectangular opening with old wooden frame. Gable has tie beam truss with king post, struts and stone infilling, all of some antiquity from their appearance.

West wall: bulges but otherwise as east wall.

Interior

Porch. General. Broad structure. Black and red tiled floor; plastered walls. A two-bay roof with an arch-braced collar truss at the centre, the outer one as described above, and the inner truss with tie beam and king post but largely replaced; one tier of quatrefoil wind-braces. 16thC.

North wall: four-centred arch with stopped chamfers and complex mouldings. Broad door. Wall also supports wooden panel of Incorporated Church Building Society (1874).

East wall: stone bench. Above it a medieval coffin lid.

West wall: stone bench and above it a grave slab/mural tablet to Thomas Williams (d.1724).

Nave. General. A broad structure. Tiled floor without vents, but carpet down aisle; benches are set on tiled floor. Plastered and whitewashed walls, except for window dressings. Ugly 19thC six-bay roof of tie beams on wall plates with arch-braced collars above. Most westerly truss reinforced by upright timbers to support bell-turret; most easterly truss is set against chancel wall (above arch) and has no tie beam.

North wall: wall leans outwards slightly; splayed windows; mural tablet of 1917.

East wall: two-centred chancel arch of Victorian build.

South wall: splayed windows and slightly splayed doorway embrasure; near south-west corner at a height of c.3m is a projecting stone, a little like a corbel for an earlier roof, though its function remains uncertain.

West wall: nothing of note.

Chancel. General. Single steps up to chancel, sanctuary and altar. All floors tiled. Plastered walls. Fine arch-braced roof of five bays with two tiers of wind-braces arranged as quatrefoils, and a half-row above; 16thC.

North wall: blocked doorway has two-centred arch with hoodmoulding, largely Victorian but some

jambstones including those with basal stops look earlier. Windows have triangular-headed embrasures. Stone mural tablet of 1825, and a wooden plaque stating: 'this chancel was adorned 1845, Rees Lloyd Curate, Phillip Powell Churchwarden'.

East wall: nothing of note.

South wall: piscina, a composite structure set in a recess with a flat slab with hole in it as base, and a trefoil-headed arch at front of recess which is almost certainly a re-used window head. Splayed main window with sedile under it. Smaller west window has internal sill of some age.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Pillar Stone: now in the chancel but until 1958 in the churchyard, south of the chancel; c.1.7m high by 0.4m wide, with an incised cross. "At the ends of its arms and in the centre are ring and dot devices; four crosslets in the angles" (Haslam). Dated to the 7thC-9thC.

Coffin Lid: in the porch; incised with a cross and chalice, and a missal.

Piscina: arch is re-used cusped widow head.

Figured stone: used as quoin in south-east angle of the chancel; both faces have female figures set lengthwise. Date uncertain, though it was suggested in 1876 that they were no earlier than the 17thC.

Bell: said to be as old as c.1200, but likely to be later.

Monument: to Thomas Williams, former rector of Cregina (d.1724).

CHURCHYARD

Bryngwyn churchyard is D-shaped and reasonably level though the ground does drop away on the south side of the church. The level of the churchyard undulates - this could be a natural feature or might be due to burial practices. It is set on a natural shelf, the ground rising behind it to Bryngwyn Common and falling away to the south-east.

The churchyard is encompassed by a drystone wall, with material banked up against it internally on the west and north to a height of almost 1m. On the north-east the wall is less obvious; instead there is a bank with a hedge on top, but south of the main entrance and around the south side the wall continues, acting more as a revetment. Here too, the churchyard is raised, though by no more than 1m, while on the east and north there is little difference between the external and internal ground levels.

Monuments: these are spread throughout the churchyard except to the north and north-east of the church. There is a good range of graveslabs dating back to the early years of the 18thC; the earliest of 1692 is exceptional, though Howse (1949) mentioned two other gravestones, dated to 1662 (in Latin) and 1685. However, even the 19thC stones to the south and south-east of the church are generally in a poor condition.

Furniture: just to south-east of the porch is a sundial, its stone plinth and square base plate with incised rays surviving.

Earthworks: to the north of the church is a shallow scarp running east to west. There is no obvious explanation for it.

Ancillary features: the main entrance is on the east where there are small, double iron gates; a second entrance on the west has a single iron gate. The east entrance is linked to the porch by a tarmac path.

Vegetation: one large yew tree south-east of the church, another on the west where new growth from an old

stump.

SOURCES

Archaeologia Cambrensis 1876, 216
Church notes
CPAT Field Visit: 22 March 1996
Haslam 1979, 223
Howse, 1949, 243
RCAHMW 1913, 20

CONDITION

The exterior is in reasonable condition, but internally paint is blistering and plaster is cracking, particularly on the west wall of the nave.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium

Cascob

Diocese	Swansea and Brecon	Dedication	Michael & All Angels
PRN	16700	NGR	SO23906639

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Michael's Church set in a D-shaped yard occupies a spur between converging valleys. It lies in the hills south of the Lugg valley, several miles west of Presteigne. There is little to suggest an early medieval origin, and the present building has few diagnostic features, though a 13thC date has been postulated.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Little exists to date building, although chancel windows may indicate a 13thC date. 15thC work includes south nave window (re-set) and nave roof, and probably the porch.

Thick walls show evidence of rebuilding, particularly on south side of nave, east end of chancel, and perhaps on north side where interrupted batter.

Upper part of tower rebuilt if mound around it and blocked south window are reliable guides. Original tower could be as early as 14thC.

HISTORY

Little is known of its early history and no record appears in the 13thC taxation records, though it does appear as 'Cascoppe' in 1535.

The earliest known incumbent was the Rev. Charles Lloyd, M.A., resident in 1678.

Church was almost a ruin in 1877, but was rebuilt in 1895.

ARCHITECTURE

Cascob church is of simple design, consisting of nave, chancel, west tower and south porch. Its orientation is fractionally north of east.

Fabrics: 'A' is of roughly coursed shale slabs, originally brown in colour but weathering to grey. 'B' less well coursed than 'A', with more lumps of shale amongst the slabs, and some variation in uniformity of slabs. In nave, coarse buff-coloured mortar used for both fabrics. 'C' is distinctive with well-coursed tabular shale and perhaps siltstone.

Roofs: shale tiles on body of church and lower stage of bell-turret; slates on upper stage of bell-turret.

Drainage: no obvious signs of artificial drainage cuts.

Exterior

Tower. General. Broad, low tower with masonry of Fabric 'C'. Enveloped by sizeable mound on north, west and south sides, in past considered to be prehistoric burial mound, but more likely associated with construction/reconstruction of tower (as at Bleddfa). Less pronounced on south than on north side.

Tower surmounted by two-stage bell-turret. Lower stage consisting of sloping roof only on north and south sides. Above this, half-timbered bell chamber with pyramidal roof capped by weathercock and vane. Two rectangular louvred windows in each side except north.

North wall: wall stepped in, just above level of mound. Above one small rectangular light, with large shale slabs for lintel and sill but no dressings. Above light is butt end of internal wooden beam.

East wall: bell chamber only visible.

South wall: wall step comparable with that on north visible for about two metres of its length; small, unglazed rectangular light just above the step, set a little to east of centre.

West wall: plain; step not in evidence but may be hidden by mound spoil; differential lichen patterning higher up, and bell-turret continues vertical face of wall.

Nave. General. Render and limewash still in patches on north.

North wall: has a slightly irregular line and elevation with some bowing. Basically Fabric 'A' though occasional shale lumps visible. At west end, wall face, less than one metre below eaves, is inset for more than 4m - not limewashed and probably indicates recent rebuild. Single small lancet window with a vaguely rounded head and jambs of shale slabs, undifferentiated from wall masonry.

East wall: little visible, projecting no more than 0.5m above chancel level, and faced with timber studs and plaster.

South wall: Fabrics 'A' and 'B' both present; south-east corner in 'A' with foundation course of large blocks; but most of wall east of porch in 'B', its face set back from the 'A' face by perhaps 0.1m. One three-light, square-headed window of late 15thC date in pink sandstone, the lights with trefoil heads, chamfered jambs and mullions, and hint of further tracery above lights; much weathered and one mullion and some jamb stones replaced. Hinges high up on jambs suggest former presence of shutters. Window clearly re-set: eaves drop down over top of window, the roof timber terminals almost resting on the lintel of window; and as a finale the tracery above lights looks to have been truncated to fit wall height. Wall plain to west of porch, 'A' below, 'B' inset above.

West wall: not present.

Chancel. General. Slightly narrower than nave. All external wall faces lean inwards. Windows perhaps 13thC. Vegetation obscures parts of north and east walls.

North wall: largely Fabric 'A' with limewash traces. One rectangular window with chamfered dressings, grooved for shutter, and presumably post-medieval in origin. Just above it a 1.2m-long slab could be re-used sill or the like.

East wall: Fabric 'A' with no real quoinwork. One double-lancet window in weathered yellow sandstone, the mullion replaced, the other dressings of small chamfered blocks with the heads turned in stones set on edge. Above eaves level a string course runs across wall face and above this some wall rebuilding at interface with roof.

South wall: all Fabric 'A', but upper half looks fresher, though also traces of limewash remain. Window

similar to that in east wall: two lancets with four-centred heads, chamfered jambs and mullion; the mullion replaced in pink sandstone and the jambs and heads in yellow sandstone could conceivably also be replacements.

Porch. General. Fabric 'A'.

East wall: plain, formerly plastered.

South wall: half-timbered gable supported on broad, solid wall ends; some timber replacement. Small double wooden gates into porch.

West wall: plain; wall face bulges; possibly some rebuilding?

Interior

Porch. General. Roof has replaced end trusses but original central truss with collar and struts; also original purlins but renewed rafters. Tiled floor but flag stone in front of nave doorway. Except on south, walls plastered and whitewashed.

North wall: broad unchamfered doorway with Tudor arch and deep reveal; modern wooden door; adjacent is building society plaque recording donation of £25 in 1878.

East wall: stone bench with slate seat; near north-east corner a stoup crudely fashioned from block of sandstone, set into wall and resting on seat; above the stoup is an alcove.

West wall: as east wall.

Tower. General. Packed earth floor. Not ceiled but open to timber-framed bell-stage; walls unplastered. Early 14thC?

North wall: deeply splayed window, the base of splay stepped down.

East wall: tower archway has triangular head, and within the reveal a wooden frame of re-used timbers. Wall face stepped in at first-floor level. In south-east angle, tower stair with simple doorway set in wall built diagonally across angle.

South wall: blocked window embrasure, the west side only visible, the east side perhaps obscured by diagonal stair wall.

West wall: plain but for timber sockets at first-floor level; face does not appear to be bonded to north and south walls but butts against them.

Nave. General. Floor at rear of nave consists of stone flags, but aisle etc is tiled with matting over. Benches and enclosed vestry (partitioned off at west end) set on raised wooden boards. Heavily restored 15thC roof with chamfered arch braces and cusped struts above the collars, and three tiers of cusped windbraces. Walls plastered and whitewashed.

North wall: thick wall but unlike south wall no internal batter, except at west end; one splayed window. One 20thC mural tablet.

South wall: internal batter, most noticeably towards west end where it corresponds with change to Fabric 'A' externally. Deeply splayed main window, all the stonework whitewashed except the sill. One mural tablet of 1808.

West wall: uneven wall face; two steps up to triangular headed doorway which looks relatively modern.

Chancel. General. Chancel on same level as nave, but one step up to sanctuary. Tiled floors covered by matting and boards beneath stalls; Victorian encaustic tiles in sanctuary, edged by flagstones, one a tomb slate with an uninscribed brass plate. Arch-braced roof of 1895, the wall plate partially replaced in concrete. Walls plastered and whitewashed.

North wall: one deeply splayed window; two 19thC mural tablets.

East wall: splayed east window; wall inset above eaves level, probably equivalent of external string course and indicative of rebuilding.

South wall: single splayed window; rectangular piscina with triangular-headed aumbry above it; two mural tablets, one 19thC, the other 20thC.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Screen: 15thC or early 16thC, and showing Herefordshire influence, but heavily restored; five round-headed lights on a low dado either side of a doorway that has a flat quatrefoil-pierced tracery head. Reset bressumer and moulded plank and muntin parapet, the only part of rood loft still in situ.

Font: octagonal and of 14thC, on square base.

Bells: three [two according to another source], smallest of which bears inscription "I.H. W.R. W. 1633"

Abracadabra charm: thought to be of c.1700, used to deliver Elizabeth Lloyd from demon possession. Found in church and now framed on north wall of nave.

Register: from 1624.

Victorian fittings include:

Reredos: with decorated oak panelling; dating from the restoration of 1895.

Monuments: to William Jenkins Rees (d.1855), Rector of Cascob from 1806 to 1855, editor of Welsh Manuscript Society, author of Lives of Cambro-British Saints, prominent in the revival of the Welsh National Eisteddfod.

Note: Howse (1949) records that the church has kept a rare 15thC sacring bell which formerly hung on its screen. Its present whereabouts have not been determined.

CHURCHYARD

Cascob churchyard is of medium size and D-shaped, but lacking convincing signs of curvilinearity (pace Haslam), except perhaps on north. Its southern edge runs along the lip of a sharp-sided valley carrying a small stream, and a converging tributary valley on the north creates a spur-like location with a gentle west to east dip manifesting itself in the churchyard. A tarmac lane edges churchyard on north side and there are traces of a green 'way' below the southern perimeter.

Churchyard is not well-maintained. It is grazed by sheep, but vegetation has got out of hand in several places.

Boundary consists of stone revetment wall on north side with internally an earthen bank of variable height (0.2-1.0m); indications of inner face to wall near north-west angle. Hedge on top. Same elements continue along western side where little variation in height between external and internal levels. On south, above valley, a revetment wall, with drop to stream beyond. In the south-east corner, adjacent to school, the

boundary is heavily overgrown and a new stockproof fence has been erected.

Monuments: generally dense on south and south-east sides of church, but no graves visible to north; earliest stones identified: to John Stephens (d.1735) and Ann Lewis (d.1742); yard contains a number of low chest tombs with rubble bases and slab tops, some collapsing. 19thC tombs and most recent burial from 1987.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: i) substantial mound up to 1.8m high around tower, presumed to be the collapsed material of an earlier tower as at Bleddfa; ii) 20m south of porch is a one metre-high mound, some 11m in diameter. Material in its make-up suggests debris from a previous restoration.

Ancillary Features: main entrance on east consists of double wooden gates with a grass path leading to the porch. Subsidiary gate and path from west shown on early Ordnance Survey maps have fallen out of use.

Vegetation: one great yew tree to south-west of tower. Otherwise a range of trees and bushes within churchyard including conifers, apple, rhododendron and hazel.

REFERENCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings: 1992
CPAT Field Visit: 11 August 1995
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 223
Davies 1905, 170
Haslam 1979, 224
Howse, 1949, 252

CONDITION

Affected by damp, particularly internal south wall of nave and on north side of nave roof, while mould appearing on porch walls.

Intermittent bulges in west wall of tower, north wall of nave and sides of porch.

Floor tiles removed in nave aisle.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium to Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor to Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Very Good

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium

Cefnlllys

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** Michael**PRN** 16743**NGR** SO08476150

GENERAL SUMMARY

The remote church of St Michael at Cefnlllys, a little more than 2km to the east of Llandrindod Wells, is basically a medieval structure that has witnessed substantial post-medieval restoration. The 15thC screen is arguably its most interesting feature, while the font, piscina and aumbry can also be attributed to pre-Reformation times. The church occupies an irregularly shaped churchyard which contains a relatively small number of monuments.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Elements of church are believed to date to the 13thC, primarily the outline plan and lower courses of some walls, including perhaps the tower base; the round-headed south doorway looks early and could well be of this date, though conceivably it could be 17thC.

On the basis of paired lights in the east and north walls, some reconstruction work in 16thC, including construction of porch and by analogy, the priest's door. Work may have extended more widely over south side where there were flat-headed windows prior to last decade of 19thC.

More drastic rebuilding at the end of the 19thC. Work included rebuilding walls including much of tower, the east wall of the chancel above window level as demonstrated by change in thickness and disappearance of slit window shown on old photograph, large parts of south wall, replacing windows and adding a new hammerbeam and arch-braced roof. Early photos in the church show the building before restoration.

HISTORY

There are few early references to this church, and a medieval rather than early medieval origin seems likely. St David's Episcopal Register refers to 'Kevenlllice' in 1513, while 'Kenlllys' is recorded in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535.

The parish book indicates that there were some repairs to the church in 1684, and that a new gallery was added in 1724/25.

In 1893, the rector of Llandrindod Wells had the roof removed from the church to persuade the parishioners to attend the new church in the town. This move was unsuccessful and the church was restored in 1895, probably, Haslam thought, by Nicholson & Sons of Hereford, because of similarities in their work at Old Llandrindod in 1894.

ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of nave and chancel in one, a west tower and a porch. It is oriented west-north-

west/east-south-east.

Fabrics: 'A' is of roughly quarried stone or irregular shape (shales, volcanic ash, etc), poorly coursed in places, with more regular blocks selected as quoins.

'B' is similar but with less variation in stone type and blocks more regular in shape.

'C' distinguished by large quarried blocks of shale, particularly for quoins.

Roofs: all slates, some renewed, tiled apex to nave.

Drainage: no obvious sign of drainage around base of building.

Exterior

Tower. General. Fabric C. Batter on base for 1.8m, and is earlier part of tower for there are quoins in distinctive volcanic stone only on batter. Small, squat, broach spire, supported on corbels at eaves level.

North wall: in first stage, a Victorian lancet, hoodmould, relieving arch of dressed stones; second stage has a similar window but hoodmould integrated with string-course at springing point.

East wall: plain, no features.

South wall: as north wall.

West wall: details as north wall but double lights rather than single lancets; in third stage, a window roundel with trefoil moulding.

Nave/Chancel. General. All Fabric A. Similarity in fabric between older and newer parts of south wall implies re-use of older materials.

North wall: three windows; from east: i) Victorian lancet with trefoil head and hoodmould; ii) paired lancet lights with dressed stone for mullion, worked stone for jambs (perhaps re-used?), large sill stone and single block for the lights (originally medieval but perhaps more likely to be 16thC or even later); and iii) double-light, pointed arch of Victorian date.

East wall: shows considerable variation in stone of Fabric A; a window of two lancet lights, again likely to be 16thC or later, with dressed stone jambs and mullion, more southerly light has volcanic ash used for arch; incomplete relieving arch over window; wall probably rebuilt above window level where faint change in fabric.

South wall: Fabric A but more variety in stone towards east end; two windows plus two doors; from east: single light Victorian window with hoodmould; then priest's door, four-centred slightly irregular arch of tooled stone, modern door in reveal; two-light Victorian window; main doorway (in porch) with chamfered, rounded arch; beneath west window, wall shows distinct inset and west of this the surface of wall more uneven, suggesting earlier build, probably continued as foundation course further west.

West wall: Victorian lancet with hoodmould and stops to north of tower; to south of tower, similar window with hoodmould stop flush to tower wall; south of window and below it wall stepped out, suggesting earlier survival comparable with south wall.

Porch. General. All Fabric B, heavily pointed. Thought to be 16thC.

East wall: two large grave slabs held by metal staples, one of ?1752, the other 1775/1795.

South wall: four-centred arch, dressed stone jambs comparable with priest's door, modern wooden gates.

West wall: nothing of interest.

Interior

Porch. General. Formerly limewashed; tiled floor, benches along east and west sides, and modern wooden roof.

East wall: 1773 memorial slab or gravestone against wall.

North wall: south door of church and the main entrance. Round-arched doorway with chamfered jambs.

West wall: tablet recording Hendry Bank Common rights (1885), with photo of old church hanging above.

Tower. Not accessible.

Nave/Chancel. General. Whitewashed plaster, arch-braced, hammer-beam roof, exposed rafters, boarded underside; the chancel trusses are distinguished by pierced apex treatment and quatrefoil ornamental wall-brackets, all recent; Victorian tiled floor throughout, except for wood block floors beneath seating and stone base of font. South wall slopes slightly outwards. Chancel raised above rest of church.

North wall: deeply splayed windows; medieval or later double-light window has eroding stonework and some replacement of jamb and mullion stones; most easterly window has pointed arch, the others are flat-topped; two mid-19thC mural tablets.

East wall: window deeply splayed, pointed arch and dressing originally limewashed. Prior to 1893, internal arch was round-headed. Wall face set back at c.5m above ground level and just above eaves level. Early wood-lined aumbry low down to south of altar.

South wall: simple, early piscina in rectangular niche between most easterly window and south-east corner; priest's door has low flattened arch, two-light window a flat-headed embrasure; and main south doorway a somewhat irregular, segmental, arch; one mural tablet of 1806 near south-west corner.

West wall: pointed arches to both Victorian lancets; tower doorway has steep, two-centred arch; wall face set back above eaves level but lower than the step in the east wall; stone mural tablets of 1825 and 1832, and wooden example of 1771 over tower door.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Screen: 15thC, restored, but neglected in the past. Six lights either side of central doorway flanked by standards with elaborately capped bowtells. The tracery head to the doorway is missing - fretwork tracery in the lights are poor replacements; richly moulded mullions, chamfered mid-rail, bead moulded plank and muntin panelling, moulded head rail with mortices to carry loft framing.

Font: Perpendicular date, octagonal with curved underside, on new base.

Pulpit: Re-used panelling possibly from pews, dated 1660 and 1661, with geometric and arcadework decoration.

Mural tablets: late 18thC and 19thC, at west end. These include: Ezekiel Williams (d.1771) in wood; Reverend Thomas Jones (d.1806), by Davies of Builth; John Whittall (d.1825) by Edward Stephens; and John Whittall (d.1832).

Organ: brought from Weston Super Mare in 1989.

CHURCHYARD

In a remote setting, where the River Ithon loops round isolated hill, this the setting of Cefnlllys Castle. Formerly the centre of a borough, but now nothing more than a couple of ruins and some indeterminate earthworks.

Church and churchyard set on lip of river terrace with Ithon to west. Churchyard irregular in shape defined by stone wall of unmortared dump construction on south-west, giving way to revetment wall on west and north where ground level higher in churchyard than outside, and a low wall set forward of an even lower bank.

Monuments: spread sparsely and lying in main to east and south-east of church. Nothing pre-dating the 19thC except for slabs against porch wall, and most recent burial from 1991.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: wooden kissing gate and field gate on south-east, metal kissing-gate on south; stone paths from both lead to porch.

Vegetation: yews spaced irregularly around whole perimeter.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings: 1993

Church leaflet n.d.

CPAT Field Visit: 19 July 1995

Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 224

Haslam: 1979, 224

Morris 1919

Silvester 1994, 30

CONDITION

Externally well maintained but crack down north side of chancel's east wall and east end of north wall suggests north-east corner at risk. Internally infrequent cracks in plaster notably in plaster beside priest's door reveal.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Poor to Medium

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor to Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Very Good

Clyro

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** St Michael and All Angels**PRN** 16750**NGR** SO21344383

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Michael's church lies in the village of Clyro about 2km from Hay-on-Wye. The church with its north aisle, nave and chancel is wholly Victorian - only the lower stages of the west tower are late medieval. Internally there is little of pre-19thC date, and the polygonal churchyard contains some 18thC monuments though many are in poor condition.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Bottom stage of tower thought to be early 15thC on basis of west window and doorway from nave; a second stage is undated and might represent a rebuild; the third stage is presumably Victorian.

Rest of building is Victorian though some of the chancel may incorporate re-used masonry.

HISTORY

Of the origins and history of Clyro church little is known. It does not feature in the 13thC Taxatio but is recorded in the Valor Ecclesiasticus as 'Clyre' at a value of £13 6s 8d.

In 1818 Williams recorded that the church that preceded the present one, consisted of a nave, chancel, tower and porch. The nave and chancel were separated by a partition of timber work under a pointed stone arch. The tower contained five bells and had "three ranges of lights of the lancet form in each range". The lavacrum was placed on the right hand side immediately after entering from the porch into the church. The east window contained "three lights divided by stone mullions supporting trefoil arches, and [was] also separated by an ornamental stone transom, sustaining two lights in the head of the arch under trefoil arches". The tower apart nothing of this architectural detail now survives.

The church was re-built by T. Nicholson in 1853 in the Decorated style, and in 1870 Glynne reported that the tower had a saddle roof. The bells were re-cast and re-hung in 1887.

Kilvert was curate here from 1865 to 1872.

ARCHITECTURE

Clyro church consists of a nave and chancel, a north aisle the same length as the nave, a west tower, and a south porch and north vestry. The tower apart, the whole structure was rebuilt in the mid-19thC. It is oriented north-east/south-west, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics: 'A' consists of slabs and blocks of grey-brown laminated sandstone, of all sizes; some coursing. 'B' is of more regularly shaped and laid masonry than 'A', grey in colour; quoins of more regularly dressed blocks of stone.

'C' is similar to 'A' but there is a greater predominance of brown stone over grey, there are fewer flat slabs,

and the coursing is less regular.

'D' is of regular blocks and slabs of grey and brown sandstone with some coursing, similar to 'B' except for the colour. Dressings of yellow sandstone.

Roofs: reconstituted clay tiles, ribbed ridge tiles; stone cross finials to nave (broken), chancel and porch. Tower has weathercock.

Drainage: narrow (<0.3m) drainage gully along north wall of aisle, and there is possibly an overgrown gully on the south side of the nave and chancel. Concrete slabs along the east side effectively disguises any drainage.

Exterior

Note: only the tower predates the 19thC and as a consequence this is the only part of the structure that is considered in any detail.

Tower. General. Battered base to height of <1m, topped by a moulded string course. The batter and the stage above it are in 'A'. Half way up this first stage is a fabric change with 'A' giving way to 'C' (visible on all sides except the east). Two-thirds of the way up the tower is an angular string course, and above this (and for a short distance below it) the fabric is 'B'. A similar but more complex moulded string course is set at the bottom of the battlemented parapet. Lower part is medieval, central part is undated, the top is Victorian.

North wall: fabric 'B' discernible at least 0.5m below the second string course. Below this and running down the centre of the wall face through the zone of Fabric 'C' is a disconformity in the fabric indicating a rebuild in 'B' and also re-used 'A', down to and including the main window which was put in place when the tower was heightened. First stage has a single lancet window, overgrown with ivy, and its authenticity thus difficult to determine. Above this at a height of c.5m is the broad rectangular slit with chamfered dressings referred to above as the main window. In line with the top of this window 'A' gives way to 'C'.

East wall: nave roof rises to 2m below the second string-course. Above this is a single louvred light in yellow sandstone with cusped tracery and a relieving arch, illuminating the belfry.

South wall: the lowest string course is broken by a doorway with a shouldered arch all in yellow sandstone. Above this is the same sort of broad slit window as on the north side; it has a long lintel stone projecting well beyond the chamfered jambs and the arrises are sharp suggesting that they may not be original. Above this and below the second string course is a clock face with a hoodmould over it. 'B' masonry reaches down to this, but elsewhere on the wall face is about 0.5m below the string course. The belfry window is the same as on the east wall but in red sandstone.

West wall: a two-centred arched window with trefoil tracery in an ogee head is set at a height of c.2m; it is not clear how much of this is original, but perhaps not much. Then a standard broad slit, and above this on a level with the clock a louvred rectangular window, much of it original. Finally, the belfry stage window mirrors that on the east side.

North aisle. General. Fabric 'D'. Chamfered plinth round this and all other cells of the Victorian structure; diagonal buttresses. West window with three lights and reticulated tracery, a two-centred arch, hoodmould and relieving arch. North wall has four two-light windows with ogee-headed lights, some reticulated tracery and hoodmoulds. East window is a bigger example of the same.

Nave. General. Three south windows as north aisle; angle buttresses.

Chancel. General. Much of the masonry is rougher than 'D' and is perhaps re-used from the earlier church.

Double chamfers. Two windows in south wall with two-centred arches, cusped tracery under ogee heads. Simple priest's door with four steps up to it. North wall blocked by vestry.

Porch. General. Diagonal buttresses. Big two-centred arched doorway.

Interior

Porch. General. Flagged floor; plastered walls; rafter and collar roof.

Tower. General. Flagged floor, bare walls, plastered ceiling. South wall has large door embrasure; north and west walls have wide splayed windows.

Nave. General. Tiled floor with heating grilles, and pews on raised wooden boarding; plastered and whitewashed walls; roof of rafters and collars. North wall consists of arcade of four bays with octagonal piers and moulded capitals. East wall with tall pointed arch and painted inscription around it. South wall has one 20thC marble mural tablet. West wall has small ogee-headed doorway to tower, and a window at a higher level.

North aisle. General. Floor, walls and roof as nave. West end panelled off for vestry. North wall has one 19thC marble mural tablet, east wall has three, and in the vestry the south wall has three including one of 1776.

Chancel. General. One step up to chancel from nave, one to sanctuary, one to altar. Tiled floor. Walls plastered and newly painted. Roof as nave. Medieval piscina is sole survivor of earlier church.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Piscina: six-sided bowl with ogee-headed arched recess behind; medieval.

Monuments: to Herbert Beavan (d.1778) and others; to Elizabeth Williams (d.1830), lady kneeling by an urn.

Register: from 1666.

Pews: low square pews with doors date to 1853.

CHURCHYARD

Clyro churchyard is polygonal in shape, rectilinear rather than curvilinear. It is level, situated on the valley floor immediately beside Clyro Brook, but there is a slight internal drop because the church itself sits on a low platform.

It is well maintained on the west and north-west where there are recent burials, but to the south of the church the area of older burials has been left to the spreading vegetation.

Boundary: a mortared stone wall bounds the churchyard on all sides but the north. There, it is replaced by a rubble bank with trees. There is a drop to the stream on the north, but also an alteration in height around the south and east sides where the external ground level is between 0.5m-1.0m lower than internally.

Monuments: most of the churchyard is used, with modern burials on the north-west and only peripheral

areas around the eastern boundary lacking obvious burials. South and east of the church are the older memorials but many of these are badly weathered, and the earliest that was recognised - of 1751 - may not be the earliest within the yard, for Howse recorded a gravestone of 1662.

Furniture: 30m south-east of the porch is a sundial set on a square pillar with a moulded head. The copper plate complete with gnomon is signed by Adams of London but there is no date.

Earthworks: platform defined by a scarp shows around the east side of the chancel.

Ancillary features: main entrance on the east under a stone and timber lychgate with double wooden gates, and a single wooden gate outside. A wooden 'farm gate' and a kissing gate in the north-west corner, and double iron gates at the south-west corner offer other entrances, all served by tarmac paths.

Vegetation: an avenue of yews, some mature, runs to the lychgate, and there are other trees including pines to the east and north-east of the church.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1995

CPAT Field Visit: 6 June 1996

Davies 1905, 249

Glynne 1897, 53

Haslam 1979, 226

Howse, 1949, 243

CONDITION

Not recorded.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Very Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Poor

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Medium

Colva

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** David**PRN** 16751**NGR** SO19985313

GENERAL SUMMARY

St David's Church is set in a small rectangular churchyard high in the Radnorshire hills about 10km south-west of Kington; it has a single chamber which may date back to the 13thC, although much rebuilt, a timber bell-turret at the west end and a 15thC timbered porch. Inside the font dates to c.1200, and several wall paintings were uncovered during the 1980s.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church is of at least four periods. The lower walls are original and on the basis of a re-set lancet in north wall are claimed to be part of a 13thC structure; however the south door, probably 15thC, could be equally relevant in dating this earliest surviving masonry. The upper walls as well as the gable ends are rebuilt, presumably in the 19thC, though Kay (referenced in NMR) argued that the rebuilding of the east end was later than that of the side walls. If the rectangular window in the north wall is the same date as the surrounding masonry (18thC) this could well be the case. The porch is in part 15thC.

HISTORY

Nothing is known of the origin and early history of Colva church. Davies (1905) records that the chapelries of Colva and Rhulen were attached to Glascwm, and this would explain the absence of a reference to the church in either of the 13thC Taxatios or in the 16thC Valor Ecclesiasticus.

It is evident that the church has been restored on at least one occasion in the last two hundred years, but no information as to when this occurred has been recovered. A restoration in 1955 included work on a replacement roof, the excavation of the drainage trench along the north side of the building, renovation of the bell turret, and internally work on the floor and the plasterwork. Further restoration apparently occurred in the 1980s.

ARCHITECTURE

Colva church comprises a single chamber with a pyramidal timber bell-turret over the west end, and a south porch. It is oriented north-east/south-west, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics: 'A' is of grey shale slabs of broadly rectangular shape but showing some variation.

'B' is similar to 'A' but the slabs are thicker and more regular in shape, and on the west wall in particular they show iron staining. Plaster residue is apparent on both types of masonry.

'A' is original fabric though whether this is medieval is unclear; 'B' was used in the Victorian rebuilding.

Roofs: wooden shingles, but bell turret may have slates.

Drainage: terrace on north side may act as drain but now overgrown. Nothing elsewhere.

Exterior

Bell turret. General. Pyramidal roof. North and south sides have weather boarding and louvred windows; east side lacks window; stonework of west wall carried up to form this side of turret; perhaps 18thC; two bells.

Nave and chancel. North wall: wall face bows inwards along its length. Fabric 'A' for first metre from ground level, then 'B' for rest of face, except at extreme north-west corner where the latter appears to drop to ground level. At the interface between the two there is a narrow plastered band for well over 50% of the length of the wall; its purpose is not entirely clear but possibly it is reinforcing poor quality masonry. Fabric 'B' lips over it from above, Fabric 'A' beneath it is inset slightly, and where the plaster dies out the wall face has a flatter more vertical face. Features from west are: i) the top of a blocked lancet window showing as a crumbling shale arch, probably 13thC in date; high up on wall face, built into matrix of Fabric 'B', and with the blocking in the same material; no jambs are apparent and it is clear, given its position in the wall, that it is re-set as an architectural curiosity; ii) a rectangular window set across the divide between the two fabrics; only one dressed jambstone, woodwormed lintel, wooden window frame and mullion to form two-light window of late date, perhaps 18thC; iii) small slit window lighting chancel with dressed sandstone jambs, chamfered lintel and sill, all original.

East wall: bulging wall primarily in Fabric 'B', but 'A' towards base of north-east corner. Two-light Victorian window, the lights with trefoiled heads and a relieving arch in slabs on edge; gable more heavily pointed than rest of wall face; 19thC and 20thC gravestones lean against wall.

South wall: again Fabric 'A' for lower part of wall and Fabric 'B' for upper, the juncture of variable height but generally between 1.3m-1.6m; the lower part of the wall bulges and is faintly battered, the upper part is closer to vertical and set back very slightly; at south-west angle 'B' dips down to ground level. From east are: i) two-light window with pointed head, chamfered sandstone dressings, Victorian; ii) window with two round-headed lights, chamfered shale dressings flaking and cracking, and arch formed of slabs on edge which are supported on small 'corbels' at springer level; 18thC; iii) porch; iv) small rectangular aperture, not splayed, wooden window frame, high up in a surround of Fabric 'B'.

West wall: in Fabric 'B'; plain.

Porch. General. In Fabric 'A', and dated to 15thC.

East wall: plain and rather irregular surface; top 0.3m of the wall could be later heightening.

South wall: entrance consists of an arch-braced tie beam springing on the west from a modern stone wall stub and on the east from a rotting wall post; the gable has principal rafters and minor struts, and most of this timber is original.

West wall: plinth at c.0.3m, almost level with internal bench; wall slightly bowed and at a height of c.1.3m the wall is inset suggesting heightening (or rebuilding) of the top 0.3m-0.4m.

Interior

Porch. General. Floor has stone slabs; one step up to door. Walls bare, except for north wall. Roof has two bays, the outer trusses (including that on outside) have arch-braced trusses with soffit chamfers, springing from wall posts; the central truss has a collar beam with cusped apex, and there are also cusped windbraces; new rafters.

North wall: = south wall of nave, plastered and whitewashed. Two-centred arched doorway, with ornate mouldings in sandstone, original, and almost certainly 15thC. Above door, the distinction between Fabrics 'A' and 'B', visible externally, can be traced under plaster as an inset. The wooden door is itself of some age and is reinforced by modern struts.

East wall: stone bench with slab seats; bulging wall; repointed masonry.

West wall: as east wall. but only minor outward lean. Anomaly in masonry in north-west corner between last truss and nave wall, but for which no obvious explanation.

Vestry. General. Two concrete steps up from nave; floor carpetted. Belfry 'floor' near eaves level.

East wall: partition, partly a support for the bell-turret (and also see below).

South wall: deeply splayed window but asymmetrical.

West wall: whitewashed but not plastered.

Nave. General. Floor has stone flags at entrance, then one step up into nave; stone flags behind benches, under font etc; tiles down central walkway, part carpetted; red painted concrete under benches. Kay (in NMR record) claimed that flags included some re-used graveslabs at west end. Walls plastered and whitewashed. Roof of five bays (including sanctuary) with arch-braced collar trusses on moulded stub ties (or 'corbels'), two of them with tie beams, the ties chamfered with ogee-stops; three rows of through purlins.

North wall: wall leans outwards at a height of about 2m, and in the area of the only window, the wall is outset just above it, suggesting perhaps some rebuilding, though it does not appear to coincide with the masonry change on external face; there is also a disconformity in the plaster face that might correspond with the blocked lancet window. Wall has dado of old box pews to height of c.1.0m except behind organ which was the location of the former stove; deeply splayed window embrasure with wooden lintel to the soffit. Six fragmentary wall paintings including skull and cross bones.

South wall: wall battered to height of 1.3m; higher up slight offset just below tie-beam level, visible intermittently for whole length of wall. Box pews used as panelling as on north. Deeply splayed window with wooden lintel. Doorway has rectangular reveal with wooden lintel; door itself of some antiquity. Three wall paintings.

West wall: unplastered plinth supports re-used beam (with occasional peg-holes) and above partition wall of lathe and plaster with studs, separating nave from vestry. Simple rectangular door to vestry. Above the partition is a tie beam and an 18thC coat of arms rests on this.

Sanctuary. General. Step up from nave; carpet on floor. Walls plastered and whitewashed.

North wall: deeply splayed window, the splay asymmetrical, and there is a flat sill in contrast to other windows. To east of it a mural tablet of 1833.

East wall: deeply splayed window lacking any ancient stonework. An offset in the wall above the window provides ledge for former tie beam. Two wall paintings above four mural tablets of 1789, 1773, 1779 and 1807.

South wall: splayed window embrasure with wall painting above it.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: round bowl of c.1200, cylindrical base is modern.

Wall paintings: uncovered during the 1980s; full details to be found in the NMR at Aberystwyth. Includes 18thC paintings of the Creeds. It has been suggested that the skull and cross bones could be medieval but this is unproven.

Altar: a 17thC communion table.

Coat of Arms: Royal Arms painted on board and signed 'Cartwright de Abaredow, 1733'. Restored in 1838.

Bells: 1707 and 1740.

Monuments: on east wall to James Griffiths (d.1789); James Griffiths (d.1773) by Millward of Hay; William Stocking (d.1779) by Powell of Eardisley; and James Clee (d.1807) by Price of Llowes, all in stone.

Register: from 1663.

CHURCHYARD

The rectangular churchyard, oriented on a north-west/south-east alignment is set on a slope that drops reasonably gently south-eastwards. The church is terraced into this slope.

There is no sign that it has ever been extended, it is still used for burials, but particularly on the west and north is badly overgrown during the summer months.

Boundary: separating the yard from the road to the south-east is a stone wall with flat ground behind and a 2m drop to the road. The other three sides are similar in that the boundary is a wall often incorporating large blocks of stone, but earth has banked up behind the wall and a wire fence has been added to keep out stock.

Monuments: these are of variable density and are largely to be found to the south and south-east of the church. Many are lichen covered with their faces flaking off. One chest tomb of 1779 was noted but the majority are 19thC and later.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: simple wooden gate on the south with a grass path leading to the porch. In addition there is an ornate garden gate to the field on the east.

Vegetation: six yew trees scattered irregularly in front of the church, two on the perimeter bank.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings: 1995

CPAT Field Visit: 28 July 1995

Davies 1905, 172 & 317

Faculty 1955: NLW/SD/Arch. Rep. 1

Haslam 1979, 226

NMR Aberystwyth

CONDITION

Generally in a satisfactory condition though the east wall of the porch looks unstable.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium to Good

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Poor

Cregrina

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication David

PRN 16752

NGR SO12365210

GENERAL SUMMARY

St David's church occupies a polygonal churchyard above the valley of the Edw, some 9km to the east of Builth Wells. The church has little diagnostic architecture and apart from a screen and Norman font few features of pre-19thC origin.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Norman font may indicate date of earliest church on site. Present nave and chancel of separate builds, the nave thought to be 13thC, the chancel possibly as late as 15thC, though little substantive evidence. Windows largely replacements and some wall sections probably rebuilt; known restorations in 1903 and 1958.

HISTORY

In the Taxatio of 1291 the church is referred to as 'Ecclesia de Crugrima' and had a low value of only £2 13s 4d.

Nave heavily restored in 1903, with yellow brick belfry and windows in yellow freestone.

Repairs including roughcast render to the exterior were carried out in 1958, to plans by G. Pace.

ARCHITECTURE

Cregrina church consists of a nave with western belfry, and a chancel. It is oriented north-east/south-west, though the nave and chancel have different alignments. 'Ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabric: exterior plastered and whitewashed, so impossible to discern the nature of masonry.

Roofs: nave and chancel in one - slate with reconstituted clay ridge tiles; no finials.

Drainage: on north and west there is a drainage trench, 0.6m wide x 0.3m deep; on east this shows only as slight hollow; on south its presence can only be suspected because of tarmac up to edge of wall.

Exterior

Nave. North wall: gentle batter at base, irregular wall surface, and more vertical in vicinity of windows. Two

lancet windows in yellow sandstone (modern). Downpipe at north-west corner.

East wall: not present.

South wall: wall face vertical. Modern two-centred arched window in yellow sandstone, its two lights having cusped tracery in ogee heads, with a quatrefoil above. To west is two-centred arched doorway with unrendered dressings, asymmetrical head, chamfers that may originally have had stops, in bright yellow sandstone - ancient doorway, modern door.

West wall: protrudes slightly at foundation level, possibly indicating earlier wall, or just a general irregularity in its build. Modern rectangular two-light window. Wall above may have been rebuilt to take belfry.

Belfry: stone-walled on west but otherwise timbered with weather-boarding; rectangular with hipped roof.

Chancel. General. Alignment of chancel markedly different from that of nave.

North wall: irregular surface, a slight batter only at north-east corner. One modern lancet window.

East wall: battered for most of its height. Unattractive east window of three stepped lights with cusped heads with single panel above. Irregular wall surface around window suggests that inserted into existing wall.

South wall: two standard lancet windows. Rectangular aperture for priest's door, the door itself modern, and nothing to suggest aperture of any antiquity; late 18thC has been suggested. One step up from pavement.

Interior

Nave. General. Floor of wooden blocks, carpet covering down aisle and into chancel; small benches raised on wooden board platforms. Roof of 15thC arch-bracing, with tie-beams and two tiers of plain windbraces; restored details from 1903, particularly the purlins, struts and windbraces; four trusses including that above chancel entrance, and on south side tie-beams rest on wall which narrows to the thickness of the wall plate; one truss re-set, the stub of the earlier tie-beam beside it. Very thick walls, all plastered and even window dressings whitewashed.

North wall: two deeply splayed windows with triangular headed embrasures.

East wall: tie beam above division between nave and chancel, and plaster infill above the beam.

South wall: Rectangular window embrasure, and door embrasure.

West wall: window embrasure only.

Chancel. General. Floor as nave with choir stalls raised in similar fashion to nave benches. One step up to sanctuary which is tiled but carpet covered. Roof similar to that in nave but with more massive timbers and in better condition; degree of replacement impossible to gauge.

North wall: standard window embrasure.

East wall: window embrasure framed by large two-centred arch with stopped chamfers, but of no obvious antiquity.

South wall: two splayed window embrasures. Crudely hollowed, shallow piscina near altar, its drain hole running off horizontally for only a short distance. Rectangular embrasure for door. One mural tablet of 1822.

West wall: screen only.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Screen: "of three bays with tracery heads, carved only on the west, either side of the doorway, which has small pinnacles on the jambs" (Haslam). Tracery over doorway itself broken off. Absent are the vertical wall-posts at the ends, so the screen appears shorter than the width of the gap in which it sits. Late 15thC.

Font: a plain circular bowl tapering at the base, thought to be Roman. Set on large rectangular plinth of later date.

Plate: said to be Elizabethan in part.

Register: from 1647.

CHURCHYARD

Churchyard is polygonal in shape and is perched above sheer fall to River Edw, the church close to the lip of the valley. Internally it slopes from west to east. Some modifications to its original form are likely to have occurred, but no extension has been added.

Churchyard is well-maintained, the southern part being permanently fenced off for grazing livestock. Still used for burial.

Boundary consists of stone wall on south, about 0.9m to ground level on both sides; there is however a hint of a more curvilinear bank or possibly an infilled ditch externally. Above river on south is a fence and some embanking to provide a revetment. On north wall is mortared with considerable drop to hollowed roadway, though internal bank may be modern accumulation. External surface gradually rises and on west probably little difference between internal and external ground levels.

Monuments: 19thC and 20thC graves to north of church cover larger area but are not tightly packed. South of church smaller overall area covered but denser concentration. Here mainly 19thC, a few 20thC and some 18thC, the earliest seen being 1777. Tomb chests may be 18thC but badly effected by overgrowth.

Furniture: none noted.

Earthworks: scarp bank running diagonally across south side of churchyard may be natural feature.

Ancillary features: at east end a wooden kissing gate in poor condition approached by sloping path from road. North-west corner has main entrance - narrow, double ornamental gates with a separate hinged gate. All are served by concrete paths around south side of church.

Vegetation: two mature yews on west, a couple of younger ones on north. Deciduous trees in south part of yard.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 14 November 1995

Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 227

Davies 1905, 172 & 317

Haslam 1979, 227

NMR Aberystwyth

CONDITION

Building appears sound internally and externally, though cracks are appearing on south face of nave. Some such as that in north wall of nave have been repaired.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium?

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Poor?

Group value: Poor

Discoed

Diocese Hereford

Dedication Michael

PRN 16770

NGR SO27666474

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Michael's church, Discoed, occupies a small sub-triangular churchyard above a shallow but steep-sided valley that tips down to the valley of the Lugg, 4km to the west of Presteigne. Church lacks diagnostic architectural features, though contrary to Haslam, some of the medieval building does survive, with Victorian additions. Churchyard is raised and has a couple of old yews.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The medieval shell of Discoed church survives, but without exception the windows and door were replaced in Victorian restoration together with some of the masonry. As a consequence it is not possible to put any date on the medieval structure.

HISTORY

Manor, though not church referred to as 'Discote' in Domesday Book.

In the medieval period, it was a chapel of ease in ecclesiastical parish of Presteigne, under the control of Wigmore Abbey.

Church restored and partly rebuilt in 1869 at a cost of over £500.

ARCHITECTURE

Discoed church consists of nave, chancel, north porch abutting nave near the north-west corner, and small spire. Alignment of church is slightly south of grid west.

Fabrics: 'A' is of small to medium slabs and a few blocks of grey and brown sedimentary rock (siltstone and the like?), randomly coursed, with no selection of particular stones as quoins.

'B' is of medium sized blocks and a few slabs of grey and iron-stained shale, some coursed; some fresh, others more weathered.

'A' is original fabric and probably medieval; 'B' is Victorian replacement.

Roofs: shale tiles for nave, chancel and porch, slate shingles for tower. Nave and chancel had ornamental ridge tiles, chancel a simple knobbed finial.

Drainage: nothing obvious on south and east sides. Bare ground around porch and part of north side of nave could indicate a drainage trench, or simply a flower bed.

Exterior

Nave. North wall: bulging wall, with Fabric 'A' at west end and to east of porch, Fabric 'B' over much of rest. One flat-topped Victorian window, two lights with trefoil heads, in pale sandstone.

East wall: about 0.4m of nave wall visible on each side of chancel; roof of nave about 1.0m higher than chancel, but whole of gable coated in vertical slates.

South wall: wall bulges, leaning outwards in places. Western 2m-3m of wall all in Fabric 'B' as is masonry over windows; otherwise Fabric 'A'. Two two-light windows of same pattern and date as north wall; between them a mural tablet of 1789.

West wall: base battered to height of 0.8m; string-course level with eaves on long sides of nave, and wall above inset. Two simple Victorian lancets below string-course, one blocked Victorian quatrefoil light above. Fabric heavily lichenized but largely 'B'.

Chancel. General. Chancel on visibly different axis from nave.

North wall: lower part of wall only in Fabric 'A' (bulges), rest in 'B' (tapers inwards). One single trefoil-headed light, of same pattern as those in nave.

East wall: wall bulges at base where Fabric 'A', with 'B' above. Masonry heavily weathered and lichenized and impossible to distinguish accurately between two fabrics.

South wall: 'A' below, 'B' above, but two merge and difficulty in distinguishing between them. No windows.

West wall: not present.

Tower. General. Bell-turret with box-like base lit by three small rectangular windows in each vertical side, capped with a pyramid from which rises steep conical spire.

Porch. General. Victorian with low chamfered stone support walls and open arcaded timber frame above. Doorway of arch-braced collar with carved wooden cross in gable, and roll-moulded bargeboard outside it.

Interior

Porch. General. All Victorian with tiled floor, simple collared truss roof, and two-centred arched doorway to nave.

Nave. General. Floor of black and red tiles, carpet down aisle and also elsewhere, benches raised slightly on wooden boarding. No obvious heating vents, warmth being provided by stove next to pulpit. Victorian roof of tie-beams and collars with intermediate arch-braced collars. Walls plastered but not whitewashed.

North wall: wall slopes outwards. Deeply splayed window.

East wall: ornate tie-beam and low arch, within which foiled wooden arches support the gable, the rest of which filled with plastered panels to apex.

South wall: outward sloping. Wall tablet of 1809.

West wall: splayed lancets. Wall above is inset at level of roof tie-beams but not utilised by one. Blocked

roundel light visible.

Chancel. General. Tiled in red, black and white with carpets over. Choir benches raised. One step up from nave to chancel, one up to sanctuary, and one up to altar. Roof of closely set collared trusses.

North wall: splayed window.

East wall: splayed window.

South wall: no windows; piscina set in alcove with arch over - Victorian. Two mural tablets set into wall so faces flush with it - 1779 and 1833.

West wall: nothing.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Monument: on south wall of chancel, William Taylor (d.1779), though perhaps erected in early 19thC.

Plate: chalice and paten cover from 1576.

Register: from 1680.

CHURCHYARD

Discoed churchyard is now sub-triangular in outline, though a slight scarp on north side suggests that originally it was more rectangular with a curvilinear east side. It is set close to the edge of a small valley which drops northwards to the valley of the Lugg. Internally it is relatively flat, though with a slight fall from south-west to north-east.

Modern burials are concentrated to the north of the church, and this area is well-maintained. South of the church, it is rather overgrown.

The boundary is formed of an irregular stone wall, rebuilt in places. Material has banked up against this in some places, and the external ground level is lower by at least 0.5m; removal of a building in south-west corner has resulted in the erection of a poor wire fence. On the east the stone wall acts as a revetment to the raised interior, and the external drop is nearly 2m.

Monuments: gravestones are locally dense but in some places very well spread. Earlier stones lie to the south of the church, but most are 19thC and the earliest recognisable is 1795.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: slight scarp on north side could be earlier line of boundary (see above).

Ancillary features: a single large iron gate and a wooden stile provide the main access, in the north-west corner. A tarmac path leads to the church. On the south is a modern wooden stile.

Vegetation: two mature yews and a few other trees around the perimeter.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 15 February 1996

Haslam 1979, 229
Davies 1905, 175

CONDITION

Some external cracks in fabric, particularly at east end where vertical fissures, temporarily filled, suggest chancel wall is shifting. Few obvious signs of damp. General deterioration implied by vegetation taking over south wall of chancel, and disappearance of many ridge tiles from nave and chancel.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Very Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Disserth

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Cewydd

PRN 16771

NGR SO03465837

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Cewydd's church at Disserth lies in a loop of the River Ithon less than 4km south-west of Llandrindod Wells. It is a fairly simple structure with nave and chancel in one and a west tower, but its importance lies in the fact that as Haslam notes 'it stands very much as a Victorian architect, called in for advice, might have found many of the Radnorshire churches'. The absence of 19thC restoration has left an interesting interior with box pews and decked pulpit of the early 18thC together with wall paintings and some monuments, and from an earlier age, the font and fragments of the rood screen. The churchyard is large and rectangular with some 18thC monuments, much overgrown.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Tower supposedly of c.1400, and of one build, though there is a blocked doorway on the north side; the battlements are thought to have been added within the last two hundred years or so.

No windows in body of church earlier than 16thC and wooden windows are probably later. However, the walls where not rebuilt, could be earlier, in keeping with the south doorway, and the single cell nave and chancel might be 14thC. Externally, it does appear that the tower butts up against the west wall of the nave though there are internal tower buttresses which RCAHMW thought were part of an earlier nave structure.

An in-depth analysis of the building sequence is required at Disserth.

HISTORY

The church is dedicated to St Cewydd, one of the less commonly commemorated saints who is thought to have lived in the 6thC. The location is also suggestive of an early medieval origin, but as is normal in the rural churches of Powys there is no direct evidence of such an early beginning.

In the Taxatio of Pope Nicholas it is recorded as 'Ecclesia de Dysserch' at a value of £6 13s 4d. 'Disserthe' also appears in the Valor Ecclesiasticus, its value at £16 seeming excessive for a small parish church.

Glynne visited Disserth, probably in the mid-19thC. He thought that the tower windows had a Decorated look, and that beneath the wooden east window the wall contained a flat-arched recess. Most of the other windows were modern and of the 'worse kind'. The nave was ceiled and the chancel had a coved roof with ribs, while at the west end the gallery had been built across the tower arch. No mention was made of exterior whitewash.

There was no Victorian restoration, although the roof was ceiled over by the churchwardens in 1839. Except for the section over the sanctuary, the roof timbers were re-exposed by F. E. Howard in the early 20thC. Restoration took place in 1979.

ARCHITECTURE

Disserth church comprises a nave and chancel in one, a west tower and a south porch. The building is aligned west-south-west/east-north-east, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabrics: 'A' comprises medium to large blocks and slabs of light brown sedimentary stone; larger stones selected for quoins; some coursing.

'B' is of whitewashed masonry which appears to incorporate more rounded lumps than 'A', but more precise definition is not possible.

Roofs: slates, some newer than others; plain terracotta ridge tiles. No finials. Porch has large lozenge-shaped slates with lead flashing along the ridge. Tower has weathervane.

Drainage: none immediately obvious but there may be a filled-in trench, now bramble covered, along the north wall.

Exterior

Tower. General. Fabric A. Battered base topped by rectangular-sectioned string course. Second string course accompanied by waterspouts, just below battlemented parapet. Tower attributed to around c.1400 on the basis of ogee-headed windows, and one window reputedly contains a re-used piece of Decorated tracery. The battlements were added in the 18thC or early 19thC according to Howse.

North wall: tower stair in north-east corner revealed by swelling in wall, but only as high as belfry level. Lower string course stops at the point where the wall swell starts and there is a recess in the wall to a height of c.2.5m and some obvious infill in the plinth, indicating that there was originally an external door here. The stonework that forms this swelling abuts the nave and is evidently later in date. Above the recess is a simple slit window with single unchamfered stones for jambs - this lights the stair. Higher up the second stage are two centrally placed, belfry-like windows, one above the other, though it must be presumed that only the upper one lights the belfry. The lower is a rectangular window with a label, two two-centred arched lights with cinquefoil tracery and louvre boards. All the dressings are of creamy coloured freestone and look like 19thC/20thC renewals though there is no evidence of insertion in the masonry surround. Above is the second, larger, belfry window; it has a two-centred arch with hoodmould, two cusped lights with ogee-heads and a quatrefoil light above. If it is not possible to determine from ground level how much replacement of the dressings has occurred. Two waterspouts on upper string course.

East wall: nave roof apex rises to a level slightly lower than that of the lower of the two-light windows, and at the point where it abuts the tower is an arch of edge stones, indicative of another window. A wide slit window lights the stair just over half way up the wall face. Higher up is a standard belfry window, most of the dressings probably replaced.

South wall: main upper windows as on north wall; most if not all of the dressings renewed. Two waterspouts.

West wall: a little over 2m above ground level is a west window, identical but for the louvre boards with the belfry windows. Above this the standard square-headed and belfry windows seen in the other walls. All the dressings renewed. At base of wall are three slabs that may give access to a heating chamber.

Nave and chancel. General. Nave and chancel undifferentiated externally. Whitewashed rubble masonry, Fabric 'B'. Walls bow inwards and are sometimes plumb, sometimes not.

North wall: wall plate visible for entire length and acts as lintel to three windows. All are rectangular with wooden frames, leaded lights, and tooled blocks for jambs. Just to west of second window, the wall face is suddenly inset to a depth of about 0.15m; this patch of walling, reaching almost to the third window and down to within about 0.4m of ground level, is certainly rebuilt, and has a flatter surface. The older, bulging wall continues east of the third window, but close to the north-east corner, may again be replaced by a newer wall.

East wall: tapers upwards. A rectangular four-light window in wood, the lights with trefoil heads and sunken spandrels above; painted in maroon with red on lintel, and comparable except in its material to the window in the south wall of the chancel; attributed to the 16thC or perhaps the 17thC. Beneath the window the masonry looks like an infill but it is not clear what this signifies.

South wall: wall bulges and is very rough with wall plate projecting beyond wall top. From the east is: i) a chancel window of stone with three trefoil-headed lights under a label with sunken square stops; ii) standard two-light window in wood. Possibly the wall to the west of this is rebuilt - it tapers here more than elsewhere, and there are differences in the appearance of the masonry on either side of the window; iii) porch; and iv) a smaller two-light window in wood. Brooksby (RCAHMMW) refers to a blocked priest's door: this was not seen at the time of the field visit.

West wall: tower butts up against this wall which at the south-west angle, has large well-dressed quoins.

Porch. East wall: single slit window and gravestone of 1821 set against wall.

South wall: two-centred arch with modern dressed stone for voussoirs, and cusped barge-boards, again modern. No gate.

West wall: as east wall.

Interior

Porch. General. Floor of flagstones and cobbles. Walls rendered. Roof ceiled and plastered, reportedly hiding an early timber roof.

North wall: two-centred arched doorway, with large unchamfered monolithic jambs, though to be 14thC by Haslam and perhaps a survival of the earlier church; formerly limewashed.

East wall: one small splayed window; stone bench with wooden seat, backed by old pew panels.

South wall: door reveal has socket for hinges.

West wall: as east wall.

Tower. General. Not accessible. Haslam noted that the stair doorways have chamfered jambs, the bottom one also a shouldered head and straight lintel. Also dressed stone from earlier windows used as jambs.

Nave. General. One step down from porch. Flagged floor but no obvious re-use of graveslabs; some carpet at entrance. Box pews throughout. Walls plastered and whitewashed, except for west (tower) wall which has only a coating of whitewash. 15thC roof - though Brooksby of RCAHMMW thought it could be as early as the 14thC - of five and a half bays, with arch-braced collars above tie beams (perhaps inserted), apart from the second bay from the west which has a cusped, scissor truss; two tiers of deeply foiled windbraces and some panelling along the wall-plate.

North wall: the wall slopes outwards and this is more pronounced where reconstruction has occurred. Two deeply splayed windows. Two fragmentary wall paintings, a coat-of-arms to the east and panel with text to the east.

East wall: upright wall posts and rood-screen beam only.

South wall: splayed window; a high reveal for the door, considerably higher than the external arch, and its soffit more four-centred than two-centred. Just to east of the doorway is a fragmentary wall painting, and irregularities around this indicate some rebuilding of the wall.

West wall: a large voussoired, pointed tower arch, largely blocked off except for a modern doorway with a segmental head. At the angles are stepped buttresses, which RCAHMS thought might be part of earlier nave walls. No convincing evidence of the blocked window, the upper part of which is visible externally and also, reputedly inside the tower.

Chancel. General. Flagged floor, with one graveslab of 1850, perhaps in situ. Altar and sanctuary raised, and box pews on either side of the former. Walls as nave. Roof of three bays, ceiled over, .

North wall: splayed window and one mural tablet of 1752.

East wall: wall face slopes outwards; the side of the window embrasure are only slightly splayed but it has a deep sloping sill. An alcove just south of the altar, found during restoration works in 1953/54, has a cusped head and is of unknown age, though presumably medieval; and there is also a recess in the wall behind the altar. Also to the south is another wall painting. On the north side of the altar a mural tablet of 1822.

South wall: deeply splayed window; mural tablet of 1826, and a weathered 17thC slab leans against the wall.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: octagonal, on a circular base; date probably 15thC.

Bell: three, the earliest of which is inscribed JOHANNES and is thought to date from around 1300. The others are of 1609 and a recasting of 1912.

Screen: the rood beam, one doorpost, and part of the head beam survive from the 15thC screen; but no tracery or carving.

Box pews: dated between 1666 and 1722, and painted with the names of their later proprietors (e.g. James Watt, who came to live in the area in 1805). Others either side of the altar. Nine in all.

Pulpit: three decker, dated 1687; middle deck carries date of 1706 plus initials.

Communion rails: 18thC (17thC according to Brooksby in NMR).

Wall paintings: fragments on the east wall (I H S and foliage), the north wall (part of Ten Commandments and the royal arms of Queen Anne, also a ?17thC subject, Time and Death?), and the south wall (water weeds, the Creed, with raised plaster surround); uncovered 1953/54.

Monuments: to John Davies (d.1796), by Price of Builth; to Ezekiel Williams (d.1752) by W.Watkins.

Chest: beneath north window in chancel. 17thC?

Registers: from 1734.

CHURCHYARD

Disserth churchyard is rectilinear, though with three somewhat rounded corners. It occupies level ground on the valley floor of the River Ithon which bends round the northern and western sides of the enclosure less than one hundred metres away. Despite some irregularities in the ground surface to the north of the church there are no traces of an earlier boundary.

It is still used for burials but is overgrown in places.

Boundary: this is defined by a stone wall in variable condition, though usually mortared. In places it is reinforced by a hedge and/or fence. Earth etc has been banked up against the inside of the wall, but generally there is little evidence to indicate that the interior of the yard is raised.

Monuments: these are spread across the southern part of the yard, and around the west of the church but there are none to the north. Locally dense, many are overgrown and in poor condition. A reasonable number of 18thC monuments are spread around with a few chest tombs close to the southern boundary. Modern burials lie to the west of the church.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: the main entrance in the north-east has a single long wooden gate and an adjacent kissing gate. Stile in south wall. Grass paths only.

Vegetation: four yews along eastern boundary, and three others to the west and south of the church: none of great age. Northern edge of the yard covered with mixed vegetation, some of it deliberately planted.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 13 February 1996
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 228
Glynne 1897, 51
Haslam 1979, 229
Howse 1952
NMR Aberystwyth

CONDITIONS

In reasonable condition though slightly dingy, with whitewash flaking off the exterior, and plaster peeling internally.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good?

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Very Good

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Very Good

Architectural potential: Good

Group value: Poor to Medium

Gladestry

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** Mary**PRN** 16780**NGR** SO23065510

GENERAL SUMMARY

The church of St Mary the Virgin at Gladestry, some 6km to the west of Kington and close to the English border is set in a near rectangular raised churchyard. It is first referred to in the mid-13thC and the earliest architectural features date to that period; the amount of 19thC and 20thC restoration appears to have been limited. It contains a medieval font and an early capital converted into a piscina.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The earliest architectural features are the south wall of the 13thC nave and, from the 14thC, the chancel arch and the main south doorway. A tower may have existed at this time.

Late in the 14thC the nave and possibly the chancel were widened, though a 16thC rebuild for the chancel has also been suggested; on the basis of its windows the north aisle is also 14thC, together with its arcade.

In the 15thC, the nave roof was replaced and the south porch added. In the 16thC windows were replaced in the chancel and its roof replaced.

The broach spire was added in 1719 to accommodate new bells, and this time the early tower was modified and perhaps even lowered. The church was restored in 1910 and most of the stained glass dates from the earlier 20thC.

HISTORY

The origin and early development of Gladestry are not recorded but there is nothing to indicate an early medieval beginning.

It is recorded as 'Ecclesia de Clandestr' with a value of £5 6s 8d in the Taxatio of 1291.

Glynne visited the church in 1870, noting the lancet windows, the open seating, and the trefoiled piscina near the altar.

Some restoration took place in 1910, though the Specification suggests this was primarily concerned with the roof tiling and repointing of the walls.

Howse mentions having seen in the 1920s a heap of 15thC glass and tangled lead lying in the churchyard - removed to make way for a modern stained glass window.

ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave, a lean-to north aisle, a chancel with a bellcote, a south porch and a west tower with spire. The building is aligned south-south-west/north-north-east, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabric: 'A' of coursed rubble, predominantly thin shale slabs with some larger blocks.

'B' is a variation of the above, containing fresher stone, some sawn.

'C' is similar to 'B' the stone showing more iron staining. The distinction may have no chronological or structural significance.

'D' is of slabs interspersed with squarer blocks.

'A' is perhaps 13thC; 'C' is 14thC, 'B' is 15thC, and 'D' could be 14thC or 16thC..

Stonework is pointed externally and internally, except for limewashed interior of porch.

Roofs: tower has slates, recently replaced at higher levels. Nave, north aisle and chancel roofs of shale slabs, the first of these with fleur-de-lys ridge tiles. Sanctus bell over east end of nave.

Drainage: no evidence of drainage trenches.

Exterior

Tower. General. Fabric 'A'. a very low step at the base, now concrete covered, giving appearance of projecting plinth. Rectangular-sectioned string course above first stage windows. Broach spire, rising from low pyramidal roof, claimed to be c.24m high, surmounted by weathervane in form of flying serpent with date of 1709 and churchwardens' initials.

North wall: lower part blocked by lean-to shed. Slit window with shale jambs in second stage; above, a broad-silled, square-headed louvred window with freestone dressings, lighting belfry - of late date.

East wall: narrow belfry window with square head to window and chamfered jambs.

South wall: ground floor has small, trefoil-headed modern doorway; above it is an original small foiled window with leaded lights; the second stage has a slit window and the belfry window is louvred with unchamfered freestone dressings, one with a plugged hole suggesting the stone is re-used; wooden window frame as on the north side. There is a butt joint with the nave above 2.5m but it is bonded in at lower levels.

West wall: slit windows above and below the string-course and a belfry window comparable with that on east, its dressings chamfered and the window probably earlier than those on the north and south.

North aisle. General. Walls largely of Fabric 'A', but of fresher appearance than tower.

North wall: two windows, that to west is a single square-headed light with original dressings, complex tracery and a foiled ogee head, its disproportionate size suggesting it may have been cut down for re-use? To east is a double light of simple design, also with original dressings, foiled two-centred heads and sunken spandrels in a square-headed window. Both date to the 14thC; these windows are said to contain fragments of 15thC glass. Three buttresses, all Victorian additions.

East wall: three-light window with panel tracery, a Victorian or later addition.

West wall obscured by lean-to structure.

Nave. General. It appears to have been heightened or rebuilt on south side and probably on north, reportedly late in 14th century. Sanctus bellcote at east end with bell of 1921.

North wall: restricted wall face because of aisle. Fabric 'C', heavily pointed; drip-course above aisle roof.

East wall: higher than chancel by c.0.6m.

South wall: in Fabric 'A' except for uppermost 1.5m in Fabric 'C', spreading down above lancet window. Three windows from west: i) west of porch, a single lancet, a replacement; ii) east of porch is a single lancet; iii) further east is a double lancet. All have chamfered dressings which are renewed in pale freestone. Large buttress at south-east end could be pre-19thC.

West wall: visible only in north-west corner where uppermost courses built around existing tower.

Chancel. General. Walls generally Fabric 'D'; upper courses less weathered, or perhaps raised? (cf. nave).

North wall: two square-headed 16thC Perpendicular windows, both of three lights, with foiled ogee heads; in sandstone though most dressings replaced, only the jambs original. Infilled roundel between windows of unknown purpose. Buttress at north-east corner is an addition.

East wall: Fabric 'D' incorporating some sandstone blocks; four-light window with foiled two-centred heads, sub arches and panel tracery, sandstone dressings renewed in 1910 throughout. Some visible evidence that roof raised.

South wall: two three-light windows with sandstone dressings, comparable with those in north wall; much replacement leaving only jambs. Priest's door with a two-centred arch (13thC?) and chamfered sandstone jambs that have stops near the base; stonework appears fresh but it is not clear how much has been renewed. Two buttresses, the more westerly having a (?re-used) slab which shows an illegible inscription at height of 1.6m from ground. 19thC mural tablets on wall.

Porch. General. A high porch, perhaps of 15thC date. Fabric 'B'.

East and west walls: butt jointed against nave.

South wall: an (?)original doorway with pointed arch, chamfered jambs, yet little weathering.

Interior

Porch. General. A stone slab floor with stone benches against east and west walls. 15thC roof has foiled windbraces and three trusses with peaked tie beams, collars and raking struts.

North wall: main doorway to nave, 14thC, with pale sandstone dressings, the chamfers ending in pyramidal stops; some jamb stones replaced. Door itself has elaborate strap hinges.

East wall: two niches at height of c.1.9m, and a broken stoup by nave doorway.

Tower. General. Not accessible.

North aisle. General. Stone slab floor with cast iron heating vents running alongside rear pews. Simple 19thC/20thC roof of three bays with arch-braced tie beams and intermediate close-set arch-braced collars.

North wall: window embrasures different, that to east meeting at shallow point, that to west having shouldered arch. Stone benefaction tablet of 1744 set near east window.

East wall: inner arch of window embrasure probably original, sill tiled; altar set against wall with shallow piscina adjacent.

South wall: see north wall of nave.

West wall: three marble mural tablets, one of 1767.

Nave. General. Floor of stone slabs. Roof dates from 15thC, with corbels supporting arch-braced tie beams, king-posts and close-set collars and braces - some replacement?

North wall: arcade of three bays with responds and thin moulded capitals on octagonal piers; two roof corbels with carved heads of man and woman between bays; the rest are plain.

East wall: eccentric 14thC chancel arch - lofty, double-chamfered, with inner order dying into wide responds; oak screen removed since 1922.

South wall: three square-headed splayed window embrasures, the most westerly showing evidence of replacement.

West wall: tower doorway, also eccentric; a simple pointed arch with relieving slabs above, and chamfered jambs; approached by two steps up from nave.

Chancel. General. On same level as nave, but one step up to sanctuary and two to altar. Floor partly tiled, partly stone slabs; choir stalls and altar raised on wooden plinths; organ on north side. Fine 16thC roof of arch-braced collar construction with six narrow bays, 16 oak studs carved on the underside of each truss; two and a half rows of quatrefoil windbracing.

North wall: two windows, splayed embrasures, wooden lintels, sills hidden.

East wall: window only.

South wall: two windows with details as north wall; priest's door with higher reveal, turned in sandstone and untidy infilling above door itself; it also has (or had in 1922) an original oak bolt; a fine piscina beneath more easterly window, formed from a transitional Norman to Early English capital for a four-shafted pier, hollowed as a bowl, the decoration being interlaced foliage with fleshy leaves, set on a slab projecting from the wall; adjacent is an aumbry, plain with a pointed arch, but its back face originally painted light red.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: plain, circular bowl for which a 13thC date has been suggested.

Piscina: see above (chancel), and a second one in the north aisle.

Small chest: with initials of 4 churchwardens and date '1692'; against north side of chancel arch.

Monument: Revd David Jones (d.1809).

Benefaction slab: in stone; 1744 endowment by Cassandra Dawes of Knighton to needy parishioners, in north aisle.

Bells: five, all cast in 1719 by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester. Weights and inscriptions given in Biggerton-Evans (1922).

Pulpit: in stone and dated 1749.

Church plate: originals (?) sold in 1887.

Registers: from 1660 (or from 1683).

CHURCHYARD

Gladestry church occupies a medium-sized, rectilinear churchyard, set on flat ground above the Gladestry Brook, the valley of which is steep-sided but relatively shallow. There is no sign of an earlier perimeter or any extension.

The boundary varies from the north-west corner where there is an external stone wall with soil banked up internally, a relatively formless bank in the vicinity of the south-west corner, no boundary above the stream on the south-west, and a stone wall with no internal bank from just west of the south gate around the east and some of the north side, though there is an external drop beyond wall.

Monuments: isolated chest-tombs lie immediately to the south of the church, but otherwise this part is clear. The main burials are to the north, and to the east where they are tightly packed with some tipping over; there is also a small group of burials in the south-west corner. Earliest are three ledgers to the south of the nave, the most legible being of 1738.

Furniture: a modern cross, acting as a War Memorial is set on the earlier, square, three-step base of the churchyard cross near the east gate; the shaft of the earlier cross was seen by Glynne in 1870.

Earthworks: to north-east of the church is a slightly raised curvilinear area (up to 1m high), the south-east side fading into the natural slope. Could it be natural or perhaps rubble from earlier church?

Ancillary features: main wooden gate on the east, a smaller wooden gate on west, and a metal gate on south-east.

Vegetation: yews along west and south edges of churchyard, one of those on the south being of some age.

SOURCES

Biggerton-Evans 1922

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings for Gladestry Community: 1995

CPAT Field Visit: 18 May 1995

Davies 1905, 173

Faculty 1910: NLW/SD/F/173

Glynne 1897, 51

Haslam 1979, 232

Howse, 1949, 251 & 258

CONDITION

In good condition.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium to Good

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium

Glaschw

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** David**PRN** 16782**NGR** SO15595315

GENERAL SUMMARY

Architecturally a finer and larger church than its neighbours according to Haslam, St David's lies on south side of the Clas Brook in central Radnorshire. The church itself reveals two medieval phases and was partially rebuilt at the end of the 19thC. It occupies a large sub-circular churchyard and almost certainly originated as a mother church in the early medieval period.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Ashlar quoinwork at nave/chancel join suggests that the two elements are not contemporary. On basis of windows and doors, nave is 13thC, chancel being added in 15thC and quoins included for strength. Fabrics of nave and chancel show some difference.

Much of north side of church rebuilt in Victorian period, but less rebuilding of east, south and west sides. Victorian windows with cinquefoil tracery in nave and east wall of chancel imitate Perpendicular style elsewhere in chancel. Some original windows re-set. Porch rebuilt.

HISTORY

The name reveals that it functioned as a clas church, probably in the earlier medieval period, and it has been claimed as a Dewi foundation. Davies (1905) records that the chapelries of Colva and Rhulen were annexed, presumably at an early date.

The 1291 Taxatio refers to 'Ecclesia de Glascom' and records the relatively high value of £13 6s 8d.

In 1870 Glynne noted some ornamental panelling at the east end of the nave, marking the location of the rood loft which appears to have been destroyed in the early 19thC. There were some good Perpendicular windows, the chancel roof was coved with ribs and bosses and the east window was closed. The porch at the time was large with square-headed trefoiled windows.

It was restored in 1891, at which time oak choir stalls were added and the church re-floored to install hot air heating system.

ARCHITECTURE

Church consists of nave and chancel roofed in one, a south porch and a shingled belfry rising through the roof at the west end of nave. Church is aligned north-east/south-west but for purposes of this record 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted.

Fabrics: 'A' small to medium-sized tabular shale, reasonably homogeneous and well coursed. 'B' is similar

but stone is less weathered and complemented by red sandstone dressings for quoins and string-courses.

'C' consists of regular smooth-faced shale blocks.

'D' is similar to 'A' but cleaner, unweathered shale faces, perhaps including some re-used stone, and often well-pointed.

'E' consists of large blocks of weathered shale.

Fabrics 'A' and 'E' represent original masonry, 'B', 'C' and 'D' are replacements.

Roofs: slates.

Drainage: a concrete drain or trench cover surrounds whole building.

Exterior

Nave. General. At base of wall, a chamfered plinth of poorer quality, with projecting masonry, than that round chancel. Window and west door suggest 13thC/14thC date.

North wall: base of wall and north-west angle in Fabric 'E', while most of wall in 'D'; in addition at east end of nave, 'E' appears to rise almost to full height of wall, but picture is confused by presence of chancel buttress. Windows in north wall from west are: i) a two-light window with two-centred arch; ii) a three-light window under two-centred arch; iii) a slit window high up near east end of nave wall; iv) lower and to west, one small lancet with chamfered dressings; the last two windows were designed to light rood stair. First three all Victorian, the fourth is original, but re-set and some of its grey and purple sandstone jamb stones replaced.

East wall: none.

South wall: this wall together with its continuation as chancel wall is slightly bowed. Lower part of wall to variable height in Fabric 'A', upper part in Fabric 'D'; extreme south-west angle in 'E', with rough quoinwork. West of porch one single-light Victorian window; then porch, with 'shadow' on main wall of larger porch? Finally, a two-light Victorian window with mural tablet of 1827 pinned below it. Timber wall-plate runs for most of nave length but stops short of chancel wall.

West wall: in Fabric 'E' but some patching with tabular shale around window and to north of it. Rough quoinwork at angles. At ground level a two-centred arched doorway, the jambs renewed for bottom 1.3m in largely unweathered buff sandstone with stopped chamfers, the upper parts in weathered purple sandstone without chamfers (cf lancet in north wall for colour). Above is a three-light window in red sandstone, inserted in Victorian period.

Belfry: pyramid roof with weather vane and cock above. All four sides are slate hung with vertical planking on either side of double louvred windows with cinquefoil heads, all in wood.

Chancel. General. At base of wall is a plinth, partly in red sandstone, which continues round buttresses and is of no great age. At 0.6m is string-course, medieval, and in buff-grey sandstone except where renewed in red sandstone. Stepped buttresses in Fabric 'B'. A 15thC addition to building revealed by three fine Perpendicular windows with ogee and panel tracery.

North wall: lower part of wall in Fabric A, but this is of variable height and rises also to eaves level at north-east corner and half way up wall near join with nave. Rest of wall is in 'D', except for two, stepped buttresses, and a third diagonal buttress at north-east angle, all in Fabric B. Possibly some patching to wall in 'B', adjacent to most westerly buttress. End of chancel above buttress marked by red sandstone quoins (replacing earlier ones; cf south wall); and in line with these and rising from roof is a chimney incorporating some brick and having ugly concrete cowl. A single, ogee-headed, three-light Perpendicular window under two-centred arch with hollow-chamfer dressings, and limited renewal of dressings.

East wall: most of wall in Fabric A except for gable areas on either side of east window, though not directly above it! Red sandstone used for quoinwork high up on corners. Concrete drain stops in centre of wall

where three horizontal grave slabs set against wall edge. Eroding string-course. Victorian three-light east window, all in red sandstone with relieving arch over it.

South wall: most of wall face in Fabric A with only upper levels in 'D'; ashlar quoin stones where chancel joined to nave gives initial impression that chancel earlier, though this is at odds with dating of fenestration. Two three-light Perpendicular windows with complex hollow chamfers, the outermost with stops. More easterly window has one jamb stone replaced, but otherwise original. Between is a priest's door with ornate moulding and a Tudor head; lower jambs on both sides renewed in Victorian period. Modern door.

Porch. General. Constructed in Fabric 'D' with red sandstone dressings.

East wall: plain.

South wall: timber door arch, with side posts supporting arch-braced tie beam and king post.

West wall: plain but some re-use of stone?

Interior

General. Plastered and whitewashed, except for window and door dressings.

Porch. General. Large step up into porch and another as threshold stone at south door. Unplastered walls. Slate slab floor. Roof of tie-beams and king-posts, while truss above south door has arch-bracing.

North wall: = south wall of nave. Main doorway, chamfered two-centred arch with some purple sandstone dressings; sharpening marks on east jamb.

East wall: bare except wooden bench and, above it, marble plaque recording Cefn Drawen enclosure of 1885.

West wall: as east wall, with plaque recording Llandegley Rhos Common enclosure of 1885.

Nave. General. Step down from south doorway. West end partitioned off to form vestry and not accessible. Black and red tiled flooring throughout; wooden flooring beneath pews; heating vents in central aisle. Roof 'a wonderful tangle' of 15thC arch-braced collars with alternating ties and two tiers of trefoiled wind-braces; last bay is wagon-roofed with 40 panels defined by red-painted ribs, a continuation of chancel roof to honour the rood.

North wall: two larger Victorian windows splayed with flat sills, the more westerly divided by the vestry partition; the Victorian slit window has internal dressings of red sandstone; the earlier, small lancet has wider splay and modern wooden lintel. Five mural tablets, three of the 19thC, two of the 18thC.

East wall: wide two-centred chancel arch with worn, fluted chamfers stopping abruptly at springers, and small decorative slabs set into arch near apex.

South wall: single Victorian window, but another lighting vestry; south door has pointed arch and unplastered reveal. Ten mural slabs (and at least two more in vestry), of which only two pre-date 19thC. West wall: not accessible.

Chancel. General. Same width as the nave and on the same level. Tiled floor cover as nave, with addition of patterned insets in sanctuary. Flattened wagon roof of 90 white panels with red-painted ribs, set on a battlemented wall-plate.

North wall: one window with heavily pointed stone work in embrasure; ribbed mullions and tracery, modern sill.

East wall: red sandstone for window dressings. Below window four indentations in wall, perhaps supports for reredos?

South wall: two three-light windows with similar ribbing and modern sills to that in north wall. Priest's door. Aumbry in form of small corbelled table in sandstone projecting from wall.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: perhaps 15thC, and shaped like a capital.

Bell: undated but with inscription, sits on floor in north-west corner of nave.

Memorials: tablets: to Hugh Evans (d.1834), by S. Morris of Hay; Henry Jones (d.1739) with two birds; Mary Price (d.1787) of local type, by William Jones of Llanstephan; Evan Jones (d.1815), ornate, by W. Lloyd; the Revd John Jones (d.1836), with a big urn; Mary Price (d.1816), with a trumpeting angel, by T. Jones of Cusop. In nave are those to John Price (d.1783), Jonas Howard (d.1787) and two to Thomas Lewis (father and son?) who died in 1736 and 1781 respectively.

Registers: from 1679.

CHURCHYARD

Glascwm churchyard is relatively large and of curvilinear form, though its longer sides on the north and south are straight. Possibly it has been enlarged (see below), leaving a relict inner bank on north side. It is located on a north-facing hillside, above the Clas Brook. The slope is reflected within the churchyard, despite some levelling, but is more obvious immediately to the south. When viewed from north it appears to be perched above the valley floor. The road to the village curves around south side. Churchyard is tidy and well-maintained.

Boundary: around south side this consists of a high bank, internally up to 1.8m; externally it is faced by a stone wall, in some places acting as a revetment, elsewhere rising above bank level. Where boundary is edged by the road, it is reinforced by a wire fence. Much of north side is inaccessible because of vegetation but where visible there is a low stone wall and a hawthorn hedge reinforced by wire.

Monuments: graves are localised in this big enclosure with most close to and around east and south sides of church, though there are a few strays near the southern boundary. Most of tombstones are 19thC and 20thC, but perhaps 16 flat slabs of 18thC date, moss covered and worn, close to walls of church. Most recent burial from 1991.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: on north side of church is a distinctive scarp bank up to 3m high, beyond which the ground drops sharply. This begins to fade in north-east sector and a continuation on the east and south can be made out only with the eye of faith. On flat west side it picks up again as a scarp bank surmounted by yews. This is probably an earlier or inner enclosure, though conceivably it could be a deliberately constructed platform for the building.

Ancillary features: main entrance on east from direction of village, where a kissing gate and a wider wooden gate gives access to church via gravel path. This path continues westwards to another kissing gate and a wider 'carriage' gate.

Vegetation: several yews on west side on edge of embanked platform, and a couple on east side. Others around southern boundary. Immature oaks on north side.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 2 August 1995
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 230
Davies, 1905, 317
Glynne 1897, 52
Haslam 1979, 235
Sinclair and Fenn, 1992, 83

CONDITION

Appears to be generally sound, but some cracks on south side in vicinity of chancel windows and most westerly nave window, though all filled in with cement.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium to Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor to Medium

Archaeological potential: Poor to Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Very Good

Heyop

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication David

PRN 16795

NGR SO23977456

GENERAL SUMMARY

St David's church at Heyop lies some 5km to the north-west of Knighton, overlooking the valley of the River Lugg. Without doubt a medieval establishment, the whole structure was rebuilt towards the end of the 19thC, leaving only the medieval foundations, a 15thC screen and an earlier font.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Completely rebuilt, the only architectural elements of the earlier church being the re-used masonry of earlier church and a small section of basal foundation at the north-west corner of the tower.

HISTORY

The origin and development of Heyope Church are unknown, though there is no reason to suspect an early medieval beginning.

The St Davids' Episcopal Registers refer to 'Heyope' in 1398.

The church was described by Williams in c.1818 as a small, plain, and ancient edifice, without any characteristic mark in its architecture to designate the period of its erection.

Glynne remarked on its low, rude tower without buttresses and only a few slit windows, its roof pointed and covered with tiles. The exterior of the single-cell building was whitewashed, there was a south porch and the windows were Perpendicular in style. Inside the altar was surrounded by pews and there were a few old wooden benches.

It was rebuilt by J.L.Pearson in 1881-2 on the old foundations, the specification for the work requiring that only those parts of the tower that were sound be left; the new windows and roof were very much as in the preceding 15thC single-chamber church.

ARCHITECTURE

Heyop church consists of a west tower, a nave and chancel as a single unit, a vestry together with an annex (for an organ?) on the north side of the chancel, and a south porch, near the south-west corner of the nave. The church is aligned very slightly north of grid west.

Fabrics: 'A' is of blocks and a few slabs of grey shale, regularly dressed, some coursed; selected blocks used as quoins and buff-grey sandstone for window dressings.

'B' consists of slabs and some blocks of small to medium grey shale and some very fine-grained sedimentary rock, irregular in form but often fresh looking, grey through to brown, with variable weathering,

randomly coursed.

Fabric 'A' is Victorian. 'B' is also of Victorian build but probably re-used masonry from earlier church.

Roofs: covered by reconstituted clay tiles with toothed ridge tiles; cross finial to chancel; spire surmounted by weathercock.

Drainage: trench around the wall face seems likely in view of presence of 0.3m-wide band of gravel on all sides.

Exterior

Tower. General. Fabric 'B', except for east wall in 'A'. Belfry windows (except for east wall where no windows) of two louvred lancets with roundel above under two-centred arch with stopped hoodmoulds. West wall alone has window at lower level with two ogee-headed lights and the usual stopped hoodmoulds over a two-centred arch. At north-west corner the basal course of masonry projects for max. 0.1m and represents earlier tower foundation on fractionally different alignment. Above tower is shingled broach-spire.

Nave and Chancel. General. Fabric 'A'. Walls of body of church have keel-moulded string-course. Windows on north and south sides conform to standard pattern though variable number of lights, either three or four: rectangular window frames, ogee-headed lights with cusped tracery. East window has two-centred arch with three lights and intersecting tracery, and hoodmould above. Single buttress on both north and south sides.

Vestry. General. Fabric, door and windows as nave and chancel, but string-course absent.

Porch. General. Plain sides, all in 'A'. Entrance under wooden gable with tie-beam and cusped struts.

Interior

Porch. General. Tiled floor. Simple roof of purlins and rafters. Stone benches on west and east. South door of church (in north wall) has two-centred arch in cream sandstone.

Tower. General. Nothing of any note; wooden ceiling.

Nave. General. Tiled floor with grilles down centre under carpet; benches on flush wooden boarding. Roof is continuous across nave and chancel and consists of 7 bays with arch-braced collars and cusped raking struts. Walls plastered. All window embrasures have wooden soffits.

East wall: screen, new rood over archway.

South wall: wooden mural tablet of 1796.

West wall: simple rounded arch into tower.

Chancel. General. Floor of encaustic tiles, rear choir stalls raised on plinths. Internal 'string-course' for decoration on south, east and north. Piscina and sedile in south wall.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Screen: "partly renewed; late 15thC with five Perpendicular lights either side of the triangular doorhead. The latter had spandrels filled with circled trefoils and with circles containing three circled trefoils" (Haslam). This tracery shown in a drawing by Parker but has now gone.

Font: octagonal bowl and stem; medieval.

Monument: wooden mural tablet to John Handson (d.1796).

Church plate: in 1905 this included a chalice dated to 1619.

Register: from 1619.

CHURCHYARD

Churchyard is rectangular with church almost centrally placed. Occupies a slight spur projecting from the southern edge of the Lugg valley, with the ground dropping into valley only a few metres to north, and a much less substantial drop to lower ground to the west. Northwards ground rises towards the hills. Churchyard itself, however, is level.

Churchyard is well-maintained and is used for modern burials.

Boundary consists of a mortared stone wall for complete perimeter; evidence of the earlier bank just outside north wall and perhaps on west as well. Generally, ground level within yard is higher than outside, varying between 0.4m-1.0m.

Monuments: these are located mainly to south and west of the church where a good cover, but not very dense. Surprisingly few on east side, and modern burials on the north. There is a partially buried gravestone of 1726 to south-east of the chancel, but this appears to be the only pre-19thC memorial visible in the yard.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: minor internal embanking behind boundary wall.

Ancillary features: main entrance on south consists of double iron gates with iron arch over. Concrete path leads to porch. Modern farm gate on north side gives access to burial area.

Vegetation: three old yews on south side of church. Four yew bushes around one grave beside path.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 22 February 1996
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 230
Davies, 1905, 216
Faculty 1881: NLW/SD/F/203
Glynne 1897, 55
Haslam 1979, 236
Howse, 1949, 258

CONDITION

Generally satisfactory with few obvious problems.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Poor

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Kinnerton

Diocese Hereford

Dedication Mary

PRN 16800

NGR SO24426314

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Mary's church lies in the middle of Kinnerton a few kilometres to the south of the Lugg Valley and 7km to the west of Presteigne. A chapel of ease with virtually no documented history, the present edifice is a total Victorian rebuild and retains nothing of the original medieval and later chapel, except for one painting.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church was completely rebuilt in last quarter of 19thC. Nothing of the earlier structure survives.

HISTORY

It seems probable that Kinnerton emerged as a chapel of ease at some point in the Middle Ages.

The earlier church consisted of low building with lancet windows, a bell-turret at west and also a west porch.

It was rebuilt in 1884-5, perhaps by Stephen Williams.

The churchyard was extended in the 1940s.

ARCHITECTURE

Church consists of nave, narrower chancel, vestry on north side of chancel, south porch attached to south-west corner of nave, and bell turret at west end. The church is aligned slightly south of west, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabric: small to medium slabs of grey-brown shale weathering to grey, coursed. Dressings including quoins in brick red sandstone. Wholly Victorian.

Roofs: slated, toothed ridge tiles, cross finial on chancel. Bell turret in red sandstone with cross on top. Chimney projects from north side of chancel roof.

Drainage: nothing obvious on north though some possible disturbance outside chancel wall. On south downpipes but no certain drainage trench.

Exterior

Nave. General. Chamfered plinth at base (at height of 0.4m), another at c.3m but restricted to west end. Here too a pair of hollow-chamfered lancets with hoodmoulding and decorated stops. Other sides have more simple single and double lancets.

Ancillary features: double, ornate, metal gates on south; iron kissing gate on west; metal gates on east to facilitate burial access. Tarmac paths.

Vegetation: some yews, the one to north-east of church of some age. Other trees both deciduous and evergreen species.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 21 February 1996
Haslam 1979, 237

CONDITION

Reasonable.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Very Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Knighton

Diocese	Swansea and Brecon	Dedication	Edward
PRN	16801	NGR	SO28777246
		Previous dedication	Lawrence

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Edward's church lies in a rectangular churchyard on the northern side of the town immediately above the River Teme. With the exception of the medieval tower it was completely rebuilt in the 19thC and now contains no medieval fittings.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Tower masonry in lower stages together with its east arch is 14thC; highest stages added in the mid-18thC. Almost all of the present stonework in the body of the church is Victorian but there are remnants of the Georgian aisles in the west walls.

HISTORY

Little is known of the early history of Knighton church. It has the appearance of being a medieval foundation, and reportedly functioned as a chapel of ease to Stowe, a small English village about two miles to the east.

The medieval church, for which a Norman date has been offered on the basis of slim evidence, was replaced by a Georgian successor in 1752 dedicated to St Lawrence. A small chancel was added at the beginning of the 19thC, but both were demolished in the Victorian era.

The present four-bay aisled nave was constructed in early Decorated style by S Pountney-Smith of Shrewsbury in 1875-7 at a cost £4500. The Early English chancel was completed by J.L. Pearson in 1896-7, and in addition the upper parts of the east walls of the nave and aisles were rebuilt and a new chancel arch inserted. None of the medieval fittings were retained and the 14thC font was taken to Llanelwedd churchyard.

ARCHITECTURE

Knighton church comprises a nave and chancel of equal width, a north aisle and a longer south aisle, a west tower flanked by a vestry on the north and a porch on the south. The building is aligned north-west/south-east, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabrics: 'A' consists of medium-sized somewhat irregular blocks and slabs of shale, randomly coursed. 'B' is of regular blocks of grey shale, randomly coursed, and often with a distinctive reddish tinge; freestone dressings.

Roofs: tiled; cross finials at gable ends.

Drainage: nothing obvious.

Exterior

With the exception of the tower, which is thought to be 14thC, the whole church was rebuilt in the 19thC. For that reason the following description is cursory.

Tower. General. Medieval in Fabric 'A', with massive quoins though these are less weathered and better dressed above c.4m, and match the quoinwork in the later top stage (see above). Battered to a height of c.2m, with a plinth at c.0.4m and a string-course at 1m. A second string-course with waterspouts and above this a further stage, probably from the mid-18thC rebuilding, and then a two-stage pyramidal belfry with open cusped timberwork, and a weathervane on top.

North wall: close to north-east angle and half covered by the lean-to vestry roof is a small rectangular slit window, presumably lighting the tower stair; in same stage but at a higher level and centrally placed is a small window, the light having a cusped head under a pointed arch and some of the jambstones certainly replaced. Second string-course has a single waterspout.

East wall: plain.

South wall: Victorian window inserted in first stage and above it a clock face in a brick surround which has replaced the standard window at this level, the sill of which is still visible; between the clock and the second string-course but off centre is another rectangular window.

West wall: at ground level is a modern window; higher up is a standard rectangular window with chamfered jambs and dressings in light stone, weathered. Likewise the window with pointed arch and cusped head to its light which is set higher in this stage and matches those on the north and south sides. There is also the possibility that a slit window was originally built into the wall below, but most traces of this have been erased. A single waterspout on the string-course at the top of the stage.

Church. General. Fabric 'B'. External walls exhibit string-course at height of about 1.5m. Stepped buttresses to aisles and chancel; stone chimney at north-east angle of nave clerestory. Lancet windows have hoodmouldings with human-headed stops, but in the chancel these are linked to form a higher string-course, while in aisles are early Decorated three-light windows with alternating tracery patterns, four to each aisle. Clerestory windows above aisles consisting of paired cusped lancets except at eastern end; north aisle has Geometrical window in its west wall; east window of three stepped lancets.

South porch with cusped lancet above entrance, wooden door with frame of ornamental timberwork.

Interior

Tower. General. Nothing of interest at ground level except on the east where the tower arch with its chamfered dressings is presumably original.

Vestry. General. Utilises tower wall in Fabric 'A' on south, the other sides in Fabric 'B'. South wall has small rectangular window with freestone dressings at a height of about 6m; glazed. In the south-east angle is a substantial buttress, slightly chamfered on the west, and presumably an angle buttress to the tower unless it is a relic of the early nave.

North aisle. General. Tiles covered with carpet; unplastered walls; roof of rafters with purlins. Most interesting is the fact that the west wall appears to be in an intermediate fabric between 'A' and 'B' and may belong to the Georgian structure. However, any butt joint with the tower is hidden by the arcade respond.

Nave. General. Tiled floor with grilles down central aisle; roof of arch-braced collars on hammerbeams with struts above, and cusped windbraces. Cylindrical piers to arcades. East wall has triple-shafted chancel arch. West wall is pierced by a high pointed, chamfered medieval arch with some jamb and arch stones replaced but mostly original. Above this are five mural tablets and above these are two lines on the stonework representing the gable ends of earlier naves; the lower one is incomplete. The upper peaks at a blocked rectangular window with freestone dressings which is set well under the present roof line. The upper line also links to a straight butt joint just to the north of the south arcade respond; that it commences at a height of around 5m from the floor may indicate an as yet unexplained relationship with the buttress in the vestry.

Chancel. General. Two steps up from the nave; four low steps up to sanctuary. Sedilia and aumbry on south side. The walls are decorated with red and green stencil-work, and Quattrocento angels with texts from the Gloria.

South aisle. General. In south wall freestone jambs below extreme west window indicates where an original doorway was planned but presumably never completed?). West wall retains an earlier roof line which links with the upper gable line on the west wall of the nave. The masonry beneath this is presumably a remnant of the Georgian aisle.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Bells: six by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester, 1721-2, two others of 1914..

Register: from 1600.

Victorian fittings include:

Mural tablets: on the west face of the nave are five tablets, all 19thC except for one that records a death of 1797.

Clock: by John Moore and Sons, 1857.

Stained glass: "east window by Ward & Hughes, 1897; chancel lancets and south aisle windows by Curtis, Ward & Hughes, 1901; north aisle east window, 1860" (Haslam).

Altar and stalls: by Pearson, Jones and Willis.

CHURCHYARD

Knighton church occupies the western half of a rectangular churchyard which is level, well maintained and still used for occasional burial. Located towards the northern edge of the town of Knighton, it is set back only a little way from the edge of the Teme valley, with the river itself no more than 100m to the north-east.

Boundary: the boundary is defined by a stone wall for its complete course, except where it abuts brick buildings on the south-west side. Generally the external ground level is a little lower than that of the churchyard within, but on the south-east the wall acts more as revetment and there is a considerable drop of several metres to the road below.

Monuments: these are generally evenly spread but not densely packed. Many are badly weathered. 19thC gravestones predominate but there is the very occasional late 18thC example.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: tall, ornamental metal gates provide the main entrance at the west corner and there is a wooden door in the north corner. Paths are either flagged or of tarmac.

Vegetation: there are about seven yews randomly placed close to the perimeter of the churchyard.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings
Church Guide by K.Kell: n.d.
CPAT Field Visit: 10 August 1995
Davies 1905, 217
Faculty 1896: HRO/F/28-11-1896
Haslam 1909, 237

CONDITION

Minor cracks in chancel. Generally satisfactory.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Very Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Poor to Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor to Medium

SURVIVAL AND POTENTIAL

Documented History: Very Poor

Architecture: Poor

Fittings: Very Poor

Churchyard: Medium

Integrity: Very Poor

Above ground potential = Very Poor

Below ground potential = Poor

Churchyard potential = Poor

Llananno

Diocese	Swansea and Brecon	Dedication	Anno
PRN	16806	NGR	SO09567434

GENERAL SUMMARY

Llananno sits on east bank of River Ithon, 15km north of Llandrindod Wells. The single-cell church was rebuilt in Victorian period and apart from its famous screen has a few fittings surviving from the medieval era including a font and stoup. The churchyard is rectilinear, perhaps disguising a more curvilinear predecessor.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Completely rebuilt in 1877 using some of old masonry in internal walling.

HISTORY

Nothing is known of the early history of Llananno. An early medieval origin may be suspected from its dedication and location.

No mention of the church in either of the 13thC Taxatios or in the 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus.

Glynne visited the church in 1851, observing the undifferentiated nave and chancel, a south porch and a wooden belfry. The windows were 'wretched' apart from an obtuse lancet on the north side which might have been early. The west end was used for a school, and inevitably the screen was mentioned.

An 1874 account described the porch in a dilapidated state, but notes it as "a fine specimen of the ancient timber porch of the district". However, Williams went on to note that part of a stoup, the jambs of an old doorway and the remains of the splayed recesses for windows in the chancel were the only surviving bits of old masonry, suggesting fairly extensive restoration or rebuilding before the Victorian restoration referred to below.

The old church was completely rebuilt in 1876-7 by David Walker of Liverpool at a cost of £1500. The specification accompanying the faculty indicates that the whole church was to be taken down and any sound stone to be used internally. The screen was taken down and stored until restored three years later at a cost of £300.

ARCHITECTURE

Church consists of nave and chancel in one, a south porch and a rectangular bell-turret at the west end. The alignment of the church is slightly south of west.

Fabric: consists of small to large blocks and slabs of grey and iron-stained fine-grained sedimentary rock (?mudstone), randomly coursed; dressed sandstone quoins.

Roofs: slated with simple semi-circular ridge tiles; no finials.

Drainage: south and north sides have simple downpipes, with no obvious indication of a drainage trench around the church.

Exterior

Wholly Victorian. Distinctive large neo-Perpendicular flat-headed windows containing two-centred arched lights with trefoil tracery and separate trefoils above. West window has hoodmoulding and relieving arch. East window more elaborate including variety of tracery, ogee-headed lights and ball stops to hoodmoulding. All dressings in light buff-coloured sandstone.

Two stepped buttresses at west end, and further buttresses on north and south at nave/chancel divide.

Small rectangular bell turret over west end with apertures for two bells though only one in situ.

Plain porch but south doorway has complex chamfers; short stub walls project from it to south.

Interior

General. Nothing to suggest that basic internal structure anything other than Victorian. Walls plastered and whitewashed.

Nave. General. Floor patterned in red and black tiles, wooden block flooring beneath benches and vestry; no evidence of heating vents. Roof of five bays with arch-braced collars set on wooden corbels, and crown and raking struts; one tier of cusped windbraces. Walls plastered and whitewashed. Vestry utilising old pews in north-west corner.

North wall: Mural tablet of 1814 over vestry.

East wall: screen.

South wall: hatchment of unknown date, adjacent to screen. Stoup beside south door.

West wall: nothing significant.

Chancel. General. Two steps up from nave. Floor as nave but additionally encaustic and emerald green tiles. Roof of two bays as nave, but lacking crown struts.

North wall: marble mural tablet of 1833.

South wall: mural tablet of 1875.

West wall: screen.

Porch. General. Floor as nave. Roof of scissor trusses.

North wall: two-centred arched doorway, chamfers with fancy stops; inscription dating rebuild to 1877.

East wall: plain with stone bench.

South wall: triangular-headed inner arch, in a golden sandstone.

West wall: as east wall.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: 15thC, octagonal, painted cream.

Stoup: small, crude and painted; medieval.

Screen: restored "in 1880 (and again in 1960), it is now the best example left reasonably intact of the work of the imaginative Newtown school of screen-carvers. It dates from the turn of the 15thC and 16thC, and was the subject of at least fourteen drawings by Parker in the 19thC. Ten tracery lights of six different designs, some 'Newtown arabesques', some Herefordshire Perpendicular. The triangular central doorhead has five circles (three with whorl motifs) in each spandrel. Lavish, partly restored running ornament above: serrated leaf-fronds with intertwined stalks on the west and astonishingly delicate water-plant interlace on the east. The loft has the coving characteristic of Wales, with slightly curved longitudinal ribs, and bosses underneath. On the west these are fitted with tracery panels, mostly geometrical and repetitive; many are copies. The inventiveness of these seventeen formal designs is very enjoyable, and is well matched by the execution. Only Newtown, Llanegryn (Merioneth), and Daresbury (Cheshire) possess such variety. The lower and upper bressumers of the parapet are carved with bands of running ornament, first of pomegranates and leaves and then of beautifully stylized crinkly vine-trails coming from the mouths of two wyvems. The top beam has the exuberant water-plant interlace again, tellingly contrasted with large, smooth, heart-shaped leaves. Each of these patterns is not carved in the solid, but undercut, so that the oak forms, once coloured, stand like a filigree against the shadowed ground. The parapet has its original triangular canopies with pinnacles above and buttresses between, but the twenty-five figures are replacements carved c.1880 by Boulton of Cheltenham. Christ in the centre; on the left Patriarchs, Kings, and Prophets, and on the right the twelve Apostles. Such rich and varied work was to be found in many mid-Wales churches till destruction started in the 18thC." (Haslam).

Box Pew: with woodwork dated 1681, incorporated into vestry.

Chest: oak, lacking lock; possibly c.1700. In front of vestry.

Hatchment: that of John Stephens, High Sheriff of Radnorshire.

CHURCHYARD

Llananno church lies within a few metres of River Ithon, raised slightly above it on what could be a relict terrace. Ground rises quite steeply immediately to east, but southwards the valley widens out.

The churchyard is a curious shape, long and rectilinear though with a slightly curving east side. Overgrown in parts but still used for burial.

Boundary on west consists of drystone wall to height of c.1.2m surmounted by thorn hedge; part of it was rebuilt, probably at the time when church rebuilt. On the south is a low stony bank with a thorn hedge, the inner surface perhaps 0.6m higher than the exterior. On east is a conifer hedge reinforced with wire fence, but little change in ground level, but further north and also on north side, an ordinary hedge with wire fence, and a slight external fall.

Monuments: marked graves are sparse, and what there are lie to south of church, with none to the north. Most are of 19thC and 20thC, but two gravestones of 1747 and 1762/1751 lean against south wall of church. Two metal-railed plots.

Furniture: nothing noted.

Earthworks: on north side, within the existing boundary there are traces of a low slightly curving bank, and hints of something similar on south side. Thus limited evidence of a curvilinear enclosure.

Ancillary features: main entrance consists of wooden kissing gate in north-west, with tarmac path leading to church. Grass track leads southwards from porch to collapsing wooden stile into adjacent field.

Vegetation: two yews of no great age to south of church; two more to north together with other evergreen bushes and solitary deciduous tree. Conifers screen church from east.

SOURCES

Church Guide n.d.
CPAT Field Visit: 01 February 1996
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 231
Davies 1905, 345
Faculty 1876: NLW/SD/232
Glynne 1897, 54
Haslam 1979, 239
NMR, Aberystwyth
Williams 1874, 45

CONDITION

Church displays progressive deterioration. Damp is having effect with mould growing on floor tiles in nave, and paint blistering on west wall. Recent replastering of patch on north wall. Cracks appearing in north and south walls, some potentially serious.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Medium to Good

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Very Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Llanbadarn Fawr

Diocese	Swansea and Brecon	Dedication	Padarn
PRN	16810	NGR	SO08696490

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Padarn's church sits on a terrace beside the River Ithon some 4km to the north-east of Llandrindod Wells. Present building erected in 1879, replacing a structure with some Norman features, but retaining the fine Romanesque south doorway. There are few other pre-19thC furnishings and fittings of any interest and the churchyard is not of distinctive form.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church completely rebuilt, except perhaps for some limited masonry re-use. Haslam claimed "a successful rebuilding internally but not pleasing outside". Some 19thC features (e.g. small round-headed window on south side and roll-moulding to inner part of south door) mimic earlier architectural features.

HISTORY

The origins of Llanbadarn Fawr are lost, but an early medieval date for its foundation seems likely on the basis of its dedication and location.

Surviving architectural features indicate a stone church here in the first half of the 12thC, and around the year 1176, when engaged in an ecclesiastical dispute, Giraldus Cambrensis reputedly took refuge in the church (Howse).

In the 13thC the church was perhaps enlarged and lancet windows introduced. And Llanbadarn Fawr is probably to be equated with the 'Ecclesia de Lampadern' valued at ú5 6s 8d in the 1291 Taxatio.

Williams, in 1818, described the church as a small edifice, consisting of only a single nave, or aisle. An old photograph (pre-1878) in church shows a long building with a small timber bell-tower and broach spirelet, and small windows. Plans and elevations of the pre-restoration church by Williams (see below) depict a flat-headed window at the west end and simple lancets elsewhere, while Williams also noted a small lancet window high up in the north wall which he thought had lit the rood loft.

Church was rebuilt by Stephen Williams of Rhayader in 1878-79 using local Llanfawr stone externally, and red Grinshill stone for the dressings. The Specification required the careful storage of sound masonry from the earlier building, presumably for re-use, and the preservation of a part of the east wall though this does not seem to have happened in practice.

A new vestry erected in 1905, the old vestry being used for the organ.

ARCHITECTURE

Church consists of nave and fractionally narrower chancel, a vestry, with boiler house under, attached to north-west corner of former, and an earlier vestry adjoining north side of chancel, and a south porch with tower and spire over. Church is oriented a little south of grid west, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabrics: 'A' is of fairly regular blocks of grey sedimentary rock (?a fine sandstone), randomly coursed; buff yellow sandstone dressings and quoins.

'B' is of more mixed sandstone rubble with some more granular rock, randomly coursed; of limited extent.

'A' is Victorian, 'B' could be indicative of selective re-use or in situ survival of earlier masonry.

Roofs: slates with toothed ridge tiles; cross finials of various types.

Drainage: gravel chippings all round church walls suggests drainage trench c.0.3m wide. Downpipes.

Exterior

General. Whole church built in Fabric 'A' except for small patch of 'B' at base of north wall of nave near north-west vestry, and just possibly at base of south wall. North-west vestry of slightly different masonry from rest of church.

Simple lancet windows, three at both east and west ends, individual elsewhere. One window, most westerly on south side, is round-headed imitation of what was there prior to restoration. East wall has battered plinth, west end a stepped string-course and angle buttresses. Porch has large two-centred arched doorway with complex mouldings and angle buttresses; simple lancet windows but belfry windows more ornamented. There is an attached stair turret protruding from west side.

Interior

Porch. General. Victorian encaustic tiled floor. Roof of flat ribbed panels. Victorian build but incorporating earlier stonework.

North wall: = south doorway of church. Claimed by Haslam as one of only two Romanesque carved tympana in Wales. "The reset oblong stone in the tympanum carved, not with the Christ-figure typical of the second half of the 12thC, but with two leaping lion-like animals with trefoiled tails in profile, facing a tree (of life) which grows from the frontally placed head of an animal. Beneath the smaller creature on the left is a sun-disc. Tau-pattern on lintel, which rests on two imposts, the west carved with a head, the east similar but defaced. These motifs are old ones, suggesting a date of c.1100-1150. The doorway has a pair of engaged columns, the west on a moulded base with the cushion capital decorated with fantastic creatures, the east on a fluted base with a capital decorated with two figures (Adam and Eve?) and between them a head not unlike the tympanum's. On these are two abaci, the west ornamented with lozenges, the east with serpents. They support the hoodmoulded arch, of two orders, the outer with incised zigzags, the inner with out-turned zigzags, which confirms an early 12thC date for this outlying work of the Herefordshire carvers" (Haslam). Limited replacement: one jambstone and undecorated part of tympanum. Victorian door is painted purple!

East wall: two Romanesque heads inset high up on wall, reportedly a Janus-type head and a 'sheila-na-gig'.

West wall: Roman inscribed stone.

Tower. Not accessible.

Nave. General. Patterned tiled floor with carpet over large parts, one heating grille, and wooden boards under benches. Roof of 7 bays with cusped trefoils above collars and arch-braces set on corbels; two tiers of windbraces. Bare walls of pink sandstone with deeply splayed windows. A large two-centred chancel arch with a hoodmoulding finishing in head-stops. South door has a roll-moulding in keeping with Norman predecessor. Recessed Caernarvon arch gives access to tower.

Mural tablets of 19thC date on north wall.

Chancel. General. Floor as nave but tiles more patterned; one step up to chancel, one to sanctuary. Wagon roof of 50 ribbed panels. Bare walls with deeply splayed window embrasures.

Mural tablets of 1733 and 1798 on south wall.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Inscribed Stone: inscribed VALFLAVINI, in the west porch wall; almost certainly from the Roman fort at Castell Collen, but found in the church foundations during rebuilding of 1878.

Romanesque architectural fragments: built into porch - see above.

Font: 15thC font stands beside a much newer one; octagonal, with a recess in one side, crudely made with no pedestal but a double base; font cover is dated 1679 with letters I.D.V and a hollowed out patch adjacent suggesting the removal of other letters.

Monuments: Revd James Jones (d.1733), inscribed in a roundel in a large armorial tablet, by Davies of Builth. John Price (d.1798), signed T.B., Newbridge. Evan Davies (d.1834). Evan W.Davies (d.1838), with a broken column under a weeping willow. David Williams (d.1793).

Registers: from 1696.

CHURCHYARD

St Padarn's lies in north-eastern sector of an irregular rectilinear churchyard that occupies level ground on the river terrace of the Ithon.

Churchyard is well-kept (the best in Radnorshire in 1995).

Boundary is distinguished by stone wall with large coping stones which according to local information was put up around churchyard as late as 1892. Internally material is banked up against wall to maximum height of 0.5m, and overall external ground level is lower by between 0.5m-1.0m. At time of visit several lengths of wall on north side were being rebuilt.

Monuments: these are reasonably dense on south and south-west, and also on north where mainly of 19thC and 20thC. A few 18thC monuments but earliest is graveslab of 1735 leaning against south wall of nave.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: main entrance on north-east of double iron gates with adjacent kissing gate in same material. On west is gap in wall leading into farmyard, but now disused. Tarmac paths.

Vegetation: five yews and reasonable number of stumps.

SOURCES

Church guide: n.d.

CPAT Field Visit: 13 February 1996
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 235
Davies 1905, 299
Faculty 1878: NLW/SD/F/241
Faculty 1905: NLW/SD/F/244
Haslam 1979, 240
Howse, 1949, 258
NMR Aberystwyth
Williams 1874, 51

CONDITION

Externally looks reasonably sound, and internally only a few minor cracks in chancel which have been repaired.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Poor to Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Llanbadarn Fynydd

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Padarn

PRN 16811

NGR SO09767767

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Padarn's church occupies an irregular churchyard on a bench immediately above the River Ithon and beside the main trunk road between Newtown and Llandrindod Wells. The site may first have been used in early medieval period, but nothing survives from this period and only occasional furnishings and architectural details from the Middle Ages. The church is largely a Victorian rebuild.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church rebuilt in late 19thC, probably re-using existing masonry, particularly on south and east.

HISTORY

Nothing is known of the early history of Llanbadarn Fynydd, although an early medieval origin may be predicted.

No medieval references have been noted, but in the St David's Episcopal Registers for 1513 it is referred to as 'Llanbadarn Vynith'.

In 1818 Williams described the church as "rude and mean in its form and construction, and contains only one aisle, and one little bell, which is suspended in a box of wood at the west end of the edifice...it bears a stronger resemblance to an antique barn than to a temple". The east window was described as "old Gothic". The church contained no monuments or inscriptions. The churchyard contained only one tombstone.

Glynne visited the site in the middle of the 19thC. There was a roof of collars and quatrefoiled timbers, one example of which could be seen externally intermixed with plaster. A mutilated Decorated window survived at the east end, but otherwise there were modern windows, and at the west end was a large buttress. The interior was described as dreary.

An 1874 account states that the chancel was taken down "some years ago". The east window was described as Decorated work with a moulded dripstone, but in a sadly dilapidated condition, and the south window next to the porch of the same period but more carefully repaired. Within the porch - a modern brick construction - was an Early English doorway. The south wall had been pulled down within the last few years and rebuilt of less thickness than originally. In the chancel, on either side of the east window were "two rather remarkable stone brackets or corbels, at about four feet from the floor...with sunk panels elaborately carved in diaper work of Decorated type....[though] these do not appear to be roof corbels". It was suggested that they might have carried images. The eight-bay roof was "disfigured with whitewash", but in good preservation. Fragments remained of a fine old screen and rood loft - the front beam of the modern gallery was thought to be part of the former rood loft.

The church was rebuilt and enlarged by S.W.Williams in 1894, and the west gallery removed; the foundations of the old church were re-used. A report of 1901 claims that a fragment of a font or stoup,

inscribed in Lombardic capitals with the names of the Evangelists and dating to the 14thC, was found in foundations of the old church in 1896 (sic). The present whereabouts of this is unknown.

ARCHITECTURE

Llanbadarn Fynydd church consists of a single chamber with west bellcote, and south porch. It is aligned due east/west.

Fabrics: 'A' is grey and buff-grey tabular shale and perhaps mudstone, with random blocks of similar material, regularly coursed. Some re-use of blocks? Also patches of render on masonry may indicate re-use, too. Quoins of better dressed shale.

'B' is similar but great incidence of blocks, perhaps indicative of more re-use; render not apparent because of frequency of lichen.

Roofs: reconstituted clay tiles, decorated ridge tiles and metal finials to east and west. Timber bell-turret.

Drainage: north and south sides have downpipes but no obvious drainage trench. Drain does exist on east side.

Exterior

Nave and chancel in one, distinguished externally by buttresses at divide. Square, weathered-boarded bell-turret above west end; copper-plated pyramidal top and three louvred windows below on each side.

Nave. North wall: in Fabric 'A'; occasional stones have render residue. Two Decorated windows both with double lights that have cusped ogee-heads, quatrefoils in the spandrels, chamfered dressings, hoodmouldings and relieving arches of edge stones. That to east is Victorian, that to west in a slightly more weathered gold sandstone: earlier than the Victorian windows but almost certainly post-medieval in execution though not design. Buttress at nave/chancel interface.

South wall: Fabric 'B'; two Victorian windows as on north side. Buttress as on north side.

West wall: Fabric 'B'; elaborate three-light Victorian window; gable above window rebuilt.

Chancel. North wall: again occasional render patch. At west end, projecting plinth at ground level may be remnant of earlier church. One standard Victorian window.

East wall: Fabric 'A'; large three-light window, wholly Victorian.

South wall: Fabric 'B'; one standard Victorian window.

Porch. General. Victorian two-centred arched doorway; plain structure, lacking windows; with stone cross finial on roof.

Interior

Porch. General. Bare stone of Fabric 'B' with some render.

North wall: two-centred arched doorway, chamfered and finished in plaster.

East wall: plain, but for weathered and broken stoup set into wall.

South wall: main doorway.

West wall: plain.

Nave. General. Tiled floor in red and black; carpet down central aisle covers heating vents. Wooden block floor beneath benches. Roof of c.1500 remains intact: five bays, arched braces resting on hexagonal corbels, one tie-beam not corbelled; cusped strutting in the apices. Interior plastered and whitewashed, except for window dressings. Panelled vestry in north-west corner.

North wall: west window re-set as not central to its embrasure. One mural tablet of 1818.

East wall: rood beam only; one step up to chancel.

South wall: Victorian windows; door embrasure has shallow triangular arch. One damaged 19thC mural tablet.

West wall: nothing significant.

Chancel. General. Roof of four bays but more closely set than in nave and only two corbels: these are decorated and presumably are those noted in the pre-restoration church (see above).

North wall: one mural tablet of 1929.

East wall: stained glass in window is memorial of 1979.

South wall: in sanctuary, an alcove with arched head, presumably an aumbry.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: round bowl chamfered to an octagonal pedestal with half-pyramidal stops to four sides; probably early 14thC, but re-tooled in 1894.

Rood Screen: head beam still in place, with some vine and waterleaf running ornament like Llananno's. Parts drawn by John Parker in 1829, but some loss since that date, particularly with removal of gallery in 1894.

Altar rails: of Laudian type, with turned balusters, dated 1716.

Pulpit: incorporates 17thC panels.

Architectural fragments: two late 13thC(?) capitals set just outside porch door.

Note: photos of pre-restoration church hanging on vestry wall.

Note: bier of 1700 seen by Crossley and Ridgeway.

CHURCHYARD

Llanbadarn churchyard covers a quadrilateral area with roads to the east and west and the valley of the Ithon to the north. It occupies what is effectively a bench (with a very slightly rise from west to east), the ground beyond rising steeply to the east, and falling sharply to the river on the west.

The churchyard is well-maintained and is still used for burial.

Its boundary consists on the west of a low stone wall, which in part is the back wall of a ruined building, 3m-4m below. At the south-west corner the stone wall revets the yard, falling over 1.5m to the road and a hard-standing. On the east there is an internal retaining wall, nearly 4m high, with the main road above it. Finally on the north-west is a simple scarp carrying a few planted saplings above the river.

Monuments: generally spread around all sides of the church except the narrow north side; nowhere are they dense. Many of the stones are weathered and difficult to decipher. Most are 19thC but there are a few just to the south of the church which date from the 18thC. The earliest recognised dates from 1767.

Furniture: south-west of porch is sundial, its plate inscribed 1724 and 'For the Rev Mr Williams'. Gnomon is more recent and has inscription stating it was rebuilt by S.A. Williams of Mochdre in 1989. Supported on modern square wooden post.

Earthworks: minor terracing within the yard and some irregular banks, but nothing of obvious significance.

Ancillary features: main entrance at north-east corner under timber lychgate erected in memory of Anne Haig (d.1894). Near south-west corner an iron gate between brick gateposts. Both served by tarmac paths.

Vegetation: three yew bushes and one yew tree; privet bushes near porch; a few other conifers on south side of church.

SOURCES

Archaeologia Cambrensis 1901, 84
CPAT Field Visit: 01 February 1996
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 236
Davies 1905, 225, 228 & 345
Glynne 1897, 54
Haslam 1979, 241
Williams 1874, 43

CONDITION

Externally church appears to be in satisfactory condition with only a few minor cracks. Damp shows internally with minor blistering on chancel walls, and a large chunk of plaster has fallen or been removed from west wall of nave. Cracks are frequent.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Llanbadarn-y-garreg

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Padarn

PRN 16812

NGR SO11254877

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Padarn's church is a small unicellular structure set in a D-shaped churchyard, some 8km to the south-east of Builth Wells. The present building could go back to the 13thC but there is little diagnostic architectural detail and both the windows and the internal fittings (with the exception of the font) are post-medieval.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church may be 13thC or 14thC, although the lack of stylistic detail is not helpful and the only significant feature is the south doorway, which could be of that period. Kay (recorded in the NMR), however, thought there were no structural features earlier than 17thC, and the whole could date from that century. Its wooden windows are thought to be 18thC, and the belfry was added at the end of the 19thC.

HISTORY

The dedication and location adjacent to the river favour an early medieval origin for Llanbadarn church. There are however few medieval records, perhaps because, as Williams recorded in 1818, it was a chapelry attached to Cregina. Thus there is no mention in either of the 13thC Taxatios, nor in the 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus, but it does appear as Llanbadarn in the St Davids' Episcopal Register in 1513.

The church was restored in 1960, and re-roofed in 1992.

ARCHITECTURE

Llanbadarn is a single-celled church with a bellcote, heavily plastered and whitewashed, internally and externally. The church is oriented north-east/south-west, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabric: because of the external plaster it is impossible to say anything about the fabric.

Roof: stone slabs and terracotta ridge tiles, all on modern woodwork.

Drainage: broad trench around whole building, depth unknown and now overgrown.

Exterior

Nave and chancel. General. Low walled. Wooden windows of 18thC date.

North wall: single rectangular wooden window, two lights with round heads, its flat top having roof wall-plate as lintel; only other features are down-pipes at either end of the wall.

East wall: window similar to that in north wall but has its own lintel.

South wall: single window at east end similar to that in north wall; doorway west of the centre of the wall, with simple two-centred arch and roughly worked, unchamfered freestone jambs (in 'long and short' work); two blocks form the shallow pointed arch, and there is a modern door; two down-pipes as north wall.

West wall: small modern wooden window just below roof apex, stone sill, leaded light. Stone bellcote with pointed arches above the opening on the east and west sides, the only part not plastered and limewashed.

Interior

Nave and chancel. General. Floor of large shale slabs throughout; pews raised on wooden plinths. Walls plastered and whitewashed. Scissor truss and collar roof of 28 close-set trusses, perhaps 14thC or 15thC (though Kay thought 17thC); some replacement, particularly in the central section.

North wall: one window deeply splayed; one wall monument, probably early 19thC; ghost of a wall painting of coat of arms.

East wall: deeply splayed window.

South wall: window deeply splayed; doorway simple, with rectangular outline.

West wall: not visible for first two metres because wooden partition divides off locked vestry; above this height wall inset above c.3m perhaps indicative of a rebuild.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: shallow sixteen-sided bowl on cylindrical base. 13thC?

Wall paintings: faint Royal Arms of Georgian date above rood beam, with encircled motto on rear; another on north wall, thought to be of Stuart date.

Pulpit: 17thC.

Altar Rails: 17thC, formerly in Aberedw church.

Church plate: two-handled porringer of 1712.

CHURCHYARD

Church and churchyard are set on level ground on the valley floor of River Edw, the river forming the south-east side of the churchyard. The churchyard is an elongated D-shape with no obvious extensions or modifications. It is bounded on the south-east by a 3-4m revetted drop to river; on the north by a stone wall reinforced with a hedge; on north-west as far as the west corner by an almost completely collapsed wall; and on south-west by a reasonable wall though the coping stones largely gone.

Monuments: sparse and a few tipping over; primarily to north and north-east of church with a few set close to south-west wall of churchyard. None of any great age.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: a kissing gate at south corner with grass path to church door; and a farm gate at north-east angle.

Vegetation: one large yew in south corner, another in west quadrant.

SOURCES

Church Notes (in church) n.d.
CPAT Field Visit: 18 May 1995
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 237
Davies 1905, 323
Haslam 1979, 242
NMR, Aberystwyth

CONDITION

Damp showing internally on south and east walls, together with cracks; otherwise satisfactory.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Medium?

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor to Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium

Llanbedr Painscastle

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Peter

PRN 16814

NGR SO14144639

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Peter's church at Llanbedr (often referred to as Llanbedr Painscastle) is contained within a large churchyard on a spur some 12km south-east of Builth Wells. The church is a relatively simple structure, much of it of medieval date though the nave has been partially rebuilt. Some of the architectural detail is crude yet effective, but the only internal fittings surviving from the Middle Ages are the font and a stoup in the porch.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Nave is thought to be 14thC, but the west wall, the upper part of north wall and perhaps some of south wall are rebuilt; it may be significant that the diagnostic windows in the north wall are set in a matrix of 19thC masonry. Chancel is attributed to 15thC and retains most if not all of its medieval masonry, though the windows have seen varying levels of renewal; the east wall of the nave demolished when chancel was built and its successor is aligned with the chancel rather than the nave. The porch has nothing diagnostic and could even be 19thC.

HISTORY

Llanbedr does not possess any of the obvious indicators of an early medieval origin, but the fact that it served the settlement of Painscastle, newly emerged in the Middle Ages, indicates that it was probably well established by that time. In the 1291 Taxatio it appears as 'Ecclesia de Lanpedr' with a fairly average value of £5 6s 8d.

Jonathan Williams, in 1818, described the church as having a low tower containing three bells, but Kilvert on a visit here in 1872 considered the church to be a ruin.

The church was restored in 1879 by J. Evins of Hereford, at the expense of Captain Mynors and the people of the parish. In gratitude the vicar gave Mynors the Tudor chalice belonging to the church.

ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave with a west bellcote, a chancel on a slightly different alignment, and a south porch which is placed towards the western end of the nave. It is oriented fractionally south of true east.

Fabrics: 'A' of grey and grey-brown sandstone and shale; slabs and some blocks; irregularly coursed; better dressed sandstone for the quoins.

'B' as 'A' but primarily grey shale blocks, though in places more mixed.

'C' is of large blocks and slabs of fine-grained sedimentary rock (?mudstone), of irregular shape and much of it iron-stained.

'D' is of regular slabs of iron-stained sandstone; irregularly coursed.

'A' is 14thC, 'C' is 15thC, 'B' is 19thC, and 'D' is uncertain but could also be 19thC.

Roofs: slate with terracotta ridge tiles. Nave has a broken finial at east end, chancel and porch have complete ones.

Drainage: shale slabs set on edge in gullies along north and south sides, with bricks substituted along the three sides of the chancel. Only on the west side is there no obvious drainage.

Exterior

Nave. General. Nave thought to be 14thC. Bellcote has two openings both with cinquefoil heads with Fabric 'B' carried up to it.

North wall: 'A' and 'B', the former is the masonry for the lower part of the wall, rising to eaves height closer to the wall ends; centrally, however, 'B' drops well below window level in the central part of the wall and both windows are set in a matrix of it; possibly the north-west angle is also in 'B'. Remnants of limewash or render low down on the wall are on 'A'. Features from west are i) a massive and broad trefoil-headed light with chamfered dressings in grey sandstone; it is crude but effective; ii) a window with two lights that have cinquefoil heads; these are of red sandstone except for one stone and this plus the mullion are clearly replacements; the dressings chamfered.

East wall: there is little to see of the wall but undoubtedly the chancel abuts the nave.

South wall: in 'A', but it is conceivable that some of the masonry is 'B' though the wall face is much too weathered to be certain. From the west: i) the porch; ii) a two-light window, the lights with cinquefoil heads; possibly some of the dressings have been replaced; iii) mural tablets of 1801 and 1778.

West wall: mostly in 'B'. West window has three lights with cinquefoil heads and cusped panels over; together with the relieving arch a wholly Victorian feature, but replacing what Haslam termed 'debased Perpendicular tracery'.

Chancel. General. Chancel about 1m lower than nave. Fabric 'C'.

North wall: Fabric 'C', fresh appearance. Single two-centre arched window with three trefoil-headed lights with cusped panel tracery above; one jamb obviously replaced but appearance of small slabs as poor-quality infilling around window head may reveal that rather more has been replaced in the past. Nevertheless, an unusual Perpendicular window.

East wall: heavy pointing and more weathered than north wall. Small rectangular window with a single cinquefoil-headed light, high up in gable; all the dressings are chamfered, the head is in pink sandstone, the rest in grey. Much damaged wall tablet of 1860 to south of window.

South wall: from east the features are: i) similar three-light window to that in north wall, but more of it is original; ii) priest's door with depressed arch and small chamfers. The door itself has big hinges and could be 19thC; iii) a square-headed two-light window with cinquefoil heads, a larger version of that in the east wall, with some dressings replaced in yellow sandstone.

Porch. General. Fabric 'D'. Generally considered to be a modern replacement of an earlier structure.

East and west walls: plain, but the latter clearly abuts the nave.

South wall: plain rectangular entrance with thick stone walls supporting wooden boarded gable.

Interior

Porch. General. Flagged floor. Walls plastered and whitewashed. Roof of eight scissor trusses (Victorian?).

North wall: completely whitewashed, round-headed doorway, chamfered dressings with different stops on opposite jambs; jamb stones original with sharpening marks showing; arch stones replaced, thus throwing into question whether this represents the original shape, and indeed Kay in 1960 (NMR record) claimed a pointed arch; door relatively modern. On east side of door is a rectangular recess containing an hexagonal stoup with a horizontal moulded rib.

East and west walls: plain.

South wall: double wooden gates give access; erected subsequent to 1980 according to an inscription.

Nave. General. Slate floor covered by carpet; benches and modern furniture such as the organ raised on wooden boarding. Walls plastered and whitewashed. Roof of collars and scissor trusses comparable with porch; the trusses are slightly skewed to the axis of the nave.

North wall: wall leans outwards. Two rectangular splayed windows with only the dressings not whitewashed. Only fitting is an Incorporated Church Building Society plaque recording a grant in 1868.

East wall: round-headed, unchamfered chancel arch skewed to the alignment of the chancel; its date is uncertain - it could even be Victorian. At a height of c.2.5m the wall is inset and the wall face above this and to the south of the arch is irregular - this presumably indicates the position of a former roof beam in position before the chancel arch was created.

South wall: wall leans outwards but not so pronounced as north wall; one deeply splayed window; doorway reveal has a cambered arch, narrow chamfers on the jambs with stops at the top, and broken and replaced at bottom.

West wall: deeply splayed window.

Chancel. General. Floor as nave but one step up to sanctuary, and another to altar. Choir stalls on flush wooden block flooring. Much of sanctuary is carpeted and at least one re-used slab visible dating to 1740/1764. Walls as nave. Wagon roof of 24 panels.

North wall: wall leans outwards; deeply splayed rectangular window embrasure, the original dressings once limewashed. Six mural tablets, all but one of the 18thC.

East wall: plain but for small splayed window.

South wall: deeply splayed windows; doorway with a faintly splayed reveal, and a two-centred head which is eccentric to the outside arch. One mural tablet of the early 19thC.

West wall: chancel arch and three mural tablets of 19thC date.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Stoup: in the porch.

Font: 12thC; bowl tapering to a cylindrical stem, with a circular base that may be more recent.

Monuments: the chancel contains a number of mural tablets including the following: Henry Williams (d.1798) and Elizabeth Tuck (d.1797), both by I. Millward of Hay; James Williams (d.1800); Thomas Gunter

(d.1756); Mary Powell (d.1767); Walter Williams (d.1747); Daniel Phillips (d.1749).

Communion rails: Jacobean.

Register: from 1726.

CHURCHYARD

This is a large irregular churchyard, giving the impression of curvilinearity though in fact formed of a series of fairly straight sections. It is sited on a broad spur between converging streams and though the enclosed area is relatively flat in parts, the land does fall away in the southern sector.

In view of its large size the churchyard is well maintained with the only overgrown areas around the perimeter. Unsurprisingly it is still used for burial.

Boundary: a stone wall in a variable state of repair defines the boundary for almost the whole perimeter, the exception being a short section of wire fence to the east of the north-west gate, though elsewhere, particularly on the south, the wall is reinforced by a fence. The wall appears in different guises, sometimes drystone, occasionally mortared and on the south-west has an intermittent facing of large slabs. There is little evidence to suggest the churchyard has a raised interior.

Monuments: these form an arc from the west round to the east side of the church and are confined pretty well within the earthwork around the south side of the church (see below). Within this arc they are packed in places. New burials occur to the south-west, while some at least of the weathered tombs to the south and south-east must be 18thC. The earliest inscription identified was of 1743.

Furniture: the circular base of what was once a cross-shaft now supports a lamp on a wooden pillar about 60m to the south of the west end of the church.

Earthworks: to the south of the church is a semi-circular scarp bank up to 2m high which curves back towards the south-east corner of the chancel. Whether it represents the perimeter of an earlier enclosure is impossible to determine, though it may be noted that a yew of some antiquity grows on its lip. East and north-east of the church is a faint scarp: this does not tie in with that already described and its purpose and origin remain obscure.

Ancillary features: the main entrance comprising small double ornamental gates hanging on stone posts lies to the east of the church and is linked to the porch by a concrete path. On the north-west is an ornamental field gate with a grass path through the churchyard. A disused stile is set in the perimeter on the south-west.

Vegetation: there are only two yews, one on the old bank to the south of the church, another beside a former footpath to the west of the church. Small trees have been planted along the northern perimeter and there are some bushes on the south.

SOURCES

Church notes: n.d.
CPAT Field Visit: 19 October 1995
Davies, 1905, 253
Haslam 1979, 242
NMR Aberystwyth

CONDITION

It is clean and well looked after but there are some signs of gradual deterioration including some damp patches on the roof and staining on the west wall of nave and elsewhere, whitewash is flaking in the vestry, woodworm in the benches, in the porch timberwork and in floor boards beneath the benches.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Medium to Good

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor to Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium to Good

Llanbister

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Cynllo

PRN 16816

NGR SO10997330

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Cynllo's church occupies a spur jutting towards the River Ithon, a short distance to the west. It functioned as a mother church in the early medieval era and in this context earthworks within its irregularly shaped churchyard could be significant. Most of its architecture can be attributed to the 14thC and 16thC, with considerable but generally sympathetic renovation in the early 20thC. It is unusual for having the tower at the east end, has an interesting range of fixtures and fittings, and contains more dated inscriptions in stone and wood than any other church in Radnorshire, and perhaps in Powys.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Nave may be c.1300 on basis of small lancets, though a church history claims there are older blocked windows in the north wall of the building (now rendered over).

Date of chancel unknown but could be as late as tower which was built in 16thC; features of the latter include south door and blocked windows, at least two stair turret windows, and re-used architectural stonework from Cwmhir Abbey; its height was reduced, probably in 1701. Bells added at this time but frame has date 1752.

South, east and perhaps part of north walls of chancel and part of south wall of nave rebuilt, probably in 1732, on evidence of window inscription in nave.

West wall reconstructed at some unspecified time, but probably precedes 1908 restoration which was responsible for new windows, a door towards west end of nave and the south porch.

HISTORY

Llanbister was a mother church for the cantref of Maelienydd, the churches of Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llananno, Llanddewi Ystradenni and Llanfihangel Rhydithon being dependent on it. This in itself should indicate an early medieval origin, a contention reinforced by both the dedication and the location.

Giraldus Cambrensis reputedly spent a night in the church on one of his ecclesiastical expeditions c.1176.

It is recorded as 'Ecclesia de Lanbyst' in the Taxatio of 1291 with a particularly high value of £30 13s 4d, the largest income of any church in the Archdeaconry of Brecon.

Williams (in 1818), recorded that the church was repaired in 1701, and the tower reduced to its present height. Two of the bells carry this date, as does a stone set into south-east buttress.

Further work was undertaken in 1716 when the gallery was erected, and in 1732 when at least one new window was added. Woodwork in the ringing loft has the date 1752.

Glynne visited the church in 1851, observing that the chancel was raised up, that the west end was partitioned off for a school, and that on the north side was a closed window that had a Romanesque look.

A report of 1874 refers to a 16-bay roof with alternate trusses.

It was restored in 1908 by W.D.Caroo and H.Passmore, who retained the internal woodwork which is such a feature of the building, but remodelled the roof.

ARCHITECTURE

Llanbister church has a nave and chancel in one, a tower at the east end abutting chancel and set deep into the side of the slope, and a south porch. The church is oriented north-west/south-east, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics: 'A' consists of small to medium grey slabs and blocks of shale, irregularly coursed.

'B' consists of small and occasionally medium blocks of brown and grey shale, randomly coursed.

'C' is a mixture of generally small grey blocks and slabs of shale, much of it lichen covered.

'D' is grey shale and fine sedimentary (?mudstone) with rare blocks of yellow sandstone; random coursing but generally a regular appearance; render traces survive on some stone.

'E' consists of small through to large blocks of grey and iron stained shale, the largest blocks reserved for quoins and for foundations, the whole uncoursed.

'F' is similar to 'D' but cleaner and no render.

Fabric 'B' is original medieval, but in places may have been rebuilt using original material. 'E' is probably 16thC and 'D' possibly so. 'A' at west end thought to be post-medieval, perhaps 18thC or 19thC. 'C' results from 20thC restoration and construction.

Roofs: slate tiles with reconstituted clay ridge tiles; no finials. Nave and chancel roofed in one.

Drainage: a drainage gully with downpipes along north side with battered inner face; at least 0.3m deep at west end but further east, the gully merges into the increasingly deep terrace created in the hillside for the church, at least 1.5m lower than adjacent ground surface. No recognisable drainage on south or west.

Exterior

Nave. General. Nave and chancel appear as one on north side and on roof line, but chancel wider on south. Nave of the 13thC on basis of small lancets in north and south walls.

North wall: completely rendered but one for patch where masonry exposed. Four windows, from west: i) two-light with cinquefoil tracery under round heads, in flat-topped frame; all in red and olive sandstone; early 20thC insertion; ii) and iii) small, simple 13thC lancets lacking chamfers, arched heads fashioned from single blocks, sills replaced; more westerly window in flaking grey sandstone which may be replacement; that to east in original sandstone. Both have leaded lights; iv) a broader lancet to light the rood, chamfered to create external splay; one of jambs could be replaced but rest in red sandstone is probably original.

East wall: none.

South wall: largely rendered with at least four different toned coatings. From east: i) wall leans outwards; 14thC priest's door with two-centred arch, chamfered dressings all in red sandstone, though the arch completely replaced; all dressings have traces of whitewash; the basal stops replaced, one in brick, one in broken yellow sandstone; innermost part of reveal of brick or plastered over; simple wooden door approached by four steps; ii) c.1.5m west of priest's door, next section of wall is plumb; contains one four-light flat-headed window, all the lights with simple two-centred arched heads with what appears to be modern tracery in light coloured sandstone; one jambstone has an inverted inscription incorporating initials and the date 1657, another has an inscription containing the words 'W:Mason 1732'; above the window there is no render, and the masonry consists largely of sandstone blocks; iii) 3m east of porch, wall resumes its

original plane with outwards lean. The base of the wall is battered to height of c.0.7m; there is a single lancet window with a modern sill and the rest of its dressings covered in render; above the window there is no render exposing masonry of Fabric 'B' type; curiously the stone has been laid to tip down towards the head of the lancet; above this is a possible slit window, partly blocked, but with the lintel stone and eastern side reasonably obvious; iv) in line with west side of the porch wall face is plumb, a mixture of Fabrics 'A' and 'C'. Set in matrix of 'C' is a three-centred arched doorway in brick-red and grey sandstone, chamfered, giving access to boiler room; above is a rectangular window with two rounded headed lights with cinquefoil tracery in comparable sandstone. Directly above is a second similar window and both are comparable with most westerly of the north nave windows. These windows and surrounding material appear to be inserted, the rest of the south wall being in Fabric 'A'.

West wall: all in Fabric 'A' but banded masonry inasmuch as lower levels of grey shale blocks with zone of narrow grey shale slabs above, the patterning repeated higher up. Whole wall is plain, except for three buttresses, all of different design. One buttress projects from centre of wall and may be a chimney for a chimney pot in brick-red sandstone above apex of wall, while two diagonal buttresses at angles. Unclear as to whether diagonal buttresses contemporary with wall face.

Chancel. North wall: continuous with nave - no obvious division. Two windows: both broad, squat single lancets with leaded lights, two-centred arched heads in brown sandstone - early 20thC? Between these windows is the renderless masonry which appears to be Fabric 'B'.

East wall: much of this disguised by tower, except on south. Here chancel wall in Fabric 'D', the lower portion projecting as a chamfered plinth. Above its apex, a buttress runs to full height of tower. Two mural tablets pinned to the main wall but both too badly flaked to be intelligible, a third clearly there until recently. However, at the base is a low wall stub perhaps >0.5m high and not extending as far south as east wall of chancel. This stub wall joins, in the same plane, what appears to be a buttress projecting from south wall of tower and constructed of similar fabric to tower. In fact it appears likely that both stub wall and buttress are remnants of former chancel wall, for above the point where the buttress terminates the tower wall is scarred as though a former wall broken off.

South wall: wall is plumb with chamfered plinth continuing rounds from east side. All in Fabric 'D' with well-dressed quoinstones, and towards west end curious 'herring-bone' pattern of masonry high up on wall. Rectangular window of five lights with two-centred arched heads and sunken spandrels, comparable with that in south wall of nave. Butt joint of nave and chancel implies that end wall of nave removed, as chancel wall has quoins in red sandstone higher up and in shale at lower levels where they project behind nave masonry. Wall supports a single mural tablet of 1813.

Tower. General. Walls of Fabric 'E', without any embellishments such as string courses. Diagonal buttresses at south-east and north-east angles. Basic structure is of 16thC, but has a slated two-stage pyramidal roof, dating to 1701, surmounted by weathercock and vane, and two louvred lights in each of the vertical timber faces that separate the stages.

North wall: plain. Date 1991 scratched on stone high up on wall indicating date of recent restoration. At north-west corner is a projecting stair turret exhibiting three rectangular slit windows; the upper two have unchamfered jambs in gold sandstone and leaded lights; the lowest has shale jambs, an unleaded light, and thus might be a later insertion (though this is not confirmed by internal splay details).

East wall: again in Fabric 'E' but more yellow sandstone, and one block has inscription. Just under eaves, a rectangular slot window with yellow sandstone jambs, now blocked.

South wall: south-east angle buttress has inscription with date of 1701 and may be an addition to the tower for bonded in with large blocks of red sandstone unlike anything on north side. Doorway has three-centred arch in yellow sandstone; only the head is chamfered. Arch is set into thickness of wall, and the exterior reveal, incorporating yellow and grey sandstone, has triangular head of edge set stones. About 2m higher up is relieving arch of shale blocks on edge. Just below eaves is another blocked rectangular window with yellow sandstone jambs.

Porch. General. Fabric 'F'. No porch existed when church photographed in 1905.

East wall: plain; one mural slab of 1819 pegged to it.

South wall: simple large rectangular entrance, the gable consisting of tie beam with raking struts infilled with plaster and supported on walls which include well-dressed brick-red sandstone quoins of early 20thC date.

West wall: plain.

Interior

Porch. General. From the path three external steps and seven internal steps lead to main south door of church. Steps consist of slate set on brick foundations. Simple roof of single bay with outer truss as described above, and inner of principal rafters linked by collar and resting on tie-beam stubs.

North wall: contains main south door to church, a two-centred arch in grey and light-brown sandstone, double chamfered without stops, thought to be of 14thC date. Underpinned with brick on east side, and also inner side of reveal has brick fill (as priest's door).

East wall: stoup formed from Early English capital set in wall next to door. Also a large rectangular, but shallow, alcove with wooden lintel, of no obvious function. Two grey sandstone architectural fragments set into wall above it.

South wall: nothing

West wall: also has alcove, as east wall, but on this side four architectural fragments fixed decoratively into wall.

Nave. General. Threshold stone at door is weathered 18thC grave slab with flags just inside; then 8 concrete steps up to interior. Beside this is a completely enclosed baptistry, sunk into floor. Nave floor of stone slabs and occasional gravestone, with carpet down the aisle. No heating vents visible but boiler room fashioned in 1908 (and entered through external door, west of porch) argues strongly for underfloor voids. Also at least one vault near chancel steps, sealed in the early 20thC. Roof is modern (but modelled on a 15thC predecessor) with four bays defined by five tie beams, and between each are two arch-braced collars with crown posts and raking struts; all rest on wooden corbels; four tiers of windbraces, the upper three quatrefoils, the lowest trefoils. At west end of nave, a gallery dated 7 July 1716, and beneath this in north-west corner, a panelled vestry from 1908, all lit by the cinquefoil windows on north and south sides of nave. Walls plastered and whitewashed.

North wall: battered slightly; features from west: i) vestry with 20thC window; ii) wall painting fragment showing part of frame; iii) wall monument to Rev Lloyd (d.1838); iv) mural tablet of 1833; v) deeply splayed window with two-centred arched embrasure; vi) fragmentary wall painting similar to previous; vii) beneath wall painting is case containing parts of musical instruments used by musicians in gallery - undated; viii) deeply splayed window, its sloping sill lower than that to west; ix) another fragmentary wall painting with traces of lettering, overlapped by: x) mural tablet of 1790.

East wall: screen set on low masonry wall, with four steps up to chancel.

South wall: batter of original wall more pronounced than on north side, but alternates with newer sections which are plumb. From east: i) priest's door with two-centred arched embrasure; ii) big flat-silled embrasure set in length of new wall, the dressings not whitewashed; iii) mural tablet of 1805; iv) deeply splayed window with sloping sill set in original wall; v) mural tablet of 1841; vi) large internal reveal to main south door with two-centred arch over; so large in comparison with doorway that it might indicate some modification at time of restoration; vii) wooden plaque of 1908 recording donation from Incorporated Church Building Society; viii) modern windows one above the other, segmental arches over the embrasures using same pinkish sandstone as baptistry.

West wall: plain, but wall inset twice; the lowest ledge acted as support for former truss, removed in 1908; chimney stack rises to roof.

Chancel. General. Flag floor with carpet over part of it; choir stalls raised on wooden block plinths; two steps up to altar. Roof similar to nave but all arch-braced collars (6), and four tiers of quatrefoil windbraces.

North wall: wall plumb; contains two splayed windows with relatively modern grey sandstone dressings.

East wall: dominated by modern reredos; to the north of this a three-centred arched doorway to tower set in shallow embrasure. High up wall, above this a diagonal disconformity suggests an earlier roof or rafter line.

South wall: wall dominated by large shallow-splayed window with mix of original and replacement dressings. Just to east of the screen, wall adopts original battered profile. Two mural tablets of 1827 and 1867.

West wall: screen.

Tower. General. Entrance to stair turret set in thickness of west wall. Concrete floor. Roof open to floor of bell stage. Four elaborately carved Early English capitals with foliage, and dressed stone springers above, set into angles of the tower walls at what is thought to be the level of the old ringing loft; they no longer have any function.

North wall: plain.

East wall: plain. Wooden mural tablet of 1800.

South wall: door entrance has splayed two-centred arch with edge stones for voussoirs; relieving arch which is visible externally also visible on internal face.

West wall: triangular-headed splayed door embrasure gives access to chancel. Above is a relieving arch which is eccentric to doorway below.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: 14thC or 15thC, octagonal and asymmetrical bowl, with a base which is chamfered to a square.

Screen: probably 16thC or a little earlier. "Sixteen lights with wooden tracery heads apparently copied from Llananno at the time of the 1908 restoration. Prior to this the screen had no carving on it. The doorway has moulded shafts applied to the jambs and a head copied from screens. Deep head-beam with restored brattishing" (Haslam). Heavily repaired in 1908.

Pews: fragments of earlier box pews act as panelling in chancel.

Gallery: Incised with date 7 July 1716 and initials of wardens and undertakers; supported on octagonal wooden columns with fancy stops to four of the sides, and against the south wall, a wooden respond; stair and gallery parapet with turned balusters.

Bench: inscribed 'INLY THE 30 1688 E.S. CARPENDER', in the tower.

Bier: inscribed with initials and date 1765, in the tower.

Wall Painting: remains of 17thC wall paintings in nave. Detailed description in NMR.

Parish chest: 17thC, though a date of 1616 claimed in Williams and Davies (1905).

Bells: three, of which two date to 1701, the third, 1810.

Altar Rails: dated 1828.

Monuments: classical marble and slate tablets to Edward Meredith (d.1833); Revd David Lloyd (d.1838) by Davies of Clun; Evan Williams (d.1790); Elizabeth and Richard Bywater (d.1830 and 1867 respectively) by B. Davies of Clun. In tower wooden mural tablets to Anne Thickins (d.1800) and another dated 1784.

Gravestones: reused in floor of nave and chancel. Four near pulpit (of 1702/1762, 1680/1710, 1751 and one illegible), one near font (171?), one under oak chest, undatable examples as threshold stones at two south doors, and one of 1741/1763 at entrance to tower.

Church plate: chalice and paten from 1721, flagon of 1720.

Register: from 1681.

Re-used fragments of Early English carving, probably from Cwmhir Abbey, notably the stoup by the south door and perhaps several architectural fragments built into walls of the porch. Elaborately carved Early English capitals with foliage set into angles of the tower walls at height of c.7.6m from floor.

Piscina: hollowed capital on floor beside the vestry was found on site of Lower Caerfaelog (to north of Llanbister) and is claimed to have a connection with St Faelog's chapel.

Note: set of photographs on vestry wall show the church as it was prior to restoration in 1908.

CHURCHYARD

Llanbister churchyard is an irregular elongated shape dictated by its siting on a spur isolated between valleys that drop down to the River Ithon a little over 200m to the west. Spur itself slopes strongly and churchyard is terraced both for the church itself and for some groups of graves.

It is reasonably well-maintained, though much of the interior north and north-east of church is fenced off and unused.

The boundary on the west consists of a stone revetment wall, perhaps 1.4m high, but on south this gives way to a scarp bank with a drop beyond to a small stream; the scarp is reinforced by a wire fence and a few small trees for about 50m to the south-east corner; from there a distinctive bank with a fence on top runs for full length of east side, the inner drop greater than the outer one because of the slope. On the north the drop to the valley has only a fence along the rim, though lower down there is a hint of a low bank.

Monuments: burials are spread around the west, south and east sides of the church, the majority on terraces to the west. Most of these are 19thC and 20thC. South-west of the church is a lower terrace, probably an extension to the original churchyard, lacking burials except for a handful at extreme end which date from the mid-19thC onwards. Few obvious 18thC gravestones, the earliest being from 1759 just south of porch. Modern burials primarily in highest, eastern part of churchyard. It is claimed that some 18thC and 19thC gravestones in the churchyard were brought from Llananno.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: northern part of churchyard, which because of the nature of spur overlooks the church, appears to be grave-free. This has one large platform terraced into it and several less well-defined scoops. These could be significant in the context of the early church at Llanbister.

A scarp bank to the south-west of the church is a natural continuation of the churchyard boundary further east and may be the original perimeter which was replaced prior to the mid-19thC. The earthen bank on the east side may also be an early feature.

Ancillary features: the main access is from the west where small, iron, double gates and a separate kissing gate are linked to the church porch by a tarmac path. At the east end of the churchyard are a wooden farm

gate and a stile.

Vegetation: four yews are spread along what is considered to be the old scarped perimeter on the south side of the church (see above). Sporadic trees and bushes grow elsewhere.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 01 February 1996
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 237
Davies 1905, 231ff, 346
Glynne 1897, 55
Haslam 1979, 243
Howse 1949, 243 & 259
NMR Aberystwyth
Quinquennial Report 1994
Rees 1972
Williams 1874, 46

CONDITION

Church appears to be in reasonably sound condition. Render is flaking off external north wall of church. Some cracks show internally on west wall of nave, and damp is manifesting itself in the same location.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Medium to good

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Very Good

Value of documentary evidence: Medium to Good

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Good

Group value: Good

Llanddewi Fach

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication David

PRN 16821

NGR SO14594543

GENERAL SUMMARY

A small, rectilinear churchyard set into north slope of a valley carrying a small stream north-westwards towards the Bachawy; a remote location 2km south-west of Painscastle. St David's church was rebuilt in mid-19thC, leaving virtually nothing of earlier structure either inside or out.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church rebuilt in 1860; only evidence of earlier structure is foundation at east end of chancel.

HISTORY

The origin and development of this small church is unknown, and it does not figure in any of the medieval taxation records. As late as the 19thC it was a chapel attached to Llowes.

It was entirely rebuilt by Prichard and Seddon in 1860.

ARCHITECTURE

St David's Church consists of a nave with west belfry, chancel, and south porch. Church is oriented west-north-west/east-south-east, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabric: slabs and blocks of shale of varying size, with some sandstone; larger blocks used for foundation courses and quoins; traces of former render.

Roofs: artificial 'slates' on body of building, but real slates on bellcote. Porch ridged in metal sheeting.

Drainage: church terraced into hillside on north and east, so terrace has drainage function; drainage trench visible on south side, but nothing obvious on west.

Exterior.

General. Church appears to have been almost completely rebuilt in 19thC so following description is a summary one only.

Nave and chancel walls have continuous chamfered plinth, though nave slightly wider than chancel. Victorian Gothic windows, but none on north side. Diagonal buttresses at west and east ends, and on south side of porch, angle buttresses at east end of nave.

East wall of chancel has projecting foundation, which rises in series of steps rather than being horizontal. Earlier wall fragment?

Bell-turret is square with pyramidal roof and louvred openings.

Interior

Porch. Flagged floor, ceiled, plastered walls.

Nave. General. Floor of stone flags, no re-use of gravestones; benches raised on wooden boarding. No evidence of underground heating voids. Roof ceiled, but two principal trusses with collars showing. Walls plastered and whitewashed. Fireplace in north wall, but no longer used. Ranged along north and south walls, panelling of earlier, but undated, pews.

Chancel. General. Chancel on same level as nave, but one step up to altar. Floor flagged. Roof and walls as in nave. North wall carries one mural tablet of 1850. Beneath altar one flagstone has initials M.P. and B.P.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Communion rails: of 1712.

Altar: ?18thC or earlier table.

Howse recorded that the church contains two 17thC benches; these cannot now be traced.

CHURCHYARD

Small, rectilinear churchyard set into north slope of a valley, with no indication that it has ever been modified or enlarged. Church itself terraced into slope to a depth in excess of 1.5m, and the bench occupied by churchyard is probably largely a function of centuries of use.

It is not well-maintained, is heavily overgrown on north side, and is actively used by badgers.

Perimeter is defined by a drystone wall, well-built but now collapsing. On west this is c. 0.8m high, on south it acts more as a revetment wall, crumbling away towards the south-east corner. At its soundest in vicinity on east gate, where perhaps 1.2m high. On north, it is in reasonable condition, the internal ground level at least 0.5m lower than the external level because of the natural slope. Blocked gateway in wall, west of north-east corner.

Monuments: spread along south side of churchyard with none to north. Not many in total, but because of small size of churchyard they are quite tightly packed. Earliest graveslab is of 1691, but this was taken out of church prior to 1983. Earliest upright stone of 1765, and some chest tombs of late 18thC/early 19thC.

Furniture: none seen.

Earthworks: surface of churchyard irregular but nothing of any significance obvious. House platforms outside churchyard.

Ancillary features: two small wooden gates give access to church, via grass path, on east side of churchyard.

Vegetation: four mature yews around southern perimeter: Yew Tree Conservation Group has certified that one could be 650 years old! Self-seeded bushes and small trees on north and west.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 14 November 1995

Davies 1905, 255

Haslam 1979, 244

Howse, 1949, 259

Silvester 1994, 89

CONDITION

Llanddewi is a sad little church in a deteriorating condition. It is cold, with condensation on the floor; damp stains in chancel and plaster is blistering; cracks externally on north face, and the porch is particularly bad internally.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Llanddewi Ystradenni

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication David

PRN 16822

NGR SO10806863

GENERAL SUMMARY

St David's church lies in a partly curvilinear churchyard on the east side of the River Ithon, some nine miles to the north of Llandrindod Wells. The church is a single cell with little of pre-19thC interest apart from a hybrid Romanesque doorway, having been largely rebuilt at the end of the Victorian era. Internally, the furnishings and fittings include the medieval font and a couple of interesting wall monuments.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church was largely rebuilt in 1890 using older masonry and putting in place new Perpendicular windows. Survivals from an earlier though not necessarily medieval building may be the north and east walls, but it is impossible to distinguish what is original from what is rebuilt. The only architectural feature of pre-19thC origin is a Romanesque priest's door, and this is clearly composite and of unknown origin.

HISTORY

Nothing is known of the early history of the site, though the location and curvilinear churchyard point to an early medieval origin.

No medieval references have been identified.

Williams, in 1818, records a "neat modernized edifice", suggesting perhaps that some work on the church and its fabric had occurred in previous century.

An 1874 account describes the east window as "Perpendicular, very rude in its workmanship". The parish clerk had informed the author that "in digging graves on the north side he discovered foundations, which would indicate the existence at one time of a north aisle". The north wall had evidently been re-built at a late date, being much thinner than the wall on the south side.

The church was rebuilt in 1890 with windows in late Perpendicular style. The specification stipulates that south and west walls of church to be taken down and rebuilt of old stone, the foundations of the old porch to be removed, new porch walls to be of old stone, new windows to be set in the old walls on other sides replacing in some cases wooden windows, the priest's door to be taken down and re-set, and earth inside church to be excavated to depth of about 12".

ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of nave and chancel as single chamber, bell turret at west end and south porch attached to west end of nave. The church is aligned fractionally south of grid west.

Fabric: grey and iron-stained grey sedimentary rock (?siltstone) in small to medium blocks and slabs, irregularly coursed, with larger blocks for quoins. Fragments of render still in place.

Roofs: slates, ceramic ridge tiles, metal cross finial on chancel, stone one on porch.

Drainage: downpipes but no obvious drainage trench around exterior.

Exterior

Nave. General. No external differentiation between nave and chancel. Walls taper slightly. Above west end of nave is wooden bell turret with weatherboarded sides and two louvred openings on each side. A pyramidal roof with reconstituted red clay tiles is surmounted by a weathervane.

North wall: two windows with unembellished rectangular frames, one with two and one with three lights; these have flat heads with simple chamfered dressings in yellow sandstone. That to west is clearly inserted, that to east less obviously so. Numerous grave slabs are leant against wall.

West wall: not present.

South wall: main feature is a blocked Romanesque priest's doorway incorporating a reputedly 13thC inscription on a jamb stone; two-step jambs, shafts in the angle with foliage capitals, round arch with the roll-moulding behind two square ones. Lack of symmetry and different structural elements (e.g. the capitals) on the east and west indicate a composite rebuild; traces of red and white limewash adhere to some of the dressed stone. One three-light window, exactly as chancel window to east; also masonry change as in chancel. One mural tablet of 1826/1836.

West wall: heavily lichenized; large quoins. One two-light window under a two-centred arch, with ogee-headed lights and cinquefoil tracery, and hoodmoulding with human-headed stops. Two 19thC gravestones lean against wall.

Chancel. North wall: as north wall of nave but no windows. Chimney stack protrudes above roof.

East wall: masonry has rare flecks of render. One three-light Victorian window, similar to that in west wall of nave but with panels above the lights. One mural tablet of 1838 on wall, two 19thC gravestones leant against wall.

South wall: at a varying distance (average of 1.0m) below eaves level the masonry becomes cleaner with less lichen; this runs for full length of nave and chancel and could indicate rebuilding, but it is more likely that masonry used (?or re-used) is from a different source. At base of wall at south-east angle is projecting foundation course, <2m long, 0.3m high and 0.15m out, presumably the base of the earlier chancel. Pair of rectangular three-light windows, sufficiently close to share a label; ogee heads to lights with cinquefoil tracery, complex chamfers, all in yellow sandstone and wholly Victorian.

Porch. General. Plain and Victorian. Doorway with two-centred arch and stopped chamfers in yellow sandstone.

Interior

Porch. General. Floored with black and red tiles. Roof of simple rafters and purlins. Walls plain and unplastered. Main south door of church is Victorian with a two-centred arch and hoodmoulding with human-headed stops.

Nave. General. Red and black tiles; carpet down central aisle over heating vents. Benches on flush wooden

block flooring. Roof covering both nave and chancel of 8 bays with arch-braced collars. All internal walls plastered and whitewashed. North-west corner partitioned off for vestry.

North wall: splayed windows; one mural tablet of 1739/1758/1774.

East wall: none.

South wall: splayed window and doorway.

West wall: splayed window.

Chancel. General. Single steps up to chancel from nave, to sanctuary, and to altar. Tiled floors in patterns; choir stalls on flush wooden block flooring. Roof: see nave.

North wall: one wall monument of 1775.

East wall: splayed window; one 19thC brass and one mural tablet of 1769/1774.

South wall: two splayed windows (one shared with nave); two wall monuments of 1701 and 1673.

West wall: not present.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: lead-lined octagonal bowl (with ornate cover) on square pedestal and base; low to ground. Perhaps 14thC.

Monuments: Mallet Burton (d.1769) and husband Edward (d.1774); Deborah Burton (d.1775); Edward Griffiths (d.1774) and his sons; Andrew Phillips (d.1701); Owen Probert (d.1673). That of Andrew Phillips is particularly ornate.

Note: parish chest and bier probably discarded at the time of the restoration and now kept at Llandewy Hall, opposite the church. Also gravestones, some with inscriptions, used to pave the Hall's courtyard.

CHURCHYARD

Llanddewi church is set in a relatively small curvilinear churchyard on the east bank of the Ithon, taking advantage of a low river terrace. A small stream passes <50m to the east.

Churchyard is tidy and well-maintained and continues to be used for burials.

Boundary is marked by a stone wall inside which material is banked up to a height of up to 1.0m (on east). Even allowing for this there is still difference in height of 0.5m-0.8m between internal and external levels, demonstrating a raised churchyard.

Monuments: well-ordered and moderately dense throughout the churchyard. On north side, mainly 19thC and 20thC, though some quite early 19thC examples. On south side at least one 18thC stone and there may be others. However, the earliest stones are those leaning against north wall of church including examples of 1756 and 1765.

Furniture: uninscribed sundial with gnomon on concrete roundel supported on metal pole; south-east of the porch.

Earthworks: on west and north-west sides a scarp bank curves round church, while on the north and on a different line, there is the suggestion of a low bank. Originally this was thought to be an earlier 'llan' enclosure, but perhaps it is more likely to be result of general churchyard activity and the rebuilding process of 19thC. The low internal bank which may be the earlier enclosure has been referred to above, but it should be noted that this bank is also present on the west side which appears to represent a later truncation of the original curvilinear outline.

Ancillary features: main entrance at east end where pair of ornate iron gates; on west is a secondary entrance with a wooden gate; both are served by tarmac paths.

Vegetation: two yews south of church, and a yew bush near south-east gate.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 02 February 1996
Davies 1905, 238 & 247
Faculty: NLW/SD/F/306 1890
Haslam 1979, 244
NMR Aberystwyth
Williams 1874, 49

CONDITION

Appears to be in generally satisfactory condition. Some mould on stonework in porch, and damp on north wall of nave and chancel. Minor cracking in porch.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Good

Llandegley

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Tecla

PRN 16829

NGR SO13906289

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Tecla's church lies in the middle of Llandegley, a few miles to the east of Llandrindod Wells. The small church has been largely rebuilt, though it retains a small part of its putative medieval fabric. Notable features include the late medieval screen and an ornate priest's door, thought to have been brought from Cwmhir Abbey. Its oval churchyard has been extended during the present century, but its form together with the dedication implies an early medieval beginning.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

The nave was largely rebuilt in 1876, though there are survivals - the south door, the west wall etc - of the earlier structure. The chancel was either built or rebuilt at this time. The tower was rebuilt in 1953.

HISTORY

The dedication, the morphology of the churchyard and perhaps the location point to an early medieval origin for the church.

There are however no pre-Conquest records and few from the medieval period, although the Taxatio of 1291 records Llandegley as 'Ecclesia de Landegle' with a value of £5 6s 8d.

The cusped south door is said to have been removed from Cwmhir Abbey, possibly after its rebuilding in 1228.

In 1818, Williams described the church as consisting of "a nave and chancel separated by a timber partition, a low tower containing one bell, and a gallery. The entrance into it is under a stone-covered porch, and a stone arch of a circular form in the Saxon style of architecture. The window on the south side is of the lancet construction, and consists of two lights".

An account of 1874 mentioned that the church retained the original rood loft and screen. The screen survived in a very dilapidated condition, supporting a singers' gallery, of a late date, with a staircase from the chancel. The priest's door, situated in the nave was "of earlier date than any other portion of the church". It contained a fragment of an early pointed window built up in the south wall of the chancel. A stone corbel head had been built in over the south window of the nave, fairly carved, and thought probably the same date as the priest's door. A stone projection in the east wall of the chancel was thought to be the original altar.

The church was rebuilt in 1876 on the old foundations by S.W. Williams of Rhayader, who also rebuilt the screen, removing the singers' gallery, and re-roofed the whole structure. It is generally thought that he added a chancel at this time although the church guide implies that there was a predecessor. Portions of the south wall of the nave, and less of north wall, appear to survive from the medieval building, but most of eastern end of nave reconstructed using old material with Victorian masonry above. Buttresses seem to have been added subsequently.

Following its collapse in 1947, the tower was rebuilt in 1953 using stone from Llwynbarried Hall, Nantmel.

ARCHITECTURE

St Tecla's consists of a nave, a slightly narrower chancel, a low west tower with squat broach spire, and a south porch. The exterior has pointed stonework, the interior is plastered and limewashed, but for the porch which is pointed except for the plastered north side. It is oriented almost exactly east/west.

Fabrics: 'A' of clean and fresh appearance, small to medium blocks and slabs of grey and brown shales and sandstones, random coursing; perhaps re-used masonry.

'B' of large "chunky" blocks of shale with some smaller, weathered, and randomly coursed.

'C' of large, regularly shaped blocks of shale.

'D' similar to 'B' but more tabular lumps.

'E' consists of blocks of grey and brown shale with anomalies which become more regular at higher levels, randomly coursed.

'F' of regular blocks of shale, but different from 'C' in regularity and colour.

'G' of regular blocks of orange-buff slightly vesicular stone plus shale and some quartzite.

Roofs: slate roofs to main body of church, with ceramic ridge tiles and metal cross finial on chancel. Shingles to tower.

Drainage: gravel and soil strip around base of wall suggests some drainage disturbance.

Exterior

Tower. General. Fabric A with some dressed stones for quoins. Battered base topped by string course at c.1.2m on three sides. Broach spire surmounted by weathervane and cock. Rebuilt 1953.

North wall: round-headed window at ground level, voussoirs, diamond-leaded lights in wooden frame; smaller window at 1st floor level, louvred and has moulded, sandstone sill, but otherwise similar to window below; stepped buttress (four steps) in north-east corner in Fabric B, appears to be incorporated into west wall of nave.

East wall: largely disguised by gable end of nave whose apex reaches to eaves level on tower.

South wall: door at ground level with round-headed arch and keystone with date 1827; 1st floor window as on north; two-stepped buttress in south-east corner, as buttress on north-east.

West wall: as north wall for windows but in addition slate plaque recording laying of foundation stone in 1953.

Nave. North wall: largely Fabric E, but Fabric D below most easterly window rising to window height further west before dropping almost to ground level by central buttress; three windows: from west, a single-light with pointed head, then two four-light windows with square heads, all Victorian; 3 buttresses, all additions.

East wall: small areas visible above chancel pitch; partially leaded.

South wall: Fabric D with intermittent dark pointing and above Fabric E including occasional brick and quartzite lumps, and more regular coursing at higher levels; no clear division between Fabrics D and E. Features from east end are: i) Perpendicular-style, two-light window with trefoil-heads and square-headed frame with label; ii) priest's doorway with graceful septifoil head, supposed to be spoil from Cwmhir Abbey, with much-weathered corbelled head above and modern wooden door; doorway of dressed sandstone, with chamfered jambs, two jambstones with knife sharpening marks and one with a horizontal piercing which turns through right-angle (purpose unclear); iii) another window similar in all respects to first except that it

has three lights rather than two.

Chancel. General. New element added to church in 1876? Fabric F.

North wall: one single-light window with pointed head. East window: one three-light "Perpendicular" window with panel tracery, stopped hoodmoulding and quartzite blocks arching around above.

South wall: one single-light with pointed head; also mural tablets of 1823 and 1842.

Porch. General. Fabric G.

East wall: plain; panels from early 19thC table tomb and flaked tombstone lean against wall (two more table tomb panels lean against adjacent nave wall).

South wall: wooden door, timber frame, weather-boarding above with glazed light, and projecting lamp.

West wall: plain.

Interior

Porch. General. Modern rafter and purlin roof. 19th/20thC tiled floor.

North wall: = south wall of nave with remnants of plaster and limewash; two-centred arch with voussoirs, original.

East wall: plain, but for mural slab of 1736.

West wall: plain.

Tower. General. Not accessible.

Nave. General. Floor carpeted, but tiled around font, pulpit and in vestry; raised wooden flooring under benches. Arch-braced roof with diagonal braces above collars. Truss dividing chancel from nave has tie-beam with open arcadework above; feet of chancel roof trusses rest on brackets with pierced trefoil ornament; some of the original timber re-used in chancel roof. Screen divides western part of nave to form vestry. Windows have flat sills.

North wall: some modern graffiti on wall beside rear benches.

South wall: main door slightly splayed, with square-headed reveal; priest's door can be seen as 'ghost' arch beneath plaster.

West wall: doorway with simple two-centred arch, chamfered jambs, approached by single step; above is a splayed rounded window; both part of the medieval church?

Chancel. General. One step up from nave. Floor has encaustic tiles down centre, raised wooden floor for choir stalls, and carpeting in sanctuary. Windows have sloping sills. For roof see under Nave.

North wall: aumbry.

East wall: reredos below window.

South wall: piscina.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Screen: 15thC Perpendicular, largely rebuilt; six lights either side of wide doorway with four-centred tracery head, brattished head rail, moulded mullions, chamfered mid-rail and plank and muntin panelling. Tracery heads to the lights on the south side are original but have lost the rosehead cusps shown in earlier illustrations. Screen lengthened when church rebuilt. Full description in Crossley and Ridgeway.

Font: possibly Norman, of c.1200: rounded bowl, re-worked, on cylindrical stem.

Piscina: claimed to be medieval.

Altar table: said to be 17thC, has fixed to it a length of carved timberwork with foliage scroll, its provenance is unknown but Crossley and Ridgeway thought it came from the front of a bressummer beam to a rood loft that belonged to the Montgomeryshire school of carving and may not have originated at Llandegley.

Communion table: 17thC, with split bobbin work; in vestry.

Victorian fittings include: pulpit, lectern, reredos, vestry screen, pews, communion rails, encaustic tiles: all of 1876 in Gothic style. Glass by Jones and Willis.

CHURCHYARD

Small sub-oval churchyard, raised on north, west and south sides, and extended westwards since late 19thC. Well kept. Set on level ground and slightly back from edge of river terrace with Logyn Brook to the west and south.

The boundary consists on south side of a bank surmounted by a hedge and wire fence with a slight internal drop and external stone-revetted drop of 1m+. On west the course of the pre-20thC boundary is now represented by a 1m+ high scarp bank; around the north side is a well-built stone wall with internal ground banked up against it.

Monuments: churchyard is densely packed with graves to the south of the porch and north of the church, but sparser to the east of the chancel. A couple of late 18thC (1796) tombstones lie between large yews on the southern boundary and one or two others are sited near the porch, but the majority of gravestones appear to be 19thC and many have flaking faces. There are numerous chest tombs with finely carved designs.

Earthworks: around the north side within a few metres of the church wall and faintly on east side of chancel is break of slope, no more than 0.5m high at most - possibly a rubble platform derived from the demolition of the previous building.

Ancillary features: East entrance has main double metal gates plus a kissing gate, the north-west entrance has an ornamental gate and a kissing gate, and there is a kissing gate at a subsidiary entrance on the south-west. All are served by tarmac paths.

Vegetation: two old yews (one no more than a stump) and a more recent clipped yew.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1993

Church guide n.d. (1993?)

CPAT Field Visit: 4 August 1995

Crossley and Ridgeway 1949, 239

Davies, 1905, 302 & 347
Haslam 1979, 245
Howse, 1949, 249
NMR Aberystwyth
Silvester 1994, 91
Williams 1874, 50

CONDITION

Not recorded.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor to Medium

Llandeilo Graban

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Teilo

PRN 16830

NGR SO09374468

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Teilo's church lies on the east side of the Wye Valley some 8km from Builth Wells. The building is late medieval and of simple form, with a nave that is perhaps 14thC and a chancel and tower from the following century. Other than a font which has been attributed to the 14thC, its fittings are all post-medieval. The churchyard has an irregular outline and contains a few early tombs.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Tower supposedly 14thC and contemporary with rest of building, though it appears to be later than nave.

Nave thought to be 14thC but windows replaced when chancel added in 15thC. Porch abuts nave. It could be 15thC in company with the chancel.

HISTORY

Nothing is known of the early history of Llandeilo church, and even the evidence for an early medieval foundation is equivocal.

Its later history is not recorded but it does appear in the 1291 Taxatio as 'Ecclesia de Landeylar' at the unexceptional value of £4 13s 4d, and in 1535 it was named as Llandylo Prebenda.

Williams, in 1818, recorded that the "nave is separated from the chancel by a timber... screen; the roof is ribbed with oak".

In 1897 there was some restoration by E.V.Collier, particularly on the tower and on the walls.

ARCHITECTURE

The church comprises a nave, a slightly narrower chancel, a south porch and a west tower. It is oriented slightly south of west.

Fabrics: 'A' is of long slabs of fine-grained sandstone mixed with blocks and slabs of shale-like sedimentary stone; quoins consist of the same material only roughly shaped, though there are some of better quality. 'B' is of fine-grained sedimentary material with a clean appearance. 'C' is of a mixture of sandstone, ?mudstone and shale-like sedimentary, clean in appearance and fairly fresh.

Roofs: shale tiles on roofs including the tower, concrete ridge tiles on nave and chancel.

Drainage: a vegetation-filled trench, 0.3m wide, along the west side of the church and less obviously on the

north side. Drains along sides of porch.

Exterior

Tower. General. A squat tower capped by a pyramid roof with a weathercock. All in Fabric A.

North wall: wall face repointed with a few new stones inserted. At ground level, a doorway with sandstone dressings, two-centred arch, stopped chamfers - wholly Victorian. Belfry illuminated through two simple rectangular openings, no chamfers, iron grilles with wire over. Wall appears to abut west wall of nave.

East wall: apex of nave roof rises to just below eaves of tower roof. Visible wall plain with no features.

South wall: wall face weathered. Two-light rectangular window at ground-floor level; of red sandstone with some dressings chamfered - Victorian, with diamond-leaded coloured glass. Higher up wall is a single rectangular light but otherwise as window below. Belfry windows as on north. Again evidence that tower abuts nave.

West wall: occasional dressed quoins. Two windows as on south, some of the dressings already pitted through weathering.

Nave. General. Roof level about 0.5m higher than chancel, with a slightly steeper pitch. Fabric primarily 'A' except where stated.

North wall: 'A', though its appearance is far from uniform; top 0.3m above eaves seemingly in 'B', this masonry or something similar dropping down to the head of the more easterly window. From west: i) a square-headed window in red sandstone with a trefoiled light; ii) a square-headed, double-light window, the lights with trefoil heads. The mullion and sill have been replaced in red sandstone, but the rest in reddish-grey sandstone could be original; iii) a fine grave slab of 1708 rests against wall near north-east corner. Near this corner the masonry appears less weathered but is not obviously rebuilt.

East wall: where visible is in 'A' and is abutted by chancel walls on both north and south.

South wall: masonry similar to north wall with a band of 'B' above 'A'. From west: i) inserted red sandstone window comparable with that opposite in north wall = Victorian; ii) porch; iii) two two-light windows of the form seen in the north wall. Most of the dressings are fairly fresh looking but could conceivably be original. Nevertheless, 'B' drops down to the top of the more westerly of the two windows, and the sill of the more easterly has been replaced; iv) beneath the most easterly window, a mural slab of 1821.

West wall: nothing of interest, although a lean-to structure masks the lower part north of the tower.

Chancel. General. Wall faces battered for 0.5m. Fabric C.

North wall: wall has a uniformly clean appearance. One two-light window, of similar type to that in north wall of nave, with mullion and one jambstone renewed; rest original and hooks for shutters still in place.

East wall: all in one fabric but much weathered and lichen covered. Fine Perpendicular three-light window, cinquefoil heads and complex moulding beneath two-centred arch, panel tracery; no obvious replacement. Seven mural tablets and gravestones pinned to the wall ranging from 1773 to 1824 though two illegible.

South wall: limewashed at some stage for residues on window dressings. The square-headed window has two lights as have all the other windows in the church and there is no obvious replacement. West of it is a priest's door with a two-centred head, stopped chamfers, all in pinkish-grey sandstone; little weathering is obvious yet it appears to have its original stonework.

Porch. General. Fabric perhaps a variation of 'A'. Porch abuts nave. Walls have slight batter.

East and west walls: plain.

South wall: a broad, two-centred arched entrance with stopped chamfers, the dressings in grey and greyish red sandstone. Much eroded except for six of the seven arch stones which might indicate that these are replacements.

Interior

Porch. General. Flagged floor with one graveslab of c.1735 utilised. Walls whitewashed. Roof of two bays, the innermost truss with foiled struts forming a quatrefoil and two trefoils; arch-braced truss in centre. However, though the purlins may be original, most of the timberwork is modern.

North wall: doorway comparable with outer doorway of porch, and though not so worn, the dressings have some mould cover; fresh-looking arch stones.

East wall: stone bench with flag seat along wall; octagonal stoup in north-east angle.

South wall: splayed reveal for doorway.

West wall: an unusually large stone set in wall but covered in whitewash. Stone bench as on east side. In corner is a hollow 'drum', rather like a font pedestal but perhaps too small.

Tower. General. Wooden block flooring. East wall plastered and whitewashed while other walls only rendered. Flat ceiling above ground floor. Leaning against west wall is gravestone of 1648.

Nave. General. Floor covering in wooden blocks except for an edging all around with Victorian tiles, and graveslabs (inverted?) in wall passage to tower. Walls plastered and whitewashed, and old pew panels adapted as a dado down the sides. Wagon roof of eight bays, with carved bosses. Western end of nave partitioned off for vestry.

North wall: dado to height of 1m. Two deeply splayed windows; lamps on brackets.

East wall: two-centred arch clearly broken through existing wall of nave to give access to new chancel. Wall face inset at height of c.2.3m, and a second disconformity at height of c.4m matches one in west wall and may represent position of former tie beam, given that it is approximately in line with the eaves of the nave.

South wall: panelling and windows as north side. Door reveal has slightly peaked head. Cavity in west wall of door reveal, its purpose unclear. One 19thC monument near south-east corner.

West wall: roughly rendered but not plastered. Ledge at c.4m.

Chancel. General. Red tiled floor with choir stalls raised on wooden plinths; a graveslab of c.1681 set in sanctuary floor. Walls as nave. Roof of four bays though two shorter than the others; principal trusses have collars; wall-plates with brattishing over the choir stalls; some replacement of main timbers.

North wall: deeply splayed window.

East wall: splayed window.

South wall: window as north wall. Original piscina with round-headed niche. Beside it is an aumbry slab which is supported on a decorated corbel, certainly re-used. Reveal of priest's door comparable with that of main south door.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: on an octagonal stone base; 14thC.

Altar rails: thought to be 17thC.

Chest: roughly fashioned wooden chest, c.1.4m long, in vestry.

Plaque: wooden inscribed 'Thos Wms and Wm Powell. Chch Wardns 1755'. On north wall of nave.
Registers: from 1696.

CHURCHYARD

Llandeilo churchyard describes a curious shape, part angular but with a distinctive curve on the north-east. There is no evidence for modifications to its form, yet its present shape is surely not original. It occupies reasonably level ground though there is a slight slope to the south, and beyond the boundary the ground drops away southwards and eastwards to a tributary of the Wye.

Except for its perimeter it is well-maintained and is still used for burial.

Boundary: consists of a well-made drystone wall, incorporating large slabs of rock. Debris has been piled up against the inner face of the wall, giving the impression that the interior is raised, and possibly disguising an earlier bank.

Monuments: these are spread all over the southern part of the churchyard, but are not densely packed except for one or two localised groups. 18thC gravestones lie to the south of the chancel and there are others scattered around including one of 1746. North of the church there is no trace of graves, though there is the fine graveslab of 1708 leaning against the nave wall.

Furniture: none noted.

Earthworks: minor undulations within the churchyard appear to be of no great significance.

Ancillary features: main entrance from south east consists of double wooden gates and a kissing gate, and there is a metal kissing gate on the west side; both have paving slab paths to the porch. A wooden field gate is set in the northern corner.

Vegetation: three large yews are set randomly in the southern half of the yard, and there are deciduous trees around the perimeter.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 19 October 1995
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 240
Davies 1905, 255
Faculty 1896: NLW/SD/F/261
Haslam 1979, 246

CONDITION

Satisfactory.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Good

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium

Llandrindod

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Holy Trinity

PRN 16835

NGR SO06506012

GENERAL SUMMARY

Dedicated to the Holy Trinity, as is the new church in the centre of Llandrindod Wells, the old church may have originated in the 13thC if not earlier, but the present uni-cellular structure was erected in 1894 in neo-Gothic style. It contains a few features of pre-19thC interest internally and its churchyard is now of such irregular form that its original shape remains obscure.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church rebuilt completely in 1894, perhaps using old materials.

HISTORY

The Taxatio record this as Lando in 1291, a corruption of 'Llanddw' or 'Llanduw', equivalent to the 'Church of God'. This appears in similar form up until 1517, but in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535 is found 'Llandynddod' or 'Church of Holy Trinity'.

A 13thC/14thC structure has been postulated with a single chamber, a south porch which was further west than its Victorian successor, and a west spirelet. In 1872, it was observed that an old, octagonal wooden font was being utilised as the base of the pulpit.

In 1893, the Archdeacon had Llandrindod and Cefnlllys churches unroofed, to force people to attend the new church in Llandrindod Wells; but it was rebuilt in 1894 by Nicholson & Sons. The earlier church on the site was levelled but the foundations can be seen at the base of the east wall, and further influenced the alignment of the new building. In 1911 it was extended to the west with the addition of another 'bay', a new vestry and a heating chamber.

The first archbishop of Wales was elected here in 1920.

ARCHITECTURE

Single-celled with nave and chancel in one, a broach spirelet, south porch and vestry added at west end, the whole built in the late 19thC and early 20thC in neo-Gothic, on a south-west/north-east alignment. For descriptive purposes, 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabric: the fabric contains a mixture of sedimentary rocks such as shales and mudstones, together with some?volcanic ash, suggesting re-use of earlier material; grey shale quoins and sandstone dressings all new.

Roofs: of slate.

Exterior

Nave/Chancel. North wall: three two-light windows plus one single-light for sanctuary. North-east corner has slightly skewed alignment because of utilisation of earlier foundation.

East wall: set back on plinth up to 0.8m high, and traces of an earlier foundation at ground level projecting 0.5m out. Three-light window.

South wall: minor change of alignment close to south-east corner; plinth continues for short distance only, then (?)buried; two single-light windows and, west of porch, two two-light windows.

West wall: one three-light window above vestry.

Porch. General. Standard fabric but with sandstone quoins.

East wall: one single-light window.

South wall: two-centred arch over entrance.

West wall: as east wall.

Vestry. General. Similar masonry, with three-light window in west wall; boiler house beneath.

Interior

Porch. General. Tiled floor, benches along sides. Unplastered but pointed stone walls, modern roof timbers.

Nave and Chancel. General. Plastered and limewashed throughout; roof is modern imitation of earlier roof, consisting of tie-beam trusses over nave, and over the chancel hammerbeams carrying braces steeply arched to a point, with curved brackets and quatrefoils below; floor tiles except under seating where of wood.

Vestry: not accessible.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Sheila-na-gig: figure in relief. Found in 1894 buried beneath the floor.

Font: small and simple octagonal basin on square stem and base. Basin may be old, the rest a replacement (although see section on history which may indicate the original font was wooden).

Monuments: John Hope (d.1761) in bronze, with engraved coat of arms; tablet to Eliza Dale and child (d.1806); David Jones (d.1817), a stone with traces of colour; Morgan Davies (d.1835), by Price of Builth; Thomas Whittall (d.1826), by Stevens, an ornate sandstone tablet.

CHURCHYARD

The church of the Holy Trinity lies about 1km south-east of Llandrindod Wells, on ground rising quite steeply to former common above. Earthworks possibly the sites of dwellings lie on opposite side of road to the north.

The churchyard, its longer axis south-south-west/north-north-east, is set on edge on spur with valley to the south, so its shape is dictated by natural topography on the west and south, and rock projections fashion irregular surface within. Railings define the perimeter on these sides as far as recent graveyard extension at eastern end which is enclosed by pig fencing. On the north-east and north, adjacent to the road, is a mortared stone wall. No convincing traces of earlier perimeter except in north-west angle where low bank cuts across re-entrant stone wall.

Monuments: spread fairly closely across almost whole of churchyard, with new burials close to north wall of building and in east extension. Nothing pre-dating the 19thC was noted.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: the churchyard served by tarmac paths to porch with kissing gate and main cemetery gates in north-east, and other kissing gates on north and in south-west (a private access from Llandrindod Hall).

Trees: no yews, but a few other species present.

SOURCES

Archaeologia Cambrensis 1872, 359
Britnell 1990, 29
Church Guidenotes
CPAT Field Visit: 19 July 1995
Faculty 1911: NLW/SD/F/272
Haslam: 1979, 247
Howse, 1949, 259
NMR Aberystwyth
Silvester 1994, 96

CONDITION

Not recorded.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Llanelwedd

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Matthew

PRN 16845

NGR SO04665179

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Matthew's church at Llanelwedd faces Builth Wells across the River Wye, less than one mile away. A few architectural details and rather more masonry survive from the medieval structure that underwent substantial restoration in 1877. However, it retains none of its medieval fittings other than two fonts. The churchyard is rectilinear and contains a wide but typical range of monuments.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The tower is medieval but was rebuilt in Victorian restoration from belfry level; slit windows may be only surviving architectural features of what has been claimed as 14thC.

Nave has original masonry in south wall but is otherwise largely reconstructed with replaced windows. Chancel retains original masonry on south but is rebuilt on east; its priest's door might indicate a 14thC date, despite considerable replacement of the stonework, and south window would thus be later. Porch perhaps retains original masonry, north aisle is largely rebuilt.

HISTORY

It is claimed that the first church in the locality was at Cae Henllan, on a spur half a mile north of the present church. The date at which this was abandoned in favour of the present site is not known, and the location of the present church could well suggest an early medieval origin.

The Taxatio of 1291 records 'Ecclesia de Lanelwech' at the relatively low value of £2.

It has been claimed that a fundamental restoration occurred in 1877, but that the architect, John Norton, preserved or copied the old work where possible. The 1877 Faculty does suggest considerable retention, particularly in the tower, chancel, porch and south wall of the nave. Davies (1905) recorded that in 1877 "the quaint but disfigured old church of Llanelwedd was restored, enlarged, and converted into one of the most beautiful little churches in the Principality. The character of the tower was slightly altered". He also noted that an old rood loft window in the south wall was not preserved.

ARCHITECTURE

Llanelwedd church consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle, south porch and west tower. It is oriented north-east/south-west, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics: 'A' is formed of generally small, irregular lumps of olive-grey sedimentary rock (?gritstone), randomly coursed; selected blocks of same material used for quoins.

'B' is of medium to large blocks of grey (?)sandstone, randomly coursed; quoins of same material.

'C' is of mixed grey, olive and brown blocks of sandstone, many irregularly shaped, irregularly coursed.

'D' is of slabs of brown and pink sandstone, randomly coursed and showing traces of former limewash;

random coursing.

'A', 'C' and 'D' are medieval, though appearance of 'C' often heralds re-use; 'B' is 19thC.

Roofs: slates though of varying type, the most recent on the north side. Cross finials at east ends of both nave and chancel.

Drainage: no obvious trenches although there is a depression beside the side of the north aisle.

Exterior

Tower. General. Plain with no batter or string-courses, but machicolations beneath the parapet in pink sandstone (a Victorian feature); and a low pyramidal roof surmounted by a cross. Considered by Haslam to be essentially 14thC.

North wall: chamfered rectangular window in pink sandstone at ground level; inserted though this is not obvious. Above this is a simple slit window without chamfers. Belfry lit by paired lancets, chamfered in pink sandstone, louvred. All in 'A', but from the level of the belfry windows in 'B'. Oil tank and vegetation disguise lower part of wall.

East wall: apex of nave roof reaches to base of belfry windows; these as on north side. Fabric 'B' from lower part of these windows upwards.

South wall: exactly as north wall but clear signs that ground floor window inserted. Change in masonry from 'A' to 'B' could be from below belfry window.

West wall: lower part of wall hidden by boiler house and store-shed. Slit window in pink sandstone and belfry window as on north side. 'B' from below belfry window level. 1877 faculty indicates that at least some part of this wall rebuilt.

Nave. North wall: fabric 'C'; plain.

East wall: visible for a maximum of 0.4m above chancel.

South wall: wall in vicinity of porch could be original, elsewhere upper wall face probably rebuilt though lower foundation courses could be original. Gable as on north side of north aisle; Victorian buttress at south-east angle; windows as north side. West of the porch the window is of standard form and most of wall rebuilt except perhaps for the south-west angle. 19thC graveslabs leaning against wall.

West wall: original fabric 'C' with limewash remnants.

North aisle. North wall: appears as variation in Fabric 'B' and is rebuilt though earlier stone re-used in core. Three two-light rectangular windows, the lights with trefoil heads, and all in Victorian pink sandstone. Towards the east end, a gable projects above the eaves line and this contains a fourth window (though the third from the west end) with a two-centred arch and a quatrefoil above the lights. The angles have tooled blocks for quoins.

East wall: lower part of wall in 'B' but in the gable there could also be some 'C' masonry, perhaps indicative of re-use. Single lancet in pink sandstone; two gravestones leant against wall.

West wall: fabric 'C'; interlocking joint with nave wall. Lancet window in pink sandstone; kneelers and coping stones certainly 19thC, rest of wall may be.

Chancel. North wall: possibly fabric 'C'. No features but appears to bond with east wall of north aisle, so

fabric may indicate re-use.

East wall: in Fabric 'C' though south-east angle probably 'D', almost to eaves level, suggesting that most of wall rebuilt. East window has triple lancets in pink sandstone with ornate hoodmoulding. One chest tomb lid leant against wall.

South wall: Fabric 'D'. Rectangular window with two cusped lights, chamfered, in pink and cream sandstone; whole window could possibly be inserted. Priest's door with two-centred arch in pink sandstone; the threshold stone, 0.3m above the ground level is in similar material. Some of the jambstones in this material appear to be original, the rest replacements. Three graveslabs - one of 1788, the other two of the 19thC - leant against wall.

Porch. East wall: fabric appears to be a variation of 'D' in that masonry is generally larger; render remnants.

South wall: fabric as east wall, though conceivably rebuilt. Two-centred arched doorway with grey and red dressings, broach stops to the chamfers; most of this probably but not certainly replaced.

West wall: Fabric 'D' with inserted window having two-centred arched light with cusped tracery. Mural slabs of 1801 and 1812 against wall.

Interior

Porch. General. Flagged floor with one step up to nave. Walls faced in red sandstone with engraved texts (Victorian). Roof of two bays with three arch-braced collars.

North wall: round-headed doorway with chamfered dressings; not Victorian but not Norman either.

South wall: iron gates.

Tower. General. Used as vestry. Tiled floor with heating vents. Walls have wooden panels derived from old box pews. Wooden ceiling.

North aisle. General. As nave (see below), but roof less elaborate, lacking cusped timbers and windbraces.

Nave. General. Completely Victorianised internally. A tiled floor with carpets over, boarded floors under the benches; bare walls in pink sandstone; roof of seven bays with arch-braced collars, alternately springing from the wall and the wall plate. All are cusped above the collars but those from the wall in addition have raking struts. Two tiers of windbraces. The roof is entirely Victorian as are those in the north aisle and chancel. Radiators for heating.

North wall: three-bay arcade with two-centred arches and heavy, ungainly piers, chamfered and of 15thC type.

East wall: two-centred arch in pink sandstone.

South wall: 19thC and 20thC brasses.

West wall: virtually a triangular-topped doorway to tower, and above it, high up on wall, a small square window.

Chancel. General. Altar four steps higher than nave. Tiled floor with carpets over; choir stalls raised on wooden plinths. Bare walls. Two-bay roof with arch-braced collars springing from corbels.

North wall: an extension to the arcade, though narrower it forms arched entrance to organ chamber.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Fonts: inside the church is an octagonal font on two circular steps. A second font, also octagonal and reportedly found buried in the churchyard, is outside beside the north wall of the north aisle. However, another report reveals that the latter was brought from Knighton church at the time of its 19thC restoration.

Pews: five older, but undated, pews towards rear of church.

Chest: plain, lockless; in most easterly bay of nave arcade.

Victorian fittings include -

"Chancel Screen: "dado-height only, and on it stand eight winged angels".

Pulpit: "this together with chancel screen, the choir seats, and the altar front were carved by Miss Amy Thomas and a Miss Faltin.

Stained Glass: east window by Clayton & Bell; nave windows by Burlison & Grylls" (Haslam).

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard spreads across level ground, though the south-west sector is a little lower than the rest. This is the northern terrace of the River Wye, exaggerated by the railway cutting below the churchyard, and occupying a low spur formed by a damp valley on the east and the alignment of the terrace on the south-west.

The churchyard is still used for burial and is generally well-maintained except in the extreme south-east.

Boundary: a retaining wall edges the churchyard on the west with a drop of around 2m (the river terrace edge) beyond; on the south is a tumbled stone wall reinforced by a wire fence inside, and externally a drop to the railway cutting. At the east end the churchyard has been reduced in size by an arc of upright gravestones, and beyond this it is overgrown. A hedge and fence separate the churchyard from the rectory garden to the north and north-east, and there is a mortared wall edging the road on the north.

Monuments: almost all of the churchyard contains gravestones, though they are generally not densely packed. Modern burials lie to the east and north, older ones going back to the later 18thC are to the south. The oldest, of 1702, lies just to the south of the nave.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: access from the main road is by double, ornamental iron gates and there is also a gate from the rectory. Tarmac paths lead to the porch.

Vegetation: one old yew in the eastern sector and yew bushes around the perimeter.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 29 February 1996
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 240
Davies 1905, 326
Faculty 1877: NLW/SD/F/319
Haslam 1979, 250
Howse, 1949, 260

CONDITION

Superficially in reasonable condition, though some cracking to and looseness in the tower masonry around the north-west angle.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Very Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Poor

Llanfaredd

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Mary

PRN 16848

NGR SO06955074

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Mary's church is a simple structure, lying some 3km to the east of Builth Wells on the east side of the Wye Valley. There is little diagnostic architectural detail and apart from a late medieval font, some early altar rails and an unconfirmed report of an early bell, little in the way of pre-19thC furnishings and fittings. The churchyard is small and partly curvilinear, with a useful range of 18thC gravestones.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

It is possible but undemonstrable that the walls of the building (in Fabric A) are medieval, though the different thicknesses of the chancel walls may be relevant in this context; equally the significance of the large patch of Fabric B in the west wall cannot be ascertained. The 1890 Specification implies that the walls were not rebuilt at this time, but that the old window embrasures were filled with old stone.

The fenestration is in Early English style, but it has not been established whether this is a true reflection of what was here previously.

HISTORY

The location and the shape of the churchyard hint at an early medieval origin, but there is nothing to confirm this supposition.

Llanfaredd does not appear to feature in either 13thC Taxatio or in the 1535 Valor.

Much renewal was undertaken by E.V. Collier in 1891, including excavation of the surrounding drain, insertion of new windows and floors, and the addition of buttresses.

ARCHITECTURE

A small single-chamber church, its chancel and nave in one, with a south porch and a bell-turret over the west end. The church is aligned west-south-west/east-north-east, but for the purposes of this description 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted.

Fabrics: 'A' consists of slabs of brown and perhaps grey fine-grained sandstone or siltstone, small to medium in size and randomly coursed. Flecks of limewash adhere to the masonry.

'B' consists of big blocks and lumps of stone, a wide mixture including conglomerate and limestone.

Roofs: slates, ornate ceramic ridge tiles, a finial socket for a lost finial over chancel; a metal finial over porch.

Drainage: concrete and brick-lined drain around building, 0.5m max wide and 0.5m max deep.

Exterior

Nave and Chancel. General. All in Fabric A except for part of west wall.

North wall: three windows, from west, of one, three and two simple chamfered lancets in red sandstone, the last lighting the chancel. All are Victorian inserted into wall and the filling material looks fresher but otherwise uniform with the rest of the masonry. Upper wall replaced in parts with similar material. One buttress at or very close to nave/chancel divide. It has coping stones which look Victorian though possibly its core could be earlier. In the chancel wall are two metal tie rods (inserted in the post-war period).

East wall: wall rebuilt, probably from just above window sill level. Three stepped lancets of the same simple design as rest of fenestration. Diagonal buttresses. Three 19thC gravestones lean against wall, and one mural tablet with dates ranging from 1796 to 1837.

South wall: same pattern of windows, one buttress and upper part of wall probably rebuilt. Behind the buttress is some evidence of a blocked window, unless it is a coincidence of mortar lines; if the former it predates the Victorian restoration.

West wall: in the centre of the wall from ground level to c.2m is a large patch of Fabric B; one stone has engraved 'doodles'. It is impossible to determine how much of this wall has been rebuilt.

Porch. General. All walls are in Fabric A. When seen from the south, this cell of the building is leaning sideways badly.

South wall: segmental arch of voussoirs with more regular stones used for jambs. Wooden gates across entrance.

East and west walls: plain.

Interior

Porch. General. Floored in black and red tiles; unplastered walls; roof of purlins and rafters, relatively recent in date.

North wall: two-centred arch with stopped chamfers, all in Victorian buff-yellow sandstone, but door itself earlier, perhaps 17thC.

East wall: wooden bench on stone foundations; mural tablet of 1772.

West wall: bench as on east, with mural tablets, both of 1709.

Nave. General. Victorian tiled floor with carpets over part, and benches on raised wooden plinths. Plastered and whitewashed walls. Roof of four bays, with collars and king and raking struts, much renewed. West end partitioned off as vestry.

North wall: virtually no splaying to windows.

East wall: two-centred chancel arch, the dressed stone in alternating colours; hoodmoulding. Victorian.

South wall: slight window splays only. Segmental head to door reveal.

West wall: plain.

Chancel. General. One step up to chancel, one to sanctuary. Floor as in nave, but more patterned; choir stalls raised on wooden plinths. Walls plastered and whitewashed, but it should be noted that north and east walls are rather thicker than the south wall and those of nave. Roof of two bays is similar to nave except that collars have arch-bracing.

North wall: window has only shallow splay. One 20thC mural tablet and one of 1765/1769.

South wall: splayed window and 19thC mural tablet.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Bell: according to Haslam dating from c.1280.

Font: Perpendicular style, on an octagonal shaft.

Chest: in vestry, undated.

Altar Rails: 17thC.

Monuments: mural tablets to William James (d.1765) and his daughter Lydia (d.1769); to Ann Probert (d.1709); to John Probert (d.1709); and to Rees Lloyd (d.1772).

Register: from 1698.

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is small and irregular in shape, though tending to curvilinearity in places. It tips from east to west, a reflection of the slope down to the Wye, but is also perched on the edge of a river terrace at the point where it is breached by a small stream valley.

It is well maintained and is used for modern burial.

Its perimeter is defined by a drystone wall with a concrete capping, 1m high on the south-west. Generally there is only slight evidence of a raised interior, but on the north-west it rises above the adjacent stockyard, and above the buildings to the west, though this may be due to deliberate excavation and the natural slope respectively.

Monuments: gravestones are dotted around the churchyard with rather more to the north than the south. Older ones are cemented in against the churchyard wall on the south and east: one in Latin might be of 1686, and the earliest in English appears to be of 1691.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: double wooden gates on south-west provide main access, and there is a stile on the east side.

Vegetation: one old yew to the west of the church and a second, smaller one near the south-west entrance.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 29 February 1996
Davies 1905, 328
Faculty 1890: NLW/SD/F/323
Haslam 1979, 252
Howse, 1949, 244

CONDITION

The condition of the church is reasonable, though paintwork is blistering in the chancel and on the ceiling beneath the bell turret.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Medium?

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor to Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Poor to Medium

Llanfihangel Helygen

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Michael

PRN 16853

NGR SO04586439

GENERAL SUMMARY

A simple single-celled church dedicated to St Michael, it is set in an irregularly shaped churchyard. Little is known of the history, and there is nothing architecturally that stylistically pre-dates the late 17thC. The only pre-Reformation feature is the font.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Simple windows of post-medieval date set in walls that have largely been rebuilt, though some original, but undated fabric may survive.

HISTORY

Little is known of the early history, but it was a chapel of ease to the mother church of Nantmel until 1859, and had no rights of burial or baptism until after 1818.

It was reportedly in a dilapidated condition in 1689 and in poor repair in 1812. The walls were partly rebuilt c.1812, but Williams, in 1818, recorded that "the church is dedicated to St Michael, whose memory is little honoured in the meanness of its structure, and in its total want of those appendages of accommodation generally found in places set apart for religious worship". It has also been stated that the pews and three-decker pulpit were brought here from another, unnamed, church in the early part of the last century.

In 1851 it had 20 free and 50 other seats, with an average congregation of 27. An account at this time (in Davies 1905) recorded that a large part of the south wall had been re-built, together with the upper portions of the east and west walls; and in the latter there were signs of two successive re-builds. A fleur-de-lys of iron, set upright in the ridge of the roof, was recorded where the chancel was supposed to have begun. The churchyard contained only two or three sod-covered graves.

An east window was put in after an appeal by the curate, Thomas Price, about 1854. Other phases of reconstruction have been mooted. The extent of rebuilding is not known but on the basis of limewash traces, it is possible that north wall not altered as much as others.

The church was restored in 1956 by the Pilgrim Trust, with further work in 1994.

ARCHITECTURE

A little church of simple rectangular plan, the nave and chancel in one, the west end partitioned off for vestry, with a west belfry over. Ecclesiastical east' is used throughout the report though the church is oriented east-north-east/west-south-west.

Fabrics: 'A' of fine grained sedimentary rock, both tabular and blocks, some iron-stained; well coursed. 'B' presents more weathered appearance and stone tends to be tabular. All quoins of brick. North side heavily pointed and formerly limewashed.

Roofs: large slates, the bellcote towards the west end with timber sides and a slated, pyramidal roof.

Drainage: paving slabs around exterior wall faces may cover drain.

Exterior

Nave/Chancel. General. All Fabric A, except west wall.

North wall: brick quoins at north-west and north-east corners; no obvious insertions or alterations though some possible disconformities; limewash traces extensive except close to corners; two windows only, one of three lights, the other of two: of rectangular shape, the embrasures faintly splayed, with wooden lintels and slate sills.

East wall: one two-centred arched window of c.1854, with Y-tracery in wood, slate sill, and brick jambs and arch.

South wall: a very few traces of limewash; south-east corner has brick jambs and between this and most easterly window is vertical but intermittent break in stonework suggestive of infill or rebuild; first window has double leaded lights, rectangular embrasure, wooden lintel and slate sill, RCAHMW suggesting it might be as early as late 17thC; near west end, a solid timber door in rectangular door frame with square head incorporating projecting wooden lintel of double thickness, the flagstones at the entrance set lower than the stones around exterior face of building; west of door, another two-light window in a rectangular embrasure, with wooden lintel and slate sill.

West wall: in Fabric B, no features.

Interior

Nave/Chancel. General. Aisle and sanctuary carpeted, otherwise flagstones except for wooden or brick floor beneath a few pews. Walls plastered and whitewashed. Roof of arch-braced collar-trusses with raking struts, two tiers of cusped wind-braces, and butt purlins: late medieval. There are hints that roof may be re-used or re-set: lower windbraces partly embedded in wall heads and some rafters have disused slots.

North wall: both windows splayed; two mural tablets.

East wall: splayed window; two lozenge-shaped mural tablets and a wall-safe.

South wall: splayed window, simple doorway and mural tablet of 1811.

West wall: wooden partition (see below).

Note: early seating plan. Pulpit in centre of north wall, with all pews facing it, so some have back to altar, though latter certainly post-1850.

Vestry. General. Separated from nave by timber and plaster partition, giving way to weatherboarding at eaves level. Floored with slabs of stone on edge with central walkway of flat slabs. Whitewashed walls, some in deteriorating condition, with nothing of interest.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Box Pews: of various forms. No date, though some probably 18thC. Reportedly brought from another church at beginning of this century.

Pulpit: two-decker, brought in from elsewhere as pews. Williams in 1818 reported that church did not have pulpit.

Font: circular bowl, on a slim cylindrical base, possibly 13thC, though claimed to be early as the 11thC by a previous vicar. Haslam queried whether it was formerly a stoup but it is perhaps too large.

Monuments: diamond-shaped tablet to Thomas Joseph (d.1805); and other mural plaques, all of 19thC and 20thC date, and all but one in marble.

Registers: date from 1732.

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is set on a ridge to the west of the River Ithon, with a gentle slope to the south into a shallow valley. It has an irregular perimeter, certainly not circular, and with little indication of being raised except on the west where there is a drop of >1m to road below.

Boundary: on the west is a bank faced with a pletched hedge, the remainder consists of a low bank which increases in size towards south-west corner, with modern pig-wire fence on top.

Monuments: most of churchyard cleared of monuments, leaving small group to south-east of church, the oldest c.1870, the most recent 1989.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: the north-west corner has double gates and a kissing gate, all wooden. Opposite, in south-east, a former entrance now blocked by a 6-bar wooden gate. Church served by grass paths.

Vegetation: a single yew tree grows near the oldest graves.

SOURCES

Church Notes: n.d.

CPAT Field Visit: 19 July 1995

Davies 1905, 277 & 343

Haslam 1979, 252

Menter Powys: church guide n.d.

NMR, Aberystwyth

Powys SMR

CONDITION

Generally sound.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Poor?

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Llanfihangel Nant Melan

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Michael

PRN 16855

NGR SO18015818

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Michael's church at Llanfihangel, some 12km west of Kington (Herefordshire), is a Victorian structure completely rebuilt in Norman revival style in 1846. It contains but two monuments and a font of earlier date. The churchyard is potentially interesting: now sub-rectangular, it may have had a sub-circular predecessor that shows as a raised platform.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The church is a complete rebuild of 1846.

HISTORY

Nothing of the origins or development of Llanfihangel church is known. An early medieval genesis is at least a possibility: its location and the fossilised circuit of an earlier enclosure are suggestive in this context. Howse recorded a tradition that the church is "said to have been placed within the ring of a stone circle; an ancient stone will be noticed embedded in the hollow trunk of one of the yews". Howse's leaning to a pagan origin for other church sites in Radnorshire should be noted.

The church belonged to William de Breos and was given in the later 12thC to the Knights Hospitallers. It does not appear in the 13thC Taxatio, but in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535, 'Llanmyhangell Llan Melan' is recorded at the unexceptional value of £4 13s 4d.

Jonathan Williams in 1818 described the predecessor of the present church as "a very low and mean edifice, constructed with the perishable stone of the country, and externally whitewashed. Its internal appearance contains nothing worthy of notice."

As noted above it was completely rebuilt in imitation of the Norman style by Thomas Nicholson of Hereford in 1846, and it is said to have been consciously modelled on Kilpeck church in Herefordshire.

ARCHITECTURE

Llanfihangel church comprises a small nave with a bellcote at the west end, a south porch, a north vestry, and a semi-circular apse. It is oriented almost precisely east to west.

Fabric: rectangular blocks of shale, generally coursed. No evidence of re-used stone.

Roofs: slate.

Drainage: some signs on south side in vicinity of porch.

Exterior

Note: the following description is restricted to a brief summary because of the age of the present church.

Pointed stonework. Nave and apse have lesenes with horizontal tooling. Roll-moulded windows, and a corbel-table, but these cease on the plain north side.

Nave has four single-light windows on north side with relieving arches. Seven illegible gravestones lean against north wall. Large west window has shafts and zigzag ornament; two buttress-like lesenes at corners. South wall has two windows only, and two mural tablets of 1838 and 1839 attached to wall.

Semi-circular apse to chancel with three window and further lesenes. Corbel table around the whole curving face.

Porch has south door with shafts and zigzag ornament.

Interior

Porch has slate slabs. Roof has simple vaulting with ribs rising from scalloped capitals. Shouldered arch for main south door of church. Slate-topped benches along side.

Nave has floor of slate flags, carpetted, with raised wooden floors under seats. Walls plastered and whitewashed. Panelled roof of ribs and purlins. Chancel arch has engaged columns and a roll moulding. North wall has two mural tables of 1793/1812 and 1834. South wall has one mural tablet of 1779.

Chancel approached by one step and another to the sanctuary. Floor and walls as nave, while the roof has vaulting ribs.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: octagonal bowl; Perpendicular.

Monuments: to T.Butts (d.1793) and his wife (d.1812), by Davies, Builth; to John Griffiths of Kington (d.1779) by R.Havard.

Register: from 1700.

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is set on the edge of a river terrace less than 20m to the south of the Summergil Brook. Its present form is sub-rectangular, and its level falls from south to north.

Boundary: it is defined by a well-made stone wall on the south side where the ground level is higher externally, though it is internally banked towards the south-east corner (see below). Elsewhere, the boundary consists of a hedge set on a low, stone-faced bank.

Churchyard well-maintained and has modern burials.

Monuments: 7 illegible tombstones lean against external north wall. Within the yard variable density of tombstones, but all on south, east and west sides; and some leaning. No pre-19thC tombstones observed.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: the church is perched on a level platform which is of striking appearance (2m+ high) on the north where it incorporates the river terrace edge. However, it is also apparent on the west and south-west, thus revealing its artificial character, and may link to a slightly curvilinear embankment in vicinity of south-east corner of present churchyard.

Ancillary features: wooden gate at south-west angle of churchyard perimeter; metal kissing-gate at south-east corner with tarmac path to church.

Vegetation: five mature yews with sixth cut down, in close-set ring around southern side of church.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 4 August 1995
Davies 1905, 176-8
Haslam 1979, 252
Howse, 1949, 260
Silvester 1994, 102

CONDITION

Generally in reasonable condition. Internal cracks in nave and chancel, particularly above the three chancel windows; faint traces of damp in chancel. Externally dressings on one of the nave windows is flaking off.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Medium to Good

Llanfihangel Rhydithon

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Michael

PRN 16856

NGR SO15146671

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Michael and All Angels is a small church of wholly Victorian (and perhaps later) date located some 15km south-west of Knighton. It is undistinguished architecturally and internally its main pre-19thC fittings are a medieval font and a small group of monuments. The churchyard is polygonal and shows no sign of early modification.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Whole building re-erected, though at two different times, in the 19thC. New masonry used, though the Victorian lancets may echo earlier fenestration.

HISTORY

The origin and early development of this church are unknown. No medieval references to its existence have been encountered.

Nothing of the medieval church survives.

The west tower was reportedly rebuilt in its entirety by B. Wishlade in 1838 (but see below); the nave and chancel were rebuilt by S. W. Williams in 1891. Among features to disappear in 1891 were the gallery that once covered a third of the chancel, a barrel organ and square pews.

A faculty with accompanying specification dated to 1906 refers to pulling down the tower, some of the wall between the tower and the nave, inserting a new doorway, re-using selected tower stone, excavating drains, re-slating the roof, inserting new window sills and putting a new door in the vestry. It is not clear how many (if any) of these proposals were adopted and no other reference has been found to them.

ARCHITECTURE

Llanfihangel church consists of a west tower, nave, small chancel and north vestry. It is oriented west-north-west/east-south-east, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabrics: 'A' is of blocks of grey shaly sandstone, small to medium in size, and occasionally coursed. 'B' is of medium-sized and regularly fashioned blocks of buff coloured shale, weathering to grey, and coursed.

'C' is of slightly larger blocks of shale than 'B' but otherwise similar.

All fabrics are of Victorian date.

Roofs: slates with ceramic ridge tiles; cross finials to nave and chancel. Weathervane on top of tower.

Drainage: around east and south is 0.6m wide, slab-lined gully, and a similar feature on east side of vestry. Nothing comparable on west and north sides.

Exterior

Tower. General. Fabric 'A' with dressings all in golden-yellow sandstone. Chamfered plinth at c.1.0m+; string-course just beneath battlemented parapet. Two-centred arched windows with single trefoil-headed lights and hoodmouldings. Two to each wall (except east) and above are double lights in a similar design for belfry. Door to church on south side with stopped chamfers but of same basic design.

Nave and Chancel. General. All in Fabric 'B' but south wall of nave in Fabric 'C', and west wall adjacent to tower in Fabric 'A'. Body of church also plinched at c.1.0m. Two-centred arched windows with two cinquefoil-traceried lights and small cusped lights above, and hoodmouldings. Three on south side of building, two on north side - all light the nave. Chancel lit by east window of three lights in similar form, and a single lancet in south wall.

Interior

Tower. General. Floor flagged; ceiling panelled; brick and concrete steps to belfry. Broken gravestone of 1767 (of shepherds lost in blizzard) leans against west wall.

Nave. General. Tiled floor, flush wooden block flooring under benches; heating vent grilles beneath carpet in aisle. Panelled roof with tie-beam trusses and ornamental struts. Plastered walls. Two-centred chancel arch with half-round responds and capitals. Six mural slabs and one brass of 19thC; one mural tablet of 1787/1797.

Chancel. General. One step up into chancel, one to sanctuary, one to altar. Tiled floor with carpet. Panelled roof. Plastered walls. Mural slabs relating to one family from 1785, 1816 and 1831.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: small, octagonal, perhaps of 14thC date.

Monuments: to Benjamin Bore (d.1834), classical style, by Davies of Clun; to Edward Thomas (d.1787) and wife Margaret (d.1797); to John Moore (d.1785).

Plaques: in vestry commemorative plaque recording the rebuilding of 1838; and an undated benefaction board.

CHURCHYARD

Church and churchyard occupy a prominent point on the southern lip of the valley of a small stream tributary to the River Alan.

The churchyard has been extended on south side during the present century (1930s?), but its original shape is still discernible as a small polygonal enclosure; only on the north side is its shape dictated by the

topography. The ground within the churchyard is level except in the south-east corner where it rises, though this is probably a function of burial within.

Boundary consists of a stone wall, in part a revetment, which may have been rebuilt in places if collapsed material on south-east side is an indication. North of the church are railings and a fence set on the wall stub. The interior raised by at least 1m (on south) to 2m on north.

Monuments: these are of variable density, the largest concentration on the south side of church. New burial in extension to south. Of the older monuments there is one of 1780 south-east of chancel and others that are overgrown, perhaps from the 18thC also. But many are moss-covered and flaking, and difficult to read.

Furniture: none, but a metal pipe with round plate on top, just to south of nave, looks like the support for a sundial.

Earthworks: former boundary on south reflected in scarp <1m high.

Ancillary features: access on south-west provided by modern, double metal gates with tarmac and gravel paths.

Vegetation: several yews of no great age, and a few other coniferous trees within the enclosed area.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 22 February 1996

Faculty 1906: NLW/SD/F/336

Haslam 1979, 253

Howse 1949, 249

CONDITION

Minor blistering of internal paintwork, occasional external cracks, but general satisfactory.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Llangunllo

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Cynllo

PRN 16872

NGR SO21177128

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Cynllo's church lies in the valley of the Lugg, 8km west of Knighton. The church was rebuilt in 19thC leaving little of its medieval predecessor, either in its architecture or its contents. The churchyard is rectilinear, and the dedication apart there is little to confirm its origin as a 5th/6thC foundation.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Body of the church largely rebuilt; some masonry in the nave and chancel and one 13thC lancet window in the nave remain of medieval structure. Victorian reconstruction involved some re-use at lower levels of selected medieval masonry (see 1896 Faculty specification), and introduction of lancet windows throughout. Porch and tower completely rebuilt at end of 19thC.

HISTORY

Llangunllo was reputedly the site of a 5th/6thC foundation.

There are few medieval records, but the St David's episcopal register refers to 'Langwynllo' in 1409.

Williams, in 1818, described the walls decorated with the Decalogue, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, portions of Scripture, Royal Arms etc.

The nave and chancel restored in 1878 by John Middleton of Cheltenham, a substantial rebuilding in Early English style. Tower and porch rebuilt by F R Kempson in 1896. Old tower had foundation stone of 1687 which now forms part of a window sill in tower vestry.

ARCHITECTURE

Llangunllo consists of a west tower, nave, chancel, north transept with adjacent store shed, and a south porch at the south-west corner of the nave. Church is aligned north-west/south-east but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics: 'A' of small to medium tabular shale, grey in colour, reasonably well coursed.

'B' is no more than a variation of 'A' containing more blocks.

'C' is thin tabular shale, some irregularities, random coursing.

'D' is clean tabular shale with occasional sandstone fragments, reasonably well coursed.

'E' is as 'D' but slightly more irregular with heavy mortar pointing and traces of remnant plaster.

'A' and 'B' are variations of similar masonry but medieval and Victorian respectively; 'C' is original medieval fabric; 'D' is medieval masonry, probably but non entirely re-used.

Roofs: slates with ceramic ridge tiles. No finials.

Drainage: no obvious sub-surface drainage around base of building but downpipes on south side of nave and tower may indicate some ground disturbance.

Exterior

Tower. General. Fabric 'A', with dressed stone quoins. No differentiation in the stages below belfry level. Corbel-table supports battlemented parapet.

North wall: weathered stone with heavy pointing from the level of the nave eaves upwards, though no masonry change. Quoins mainly shale but one dressed sandstone block in north-east angle. One small flat-headed window in 2nd stage with sandstone dressings. 3rd stage has two-light window with pointed arches, louvre boards.

East wall: nave apex as high as top of 2nd stage window set in north face. 3rd stage window as on north.

South wall: 1st stage has single lancet, windows in 2nd and 3rd stages as on north side. Inscribed foundation stone at south-west angle bears date of 1896, and consecration cross on west face.

West wall: as south wall.

Nave. General. Various fabric changes visible.

North wall: extreme west end of wall has a disconformity, exaggerated by cracking, which appears to be in a variant of Fabric 'A'. Base of rest of wall (to a height of c.0.8m) also in an 'A' variant, but much of wall face above is in Fabric 'B' and contains two pairs of Victorian lancets with single hoodmouldings and individual relieving arches. Rest of wall, to east, is in 'C' and contains a small 13thC lancet with an almost rounded head in weathered pink sandstone; the 'C' masonry to east of the window, as far as the vestry wall is disfigured, with heavy off-white mortar.

South wall: no external differentiation between nave and chancel. One set of three lancets to east, one group of two to west. Lower part of wall is in Fabric 'D', upper part including all windows in Fabric 'B'; but to west of paired lancets the whole wall is of 'B'.

West wall: Fabric 'A'/'B'.

North transept. General. Abuts east end of nave.

North wall: base of wall slightly battered and in Fabric 'D'; probably original medieval masonry. Above are two Victorian lancets in surround of Fabric 'B'.

East wall: hidden by store shed.

West wall: northern part of windowless wall is in Fabric 'D' but rest rebuilt in 'B'.

Chancel. General. Fabrics 'B', 'D' and 'E' represented.

North wall: upper part of wall in 'B' with two standard Victorian lancets; below and at north-east angle is Fabric 'D' which here could be re-used masonry.

East wall: base of wall is either in Fabric 'E' with plaster remnants, or perhaps differentially weathered 'D'. Above, the wall is of 'B'. Three stepped lancets with continuous hoodmoulding, relieving arches, all Victorian; also one mural tablet with coat-of-arms but no inscription.

South wall: wall has two groups of lancet windows and a priest's door. Priest's door is under pointed arch but is Victorian; approached by flight of three steps, and wall behind these is of original medieval masonry, 'E'. The wall base to west is in 'D', and all the upper wall is rebuilt in 'B', with one pair of Victorian lancets lighting sanctuary and triple lancets lighting the chancel.

Porch. General. A Victorian construction in Fabric 'B'. Side walls are plain, the south wall has a Victorian two-centred arch with hoodmoulding and above it a lamp and an inscription dating its erection to 1896.

Interior

Porch. General. Tiled floor. Roof with collars and hardboard ceiling above. Walls unplastered. East and west walls plain with wooden benches.

North wall: doorway has Victorian two-centred arch with hoodmoulding.

Tower. General. Ground floor used as vestry and not accessible.

Nave. General. Tiled floor with carpet in places; benches on flush wooden flooring. Fine roof of 15thC date (though some of it Victorian renewal) with alternating tie-beam and open arch-braced trusses; the principal rafters of the latter type rest on elaborately moulded timber corbels; three tiers of cusped windbraces.

North wall: small lancet window with deeply splayed embrasure.

East wall: Victorian chancel arch.

South wall: nothing of note.

West wall: tower doorway has four-centred arch with stopped chamfers and is a re-set 15thC feature. 19thC memorials except for the example memorial to James Meyrick (see below).

North transept. General. Tiled except for wooden floor under organ. Roof timbers similar to nave. South wall has double arcade of two-centred chamfered arches on round piers with moulded capitals.

Chancel. General. One step up from nave to chancel, two to sanctuary, one to altar. Victorian encaustic tiles down centre of chancel and in sanctuary; concrete plinths for stalls. Roof of arch-braced trusses with collars; carved corbels.

North wall: wall face recessed between chancel arch and first lancet window for no obvious reason. Aumbry near altar.

South wall: Victorian trefoil-headed piscina and double sedilia.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Processional cross: 15thC, but now in National Museum of Wales.

Font: older font standing in south-east corner of nave dated to 1790. Modern font dated 1900.

Monuments: James Meyrick (d.1739) and son, Thomas (d.1766), with an open pediment; Mary Evans

(d.1834), by B.Davies, Clun.

Bells: one of 1614, two of 1869.

Registers: from 1744.

CHURCHYARD

The church occupies an almost rectangular churchyard set on a spur created by the River Lugg and a tributary, and overlooking the village. There is no evidence of any extension or modification to the form of the yard.

It is well-maintained in places, but overgrown on the south side.

It has a stone wall surround, in reasonable condition on west where the external ground level could be up to 1m lower; on the north the wall is in poorer condition and the natural slope creates an internal drop; on the east the wall acts as a revetment and again there is a 1m drop externally; and on the south the drop may be greater, but the revetment wall, if it exists, is not obvious.

Monuments: well spread throughout churchyard, but are densest on the north and sporadic on south. Earliest are very late 18thC on south side of chancel.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: double metal gates on west and single metal gate on north-east give access to church via gravel paths.

Vegetation: at least eight yews and many other conifers.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1992

CPAT Field Visit: 10 October 1995

Davies 1905, 305

Faculty 1896: NLW/SD/F/391

Haslam 1979, 254

CONDITION

North-east angle of chancel cracking externally because of subsidence, and some cracks internally in south-east angle.

Internally there is badly flaking plaster in the north transept; damp is visible in nave on north, west and south walls and on south wall of chancel.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Poor

Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr

Diocese	Swansea and Brecon	Dedication	Winifrid
PRN	16887	NGR	SN96816769
		Previous dedication	Bridget

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Winifrid's church at Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr is set on the western edge of the Wye valley opposite Rhayader. Its churchyard has a good range of early gravestones, but the church itself is Victorian, its medieval predecessor lying a little to the north. Only a stoup has survived from the early church.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

A wholly Victorian structure.

HISTORY

The church of Llansantffraed has left few marks in the documentary record. An early medieval origin might be surmised - but on very little evidence. And even in the medieval period, there is nothing to go on. Neither of the Taxatios (1254 & 1291) nor the Valor Ecclesiasticus (1535) puts a specific value on the church. The present church is dedicated to St Winifred and replaced the former church of St Bride (or St Bridget) in 1778. Howse (1949) states that the original church was probably built in the 12th century, and stood to the north of the present site. Williams, in 1818 recorded that the old church was built in the form of a barn - low, long, and dark - and its roof covered in shingles.

The first St Winifrid's was built in 1778 and rebuilt by F. R. Kempson in 1866. Nothing survived the rebuilding in 1778 except the stoup in the porch.

ARCHITECTURE

Llansantffraed church consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle, south porch and a west tower, together with a north vestry. The church is oriented south-west/north-east but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted for this description.

Fabrics: 'A' is of grey shale in small and medium blocks and slabs, regularly fashioned; not coursed.

Dressings and quoins in buff coloured freestone. Used for most of building.

'B' consists of small and medium slabs and fewer blocks of grey, dark grey and brown sedimentary rock of various types; random coursing. Found on upper wall faces of nave, south aisle and in places on tower.

Roof: slates with plain slate ridge tiles; cross finials to chancel, nave and porch.

Drainage: shallow drainage gully around west side of south aisle; elsewhere the tarmac path runs up to wall faces disguising anything beneath, though downpipes draining underground are present.

Exterior

General. Except for vestry, string-course at c.1.4m below which walls are battered slightly. Flush with the wall face and around south aisle wall only is a freestone band, for decorative purposes, at c.3m. Nave, chancel and south aisle have alternating head and floral corbels beneath eaves.

Windows generally consist of one or two trefoil-headed lights with roundels above under two-centred arches, hoodmouldings with decorated stops, and relieving arches. East window in chancel is more elaborate with three lights and a stepped string-course below it.

Tower with a broach spire; clasping buttresses, louvred belfry windows with double chamfers, and a two-centred arched west doorway, the jambs and voussoirs in Fabric 'A' not in freestone.

Interior

Tower. General. Carpetted. Wooden ceiling supported on corbels.

Nave. General. Floors carpetted over heating vents; flush wooden flooring for benches. Arched-braced roof with scissor trusses and floral corbels. South arcade of four bays with round shafts and elaborate capitals. West wall has two 19thC marble memorials.

Chancel. General. Approached by two steps, with further steps to sanctuary and altar. Chancel floored with stone flags. Roof as nave but lower. Organ and vestry to north; aumbry to north of altar, sedile to south. 19thC brasses around walls.

Porch. General. Tiled floor; two-centred arched south door. Stone benches; stoup to east of door.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Stoup: possibly early Norman, with three heads engraved; now in south porch.

Monument: to Evan Evans (d.1779) his son John (d.1791) and daughter, Mary (d.1807), by Stephens of Worcester.

Victorian fittings include:

Screen: low, and in wrought-iron.

Stained glass: 'south aisle west window, with figures by Morris & Co. and by Stokes. Three south windows by O'Connor, 1871' (Haslam).

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is an irregular shape, best described as polygonal, and generally is well kept. It has clearly been extended on the north-west, but even this extension aside, the form is unlikely to be original. The ground is level and lies on the lip of the river terrace above the River Wye.

The boundary consists of a stone wall on the east and north-east beyond which is a drop of several metres

to gardens below. Near the north gate the external ground level is perhaps 0.6m lower than the interior. The new extension has metal fencing, and where the old course is resumed on the west a hedge or wire fence with no difference in ground levels internally and externally. By the south gate, the boundary is walled again, but though there is some internal embanking, there is nothing to suggest a raised enclosure.

Monuments: the whole area, other than the new extension, is covered by graves and their associated stones, sometimes densely. There are many 18thC monuments, even on the north side, and in this respect Llansantffraed is particularly interesting. Stones of 1719, 1728 and others are propped against the north-east wall, while examples going back to 1705 are in situ.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: old boundary on the north-west now shows as low scarp (<0.5m) with trees on it. Ground to north of church is irregular but no clear sign of the old church that was there.

Ancillary features: one metal kissing gate on north, together with two double ornamental iron gates. Single metal kissing gate at south end. Tarmac paths.

Vegetation: occasional yews and other trees.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings
CPAT Field Visit: 27 February 1996
Davies, 1905, 273
Haslam 1979, 228
Howse, 1949, 260

CONDITION

Dampness shown by blistering paintwork internally, but otherwise nothing obviously amiss.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Very Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Medium

Llansantffraed in Elvel

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Bridget

PRN 16888

NGR SO09965486

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Bridget's church at Llansantffraed sits on the north-eastern edge of a small group of houses, 7km north-east of Builth Wells. Most of the church was reconstructed at the end of the 19thC leaving some original masonry and only the late medieval font. The irregularly shaped churchyard may well enclose a smaller and earlier 'llan'.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church largely rebuilt at end of 19thC. Much of the north wall and less of east and south walls could however be from the earlier building, though the possibility of masonry re-use cannot be discounted. The windows were completely replaced except perhaps for parts of a Perpendicular window in the north wall. The porch was also rebuilt.

HISTORY

An early medieval genesis for this foundation seems a reasonable though unproven assumption.

A Cistercian nunnery was founded at Llansantffraed before 1176 by an early abbot of Strata Marcella, and possibly dissolved before 1186. Its location, however, has never been identified.

The Taxatio of 1291 refers to 'Ecclesia de Lansanfreyd' at a value of £5 6s 8d.

Davies (1905) record that the church was "in a ruined state" before its restoration in 1895 by F. R. Kempson. A pre-1895 photograph in the church illustrates a timber gable at the west end, a wooden window or door in the same wall, the porch in poor condition, and a dormer window (for a gallery?) in the nave roof over the porch. The specification for the rebuilding required the demolition of the old church and the re-use of the masonry where sound, the old oak beams and old flags; a three-light window in the nave and a two-light window in the chancel were to be re-used in the north wall of the nave.

ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel in one, a bellcote over the west end of the nave and a south porch near the south-west angle. The church is oriented west-south-west/east-north-east but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted for this description.

Fabrics: 'A' is mixed slabs and blocks of various sedimentary rocks in white, brown, red and grey; random coursing.

'B' is of blocks of grey-brown shale weathering to grey, and coursed.

Roofs: slates, ceramic ridge tiles, cross finials at east and west ends of main cell.

Drainage: possible narrow drainage trench on north side, <0.2m wide; nothing obvious on south side.

Exterior

Nave and Chancel. General. No differentiation between the two elements externally.

North wall: Fabric 'A' with some 'B' mixed in at higher levels. Two windows: more westerly (in the nave) has three lights with cusped tracery and 16thC heads - these are in olive-grey sandstone and could be original but the mullions and jambs replaced in brown sandstone. A second window lights the chancel and has two lancet lights under a two-centred arch, the whole of it being Victorian.

East wall: mainly 'B' but base could be 'A'. East window has three lights, cinquefoil tracery in ogee heads, small panel lights above, and a two-centred arch with a hoodmoulding, all in Victorian red sandstone. Three 19thC gravestones rest against wall.

South wall: as east side with 'A' below 'B'. Three windows; one in the chancel has two lights, the others have three lights. All have cusped heads, those in nave have hoodmouldings and all are in red sandstone. Nine mural tablets (?originally inside the church) are leant against wall.

West wall: in Fabric 'B'. Wall is thickened to carry bell recesses in gable. Below the two bells is a window with an ogee-headed light and cusped tracery, all in red sandstone.

Porch. General. Masonry is Fabric 'B' the side walls are plain, and the south wall has a wooden gable and a wooden door frame which must be 19thC.

Interior

Porch. General. Flagged floor; walls roughly plastered and whitewashed; roof has rafters, purlins and one tie-beam truss with struts - some old timbers.

North wall: doorway has two-centred arch with stopped chamfers. Above it a mural tablet of 1839.

East wall: mural tablet of 1840.

Nave. General. Flagged floor with matting over; wooden benches on raised wooden plinths. West end panelled off for vestry. Walls plastered and whitewashed. Nine-bay roof of tie-beams, arch-braced collars and one tier of wind-braces, reputedly a replica of the original.

North wall: deeply splayed window, the soffit of wood. Modern (1992) slate plaques on wall.

East wall: chancel defined by a tie-beam only.

South wall: deeply splayed window while doorway only slightly splayed.

West wall: one deeply splayed window and two upper windows showing the bells beyond.

Chancel. General. One step up to chancel from nave, one to sanctuary and one to altar. Stone flags with carpet over; a graveslab of 1730 in Latin in front of altar, another illegible one to the north of it, and an 18thC slab to south of altar. Choir stalls on plinths. Walls and roof as nave.

North wall: deeply splayed window; 20thC brass.

East wall: splayed window.

South wall: piscina with quatrefoil bowl and four-centred arch over; above is a deeply splayed window.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: Perpendicular; octagonal bowl on a new octagonal stem.

Piscina: possibly medieval but re-tooled?

Altar rails: re-used from earlier church.

Monuments: none on internal walls but against nave wall are mural tablets that were probably originally inside, to: Gwenn Weale (d.1778); Sarah Lewis (d.1789); John Donne (d.1771); Jane Griffiths (d.1745); Walter Jones (d.1749); Hugh Evans (d.1710); Evan Vaughan (d.1771); David Jones (d.1707); and Evan Jones (d.1815).

CHURCHYARD

The present churchyard is in the shape of an irregular 'D', but it is unlikely that this is its original form, and something closer to a small curvilinear enclosure can be envisaged.

The ground within the churchyard is relatively level, and the faint drop from north to south may be a result of the earlier enclosure. It is set back on a spur, the land dropping away gently to the north, east and south.

Boundary: throughout the perimeter there is evidence of a low wall or revetted bank usually with a hedge on top of it or enveloping it. On both the east and south-west the external ground level is up to 1m lower than that inside.

Monuments: Earliest gravestones noted: 1750, 1767. Well-spaced 19thC and 20thC graves to north of church, denser as well as earlier burials to south.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: traces of an inner bank exist, particularly to the east and south-east of the church, with only faint signs on the west. Nowhere it is much more than 0.5m high.

Ancillary features: main entrance to the south-east of the church has heavy, ornamental iron gates and a tarmac path to the porch. Stiles on the eastern and western perimeters are accessed by grass paths.

Vegetation: near-complete ring of mature yews around church, except on north-east. Two at most are beyond this the ring.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 29 February 1996

Davies 1905, 329

Faculty 1894: NLW/SD/F423

Haslam 1979, 254

Knowles & Hadcock 1971, 272

NMR Aberystwyth

CONDITION

The church appears to be in reasonable condition.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Poor to Medium

Llanstephan

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** Steffan**PRN** 16892**NGR** SO11974217

GENERAL SUMMARY

The small church of St Stephan lies high up on the east side of the Wye Valley some 12km to the south-east of Builth Wells. Architecturally it is undistinguished, the best features being the 15thC Perpendicular windows. There are virtually no internal fittings of early date. The churchyard includes a well, a sundial and a few chest tombs.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Nave is 13thC with original south doorway perhaps of this date, but all windows are later.

Chancel added in 14thC when nave wall broken through. Some reconstruction in 19thC.

Tower is claimed to be of 14thC origin, supposedly on basis of round-arched doorway to nave, but this could be 15thC (cf chancel east window) in keeping with date attributed to current tower. Additionally, tower arch may have been re-set. Tower perhaps partly rebuilt on west and south (though conceivably the appearance is the result of contemporary variation in the masonry), but at date unknown and Victorian insertion on south.

Internally, 19thC reconstruction of most windows and doors, chancel arch, as well as replacement of some external dressings. Porch added at this time.

HISTORY

Nothing is known of the early history of Llanstephan. If the nave can be attributed architecturally to the 13thC, this pre-dates the first known documentary reference in the St David's Episcopal Registers which record 'Llanstephn' in 1399.

Williams, in 1818, described a timber frame dividing the nave from the chancel and a rood loft of fine oak, very elegantly carved, with rosettes and vine leaves intertwined, supported by oak pillars. A stone slab formed the communion table. All these have now gone.

Church restored by Thomas Nicholson in 1867-8, with new nave roof, chancel arch, window embrasures etc.

ARCHITECTURE

Church consists of nave, chancel, south porch and west tower, the last two both attached to nave. Its alignment is almost true east/west.

Fabrics: 'A' is of small to medium grey sandstone slabs with some blocks, and some exceptionally large slabs up to 1.5m; the stone is weathered and lichen covered, and irregularly coursed; the quoins consist of selected blocks of the same material.

'B' is of small to large, cleaner blocks of grey sandstone, irregularly coursed.

'C' is of similar with medium to large slabs of sandstone but with more colour variation, both grey and yellow.

'D' is of small to medium slabs of grey and red sandstone, weathered and irregularly coursed.

'E' is of regular blocks and slabs of sandstone, with dressed quoins in alternating red and grey sandstone.

Fabrics 'A', 'C' and 'D' are medieval; 'B' could be recent re-use of older material; 'E' is probably new 19thC masonry.

Roofs: moss-covered shale tiles, modern ceramic ridge tiles on nave, toothed ridge tiles on chancel; metal cross finials of different designs on nave, chancel and porch.

Drainage: on north side the church is terraced into slope and a drainage trench of brick and concrete fed by downpipes utilises this sunken platform; continues around east side. Nothing obvious on south and west.

Exterior

Tower. General. Solid, squat tower of two and a half stages in Fabric 'A', walls tapering inwards. Two string-courses consisting of flat slabs with added concrete chamfers. Pyramidal roof, weathervane and cock. In its present form it is thought to have been built in the 14thC, and rebuilt in 16thC, but evidence equivocal (see summary above).

North wall: plinth in concrete at base of wall assists drainage. Small rectangular window, glazed, in 2nd stage, no jambs and chamfered in concrete. 3rd stage (belfry) has similar window, but virtually no chamfer, louvred, and projecting stone sill.

East wall: nave roof apex reaches to tower eaves, and most of remaining masonry covered by metal sheeting.

South wall: an off-centre door, grey sandstone rilled dressings with stopped chamfers: a Victorian insertion now blocked, the insertion visible in the surrounding masonry. Belfry window as on north side. Whole of 3rd stage and upper part of 2nd stage in thin slabs, a variation of 'A'. Plinth, probably modern, runs around south-west corner at height of c.0.3m, but does not extend as far as doorway.

West wall: Fabric 'A' but thin slabs in 3rd stage as in south wall. In 1st stage, rectangular window without jambs but with projecting sill, glazed, with iron bars. In 3rd stage, standard belfry window with broken sill. Both these windows slightly larger than their counterparts in other walls of tower.

Nave. North wall: large plinth at base of wall facilitates drainage, though because of terraced site ground level on which plinth is set is c.3.0m down. Two two-centred arched windows each with two cusped lights and additional light in tympanum. Whole wall possibly refaced in Fabric 'B', but this could be original masonry.

East wall: just over 1m higher than chancel. Visible wall has irregular face with protruding stones.

South wall: in Fabric 'C' though possible that less weathered wall top for last metre or so is rebuilt. Patch blocked in, high up to west of porch, but reason obscure. Two 15thC two-light windows with trefoil heads and 'diamond' lights in the tympana; red and grey chamfered dressings, mostly original, but some replacement particularly of mullions.

West wall: tower wall abuts nave on north side, but no relationship established on south side.

Chancel. North wall: Fabric 'D', more weathered and lichenized than north nave wall; plaster remnants on wall face; little selection of specific stones for quoins. One pair of cusped lights, chamfered dressings, barred windows; original but for mullion replacement.

East wall: south part of wall only has battered base to height of 0.3m. South-east wall angle replaced in

Fabric 'E'. Fine Perpendicular round-headed east window, three lights with ogee heads and cusped tracery, six panels above; all in original grey and red sandstone, and dated in the Cadw listing to c.1430-1450.

South wall: wall base battered to height of 0.5m. Paired lights as on north, replaced mullion? Priest's doorway with two-centred arch and stopped chamfers; the dressings all Victorian, and the door itself modern. Chancel wall butts against nave on this side. Some of wall in Fabric 'E'.

Porch. General. Porch abuts nave and uses regular blocks and slabs in Fabric 'E'. South entrance has two-centred arch in buff sandstone of Victorian build; side walls plain.

Interior

Porch. General. Flagged floor. Victorian roof of two bays with three arch-braced trusses and one tier of trefoiled windbraces. Three steps up at porch entrance, one up at nave door. Interior limewashed in past.

North wall: two-centred arch in red sandstone with chamfered dressings and broach stops - original and thought to be 13thC.

East wall: stone bench with slab seat.

South wall: arch internally chamfered with stops.

West wall: as east wall.

General. Interior of church has not been plastered and shows bare stonework throughout. Windows are uniformly Victorian with two-centred arched embrasures and chamfered dressings in yellow sandstone.

Tower. General. Tower floor two steps up; floor of black and red tiles, carpet covered. Bell stage supported on oak beams to reinforce the weak stonework.

North wall: massive timbers supporting belfry built into wall. Wall patched in places, occasionally with brick. Splayed window with wooden lintel and sill.

East wall: round-headed arch, broad for its height, chamfered dressings with half-pyramidal stops. Above the arch are indications that it may have been inserted into existing masonry, and the relieving arch is not centred on it.

South wall: belfry frame free-standing against wall, but a break in masonry near south-east corner reveals where former vertical support incorporated into wall face (as on north), and positions of former diagonal supporting struts also visible. Blocked splayed doorway.

West wall: wall base on this side has plinth to height of 0.3m and is battered to c.1.3m. Slightly splayed window, deep basal splay, wooden lintel.

Nave. General. 13thC nave plan of a double square. Floor is same as tower, though encaustic tiles at east end, and benches on flush wooden boarding. There is no obvious sign of underfloor heating. Roof of eight bays with arch-braced trusses launched from decorated wall plates, all Victorian.

North wall: slight outward lean. Inner arch of more westerly of two windows clearly inserted. At west end timber joists (for gallery?) sawn off. One 19thC mural tablet and wooden Building Society panel (1869).

East wall: inserted chancel arch, two-centred with complex mouldings in yellow sandstone.

South wall: features from east to west: i) just to west of more easterly window is fragment of relieving arch; its significance is unclear but it could simply indicate that present splay is a Victorian enlargement, and same appears to be true for more westerly window; ii) mural tablet of 1876; iii) small niche with two-centred arched head in single block of stone; the base seems very shallow for a stoup; iv) reveal rebuilt in same way as windows; v) blocked window or door high up on wall, coinciding with similar if less obvious fabric patching externally; possibly a square window to light a former gallery (note: in support of this interpretation, metal supports protrude from west wall, opposite).

Chancel. General. Two steps up from nave to chancel, two staggered steps to sanctuary, one more to altar. Tiled floors with encaustic tiles; choir stalls and organ raised on wooden plinths. 17thC unceiled wagon roof over chancel, but two most easterly bays are ceiled. Heavily pointed walls.

North wall: standard window. Mural tablet of 1844, and framed painting beside it, set up to commemorate a 20thC vicar, but of earlier date.

East wall: window splay rebuilt as elsewhere. Fabric change observed externally cannot be verified because of heavy pointing.

South wall: one window with sedile below; aumbry of modern wood just to east. Priest's door redesigned as elsewhere. Wall safe built into wall to west of it.

West wall: all but chancel arch dressings plastered over.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: medieval octagonal bowl on a modern base.

Chest: undated; against west wall of tower.

Registers: back to 1666.

Bells: Howse claimed a bell of c.1450. Not verified.

CHURCHYARD

Church occupies medium-sized, irregularly oval churchyard on south-west slope high above Wye Valley. Yard appears to be slightly raised, but in part this is due to holloway around north side. Internally ground slopes from north to south, the surface irregular with hollows and scarps that could be natural or the result of burial practice. Some ambivalent evidence for earlier smaller yard enclosing only northern half (see below).

Churchyard overgrown in places, particularly to north of church.

Boundary on west consists of well-built drystone wall up to 1.0m internally, 1.7m externally. On south it is similar but ground level difference perhaps no more than 0.2m. On east a hedge and wire fence separate churchyard from stream. On north stone wall, the track outside 0.5m lower than the interior.

Monuments: these are in localised, occasionally dense groups on south and south-east sides of church. Some tomb chests date back to mid/late 18thC. State of preservation not particularly good and some tilting over.

Furniture: sundial in far south-eastern corner of churchyard. Set in concrete on octagonal stem. Made in 1795 in Birmingham.

Stone-lined well now overgrown, in southern part of churchyard. Still flowing. Not recorded as a holy well.

Earthworks: a scarp runs across the yard from west-south-west to east-north-east, with three old yews on it. Could be natural, or the boundary of earlier enclosure - the presence of the yews hints at the latter.

Ancillary features: lychgate in mortared sandstone and shale, possibly 18thC, with gates for people and carts and an added stable for the parson's horse. Other entrances are kissing gate in south-east, a vertical slab stile in north-west corner, and in adjacent west wall, a metal farm gate of recent insertion.

Vegetation: several large and mature yews, and two smaller ones further south.

SOURCES

Cade Schedule of Listed Buildings 1995

CPAT Field Visit: 16 November 1995

Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 241

Davies 1905, 257

Haslam 1979, 255

Howse, 1949, 260

CONDITION

Generally reasonable, with little evidence of damp. Repaired cracks in tower, and some visible cracks internally in nave. Vegetation growing up walls and into drains on north.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Good

Llanyre

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** Llyr**PRN** 16898**NGR** SO04456231

GENERAL SUMMARY

Llanyre lies about 2km to the east of Llandrindod Wells on the far side of the River Ithon. The church of St Llyr was completely rebuilt in the last quarter of the 19thC, and retains little from the earlier church except for the font. The distinctive remnants of a curvilinear churchyard are still to be seen within the later walled yard.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Completely rebuilt in 1885-87 though early foundations utilised.

HISTORY

The present dedication is to St Llyr. Though the 19thC dedication was to All Saints, a document of 1566 refers to 'Llanllyr-on-Rhos'. This together with the morphology of the earlier churchyard points to an early medieval origin.

The medieval church reportedly had an unusually ornate roof, and consisted of a single-cell nave and chancel said to be similar to Llanfihangel Helygen. Faculty documents of c.1805 imply a rebuilding at this date, though no evidence has been found to corroborate this statement.

Williams, in 1818, described the church as "a humble structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and low tower". At that time the base of the rood screen remained in place, and the belfry was only a partitioned part of the western bay and contained a parish chest hollowed out of a single trunk.

The church was entirely rebuilt by S.W.Williams in 1885-7. Contemporary plans depict a tower over the chancel but apart from the access staircase this was never built.

ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of nave, chancel, three-sided apse, porch and vestry, in the Early English style. It is oriented slightly south of west.

Fabric: well-coursed grey shale, weathering to a lighter colour, with red (or occasionally yellow) sandstone dressings, including roof finials. Stonework is regular and represents newly quarried material.

Roofs: slate with ceramic ridge-tiles.

Drainage: trench around all exterior wall faces.

Exterior.

Nave. General. Plinth to height of c.0.5m with sandstone chamfer. Windows, single and double-lights with hoodmouldings and foliate stops, and a string-course beneath. West window has five stepped lancets with detached shafts, the hoodmoulding stops having human faces though one broken off; south doorway displays similar architectural features to west window; buttresses at wall corners; foundation traces of earlier church at ground level on west side and for c.10m on north side.

Chancel. General. Three-sided apsidal end with wall battered to height of c.2m, then string-course; windows as nave but all two-light. Weathered 19thC grave slabs leant against east wall.

Porch. General. As nave in all respects, with addition of two-centred arch entrance.

Vestry. General. As nave and chancel. West door has hoodmoulding with human-head stops, only one surviving. Semi-octagonal turret for stair to non-existent tower.

Interior

Porch. General. Difficult access, but several late 18thC mural slabs.

Nave. General. Red and yellow sandstone used throughout; tiled floor except under pews.

Chancel. General. Sedile in south wall; aumbry(?) in north wall.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: octagonal bowl, perhaps Late Norman, set on two-tier modern base.

Monument: mural slabs of 1772 and 1797 in vestry; Thomas Williams (d.1845), in Grecian style.

Register: from 1735.

CHURCHYARD

Modern churchyard is irregular in shape but predominantly rectilinear with recent extension on north side (OS plot 4538). It was established on level ground but beyond its perimeter the ground drops away gently on the east and south sides.

The boundary consists of well-made coursed, stone wall, acting on east as revetment to interior which is raised above road level. Generally, the churchyard has the appearance of being raised on both the north and east (see below).

Monuments: widely spread throughout most of churchyard, except for extreme north-west corner of walled yard and in modern extension to north. Many monuments weathering badly and no pre-19thC examples identified. If present, they have probably lost their inscriptions.

Furniture: none, but former bell frame (with bell in place) discarded outside vestry door.

Earthworks: within the stone wall, an earlier churchyard boundary detectable for whole perimeter, broadly sub-circular in shape. On south this is incorporated into modern circuit, but elsewhere it shows as an earthwork bank, on the north and west as a normal bank, on the east as a scarp, with a height up to 1m+. Original external diameter of the 'llan' around 45 metres. Formerly it was noted as a barrow.

Ancillary features: church served by a tarmac path; double metal gates with kissing gate on south-west, another kissing gate on east.

Vegetation: several small yews on or close to perimeter on south, four larger examples on earthwork bank to north and east of church.

SOURCES

Archaeologia Cambrensis 1854, 140
CPAT Field Visit: 19 July 1995
County SMR
Davies, 1905, 277-278 & 344
Faculty ?1805: NLW/SD/F/692
Faculty 1885: NLW/SD/F/460
Haslam 1979, 255
Rees 1986

CONDITION

Not recorded.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Medium

Llowes

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** Meilig**PRN** 16899**NGR** SO19244172

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Meilig's church is a moderately sized Victorian structure and only the tower dates back to the medieval era. It retains an early font and an 11thC inscribed cross but otherwise is devoid of early fittings. Set on the north side of the Wye valley the churchyard is sub-oval in shape, and may have housed a mother church from the 7thC onwards.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Lower part of tower perhaps medieval with Victorian insertions, and basal stage in different fabric and thus earlier than second stage; belfry stage may be largely Victorian.

Remainder of church is certainly Victorian, of 1853-5.

HISTORY

St Meilig reputedly came from Clydeside in c.650 AD and founded a clas here. Certainly the location and the dedication are in keeping with an early medieval establishment.

The Taxatio of 1291 refers to 'Ecclesia de Lewas' at a value of £8.

Little is known of the medieval structure, for the lower stages of the tower apart, nothing is left of it. The nave and chancel were entirely rebuilt in 1853-5 by W. J. Worthington.

ARCHITECTURE

Llowes church comprises a nave and narrower chancel, a west tower, a south porch, and a vestry adjoining the north side of the chancel. The church is oriented south-west/north-east but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted for this description.

Fabrics: 'A' is of small and medium blocks and slabs of sedimentary rock (sandstone and siltstone?), grey and brown in colour, randomly laid and giving an irregular appearance.

'B' presents a more regular appearance; though blocks and slabs are present, there is a predominance of long slabs showing some coursing; colour is more brown than grey.

'C' is best described as grey shaley sandstone blocks with some occasionally in red; the blocks are quite regular and some coursing is evident.

Roofs: slates with plain ridge tiles and cross finials to nave and chancel. Weathercock on the tower's pyramidal roof.

Drainage: there is nothing obvious on the north and east sides, and flower-beds edge the tower and part of

the nave, with grass around the rest of the nave and the chancel. The only possible sign is a depression on the west side of the porch.

Note: only the tower is of any age, and consequently the description of the body of the building is a summary only.

Exterior

Tower. North wall: modern lean-to against this side. First stage in 'A' topped by chamfered string course; two blocked slit windows, the higher one has large blocks of brown sandstone for dressings while the lower is simply formed by selected masonry; a relieving arch in edge slabs for the lower window is interrupted by the upper slit. The second stage is in 'B' and terminates in a chamfered string course; it is notable for having yellow freestone quoins. There is a blocked window with large jambs of unchamfered but dressed stone. The third stage, again inset, looks like a mixture of 'B' and 'C', though the latter is rough. Belfry window has a two-centred arch, two louvred lights with trefoiled heads, a hoodmould with decorated stops and a relieving arch; the yellow sandstone dressings are Victorian, comparable with the nave. Fourth stage has battlemented parapet above a more elaborate string course with waterspouts at the angles.

East wall: nave roof reaches to the top of the second stage. Standard belfry window in third stage.

South wall: traces of a chamfered basal plinth; first stage contains inserted Victorian doorway with triangular head; then standard slit windows as on north though no relieving arch to lower. Second stage has clock face and two Victorian cusped lancets. Standard third stage, though Fabric 'B' lower down, and more 'B'/'C' higher up.

West wall: basal plinth as on south (but not visible on north side). Window removed from first stage, but sill left in situ, and traces of limewash on the 'A' fabric. Two cusped lancets inserted. Second stage has a large Victorian west window of three lights, and the next stage has the standard belfry window.

Nave, Chancel and Porch. General. Wholly Victorian. Fabric of walls and buttresses all in 'C'. Windows to a standard pattern in yellow freestone with two-centred arches, cusped lights and stopped hoodmoulds; and an elaborate east window of four lights with Y-tracery. Porch has two-centred arched doorway with iron gates. Chancel has priest's door with complex moulded dressings and a triangular head.

Interior

Porch. General. Tiled floor; collar and rafter roof of no distinction. Wooden benches against side walls. South door has two-centred arch with ballflower stops to hoodmould. One step up into nave.

Nave. General. Tiled floor with carpet over, no obvious grilles to indicate underfloor heating; benches on raised wooden boarding. Plastered walls. Roof of eight bays with arch-braced collars and struts above, all supported on corbels. High chancel arch. North wall has marble mural tablet of 1854 and a World War One remembrance tablet, south wall a mural tablet of 1848. West wall sports a plan of the church (1855), an undated metal plaque recording the Incorporated Church Building Society grant in the 19thC, and a benefaction board referring to the will of John ap Hugh who died in 1671. A Victorian door leads to the tower and over it is a window installed in 1992 so that the chancel can be seen from the belfry.

Chancel. General. One step up to the chancel, another to the sanctuary. Tiled with carpet over. Choir stalls on raised wooden plinths. All windows have stained glass. North wall has five mural tablets ranging from 1805 to 1846; south wall has two of 1817 and 1846 with a 20thC brass.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Cross: "tall tapering slab, decorated front and back with a large cross in high relief. On the front a Latin wheel-cross of Celtic type, its arms and upper stem filled with lozenge patterning. The cross on the reverse is similar but has no wheel or ornament. Moved into the church in 1956" (Haslam). 11thC; some 2m high by 0.8m wide by 0.3m thick.

Font: "circular, with a raised band round the middle, and octagonal undercutting; broken with an iron band around it. Early 13thC" (Haslam). Victorian font near door.

CHURCHYARD

The medium-sized churchyard is set close to the edge of the Wye Valley terrace and internally has a slight slope from north-west to south-east. A small stream occupies a shallow valley just to the west, and south-eastwards the ground drops almost immediately to the Wye valley floor.

It is well-maintained and is currently still in use for burial.

Boundary: north-east of the church is a drystone wall, with an internal embankment up to 0.4m high but no difference between the internal and external ground levels. It seems likely that this was not the original boundary line on this side but there is no indication of a predecessor. On the north-west the wall rises to nearly 1.5m but again the internal embanking apart there is no change in the ground level. But from the west side through to the south-east there is a considerable drop, in places up to 2m, with the wall acting more as a retaining line.

Monuments: these are set throughout the yard except in parts of the north sector. Nowhere, other than to the south of the nave and porch are they particularly dense. A few date from the earlier 18thC and though the majority of these are worn, they include a fine slab of 1684/1729 and another of 1707. 20thC graves lie to the north of the church.

Furniture: a sundial just to the south of the path and south-west of the church has the inscription 'The gift of John Williams B.D., Vicar of this parish 1810' on the gnomon, but the pillar carries the plaque recording its erection in 1954 to the memory of Kilvert.

Earthworks: viewed from the east and north-east the church is placed on a platform which under the chancel is about 1m high. Whether this is a deliberately constructed platform or a result of demolished material from the earlier church will be ascertained only by excavation.

Ancillary features: a metal gate and kissing gate provide an entrance in the north-east corner, there is a small metal gate to the house known as 'Church Row' on the north-west side, and at the south-west double metal gates and a kissing gate.

Vegetation: two yews on the west, one by the main gate, but otherwise conifers and other bushes, primarily around the perimeter. A tarmac path leads to the porch from the south-west, a grass one to the gate on the north-east.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 22 March 1996
Davies 1905, 259
Haslam 1979, 256
Howse, 1949, 243

CONDITION

Not recorded.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Medium

Michaelchurch-on-Arrow

Diocese Hereford

Dedication Michael

PRN 16910

NGR SO24645070

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Michael's church lies in the extreme east of Radnorshire, a short distance from the border with England and 8km from Kington. The tower and lower part of the nave are early, perhaps even 13thC, but there are few architectural details, except for a putatively early lancet in the tower, and much was probably swept away in the restoration of 1869. The interior retains a screen and a ciborium, both late medieval and the latter particularly important, together with a medieval font. The rectilinear churchyard is unexceptional.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Tower appears to be largely original though belfry windows inserted; said to be 13thC on basis of a single, surviving lancet window which appears to be original. Upper walls of nave rebuilt and all windows are Victorian, but lower wall faces appear to be original, and probably contemporary with tower. Chancel walls also have inserted windows but perhaps less rebuilding of upper wall faces. Porch is 19thC.

HISTORY

Nothing of the early history nor of its subsequent development has been established for this church.

Much restoration was completed in 1869 by Thomas Nicholson, the diocesan architect of Hereford, the fabric being "deplorably spoilt" (Crossley and Ridgeway).

Relatively minor repairs were undertaken in 1949, to the tower and floors.

ARCHITECTURE

St Michael's church consists of a nave, a slightly narrower chancel, a south porch off the nave, a low west tower the same width as the nave, and a small vestry on the north side of the chancel. It is aligned south-west/north-east, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is used here.

Fabrics: 'A' consists of small and medium-sized blocks and slabs of shale, sandstone and mudstone of varying colours, irregularly coursed.

'B' is similar but is more regularly coursed with tabular slabs.

Roofs: weathered stone slates, toothed ridge tiles. Cross finial at ends of nave and chancel.

Drainage: no wholly convincing evidence of a drainage trench around the wall but possible traces particularly on south side.

Exterior

Tower. General. In Fabric 'B' with first 0.5m of tabular shale, and other interrupted slab courses higher up; ashlar quoins at lower levels but infrequent higher up. Plain wall faces without string-courses. Saddleback roof. Dated on basis of one lancet to the 13thC by Haslam but a 15thC date has been put on it by another authority.

North wall: wall has gable end. Three slit windows with internal splays, staggered diagonally; lowest has ashlar dressings, the others edged by more regular masonry. Above these, lighting the belfry, is large Victorian lancet, double chamfered dressings in yellow sandstone.

East wall: apex of nave roof reaches almost to eaves of tower roof. Some patches of less weathered masonry, particularly above north nave roof. Sloping drip-course above south nave roof but not parallel to it.

South wall: changes in stone type provide some 'zoning' on wall face. Low down on wall is a lancet window with some freestone dressings; higher up two internally splayed slits, staggered as on north wall, and at belfry level, a Victorian lancet window comparable with that in north wall.

West wall: two slit windows only, staggered; the upper is splayed internally, the lower is wider and may not be splayed.

Nave. General. Fabric 'A' with regular squared blocks of shale supporting the ends of tie beams. May be 13thC or 14thC and broadly contemporary with tower.

North wall: upper part of wall may be rebuilt but evidence not as clear as on south side (see below); two windows, to the west a single trefoil-headed lancet, to the east a pair in similar style: both Victorian. Two mural tablets of 1802/1804 and 1805 attached to wall.

East wall: where visible the stone is weathered, but above eaves level, it is covered by vertically hung slates.

South wall: two windows as north side. Fabric consistent except for one dressed mudstone block to east of more easterly window which could be re-used. At south-east angle the quoin stones are considerably more regular at lower levels than higher up, and coincide with weathered appearance of masonry to height of 1.2m-1.5m along wall face, suggesting that upper part of wall rebuilt in Victorian restoration. West of more westerly window a patch of weathered stonework contemporary with tower masonry protrudes at window level into what is otherwise a rebuilt wall face.

West wall: not present.

Vestry. Victorian.

Chancel. General. Fabric 'A', though stonework may be a little more regular than in nave.

North wall: wall face interrupted by vestry. West of this is a single lancet with chamfered dressings of grey sandstone. East of the vestry is a second window which lights the sanctuary; it has similar dressings but a square head. Both are almost certainly post-medieval, though not necessarily of the 1869 restoration.

East wall: wall slightly battered to height of c.2m. Plain wall face with ashlar quoins but no east window.

South wall: two windows; that to east has two lights and has dressings of the same type as those in the north wall; the more westerly is larger but also two-light, and has Victorian yellow sandstone dressings. Evidence that some of wall rebuilt, particularly around windows.

Porch. General. Fabric 'A', but the coursing more regular than that of nave.

East and west wall: plain.

South wall: butt ends of east and west walls support a braced tie beam with king post which forms the open gable work above the ungated entrance to the porch.

Interior

Porch. General. Flagged floor; plastered walls; roof of modern scissor trusses.

North wall: south wall of nave has Victorian pointed arch in yellow sandstone. Above an Incorporated Church Building Society plaque of 1867.

East and west walls: stone benches.

Tower. General. Floor covered over. Timber ceiling. Ground level lit by two tiers of slit windows. Wall faces inset on south, west and (at a fractionally higher level) north to support a floor that has now gone. Putlog holes in walls which appear to be randomly placed.

North wall: deeply splayed slit window, comparable with lancet in south wall.

South wall: original lancet is deeply splayed in contrast to simple slit at higher level.

West wall: possible infilling of wall face in places.

Nave. General. Floor of well-set stone flags incorporating three grave slabs of 1774, 1774 and 1684. The last two of these were not seen but are referred to in the comprehensive written survey of the church memorials, available in the church. Floor partly covered by carpet, and concrete beneath benches. Plastered and whitewashed walls. Roof of arch-braced collars springing from decorated wall plates.

North wall: splayed windows with flat sills.

East wall: screen with, above it, a 19thC cusped wooden chancel arch with boarding above, pierced with a distinctive arcade placed on the arch.

South wall: as north wall.

West wall: broad two-centred arch of dressed stone to tower. Three 19thC mural tablets.

Chancel. General. Victorian tiled floor in sanctuary and down centre of chancel. Plastered and whitewashed walls. Roof of braced collars, but over sanctuary (and ciborium) is a restored coved ceiling though the ribs and bosses in the centre are original: a bishop (of Hereford), Henry IV, and Joan of Navarre are the identifications of the heads, which point to a date of c.1410; the fourth is a grotesque head. Outer arch with a cresting of inverted cusping and sub-cusping.

North wall: more easterly window doubles as Easter Sepulchre. Mural tablet of 1815 adjacent.

South wall: windows as in nave, though sedilia below that in sanctuary. Piscina of no great age beside it.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Screen: "Late Perpendicular, of Welsh construction, with some restoration by Nicholson. The dado is

pierced by circled quatrefoils. It has a continuous band of tall traceries wholly English (of the Herefordshire school) in their fluent lines, particularly so the bold subsidiary ogee doorhead with its big leaf crockets, and the pinnacles" (Haslam). Head-beam and wall-posts are 19thC.

Ciborium: pre-Reformation, and probably early 15thC. "Two moulded wall-posts with fleurons support a bracket and arch screen, and an Easter Sepulchre on the north wall. Against the now windowless east wall two more posts with little finials and an embattled beam form the frame for a reredos [or retable]. Crossley thought all these members originally formed a rood screen and loft like that at Llanelieu, which was replaced by the present screen less than a century later" (Haslam). Full details of this and the screen in Crossley and Ridgeway.

Font: octagonal on a circular base, but recut.

Register: from 1740.

19thC fittings include:

Monument: one stone tablet to Thomas Mainwaring (d.1814).

Stained glass: south chancel window by Mayer & Co., Munich and London, 1873.

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is irregularly rectilinear in shape, the ground sloping gently down from north-west to south-east, though behind the church (i.e. to the north-west) it is relatively flat. This location is on the northern edge of a shallow valley, its stream running north-eastwards.

The present graveyard occupies a rectangular zone to the south-east of the church, traversed by the path to the porch. Graves cover part of this, the rest is overgrown. A metal fence running south-eastwards from the southern angle of the nave and another running north-eastwards from the northern angle of the chancel cordon off the rest of the churchyard to the north and west of the church. There are no obvious graves in this patch and it is presumably grazed by stock. The churchyard is certainly used for modern burial.

Boundary: around the south-east and south-west is a steep scarp bank, above a stream and a hollowed roadway respectively. A hedge grows out of the bank and there are traces of a drystone revetment in places. A low stone wall reinforced by a wire fence provides the enclosure boundary on the north-west, but there are the remnants of a broader bank up to 4m wide and 0.6m high inside this, and at least seven large tree stumps are set into the back of it. A similar broad bank is discernible on the north-east planted with conifers.

Monuments: these all lie to the south-east of the church and in general are reasonably well spaced. A 1985 report (copy in church) lists them all, revealing that the earliest, just to the south of the porch, is of 1742, while to the south of the chancel the earliest is one of 1690 and there are three others from the first half of the 18thC. Some chest tombs, one of brick.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: simple double gate in southern boundary with a grass path leading to the porch.

Vegetation: three yews, a couple of them quite large, lie to the south of the church. Conifers and deciduous species have grown up around the boundary.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings for Gladestry, 1995

CPAT Field Visit: 28 July 1995

Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 241

Davies 1905, 262

Faculty 1949: HRO/F/20-05-1949

Haslam 1979, 257

CONDITION

Stone flags in porch are cracking and flaking. Generally in reasonable condition.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Poor to Medium

Group value: Very Poor

Nantmel

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Cynllo

PRN 16918

NGR SO03436637

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Cynllo's church is set in what was formerly a sub-circular churchyard on a south-facing hillside above the River Dulas, some 6km to the east of Rhayader. The church was almost totally replaced in the late 18thC, and consequently falls largely outside the scope of this study. The churchyard does have features of interest and a fine range of 18thC memorials still in place.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church almost totally rebuilt at end of 18thC, leaving only the base of the pre-17thC tower, and not much of that if the tablet inside tower is an accurate guide. Neo-Romanesque remodelling in 1881.

HISTORY

An early medieval origin seems likely on the basis of the dedication and the original curvilinear enclosure around the church, but not surprisingly nothing of this date has survived. Traditionally, however, it was founded by St Cynllo in the 5thC.

Nantmel appears as 'Ecclesia de Nantmayl' in the Taxatio of 1291 when it was valued at the relatively high rate of £13 6s 8d. The list of incumbents starts with Richard ap Eynon in 1349.

The base of the west tower is at least 17thC or earlier, though the local tradition that it goes back to the 13thC cannot be substantiated.

In 1792 most of the tower as well as the nave were rebuilt by David Thomas of Rhayader.

In 1818, Williams mentioned very large and old yew trees in the graveyard, and also a sundial.

The church underwent general restoration in 1881. It was re-seated and re-roofed, new windows and doorways were added, a vestry was built, soil to a depth of 18" was removed internally, and re-use of some old material was advocated.

ARCHITECTURE

Nantmel church consists of a nave and chancel in one, a west tower, a south porch centrally placed to the nave and a north vestry. It is aligned fractionally south of grid west.

Fabric: 'A' is of small to medium blocks with some slabs of mixed stone (shale and sandstone) with colours ranging from brown through to grey; some coursing; better finished slabs for quoins. On north side of nave

the masonry is cleaner revealing additional stone types including quartzite and other sedimentaries. There is a strong possibility that much of this masonry is re-used.

Roof: of reconstituted clay tiles in patterned bands; decorated ridge tiles; cross finial above chancel, simple finial above otherwise undifferentiated eastern end of nave. Porch similar with cross finial.

Drainage: church terraced into slope on north side, thus giving impression of trench. Nothing on the west side but hint of grassed over gully on south with downpipes leading into it.

Exterior

Tower. General. Angle buttresses with tops curving in to tower wall. Single string-course below crenellated parapet. Weathervane with weathercock above.

North wall: lean-to shed against base. Plain wall up to round-headed, louvred, belfry window, voussoirs of mustard yellow freestone, but no jambs.

East wall: nave apex to just below belfry window. This is the same as the window on north, but for one dressed jamb. Between this and nave roof, individual slabs project in stepped sequence like intermittent string-course.

South wall: simple slit window, halfway up side. Standard belfry window with one freestone jamb.

West wall: west doorway in large blocks of buff-coloured freestone. Imitation Norman with round-headed arch, three-quarter round pillars and scalloped capitals. Not pretty. Above it an almost flat relieving arch, broken in centre by insertion of this doorway. Belfry window as north side.

Nave. General. Relationship with tower not determinable because of heavy pointing.

North wall: at north-west corner a couple of foundation stones protrude, a solitary indicator of the earlier structure. Three round-headed windows with three-quarter round pillars and scalloped capitals; bricks used beneath windows.

South wall: two standard windows with yellow sandstone blocks used below.

Chancel. Exterior. East wall has three 'Norman' windows with a continuous hoodmoulding. Mural slab of 1817 pinned to same wall. South wall has one standard window, and one patch of heavier pointing to fabric.

Vestry. General. Wholly Victorian.

Porch. General. Standard 'Norman' doorway on south; plain side walls, but with ornamental corbel tables at eaves level.

Interior

Nave. General. Tiled floor, but carpets in aisle and over heating grilles. Benches on flush wooden boarding. Walls plastered and whitewashed with shallow-splayed windows. Roof of nine bays for whole nave and chancel, with double arched-braced collars, one above the other, the lower springing from corbels.

North wall: three marble mural tablets, all 19thC and 20thC; one brass.

West wall: Norman tower arch.

South wall: three 19thC marble mural tablets.

Chancel. General. Decorated tiled floor with carpets. Four steps in all from chancel up to altar. Roof (see nave). Aumbry in north wall.

Porch. General. Tiled floor. Roof of collars and rafters. North door is standard 'Norman'.

Tower. General. Tiled floor, high wooden ceiling with bell ropes.

North wall: two marble mural tablets of 1798 and 1836.

South wall: stone set in base of wall records rebuilding in 1792 from bottom of stone (i.e. near ground level) upwards; churchwardens named.

West wall: segmental head to reveal of main door.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Stoup: by altar, a much eroded stoup. Traditionally classed as a 13thC capital from a pillar, which was recovered from the vicarage garden and is said to have been brought from Cwmhir Abbey after the Dissolution.

Monuments: in nave to John Evans (d.1798); in tower to Lewis Morgan (d.1798) by Wood of Hereford.

Chest: in vestry? Plain with three locks and thought to be early 17thC.

Registers: from 1742 and 1754.

19thC fittings and furnishings include

Font: Victorian. Its medieval predecessor removed to the chapel of ease at Ysfa in 1875.

Bells: six, of which five are certainly late 19thC.

CHURCHYARD

Nantmel churchyard is of medium size and is placed on a south facing spur above the River Dulas, with a dry valley immediately to the west and a stream valley to the east. The ground within the churchyard drops from north to south, and the church is terraced shallowly into the hillside.

It is well-kept and is still used for burial.

The boundary is provided by a revetment wall on the west with a wire fence above it and a drop of between 1m and 3m to the dry valley below; this revetment continues on the south where the external ground level is perhaps 1m lower, and on the south-east where the ground level is banked internally. On the north is a modern wire fence, with the old boundary bank inside (see below).

Monuments: these are locally dense to south of church and cover most of churchyard on this side, spreading round to east and west sides as well. Most are in reasonable condition though many show signs of weathering. Included is an excellent range of in situ 18thC monuments from 1700 onwards.

Furniture: to south-east of porch is a sundial by John Rogers, dated 1773, and set on a modern marble plinth.

Earthworks: on north side of churchyard within the present boundary is a curving bank and external ditch, both much disturbed and scrub covered. This appears to be the earlier 'llan' perimeter. Around the south side is a scarp bank, some 10m inside the present boundary with a couple of yews on top of it; on the south-east it fades into irregular undulations. It could be an earlier boundary, the churchyard on this side being subsequently enlarged.

Ancillary features: on west is main entrance under a lychgate that is possibly 18thC: slate roof, stone side walls, one wooden gate and one wooden stile. Just to south of lychgate is metal field gate, and in south-west corner is wooden stile; further stiles on east and on north, the latter just closed under a footpath diversion order. Tarmac paths.

Vegetation: yews around south side, some of them mature and of considerable age.

SOURCES

Church notes
CPAT Field Visit: 5 March 1996
Davies, 1905, 271
Faculty 1880: NLW/SD/F/510
Haslam 1979, 258
Howse, 1949, 261

CONDITION

Externally there are some minor cracks on east wall of chancel, and internally some blistering and flaking on west and south walls of nave. Otherwise the church appears to be in good order.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor to Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Good

New Radnor

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Mary

PRN 16921

NGR SO21066093

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Mary's church at New Radnor lies on the hill overlooking the town. It is difficult to determine the number of churches that have been built on the spot, but the present one dates to the middle of the 19thC. The only medieval features are two worn effigies recovered from the churchyard, and fragments of the medieval screen incorporated into the communion rails.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The church was erected in 1843-45, 'an extreme case of unsuitable rebuilding' according to Haslam.

HISTORY

It is thought that the church was probably founded in the 12thC or 13thC as an element of the new town. The Taxatio of 1291 records 'Ecclia de Radenore Nova' as having a value of £10.

A new church is thought to have been erected at the expense of William and Flory Bachefeld in the 14th century.

Howse claimed a 14th/15thC church which had a tower with a broach spire and a south aisle and arcade. Speed's map of the early 17thC shows a west tower, probably with a corner turret, a large nave with a south porch and a smaller chancel, but its accuracy remains to be assessed. The picture is complicated by Leland's statement (in the second quarter of the 16thC) that the old church was still standing as a chapel to the castle.

Jonathan Williams writing in 1818 describes the church as consisting of " a nave and aisle on the south side, separated from the nave by five octagonal pillars supporting six pointed arches, and a chancel. The partition that divides the nave and chancel is a low timber frame under a pointed arch. On the south side of the nave are three windows, containing each three lights, divided by stone mullions under trefoil arches. A similar window is on the north side, the arch of which consists of three quatrefoil lights. The chancel contains three windows of ordinary construction. It also has a tower flanked by low buttresses, and at present covered with a tiled roof, but was originally higher, and as appears by Speed's sketch of it taken in the year 1610, embattled. The tower contains four larger bells, and one smaller, with a clock. Its south side has three ranges of lights. The lavacrum is on the south side of the lateral aisles, which on the east appears to have formerly contained a small chapel, entered by two doors..... The porch is of timber, but the entrance into the church is under a pointed arch of stone; and opposite to the entrance door is a large hewn stone font." Some details of the screen were sketched by John Parker prior to the demolition of the old church.

This church was replaced by the existing structure of 1843-5, planned by Adams and erected by Thomas Dashwood. It is "Gothic in name only - just buttresses and lancets on a Late Georgian plan" (Haslam).

The south transept may have been added a little later at the expense of the Lewis family of Downton House.

ARCHITECTURE

New Radnor church consists of a west tower with the porch beneath, a nave with small transepts, and a five-sided chancel.

Fabric: regular rectangular blocks of shale with sandstone dressings.

Exterior

General. Total rebuilding: outline description only.

Three-stage tower, the stages defined by string-courses; porch at base entered by ornate Gothic arched doorway with intricate mouldings; lancet windows with hoodmouldings having human-headed stops. Nave has single lancets with string-courses above and below them, buttresses and ornamented corbel table. Transepts and chancels similar to nave.

Interior

General. Floor of slate slabs with carpet over; raised wooden floors under benches. Walls completely plastered and whitewashed. Nave roof of rib and purlin panels supported by tie beams and queen struts. Gallery over west door in nave. Font in south transept. Two 19thC monuments, that in south transept of 1821, the other on west wall of the nave of 1830/1856.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Altar Rails and reredos: made with tracery from the Perpendicular screen. "Of an unusual scissors pattern, combined with panels and cusping" (Haslam).

Effigies: two worn, medieval recumbent effigies resting on floor against north wall of the porch, one a man with a round shield, broken off at the knees; the other of a woman is complete; not identified. Williams records that they were found partly covered with earth on the south side of the church.

Register: from 1644.

CHURCHYARD

New Radnor churchyard is an irregular shape, but essentially rectilinear with a projection to the north-east corner. It is set on a steep slope immediately below the earthworks of the motte and bailey castle, and the ground continues to drop away southwards to the valley floor of the Summeril Brook, and also to a small tributary valley on the west. The church itself is set on a deeply terraced platform north-east of the centre of the enclosure.

No evidence has emerged of an earlier enclosure, and in fact the history of New Radnor would weight against it.

The churchyard is still used for burial but much of it is badly overgrown.

Boundary: the northern perimeter is defined by a drystone wall, collapsing in places, with some embanking behind it and a wire fence reinforcing it in front. Outside this is a holloway associated with the castle. As the boundary swings round to the east the wall disappears and gives way to a scarp bank with a wire fence and some trees and bushes and a considerable drop into the gardens of neighbouring houses. On the south a hedge and a drop on the outside of it separates the yard from a field, while on the west there is an earth and

rubble bank displaying a drystone wall in places, and basically marking the position of the town defences.

Monuments: the north-east corner is largely clear of graves but over most of the remaining churchyard the stones are fairly well packed. Two 18thC stones are set to the south of the chancel, but their faces are buried too deep to ascertain their dates; nearby is a chest tomb of 1796. Otherwise the stones are 19thC and 20thC.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: apart from the deep terrace in which the church is located, there are two other hollows to the south-west and lower down the slope. The writer is inclined to the view that these were quarries, but it is conceivable that one might be the site of the earlier church.

Ancillary features: north-east entrance has stone pillars and a wooden kissing gate; the main entrance in the south-east angle has iron gates. A tarmac path zig-zags up the slope to the church and another runs along the south side of the churchyard.

Vegetation: a few yews lie to the south of the church and other trees are dotted around indiscriminately.

SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 4 August 1995
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 245
Davies 1905, 178
Faculty 1847: Hereford Record Office.
Haslam 1979, 260
Howse, 1949, 244
Powys SMR

CONDITION

Plaster is flaking off the walls particularly on the north wall of the nave, but also in the chancel and transepts. No other problems were noted.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Medium

Newchurch

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** Mary**PRN** 16923**NGR** SO21625073

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Mary's church lies in eastern Radnorshire some 10km south-west of Kington. The church is undistinguished having been erected in the middle of the 19thC. The only medieval furnishing is a font which on its form could be pre-Conquest. The churchyard is rectangular and does not contain anything out of the ordinary.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church completely rebuilt in the middle of the 19thC.

HISTORY

Its location above a valley apart, there is nothing to suggest that Newchurch is an early medieval foundation, other than the early font, and indeed the village name would argue against such a hypothesis.

It appears as 'Newchurche' in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535 but not in the earlier Taxatios.

Nothing of the medieval history of the church is known. Williams, in 1818, recorded that "the church consists of a nave, a chancel separated from the nave by a timber frame, a low tower containing three bells, and a porch", but this tells little of the original medieval church here.

It was rebuilt in 1856-7.

ARCHITECTURE

Newchurch church consists of a nave and small chancel, a west tower with a broach spire, and a south porch near the western end of the nave. It is aligned south-west/north-east, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is used here.

Fabric: 'A' is of partially coursed slabs and blocks of fine grained sedimentary rock, grey through to orange-brown, small to medium in size.

Roofs: slates, with toothed ridge tiles on chancel, but plain on nave. Cross finial on porch.

Drainage: none noted.

Exterior

General. Total rebuilding: outline description only.

Foundation course forms projecting plinth for the walls; all in uniform masonry. Eastern wall face of nave covered by corrugated metal sheeting, as is western wall of nave to the north of the tower and upper part of chancel's east gable. Exposed masonry of the church shows differential weathering.

Windows: wide lancets with chamfered sandstone dressings in nave; chancel east window has two lights and Y-tracery. Stepped buttresses.

Tower has broach spire surmounted by weathervane; standard windows.

Interior

Not described because wholly Victorian. Note however the gallery.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: slightly tapering cylindrical monolith, which could be 10thC or 11thC.

Bells: Howse (1949) records two bells of the mid-14thC. This identification has not been verified, but does occur in the 1995 listing report.

Communion table: 17thC.

Registers: from 1708.

Memorials: on north wall of chancel are two 19thC mural tablets to the Bevans's family.

CHURCHYARD

Newchurch churchyard is a medium-sized rectangular enclosure sited on the edge of the shallow but steep-sided Arrow valley. The north-western half of the enclosure is level but to the south of the church the ground drops away gently to the south-east.

In part well-maintained and used for modern burial, only that half to the south of the church now functions as a churchyard. The northern half is fenced off, there are no obvious graves, and the ground is used for stock. It is not known whether it has been deconsecrated.

On the south-west the edge of the churchyard is faced in stone with a drop in excess of 1.5m to the road below; similarly on the south-east and north-east there is a retaining wall above a farmyard and track. North of the church the north-eastern retaining wall is accompanied by an inner bank, and on the north-west this swings round, revealing a stony bank with hazel bushes on it and one yew. The churchyard can thus be claimed as a raised enclosure.

Monuments: these are locally densely packed on the south side of the church. Many are in poor condition and are difficult to decipher.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: a trench or broad slot excavated in ground beyond the northern side of the church. Presumed to be modern.

Ancillary features: simple gate on south-west with tarmac path leading to porch.

Vegetation: some yews around the perimeter, south of the church, and one on the northern side. There is a report that the oldest yew near the churchyard gate fell in 1990.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings: 1995

CPAT Field Visit: August 1995

Davies 1905, 263

Haslam 1979, 260

Howse, 1949, 261

CONDITION

Despite the relatively recent build, the church has problems. The metal sheeting on the exterior and piles of rubble beside the north wall indicate on-going renovation.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Very Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Norton

Diocese Swansea and Brecon

Dedication Andrew

PRN 16928

NGR SO30466722

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Andrew's church lies on the western edge of a steep-sided valley, two miles north of Presteigne in eastern Radnorshire. It retains a few architectural features and fittings of pre-19thC date but most were swept away in the restoration of 1868, and the building throughout gives the strong impression of Victorian Gothic. The churchyard is rectangular yet there are hints that it may once have been more circular.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The style of the Victorian south doorway implies that there may have been a Norman church here. No original medieval windows survive, but a building of c.1300 is suggested by the 19thC copying, and there is some remaining medieval masonry in the nave.

West tower considered to be 17thC, even though reconstructed by Scott; what is unclear is whether the obvious western extension to the nave is of this date or is a 19thC rebuild. The former seems more probable.

Major Victorian rebuild included: south and upper part of north nave walls, with subsequent window insertion on north side; west end added on to nave; completely new chancel, transepts and porch.

HISTORY

The date of the foundation of Norton church is completely unknown. The castle and the village are likely to be post-Conquest, but the church site could conceivably be earlier.

The Taxatio of 1291 refers to 'Ecclesia de Norton' at a value of £4.

Records of the earlier church indicate that its pulpit and medieval screen were whitewashed, it had box pews, a small east window and a gallery that was erected in 1834.

By the middle of 19thC the church was in a poor state of repair. It was substantially rebuilt by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1868. In addition to rebuilding the nave and chancel, he incorporated a porch and transepts, reconstructed the belfry and raised the tower, and constructed a split level roof and largely remodelled the interior, removing the gallery and restoring the screen. Some of the new works may be modelled approximately on predecessors.

ARCHITECTURE

St Andrew's church consists of a nave and chancel in one, a south porch, small transepts on north and south, and a tower with spire over the west end of nave. Church is oriented fractionally south of true west.

Fabrics: 'A' consists of small to medium blocks and slabs of red and buff shale, irregularly coursed. 'B' is of medium-sized blocks of shale with considerable lichen covering. 'C' consists of regular blocks and slabs of green-grey and red-brown shale with variable coursing. Sandstone dressings.

Of these 'B' represents original medieval masonry, 'A' could be re-used material in a fresh matrix, perhaps Victorian in date though possibly earlier, and 'C' is certainly Victorian.

Roofs: tiled roofs, but shingles on tower. Cross finials on chancel and porch.

Drainage: brick-lined drain around north, south and west sides. Church terraced into slope on east, creating a drainage element.

Exterior

Tower. General. Above west end of nave, hipped roof and two-stage pyramidal roof topped by a broach spire with weather vane. Vertical faces have boarding with louvred slots above. Clock faces on south and west sides. Rebuilt 17thC tower and spire.

Nave. North wall: working from east to west, in the extreme east the lower part of wall is of Fabric 'B' capped by chamfered slabs, though partly hidden by lean-to shed; the inset wall above is of Fabric 'A' and contains a single light window with trefoil head and dressings in buff coloured sandstone. Further west the upper wall is interrupted by inserted Fabric 'C' containing a two-light window, the lights having cusped heads with yellow sandstone dressings and the wall itself is plumb and thus projects forward of the walling on either side of it which is slightly battered. Further west again there is no plinth but 'B' masonry is recognisable in the lower part of wall partly as a result of unevenness of masonry finish. Upper wall again of Fabric 'A' with infilled circular hole in wall where formerly a chimney pipe was taken through wall, and a small slit window without dressings. In north-west corner a buttress in Fabric 'C'. At west end, the roof below tower set slightly higher than nave roof further east (cf disconformities in south wall).

East wall: none.

South wall: in Fabric 'A'. West of porch are two buttresses (?Victorian) and between them an inscribed sundial dated to 1947. Above the more easterly buttress the wall is outset and there are two weathered quoin stones incorporated in masonry; almost directly above there is a change in the pitch of the roof line. Taken with the evidence in the north wall, this indicates an extension at the west end of nave. One Victorian lancet to west of porch and one two-light window to east of it; below the latter a mural slab, the earliest of three dates recorded on it being 1777.

West wall: Fabric 'A'; stepped, angle buttresses set on plinths; above the buttresses are modern sandstone quoins. Two-light window, the lights having cusped heads.

General. Only the nave has surviving medieval masonry. The remaining elements are completely Victorian, reportedly in style of c.1300, and here are considered summarily. Stepped angle buttresses; windows of one, two and three lights, some with hoodmoulds.

North transept. General. Wholly Victorian with windows in north and west walls, a stone-built room abutting east wall, and a chimney above.

Chancel. General. Wholly Victorian in Fabric 'C'. Standard windows.

South transept. General. Wholly Victorian in Fabric 'C'. Standard windows.

Porch. General. Wholly Victorian in Fabric 'C'. No windows.

Interior

General. Interior completely redesigned by Scott. Plastered and whitewashed.

Porch. Victorian tiled floor. Roof has scissor trusses; wooden seated stone benches on sides. Victorian round-arched doorway to church.

Nave. General. Tiled floor with carpet along aisle; raised wooden boarding beneath benches; west end of nave also has raised wooden flooring with timber piers and arched plates supporting tower. Main nave roof has arch-braced collars rising from stub-ties, with struts above.

South wall: west of most westerly window, wall inset corresponding to similar feature externally.

Transepts. Victorian with heavy 'Gothic' arches at entrances. Mural tablet of 1847 on east wall of south transept.

Chancel. Grave slabs of 1637 and 1708 set into sanctuary floor. Otherwise completely Victorian with steps up into chancel, sanctuary and to altar; polygonal wagon roof to chancel with cusped ribs.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Screen: some old woodwork retained in the low early 16thC screen, "which has four flat quatrefoil-headed lights to either side of a wide cambered archway. Scott used a cusped wooden arch at the break in the roof above" (Haslam).

Font: 15thC.

Oak Chest: at west end of nave; some decoration.

Monuments: to Arthur Partridge (d.1792).

Graveslabs: of Elizabeth Flower (d.1637) and Mary Bridgiu.. (d.1708) and set into sanctuary floor.

19thC and 20thC fittings include:

Reredos and Pulpit: in oak and dating to 1905 and 1916 respectively.

Stained Glass: east window by Clayton & Bell.

CHURCHYARD

Norton church occupies a sub-rectangular churchyard on the western lip of a steep-sided valley that holds the Norton Brook. It in turn appears to lie within the outer enclosure of a motte and bailey castle, and there is also some indication that at least on the northern side, the churchyard was originally more curvilinear. The ground within the churchyard falls away gradually to the south and the church has been terraced into the

slope on the north and east.

The churchyard is reasonably well-kept on the south, but partially overgrown to the north of the church.

The perimeter of the yard is defined by a stone wall on the west and south, the surface level of the road outside being well over 1m below that of the churchyard. Around the south-east corner there is more of an internal bank, but the drop beyond the wall is less. Further north the stone wall continues, set on a rising natural surface. On the north, the undergrowth makes it impossible to determine the form of the boundary.

Monuments: quite well spread through the churchyard, even on the north side of the church. Some 18thC graves lie immediately to the south of the church - the earliest upright slab of 1759, with table tombs of 1761 and 1763 - and others are randomly placed elsewhere on the south side. The churchyard is still used for burials.

Earthworks: none other than the perimeter bank.

Furniture: sundial on south side of nave wall (see above).

Ancillary features: a modern lychgate with a tarmac path leads to the porch. From there a grass path runs eastwards to a wooden kissing gate. In the north-west corner are metal gates and adjacent railings with a faintly hollowed grass track leading from them towards the church.

Vegetation: three or four yews around the southern perimeter.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1985

CPAT Field Visit: 10 August 1995

Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 246

Fenn 1985, 58

Haslam 1979, 262

Howse, 1949, 244

Ottewill, D 1994: Church guide

CONDITIONS

Appears to be in reasonably satisfactory condition, although some problems with quoins at north-east corner of chancel.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Medium

Old Radnor

Diocese Hereford

Dedication Stephen (St Ystyffan)

PRN 16929

NGR SO24995909

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Stephen's church at Old Radnor is one of the finest medieval churches in Wales, with considerable architectural interest, a significant range of internal fittings, and strong evidence of a former curvilinear churchyard.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Tower is 15thC with limited restoration work; north aisle and north chapel are 15thC (or even early 16thC) but east wall probably rebuilt in Victorian era, and the same is true of the chancel. South aisle also 15thC but there is a 14thC window at the west end. Porch is largely original. Thus the whole structure is probably 15thC, although whether of one particular build is less certain.

HISTORY

An early foundation, possibly dedicated originally to Ystyffan and subsequently anglicised to Stephen, the churchyard, the putative early dedication and the font all go to suggest an early medieval beginning. Lands belonging to Old Radnor church were supposedly acquired by the See of Worcester in AD 887 (Howse 1949).

It has been suggested that at least part of the church was rebuilt in the 12thC, but all that remains of this church is a scalloped capital set in the chancel arch behind the organ.

The 1291 Taxatio records 'Ecclia de Radnore Veter' at the very high value of £26 13s 4d, a pointer no doubt to the status of the church.

It was probably burnt by Glyndwr in 1401/2 and the present church predominantly dates from rebuilding throughout the 15thC though it includes earlier fabric. Presence of several piscinae and aumbries has led to the suggestion that the pre-Reformation church had five altars, indicating that it had a status greater than that of a simple parish church.

Williams, at the beginning of the 19thC noted that " the area of the nave and aisles is paved with the figures of birds, the representation of crests and arms, and other fanciful devices" and he supposed that they, as well as the painted glass, had been brought from the Abbey of Wigmore, which belonged to the Mortimer family.

Restoration in 1882 was by F. Preedy of Worcester at a cost of nearly £3000. East end of chancel was rebuilt at that time and other works included: roofs repaired, internal plaster replaced; window tracery replaced, south door reconstructed, south aisle pier next to chancel rebuilt, new east window built, etc.

ARCHITECTURE

Church consists of a nave and chancel under one roof, with separately roofed south aisle and Lady Chapel, a narrow lean-to north aisle and chapel, a south porch, and west tower.

Fabrics: 'A' of large slabs and blocks of sedimentary rock, probably grey limestone and gritstone.
'B' of large regular blocks of sandstone, some tabular.
'C' similar to 'B' but regularly coursed, perhaps Victorian.

Roofs: well-weathered shale tiles with stone ridge tiles, raised ashlar copings and apex crosses.

Drainage: downpipes set on south side of nave, but no obvious gully beside nave, tower or chapel.

Exterior

Tower. General. Large structure of early 15thC, in Fabric B. Beacon turret on north side, with provision for an iron beacon. Plinth with concave moulding at height of 0.4m on south, but double-stepped to nearly 1.8m on west because of ground slope; string-courses above second, third and fourth stages, the last of these accompanied by waterspouts. Occasional stone replacement apparent in third stage. Battlemented parapet with arrow slits. Stepped buttresses at corners.

North wall: plain below third stage; this stage has trefoil-headed single-light window with much tracery replacement; belfry (fourth) stage has louvre-boarded, double-lights with quatrefoil above set under four-centred arch, with much tracery replacement; tower turret set within north-east corner and lit by simple splayed slits including two in third stage, one in battlemented parapet and one at ground level which is more like an arrow-slit.

East wall: largely masked by nave roof, though drip guard set into tower wall just above the roof is at more acute angle than the present roof; at the belfry stage is a two-light window as on north side, showing tracery replacement.

South wall: later doorway with two-centred arch, concave moulded jambs, all the dressings in Fabric B; trefoil-headed lancet in flat-headed embrasure in second stage; third and fourth stages have windows as on north side.

West wall: as north wall but clock face in third stage.

Nave. General. No external features other than roof.

North aisle. General. Lean-to against nave, though roof pitch less steep. Fabric A, though irregularly coursed.

North wall: three late Perpendicular, three-light windows with trefoil heads, flat-topped embrasures and pink sandstone dressings; that to west completely modern with replacement dressings in yellow sandstone; central window has original tracery but replaced mullions and some replaced jamb stones; eastern window similar to middle one but one jamb completely replaced; between the windows are three buttresses of dressed stone which appear to be additions. Two chimneys, one at north-west corner, the other rising from a buttress which on the basis of fabric should be contemporary with it.

West wall: plain, no window; ashlar coping with decorated stop.

North Chapel. General. Part use as vestry. Fabric plus roof and buttresses as north aisle, except for east wall.

North wall: two three-light windows with trefoil heads and also triangular-headed arches over. That to west

has replaced mullions and possibly only the tracery is original; that to east could be total replacement but for sill. Wall outset where internal Easter Sepulchre, in later fabric inasmuch as different banded stone types and more recent ashlar quoins.

East wall: in Fabric C with larger blocks of stone towards base; window as the two in the south chapel but completely replaced, and covered by metal grill.

Chancel. General. Mixed fabrics.

North wall: Fabric A, but buttress at north-east corner in more recent fabric and comparable with those against north aisle except for rilling on stones; single window has two lights with trefoil heads and quatrefoil above, completely replaced in 1854.

East wall: Fabric C except perhaps for bottom 1m or so which could be better coursed, re-used Fabric A; five-light window with panel and intersecting tracery, wholly Victorian dating from 1882; two 19thC grave slabs against wall, one with a badly flaked surface.

South wall: fabric more regular than 'A' though otherwise similar, so a rebuild using old masonry?; double lancet window completely replaced but for sill.

South chapel. General. Also termed the Lady Chapel. Largely in Fabric B, but high up on east side could be re-used Fabric A. Roof lower than south aisle, but otherwise conforms to overall pattern of south side of church.

East wall: butt joint in north-east corner; buttress at angle; two-centred arched window blocked with limestone slabs, but sandstone jambs in place; a stop in the form of a stylised human head above window apex is re-set; two rings on spikes driven into wall at eaves level (purpose uncertain).

South wall: two, late Perpendicular, three-light windows with trefoil heads in square-headed frame, largely renewed; priest's door between window with original chamfered jambs and moulded stops, pointed arch; modern buttresses.

South aisle. East wall: plain where showing above roof of South Chapel.

South wall: Fabric A, though some infilling high up and to west of porch where an irregular zone of tabular stonework; two 16thC, four-light windows with cinquefoil heads; that to west a complete replacement with stone of two colours for tracery; east window largely original though mullions replaced and stone variation in right-hand jamb; cambered heads; hoodmoulding stops with faces are also original; additionally this window has a relieving arch of slabs, not replicated above westerly window.

West wall: ashlar quoins at south-west angle; three-light window with reticulated tracery indicative of early 14thC, sandstone dressings largely replaced, and some tracery already crumbling.

Porch. General. Fabric B with massive ashlar quoins in same fabric, one with benchmark; some replacement of ashlar coping stones. The whole considered to be 15thC.

East wall: plain; rougher, uncharacterised fabric in bottom corner close to aisle.

South wall: two-centred Perpendicular arch with multiple roll and cavetto mouldings, eroding; three niches in gable with 19thC statuettes of Christ, Mary, and St Stephen holding the stones of his martyrdom; top niche original but others have 19thC embrasures and may not be contemporary. West wall: plain; fabric anomalies near angle with aisle could indicate re-used masonry.

Interior

Porch. General. Flagged floor, stone benches on east and west. Limewashed walls apart from door dressings. Roof has tie beams, collars with raking struts above, two rows of trefoiled windbraces.

North wall: (=south wall of nave) simple, two-centred arched doorway with stop-chamfers.

East wall: broken stoup in corner.

Tower. Interior not accessible.

Nave. General. Nave roof has very flat-arched profile, moulded tie-beams, plain ribbed panels with numerous bosses at the rib intersections displaying carved armorial and foliage motifs including Tudor Roses, the whole being 16thC in date. Tiled floor of 19thC date with wooden floor beneath the benches; two brasses of 1796 and 1808 set in floor plus incised cross slab in front of screen (see below).

North wall: four-bay arcade of one build, having tall, early 15thC octagonal piers with moulded capitals on square bases, and double chamfered arches.

East wall: screen.

South wall: four-bay arcade as north wall.

West wall: ground floor doorway to tower approached by single step but blocked off, leaving semi-circular niche; in the south-west angle formed by the west wall and the short stub of the south wall is a stone buttress-like projection to a height of around one metre: its purpose is unclear. On the west wall are two hatchments and three marble tablets.

North aisle. General. It has earliest roof in the building; in Perpendicular style: divided into panels with richly moulded ribs and chamfered rafter infilling, the main ribs jointed into curved braces incorporated into a coved, moulded bressummer piece at wallplate level; rough bosses. Floor at west end incorporates 128 medieval glazed tiles, mostly with simple designs; elsewhere are Victorian tiles.

North wall: small piscina in north-east corner though no drain hole; wall plaque in north-west corner, and wall tablet of 1740 between more westerly windows.

East wall: screen divides off north chapel.

South wall: arcade.

West wall: hatchment with wall brass below.

North chapel. General. Plain tiled floor, partly carpeted and covered with paraphernalia of vestry.

North wall: Easter Sepulchre set into wall; large chest in front of more westerly window and another smaller chest under easterly window.

Chancel. General. Roof rebuilt 1882 over new corbels and incorporating new arch-braced truss to mark nave division. Organ set mainly in north chapel but protrudes into chancel. Two rows of 16thC benches. Sanctuary paved with 17th, 18th and 19thC memorial slabs; otherwise tiles.

North wall: two-bay arcade with four-centred arches, similar but flatter than those in nave; single window has some modern stonework but also perhaps some original; Lewis memorial of 1776 plus three 19thC brasses.

South wall: two-bay arcade as north wall with modern corbels between; trefoil-headed piscina, with marble

mural tablet to 18thC Duggan family above it; marble memorial to Anne Lewis beside Duggan memorial.

West wall: no chancel arch, but an arched truss marks division between nave and chancel.

South Chapel. General. Roof broadly similar to that in south aisle; floor carpeted, but floor of slate in former sanctuary.

North wall: four-centred arches similar to those in adjacent aisle. Parclose screen tracery shows some damage. East wall: blocked window visible as inset with, in front, a marble monument to Lewis of Harpton, 1777. Mural tablet of 1837 resting on floor. South wall: niche (?aumbry) under more easterly window; priest's doorway with chamfered arch but not jambs.

West wall: wide arch into south aisle.

South aisle. General. 19thC encaustic tiles on floor. Grave slabs of 1770 & 1783 and another with brass removed, together with twelve medieval tiles, all lying flat by most easterly column of north arcade. A further 72 medieval tiles at approach to south chapel, and 70-80 (though some broken and one removed) in front of screen and close to piscina on south side of aisle. Walls plastered apart from dressings and ashlar. Fine roof, similar to that in nave.

North wall: arcade of sandstone columns.

East wall: chamfered arch.

South wall: windows splayed, that to west showing mostly modern stone in reveal, original stonework in that to east; 19thC and 20thC brasses and mural tablets; piscina with shouldered arch, Victorian.

West wall: splayed window embrasure, Victorian glass; a mural tablet and a metal plaque recording grant stacked against wall.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: impressively large doleritic erratic boulder, roughly rounded and flat-topped; massive polished bowl set on 4 thick legs. Possibly as early as 8thC.

Screen: across nave and aisles. Fine late 15thC screen of Gloucestershire type extends across nave and aisles, repaired in 19thC when paint and gilding removed. Eight-bay nave section, shafted muntins extend to floor, Tudor-arch heads have foliated and cusped tracery, lower sections have two panels to arch bay with bands. Double canopy with mortices for loft parapet. West side has tierceron vaulting springing from the muntin capitals. Canopy bressummer frieze with top and drop cresting and two bands of stylized vine scroll. The east side of the canopy coved with carved spandrel ornament. There are some irregularities: the Lady Chapel canopy is vaulted both sides and the north aisle has slightly different tracery. Loft parapets have gone, as has the painted decoration that was apparent to Jonathan Williams. Some restoration in 1872. Full description in Crossley and Ridgway.

Parclose Screens: "to north and south of chancel, with narrow lights, and the muntins dying into the rails on the Welsh pattern; restored traceries" (Haslam). Basically 15thC.

Stalls: "traceried fronts and simple poppyheads; against the main and the parclose screens. 15thC" (Haslam). One stall with original book chain.

Calvary Cross: foliated, in the nave floor in front of chancel entrance, possibly 13thC.

Tiles: some medieval glazed tiles reset in west bay of north aisle, in south aisle by pillar, and in Lady Chapel doorway; others removed in 19thC. Victorian tiles by William Godwin of Lugwardine.

Organ Case: early 16thC, outstanding, incorporating Gothic and Renaissance details; nationally important as the earliest surviving in the British Isles although not in its original form. "Linenfold panels below, with some reset on their sides in 1872, when present organ, by Messrs J. W. Walker was inserted. Large pipes grouped in three angular towers, freely carved with foliated ogee heads, the short ones in two flat sections between. Style of their foliage, though still Gothic, is impure. On top is a beautiful cresting with pinnacles between semicircles, also with beasts (ferrets?) and dragon ornament etc; forms of decorative elements, fantastic yet not unrestrained, are in the spirit of the early Renaissance, especially of Venice. Exceptional quality of woodwork suggests metropolitan provenance" (Haslam).

Vestment chest: medieval or 17thC, in north chapel. Also a second, smaller chest in the same chapel.

Painting: Moses and Aaron; Italian, 18thC, in north chapel/vestry.

Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed and Ten Commandments: 17thC, behind organ.

Hatchments: three, on the west walls of the nave and north aisle.

Stained Glass: north aisle east window has St Catherine, late 15thC, on a background of Roses Ensoleillies. East window by John Hardman of Birmingham, 1882.

Monuments: i) John Lewis died 1797, by Flaxman. A flat sarcophagus on corbels. ii) Thomas Lewis died 1777, by W. Tyler, a large pyramidal tomb which blocks the Lady Chapel east window. Woman sitting diagonally with her arm round an urn; portrait medallion above. iii) Ann Lewis died 1785: less rhetorical than her husband's; mourning lady on a pyramidal slab with putti beside, on a tapering base with lions' feet. iv) Thomas Lewis died 1724. Shaped orange marble tablet of 1778 with white detailing. v) Stephen Harris died 1740 and Arabella Harris died 1792.

Bells: six of 1724 by Rudhall of Gloucester.

Register: from 1682.

Piscina: trefoiled, with a head either side, in chancel. 19thC. One of several marking pre-Reformation altars?

Pulpit, reredos and altar-rails: by Preedy in Gothic style.

Easter Sepulchre: (or possibly tomb niche), with moulded four-centred arch, in the north chapel (vestry).

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is set on the side of Old Radnor Hill overlooking the Radnor basin, the ground falling away to the west but the church and village occupying a natural shelf some distance below the summit of hill.

It is sub-oval in shape, medium-sized and raised around southern perimeter; the level within the yard drops gently from church south-westwards. Original churchyard has been truncated to the north where straight wall appears to have cut off former curvilinear boundary, visible as a scarp in gardens of Harp Inn.

Boundary of current yard consists of a mortared stone wall, patched up in places, with earth banked up behind; on the south the wall is effectively a revetment because of internal build up of material (up to 1.4m); and on south-east, wall is topped by a low wire fence.

Churchyard is still used for burial but is overgrown around north side.

Monuments: except for north-west quadrant, gravestones widespread and of variable density - particularly packed to west of church. Some memorials in poor state of repair. Numerous chest tombs.

Furniture: none noted.

Earthworks: none noted.

Ancillary Features: lychgate of 1882 in Tudor style on sandstone base, on east side. Kissing gates to south and west, with tarmac paths leading to porch. Store shed in north corner with wooden five-bar gate beside it. In north-east corner, improvised stile across wall.

Vegetation: several yews spread apparently randomly to south-west of church.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1993
CPAT Field Visit: 21 July 1995
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 246
Davies 1905, 190
Faculty 1881: HRO/F/02-04-1881
Fenn and Sinclair 1988, 78-91
Haslam 1979, 263
Howse, 1949, 261
Powys SMR
Silvester 1994, 134

CONDITION

Some erosion of stonework, for example on springers of tower doorway and on dressings on west face of tower.

Some damp showing internally at west end of south aisle and above arcade on south side of nave.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Good

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Very Good

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium

Pilleth

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** Our Lady of Pilleth**PRN** 16936**NGR** SO25636823

GENERAL SUMMARY

The church of St Mary at Pilleth lies isolated on a western slope above the Lugg valley, about 7m north-west of Presteigne. It has a tower that could be 15thC or earlier, and a nave and chancel in one that may be 14thC. Medieval fittings include a font and stoup, and one of the bells is said to date to 1450. The churchyard is rectangular with a few graves, and there seems little doubt that this was entirely a medieval foundation.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The tower is claimed as 15thC, but probably has a complicated history. One possible sequence is initiated by a structure of the same general width as the nave which survives only as foundations on the north, and the base of the wall on the west. Collapse or some other disaster led to the north, east and south sides being rebuilt with a string course added. Whether the west side was also rebuilt cannot be ascertained for this together with part of the tower turret may have required a further degree of rebuilding at a later date, when the string course was not renewed. The accepted 15thC date must be treated with caution, as the only diagnostic architecture - the west window tracery - is re-set in the later rebuilding.

Nave and chancel attributed to the 14thC on basis of south door and sanctuary windows, but much rebuilding on east and south; and the roof line lowered in 1911.

HISTORY

The earliest recorded church at Pilleth was a dependency of St Cynllo's at Llangunllo. It has been suggested that though the dedication is to the Virgin Mary, the fact that in the late 17thC the parish feast day was on St David's day reveals its earlier pre-Norman dedication. There is however no convincing evidence for such an early origin.

Though the manor of Pilleth is recorded in Domesday Book (1086) as 'Pelelei', it appears that the first record of a church or chapel is in 1198 when it was given by Radolph de Baskerville to the Premonstratensian Abbey at Llantony, and not surprisingly it fails to show in the 13thC Taxatio records.

Howse claimed that in the Middle Ages pilgrims were attracted by a notable image of the Virgin.

At the beginning of the 15thC the church was burned by Owain Glyndwr and subsequently restored.

Its dependency on Llangunllo remained until the end of the 19thC.

Glynne in the mid-19thC noted the squat tower, a wooden south porch with panelling and arched ribs, and the whitewashed walls. The east window was modern, but there were Decorated windows in the chancel. Inside was a fairly well-preserved wooden screen with plain panelling. An earlier report in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (1847) also noted that the medieval screen was still in existence, that the east end had a

square wooden window, ready to fall out, and that there was a sash window in the south wall of the nave.

Extensive restoration was completed in 1872/73 by G.Potter to the specifications of C.Hill of Knighton; these included the rebuilding of the east wall, new windows on the east and south, and many new fittings. But in 1894 a fire reduced the church to a ruin and destroyed the fittings. Much of the tower survived. Photos after the fire (in the church) show the roof line of the former porch on the south side.

A further phase of restoration by W.J.Tapper was completed in 1911 when the roof was lowered, and the floors appear to have been excavated to their medieval level, before flags were laid.

ARCHITECTURE

Pilleth church comprises a nave and chancel as one cell, and a west tower which is not centrally aligned to the main building. It is oriented west-north-west/east-south-east but for the purposes of this description 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted.

Fabrics: 'A' is of laminated grey shale slabs, (mainly tabular though a few block-like), a few red sandstone lumps; regularly coursed.

'B' of shale rubble both blocks and slabs with red sandstone more frequent than in 'A'.

'C' is similar to 'A' but the shale slabs are thicker and the red sandstone more frequent.

Roofs: at the time of the site visit, the body of the church had only felt and battens. Tower has stone tiles.

Drainage: nothing obvious.

Exterior

Tower. General. Various attributed to the 13thC or 14thC (Haslam) or the 15thC (Cadw listing). Tower reduced in height at a later date, reportedly on the basis of internal evidence in the ringing chamber. String course at about three-quarters height but only on three sides. Saddleback roof with weathervane and weathercock. Generally Fabric 'C' except where stated, though on east side some uncertainty; some limewash remnants, particularly on east and south.

North wall: heavily pointed. No windows; stringcourse much broken. At the north-west corner is a stepped angle buttress, the chamfers of dressed stone, and probably an original feature. Against the north wall but low to the ground is a low wall which terminates at a large diagonal buttress at the north-west. This has been convincingly interpreted as the remnant of an earlier north wall, and is said to be part of the tower destroyed by Glyndwr at the beginning of the 15thC.

East wall: again no windows. Interrupting the stringcourse is an earlier, higher and more steeply pitched roof line (pre-1911) clearly visible, with some dripstones still in situ. A second, lower roof line is visible, though still higher than the present roof, and its apex line set further south than the others; within its triangle the wall is plastered but lacks limewash.

South wall: a square tower turret projects at the south-west angle and is lit by a single slit window with chamfered dressings. The stringcourse stops at the edge of the turret. While most of wall including turret appears to be in 'C', lower part of the south-west corner is in 'A'. At the junction of the tower and nave, large sandstone quoins mark the line but to a height of less than 1m; their absence at higher level indicates rebuilding of a part of the tower wall.

West wall: large part of wall rebuilt with Fabric 'A' below, 'C' above. No stringcourse. In the rebuilt section, one small slit window without chamfered dressings lights tower stair, but wall is dominated by a window which utilises the original tracery from what was a 15thC, four-light window for a two-light opening; the jambs and perhaps the mullion have subsequently been renewed.

Nave and chancel. General. Nave and chancel dealt with as one, because of the absence of external differentiation.

North wall: largely 'A', and this is in places zoned, with broad and narrow bands of shale. North-west corner has projecting foundation for length of c.1m, a continuation of that visible for the short length of the west wall. Most of the wall face is devoid of features and bulges, though from a height of c.1m near the west angle dropping to ground level about three-quarters of the way along, is a wedge-shaped area of wall face that is both vertical and has slightly different colouring; its relevance is uncertain. A modern stone buttress props the wall, close to the internal chancel demarcation. At the east end the wall face is battered and stands further out from the wall to the west; at the junction of the two it is evident that the batter is in fact an additional masonry facing, perhaps to provide strengthening for the chancel window. At its east end the battered section has freestone quoins, now partially disguised by a large modern concrete buttress, but the fabric is essentially the same as the rest of the wall. The Decorated window has two ogee-headed lights and reticulated tracery, presumed to be original.

East wall: predominantly Fabric 'B'. Two-centred arched window with three stepped lights with cusped heads; hoodmoulding; Victorian, from the 1873 restoration, for it is not central to the present axis of the building, and must have been constructed before the roof was lowered.

South wall: the eastern end is in Fabric 'B'. Lighting the chancel is another Decorated window with reticulated tracery, largely original. Further west a large part of the upper wall has been replaced in Fabric 'B', and both windows within this zone have double cusped lights with cream freestone dressings of modern construction. Main church door lies at western end of nave: 14thC with a two-centred arch, chamfered jambs, all in yellow sandstone. Finally there are the angle quoins (see tower - south wall) encapsulated in the wall face, and pointing to the primacy of the nave over the tower.

West wall: projecting foundation course referred to under section on north wall. Also just below eaves level, wall face is inset, but leaving one stop like a coping stone, projecting; presumably this is evidence of rebuilding.

Interior

Tower. General. Slab floor includes one much worn graveslab of 1677. Walls whitewashed. Reportedly contains its original medieval bell frame.

East wall: plain but for four-centred archway to nave. At ground level within the archway the foundation stones project on the south side, perhaps signalling an earlier phase.

South wall: flat-headed doorway with chamfered lintel to stair turret.

West wall: stone plinth along wall to a height of 0.4m; window above is slightly splayed.

Nave. General. Three steps down from south doorway to a stone-slabbed platform on which rests the font etc, and another step down to the body of the church, also stone-slabbed. Walls whitewashed, but not plastered. Roof of modern tie beams with king posts and struts.

North wall: wall has outwards lean; also a slight disconformity in the extreme north-west corner, where wall face protrudes (see below).

South wall: a buttress-like stand of masonry in the extreme south-west corner, chamfered off at a height of 2.5m, must be a remnant of a former pre-tower west wall. This matches the disconformity on the north wall. Doorway reveal is round-headed and probably a replacement, while the window splays exhibit old damaged stones suggesting they are original, even if the windows fronting them are 19thC.

West wall: four-centred arch with voussoirs leads into tower; juncture of north-east angle of tower and west

wall of nave clearly visible. Recapped stone benches around base of wall.

Chancel. General. One step down from nave to chancel, then one step up to sanctuary. Slab floor includes at least two graveslabs of 1692 and 1843. Walls and roof as nave.

North wall: wall face has a pronounced outward slope. Corbel projects from wall near window but does not look to be of any age, though Howse (1949) claimed that had supported a beam that carried what he termed the 'Lenten veil'.

East wall: splayed window and to the south of it a sunken patch that carried a memorial now in Whitton church.

South wall: splayed window and piscina just to the east of it. Additionally some other fittings have been built into the wall including a shallow recess with a semi-circular head, and a protruding stone that looks like a small stoup in profile. Above this are metal fittings formerly holding a mural tablet?

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Piscina: ogee-headed.

Font: octagonal bowl, with scalloping on the underside. Medieval, perhaps 14thC, but stem and base dates to c.1911.

Stoup: lobed, of 13thC date.

Bells: three of which one is medieval, cast by Richard le Beleyetere of Worcester, c.1450, and inscribed 'Sancta Radegunda ora pro nobis'.

Chest: dug-out, in tower.

[Note: some of these items are believed to have been stolen from the church late in 1996].

CHURCHYARD

A near rectangular churchyard set on an east-facing hillside, with an element of deliberate terracing at the west end, and a marked slope the north of the church. Prior to the late 19thC it was extended, though not substantially, on the downhill side. It is now rather overgrown and the most recent burials seem to date from the 1960s.

Boundary: modern wire fences on the east and north, a new wooden fence on the south, and impenetrable vegetation on the west.

Monuments: these lie on the south side of the church and are primarily 19thC though the earliest noted was of 1780. Undulations in this area suggest numbers of unmarked graves. Modern burials are placed on a terrace to the east of the chancel.

Furniture: the octagonal basin of a 15thC sandstone font is mounted on circular stones and incorporated into a circular stone seat at the head of a flight of steps leading from the main entrance.

Earthworks: the eastern slopes have been cut into three wide terraces, for burials.

Ancillary features: a single wrought iron gate gives access on the east side to Pilleth Court, while the main entrance - also via a wrought iron gate - is on the south.

North of the tower is the holy well, approached by five stone steps. Lined with stone to a depth of c.2m, though natural rock for rear face. It was formerly roofed over and was reputed for its healing properties in the Middle Age. Partly restored, possibly after the church fire of 1894.

Vegetation: no yews; several large fir trees close to the northern boundary.

SOURCES

Archaeologia Cambrensis 1847, 329
Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings
CPAT Field Visit: 13 October 1996
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 249
Haslam 1979, 267
Howse 1949, 261
Williams 1905, 311
Wynn-Jones 1989

CONDITION

Pilleth church is in a poor condition. Externally there are problems on the north side where not only is the north-east angle buttressed, but timber props support the bulging wall around the sanctuary window. There is a gap between the tower and nave wall which lets in water, there are cracks in the tower and the buttress on the north side is pulling away from the tower wall. Woodworm is attacking the seats. And of course the roof remains without slates.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Medium to Good

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Medium to Good

Group value: Medium

Presteigne

Diocese Hereford

Dedication Andrew

PRN 16939

NGR SO31596458

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Andrew's church lies on the northern side of Presteigne in the valley of the River Lugg, which here constitutes the boundary with England. Unusually it is the architecture rather than documentary sources that suggest a Saxon origin. Subsequently, the building underwent various major changes, terminating in a major rebuilding of the chancel and south side in the 15thC. On this basis alone it is arguably the most interesting church in the region, and it also retains an interesting range of fittings.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

A complex church which would benefit from a very detailed survey. More than one possible building sequence can be offered.

A small Saxon church, on the site of the eastern part of north aisle, conjecturally a nave and a narrower chancel - masonry only, no windows and therefore an assumption only.

Succeeded by an early Norman building with longer yet narrow nave, two windows, a west door and a chancel arch; possibly there was another element at west end of present south aisle.

A rebuild in Romanesque style (c.1200 according to Haslam who claims that the work was begun then halted), involving widened nave and arcaded south aisle in distinctive fabric ('D'). Two Norman windows rebuilt into new wall on north, but elsewhere on west end new windows with cream freestone dressings and a rood loft doorway in the same masonry further to south than the Norman chancel arch (all three built into walls); the Romanesque piers in north arcade also of similar dressed stone.

Earlier 14thC modifications, with formation of central nave and two aisles, re-setting of two Romanesque piers, creation of new west doorway; tower added on south.

In the 15thC nave raised, clerestory added with some re-use of medieval masonry, chancel added and south aisle widened together with addition of lady chapel though masonry used for chancel extension differs from that used for south aisle and lady chapel; upper part of tower built (or rebuilt) and new window inserted.

HISTORY

Presteigne's church, architecturally much the best in Radnorshire, drew its wealth from the Herefordshire part of the parish, and is still in the diocese of Hereford. From the 13thC to the Reformation the Augustinian Canons of Wigmore Abbey held the rectory of Presteigne, and were responsible for some of the late medieval developments including the fine chancel.

The date of origin of the church is unknown. Though Presteigne does not appear in Domesday Book, it has generally been assumed that there was a late Saxon church here on the basis of masonry survivals. What cannot be doubted is that there was a Norman church here.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535, Presteigne was referred to as 'the Vicaria de Prestene' and returned the relatively high value of £19 2s.

Williams (in 1818) recorded that a stone over the east window was inscribed in relief the three initial letters M P L, with the date 1244. These letters were then generally taken to mean "Mortimerus Posuit Libeus", i.e. "This part of the church Mortimer had the pleasure to erect". Williams also noted two sundials on the tower, and a mutilated stone cross "on the right hand of the walk that leads to the grand entrance" of the church. The entrance from the town into the churchyard was described as a stone structure, roofed and slated, with a gateway in the centre, and on the west wall an inscription "Opus Joannis Robinson - Lignum inveni, Saxum reliqui An. 1710". This was pulled down in 1891.

One restoration took place in 1854/55, when galleries covering the Lady Chapel and north aisle were removed, existing pews were taken out, and the chancel arch was partially reconstructed.

Another restoration in 1889-91 by J L Pearson, who repaired the nave, the aisle's west windows, and the roofs generally, and also designed the ornate chancel and south aisle screens; and there was a third in 1927, when the walls were stripped. The Norman stonework came to light in the restoration of 1889-91.

ARCHITECTURE

Presteigne church consists of a nave, a wider chancel, north and south lean-to aisles, a south (lady) chapel, and a west tower that intrudes into the south-western sector of the south aisle. It is oriented west-north-west/east-south-east but for the purposes of description 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted.

Fabrics: 'A' of medium to large blocks and some slabs of sandstone of mixed colours (buff, orange, olive etc), some coursing.

'B' is of medium to large blocks and some slabs of creamy grey freestone, better finished than 'A', and regularly coursed.

'C' is of medium sized blocks and some slabs of red with occasional light coloured sandstone, some coursing.

'D' lumps of brown, red and grey sandstone, small to medium in size, and rather irregular in appearance; traces of render and limewash on a few stones. Interspersed are zones of olive-grey mudstone slabs in horizontal bands giving coursed effect; quoins of large dressed blocks of sandstone.

'E' brownish-grey sandstone, occasionally other colours, predominantly in slabs rather than blocks.

'F' small to medium irregular lumps of greyish-brown fine-grained sedimentary rock incorporating some waterworn pebbles; no real coursing.

'G' medium to large blocks of mustard yellow sandstone, regular in shape and carefully tooled, effectively ashlar facing (cf rubble masonry inside chancel).

'F' has been claimed as Saxon; 'D' is probably 12thC Norman, but in north aisle has also been re-cycled in Victorian era. 'C' and 'G' are Perpendicular, probably 15thC. 'E' could be 14thC.

Roofs: slates, simple ridge tiles, and highly decorated finials.

Drainage: hint of a trench around parts of north and east sides; downpipes lead into drains.

Exterior

Tower. General. First stage in Fabric 'A', probably 14thC; 2nd and 3rd stages in Fabric 'B' and are 15thC as are the buttresses; the change from 'A' to 'B' is consistent across the faces. Chamfered plinth to height of 0.5m; first stage topped by string-course (of chamfered freestone slabs) about half way up face of tower; 2nd stage inset terminating in string-course; 3rd stage inset topped by embattled parapet. String-courses run around buttresses. Stair turret in north-west corner with weathervane over caphouse; flag pole in south-east corner.

North wall: stepped angle buttresses rise above aisle roof level; more than halfway up a corbel projects from the wall face as does a linear roof support, though this only for half length of wall: they are indicators of the former aisle. At bottom of second stage is a two-centred arched window, with ogee-headed light and chamfered jambs, all original. Above is two-centred arched belfry window with string-course raised over it to act as hoodmoulding; two louvred lights, ogee and cusped heads with quatrefoil over, double moulded chamfers; dressings look clean but presumed to be original. Cross-shaped slit just below battlements.

East wall: aisle roof rises to within 1.5m of first string-course. Windows as in north wall. Top stage has two waterspouts and a cross slit in a merlon.

South wall: broad Perpendicular doorway with double chamfers, the outer with half-pyramidal stops, though these could belong to an earlier doorway; four-centred arch almost triangular; two red sandstone dressed stones are replacements. Above in the 1st stage is an inserted Perpendicular four-centred window with two trefoil-headed lights and four panels above; mullion and one jamb stone replaced in red sandstone, but tracery and panels in creamy stone, different from jambs. If window inserted, it has been done excellently. 2nd stage window is different from other sides - a rectangular window with two ogee-headed cusped lights (of standard pattern) with smaller lights above; one mullion stone replaced. Above this a standard belfry window, perhaps with some replacement(?), a clock face and above, the standard cross-shaped slit.

West wall: in middle of 1st stage is a rectangular, chamfered window, and in the 2nd stage, two standard windows; above two waterspouts and a cross-slit. Stair in north-west angle lit by six chamfered slits - three in 1st stage, one in 2nd, two in 3rd - of slightly varying size; one shows some replacement of jamb stones.

Nave. General. Basically an early 14thC build. Only parts of nave visible externally.

North wall: only clerestory visible; Fabric 'C'. Four small windows, with two-centred heads and cusped ogee tracery, utilising several different sandstones for dressings, perhaps indicating re-use; and at least one piece of Norman dressed stone built into wall. Fifth clerestory window - balancing that in the south wall at west end - is missing and no sign of blocking.

East wall: roof has different pitch to that of chancel, a maximum of 0.5m higher at apex converging to nothing at eaves.

South wall: south aisle blocks most of this; visible only behind north face of tower where one small clerestory window visible.

West wall: stepped angle buttresses support nave angles and these have appearance of being added, the stones of the wall face being stripped out to allow bonding and gaps around them then filled in with other material. At ground level is two-centred arched doorway in Perpendicular style, with slightly convex double chamfers without stops, and a hoodmoulding with much weathered human-headed stops. Over this is a fine Perpendicular window of five lights, each with trefoil tracery, and four triangular headed panels with cusped-tracery above; chamfered dressings mainly original though mullions replaced. Relieving arch surmounted by carving of St Andrew, earlier than the architecture (see below). North of door and set against buttress is a stone-walled 'box' with grille in front, presumably associated with the heating system. Faces of nave and aisles consistent in appearance, but complex. Southern lower portions of nave wall and most if not all of adjacent south aisle in banded 'D'; likewise a small portion of walling behind north buttress. Around this and forming most of face of north aisle is similar masonry but lacking the banding. This could be re-used 'D' presumably of Victorian date. Above the doorway is 'E', while around upper part of window and above it is 'C'.

North aisle. North wall: three different Perpendicular windows plus others. From north-east corner: i) two-centred arched window having three stepped lights with cusped tracery, the centre light with a cinquefoil head; many of the dressings are replaced. ii) blocked round-headed window with dressings of vesicular masonry, but no sill; iii) blocked window similar in all respects to ii) but for absence of round head, instead a flat slab of similar stone; iv) rectangular window of four lights with cusped ogee heads, the tracery in pink sandstone is original, the yellow sandstone of the chamfered surround is not so convincing; v) another two-

centred arched window with three lights but of slightly different size to i) and the cusped heads all in cream sandstone. Certainly some replacement at top of arch and it is possible that much of it is Victorian; vi) projecting chimney stack with chimney protruding above roof level. Base of wall in Fabric 'F', most in evidence at east end but could conceivably run for almost whole length though less convincing near north-west corner. Upper part of wall at west end in distinctive 'D' masonry, includes two Norman windows and also two places where fragments of Norman dressings built into wall face. One of these is beside the most easterly window, its insertion in the 14thC removing another Norman window. Further west the central, Perpendicular, window is also inserted though it is difficult to determine the fabric, not least because of the presence of ivy and a large oil tank. Much of the western portion of wall is in same rebuilt 'D' as is visible on west face of this aisle.

East wall: north-east corner has Victorian quoins; the masonry on the small part of the east wall that is visible could be re-built 'D', but it does appear to run behind and thus pre-date chancel wall.

West wall: partly described in section on adjacent nave; masonry is re-built fabric 'B'. One two-centred arched window with two lights contained trefoil tracery; hoodmoulding above. Wholly Victorian and no obvious sign that inserted.

Chancel. General. Of mid-15thC date, all in Fabric 'G'. Chamfered string-course at 1m; a second hollow-chamfered string-course at window level; 3rd string-course acts as base of a parapet. Integral buttresses, rising as high as 3rd string-course, have cinquefoil decoration on their gables, and pinnacles above.

North wall: polygonal rood loft stair turret projects in north-west corner; three small, chamfered, slit windows. Three main windows in wall conform to same Perpendicular pattern: two-centred arched heads, three cinquefoil headed lights with traceried panels above; most if not all of tracery replaced.

East wall: large four-centred east window of two sets of five lights divided by transom, all with cinquefoil heads; much replacement of dressings. 1.5m off ground and just to south of main window is a small slit window, internally splayed but now blocked. A broad, door-like rectangular opening with complex chamfers, now blocked, lies below main window; it is now 0.7m high but could continue below current ground level; purpose uncertain.

South wall: single window, of same form as those in north wall; all tracery replaced.

South (Lady) chapel. General. A variation on 'G' inasmuch as pink and grey sandstone is used as well as yellow, the pink probably being replacement masonry. A string-course high up on wall on east and south, stepped up and down to follow eaves, and acting as base of parapet.

East wall: two windows, upper one central to apex unlike lower one. Lower has four-centred arch, hollow chamfers and a hoodmoulding over it which continues as string-course but is not taken round the diagonal buttress at south-east corner; three lights with cinquefoil tracery and four panels above with trefoil tracery; mullions and some tracery in replaced dull red or creamy yellow sandstone. Upper window has squat, four-centred arched head with three lights and six panels with trefoil tracery above; some replaced dressings in red sandstone. The hoodmoulding over the window and much of the higher part of the gable also reconstructed in red sandstone masonry. In front of lower part of wall is a 'block house' of 20thC date for a boiler. Wall base has chamfered plinth (visible also on south wall of chancel where it stops short of south-east buttress). One block in wall acts as memorial with inscribed dates of 1830 & 1834.

South wall: the string course below the eaves sports a much weathered armorial plaque near wall centre. Two windows: that to east is same as east window; some tracery and most of the jambstones are original. To west is a smaller window of three lights with cusped heads, almost Y-tracery in a two-centred headed arch; again some tracery and most of jambstones are original; this window is re-used in the 15thC chapel. Hoodmoulding like many others could be either new or replaced. Below window is a priest's door, the chamfered plinth acts as label over top, the jambs are original but the ornate head is of no particular type and is clearly Victorian. Angle buttress contains recess now filled by plain armorial plate of Victorian date. Two slabs in wall act as memorials of 1822/1834 and 1755.

South aisle. General. Thought to have been rebuilt c.1460 probably as three chantry chapels. Features evident in south chapel are continued in south aisle, namely basal chamfered plinth and hollow chamfered string-course below parapet. Same mixture of sandstones as in south chapel.

South wall: three remarkable windows each having large triangular head with unusual tracery; cusped, ogee-headed lights and broad panels above. Little of the original dressed stone survives in windows, a few tracery fragments only, and some grey jambstones which might be original. Above each window is a gargoyle-like protrusion from the string-course, that over the centre window could be armorial, the other two are too weathered for identification. Buttresses have recesses for shields, that in more easterly are the Mortimer arms, clearly a replacement; one buttress stone has sharpening marks. Wall butts against tower.

Interior

Porch (Tower). General. Flagged floor. Ceiled in stones on edge, with vaulting to a central (now blocked) roundel originally used for lifting bells; arches spring from wall angles, and medial ribs spring from two-centred blind arches on each wall.

North wall: four-centred chamfered arched doorway matches that of outer doorway on south.

South wall: the reveal considerably larger than present doorway.

Nave. General. Black and red tiled floor edged by heating vents. At rear of nave (in line with last piers of arcades) is a tiled plinth reached by two steps and containing numerous heating grilles. Body of nave has seats set on wooden block flooring. Roof of four bays with simple tie-beams separated by multiple arch-braced collars on a collar purlin. Is this 14thC or a recent replacement? Walls plastered except for freestone dressings.

North wall: dominated by arcade of six bays; the two westernmost piers are Romanesque, round with octagonal capitals. Some replacement of stonework and base of one pier was rebuilt later in medieval era. Romanesque stonework in creamy white sandstone, rest of piers in grey sandstone. Arches are two-centred and double-chamfered, but final, most easterly, bay has four-centred arch with wider span due to absence of a respond, because of respect for earlier arch in east wall of north aisle/nave (see below). Wall over the arches is plastered, except where mural fragments have been uncovered, and these still visible though largely incomprehensible. Four small clerestory windows with simple splayed embrasures placed over spandrels in arcade but no indication of a fifth (as noted above).

East wall: high two-centred chancel arch dying into chamfered wall butts which splay outwards as they rise; early 14thC. The stonework of the early 14thC chancel arch dies into the piers. Jonathan Williams recorded at beginning of 19thC that wall above was painted with figures of Moses and Aaron on the west and Death and Time on the east.

South wall: six-bay arcade with octagonal piers showing some stonework replacement and some variation in the style of the bases. Five clerestory windows but no obvious murals.

West wall: contains west door, its reveal a two-centred embrasure with edge stones for the arch and a chamfer on the inside of the door arch only; above is the splayed west window. Sealed in the wall on north side are incomplete remains of rounded arch in vesicular stone comparable with windows visible in external face of north aisle, while the jambstones are in red sandstone; interrupted by the respond of the arcade. This door arch is considered by most authorities to be Norman work (pace Haslam). Above this is the chamfered edge of a window embrasure partly plastered over, and in different material, a creamy freestone. [On the opposite side and interrupted by south arcade respond is a similar window embrasure in chamfered freestone; enough is visible to suggest a peaked, possibly two-centred arch].

North aisle. General. Floor is as nave and shares same raised platform at rear. Roof is lean-to with six arch-braced trusses supporting main purlin. Plastered walls.

North wall: series of features which from west are: i) Radnorshire militia colours; ii) splayed embrasure of window with plastered jambs but bare arch; iii) tapestry of early 16thC (see below; removed for security reasons since preliminary report prepared); iv) window embrasure with segmental head but virtually no splay; v) beneath iv) is tomb recess with semi-circular head and complex moulding, and containing a decorated coffin lid of ?c.1240; vi) complete round-headed window embrasure in vesicular masonry, now blocked; lacks sill; vii) 19thC marble plaque with stone one below; viii) west side of window embrasure similar in its stonework to vi); ix) deeply splayed window embrasure, the arch of the embrasure showing signs of reconstruction.

East wall: semi-circular chancel arch in vesicular stonework set in wall, together with jambstones of north side nearer to ground level. To south of this is the doorway to rood loft, recessed in at an angle, and the quoins on north side are in 19thC red sandstone; in the recessed wall is a squint to the altar. Above and behind the pulpit are the remains of another arch, with an internal chamfer, the arch almost triangular rather than two-centred, and in the creamy white freestone of the two blocked windows at the west end of the nave; this appears to be an earlier rood loft entry.

South wall: arcade.

West wall: Victorian window embrasure with just the arch dressings left unplastered.

Chancel. General. Built in fully developed Perpendicular style. Tiled floor with encaustic patterns; choir stalls raised on wooden plinths; three steps up to sanctuary and altar; sanctuary paved with stone slabs and carpeted over. Late medieval (or Tudor) roof of 72 panels divided by moulded ribs and resting on wall posts. Walls unplastered, and window reveals moulded and without splays.

North wall: a change in consistency of the fabric towards east end where more rubble blocks than slabs; also wall inset at a level just below window arch base; two of the three roof corbels are set on the wall inset, the third above it. Rood loft doorway is Tudor. Range of wall monuments (see below).

East wall: main east window with four-centred head. Several 18thC monuments.

South wall: contains two bays of arcade, giving onto Lady Chapel; higher than those in nave; two-centred arches with complex octagonal moulding. Over and around the only window the consistency of the fabric changes as on north wall, and wall face is similarly inset.

South (Lady) Chapel. General. Black and red tiled floor, and sanctuary has encaustic tiles. One step up from south aisle and two to altar. Roof has two tie-beams alternating with 19thC arch-braced corbelled trusses. Organ beneath arcade protrudes into chapel. Bare masonry and of bigger more regular blocks, comparable with exterior. Little splays to window.

North wall: two bays of arcade; one arch stone replaced.

East wall: two windows; the upper added supposedly about 1560, to light a post-Reformation gallery.

South wall: simple alcove to priest's door. Original Decorated ogee-headed recess for piscina with complex moulded chamfers, re-set in wall. Range of monuments, all 19thC and 20thC.

West wall: two-centred arch to south aisle in red sandstone and clearly Victorian; above it rubble walling of grey and yellow masonry unlike anything seen elsewhere in church.

South aisle. General. Of two widths: most of aisle is same width as lady chapel, but because of placement of tower, it narrows considerably at west end. Part taken up with vestry which is inaccessible. Tiles and wooden floor as in nave; gravestone of 1582 set in floor near east wall. Roof has five tie-beams with vertical struts to collars; arch-braced collars between. Bare walls. Floor lower than porch with three steps down at south door.

North wall: shows clerestory windows of nave, a string-course just below, both features of the exterior of nave, and about 1m lower, the corbels for former lean-to roof.

East wall: evidence of rebuilding of chancel arch. However, the late 14thC north respond of the main arch has a squint to the chancel.

South wall: several memorials of 18thC and 19thC date (see below).

West wall: rectangular window with chamfered dressings in what is east wall of tower at level of main aisle windows. Chamfered plinth retained at base of tower, and also the angle buttress at north-east corner of tower. The latter is stepped not only in conventional buttress form, but also one step on south face which is related to relict string-course high up on north wall.

Narrower part of aisle is approached from east under an arch. On buttress just to east of this is a corbel and fragment of string-course, further indicators of the earlier and narrower south aisle.

South wall: Four-centred doorway embrasure, and above it is a smaller four-centred doorway with half-pyramidal stops to chamfers. To west is the tower access by a small four-centred doorway, with some dressings replaced. 19thC mural tablets on south wall.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Sculpture: St Andrew - a small relief, perhaps Romanesque, above the west window of the nave outside; seated full-face with his right hand raised in blessing.

Font: plain, octagonal bowl; 14thC,

Mortar: small bulbous bowl of c.1200, found near Stapleton Castle, lies near font at west end of nave.

Stained glass: "in Tudor window in Lady Chapel is a jumble of early 15thC pieces remaining from famous windows already spoiled in the 17thC. East window by Powell, 1855; also two panels at the west end" (Haslam).

Tapestry: "Christ's Entry to Jerusalem. Woven in Flanders in early 16thC. From one of the same cartoons as a set made for Canterbury Cathedral, one of which is now in La Chaise Dieu, Aix-en-Provence. Used as altarpiece in 18thC" (Haslam). Now sold.

Paintings: "Holy Family with the infant St John and another child; executed in the style of Rosso Fiorentino. Presteigne Church, a late 17thC perspective in oil with figures in another hand" (Haslam).

Wardens' table: dated 1666 with inscription; against north wall of north aisle.

Carillon: in the tower, made in 1728 (or 1726 according to a different source).

Candelabrum: Georgian, three-tier design.

Monuments: "in a low semi-circular arched recess in north aisle is a tapered coffin lid with a large foliate cross in relief; c.1240. The cross is circled and has curled leaf enrichment; the shaft has fleurs-de-lys branching from it and rests on semicircular arcading" (Haslam).

In chancel, on north wall: Revd James Bull (d.1799); Augustus West (d.1893); Rev William Whalley (d.1795); Francis Owen (d.1686) and Johan Owen (d.1687); and above it an illegible tablet with Baroque surround, c.1690; Revd James Beebee (d.1841) by Gardner, Cheltenham; Evan(us) Davies (d.1672), curly columns, putti on the pediment, and gilded stone foliage; two other 19thC monuments; on east wall: Elizabeth Owen (d.1705), straight columns and the inscription in an oval garland, again gilded stone with putti on the pediment; Thomas and Susanna Owen (d.1732 and 1725) by Richard Kingsland, tabernacle

with composite pilasters; on south wall: Edward Parsons (d.1811); Henry Parsons (d.1824); Cecil Parsons (d.1876). On south wall of vestry (south aisle): Richard Owen (d.1748), open pediment with marble pilasters; Mary Piggott (d.1790) and John Piggott (d.1813); others of 19thC date.

Registers: from 1561.

Bells: eight of which six cast in Gloucester in 1717.

Victorian fittings include:

Screens: chancel and south aisle screens, 1889-91.

Pulpit: stone, designed by Pearson.

Lectern: brass on a tripod base.

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is irregular and rectilinear in shape. It is level but there is a gradual drop in this part of the town to the River Lugg, which runs less than 100m to the north of the church.

It is well-maintained, although a little untidy in south-west sector.

The yard is enclosed by a wall which differs in its construction around the perimeter. On the south, the mortared stone wall rises to over 2m in height and is replaced in brick in places. On the east it is more of a revetment wall with the church interior raised over 1m above the external road, and the same is true on the north side, though here gardens and houses back onto the churchyard.

Monuments: gravestones are quite well spread, though some areas - e.g. to the west of the church - are devoid of stones. Many of the older stones are leant against the churchyard wall, particularly on the south side. A reasonable number of 18thC slabs survive, the earliest noted being 1718.

Furniture: three shafts are set in churchyard. Those near to north-west entrance and just to west of tower are octagonal and are in fact pinnacles from church tower, erected in the 17thC and taken down in 1891. That near south entrance is more square in section with four stopped chamfers, one inset face, and is fixed in an octagonal base. It is c.0.9m high.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: one small wooden gate plus one larger one at south corner; a single gate in north-east corner, and open access in north-west. Tarmac paths.

Vegetation: five yew trees, all small, and some deciduous trees.

REFERENCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1985
Church Guide 1984
CPAT Field Visit: 15 February 1996
County SMR
Davies 1905, 202
Faculty 1854: Hereford Diocese Annual Box 1854 (1) (HRO)
Haslam 1979, 267
Howse 1949, 243

NMR, Aberystwyth
Taylor and Taylor 1965, 497

CONDITION

Occasional cracks are visible as at west end of nave, in plaster over south arcade etc, and there are a few problems with the plaster in the nave, as suggested by recent re-plastering in the north aisle.

Generally okay.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Good to Very Good

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor to Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Very Good

Group value: Medium

Rhayader

Diocese	Swansea and Brecon	Dedication	Clement
PRN	16940	NGR	SN96936815
		Previous dedication	Cynllo

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Clement's church lies on the north-western edge of Rhayader overlooking the Wye Valley. The present church was completely rebuilt in the period 1887-1897 and retains only an early font and some 18thC gravestones in the rectangular churchyard.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church completely rebuilt in late 19thC, the only remnant of the earlier churches being the font.

HISTORY

It has been suggested that the original church was probably built by the Lord Rhys to serve his castle at Rhayader. Now dedicated to St Clement it was traditionally dedicated to St Cynllo.

The church is recorded as 'Ecclesia de Raedr' in the 1291 Taxatio when it was valued at only 6s 8d.

One predecessor of the present building fell down about 1772. Its successor was described by Jonathan Williams in 1818 as "built in the form of an oblong square...a plain but neat edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, tower and a porch; a timber partition separates the chancel from the nave; on the east side is a large window with a semi-circular head; two windows of similar construction are on the south side and one on the west. The old church was much more spacious than the present one, containing an aisle on each side of the nave and chancel..... The quadrangular stone-tower, embellished with turrets, was erected in the year 1783". On digging the foundation for this new tower, a great number of skeletons were discovered about a foot below the ground surface.

The present structure was built anew by S. W. Williams of Rhayader between 1887 and 1897 in the Early English style. The north aisle appears to have been a late addition in 1897.

ARCHITECTURE

Rhayader church has a nave and chancel, a north aisle, a west tower with a store room on its north side, and a south porch almost centrally placed to the nave. It is aligned west-south-west/east-north-east, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted.

Fabric: small to medium slabs with a few blocks of grey micaceous shaley rock; random coursing. Some minor variations in colour with the chancel in particular showing more variety. Window dressings, quoins etc in yellow sandstone.

Roofs: slates with slate ridge tiles; cross finials at east ends of north aisle, nave and chancel. Chimney

protrudes from north-east corner of north aisle roof.

Drainage: church terraced into slope on north side, and downpipes on this side may feed into deeper drainage gully. Nothing obvious on south though there are downpipes, and around tower the ground is tarmac.

Exterior

Tower. General. Battered base to c.1.3m terminating at a freestone string-course. Wall then plain up to a cavetto string-course at the base of a battlemented parapet. Stair turret in south-west corner with weathercock above. South wall has round-headed doorway with voussoirs, and a plaque above gives date of construction as 1887. Windows are simple trefoil-headed lights with chamfered dressings, hoodmouldings with decorative stops and relieving arches: Early English style. Belfry windows are louvred, and south, west and north sides have slit windows in addition to standard windows.

Body of building. General. Chamfered plinth forms base for all walls. Chancel additionally has string-course below window level. Nave only buttressed. Windows of standard pattern as tower, but east window of three plain lancets with continuous hoodmoulding, and on south nave has one window of paired lancets. Porch has a high south doorway with a two-centred arch and chamfers with broach stops; otherwise conforms to general uniformity of structure.

Interior

Tower. General. Modern tiled floor. Wooden ceiling on corbels. Plastered and whitewashed walls. Benefaction board of 1810 on south wall. East wall has two-centred arch to body of church.

North aisle. General. Floor as nave, but carpet between benches which face to the south. Roof of seven bays with collars and purlins, including screened east end which acts as organ chamber and vestry. North wall has one painting and war memorial plaques.

Nave. General. Wooden parquet flooring. Walls plastered and whitewashed. A roof of seven bays of arched-braced collars resting on corbels runs across part of chancel (two bays), the divide between nave and chancel being marked by more ornate corbels and wall posts. North wall has three-bay arcade with two-centred arches and hoodmouldings over, the south wall one 20thC brass.

Chancel. General. Haslam describes the arrangement of the chancel as an intelligent compromise between the local single-chamber plan and Victorian convention. The choir keeps the width and height of the nave but has special treatment in the south window (with its clustered wall arcade) and in the north parclose screen; only the sanctuary narrows with an arch. One step up to chancel, one to sanctuary, three to altar. Entrance to sanctuary has large two-centred arch with hoodmoulding. Sanctuary has patterned tiled floor and carpet, and over it an angular wagon roof. North wall contains a further bay with the parclose screen, behind which is the organ. 20thC brass and aumbry in sanctuary. East wall has polychrome tiles behind altar. On south a metal plaque of early 20thC date and a sedile.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: 11thC or 12thC, circular and with four projecting heads.

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is rectilinear and is placed on the eastern lip of the Wye Valley with a steep drop to the valley floor immediately to the west. The ground level within slopes from north to south.

It continues to be used for modern burial and is untidy in places though not overgrown.

The boundary now consists primarily of a stone wall, though on the north this is not in evidence; instead there is a bank with a hedge on top, and the external ground level is some 0.5m higher than the interior. The stone wall picks up on the east and notwithstanding some internal banking the external ground level is 0.5m lower. Buildings and the stone wall continue on the south, and on the west the wall rises above the valley drop and again there is some evidence of the churchyard being slightly raised.

Monuments: the churchyard is well packed with visible graves, though more densely on the south than on the north where the majority are later 19thC and 20thC. Some late 18thC gravestones and slabs on the south side of the church. The earliest noted is 1758.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: the interior is irregular with terraces that are presumed to be largely the result of grave digging. The southern third of the area is distinguished by a scarp running the full width which indicates an earlier boundary linking to a change in alignment on the western side.

Ancillary features: ornamental metal gate in extreme north-east corner gives access to grass path running around the perimeter. Main entrance in middle of east side with double wooden gates and a tarmac path. In the south-east corner is a pair of metal gates with a tarmac path along the southern edge to a modern burial area.

Vegetation: yew hedge to west of tower, and five yew bushes on the aforementioned earlier boundary. Large pines on north-west and along west edge.

REFERENCES

CPAT Field Visit: 27 February 1996
Davies, 1905, 282
Faculty 1867: NLW/SD/F/572
Faculty 1897: NLW/SD/F/573
Haslam 1979, 272
Howse 1949, 244 & 262
Silvester 1994, 146

CONDITION

Some general deterioration with slates slipping off roof, and plaster flaking internally.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor

Rhulen

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** David**PRN** 16944**NGR** SO13774984

GENERAL SUMMARY

To Haslam the most unassuming of all the Radnorshire rural churches, a compliment in itself. The church of St David lies in the hills some 10km east of Builth Wells. Despite its small size it possibly has quite a complex architectural history commencing in the 13thC, and it has been claimed as one of the earliest churches in Radnorshire. Apart from the font there is little of medieval date inside; but the churchyard was originally sub-circular and the foundation is likely to have emerged in the early medieval period.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

A lack of diagnostic architectural features complicates the dating of specific phases and there is no general agreement amongst the writers on Rhulen.

Nave and chancel thought to be in one originally, probably in the second half of 13thC. East end extended but not dated, possibly in 14thC, and certainly prior to 1723. West end also extended for c.3m, perhaps as late as 18thC, and the partition wall inserted at an unknown date; windows in extension subsequently blocked. West wall rebuilt 1985. The former west wall would have had a central doorway but was replaced by the present south door which could be 14thC or much later. Porch reputedly added in 17thC though the dating evidence is not clear. Some restoration in 1723(?) when window inserted in sanctuary (inscription and date carved in the frame), and perhaps barrel ceiling inserted.

HISTORY

The location and the shape of the churchyard point to an early medieval foundation, but nothing of this date survives.

Similarly the later history of Rhulen is largely unrecorded though it appears to have been a chapelry annexed to Builth. There is a 1291 Taxatio reference to 'Ecclesia de Roil' which is thought to refer to this church, though the quoted value of £10 13s 4d is remarkably high for such a small rural establishment.

The church was partially restored in 1723, but escaped Victorianisation. It was re-roofed in 1961/2 using local stone slates as before; and in 1985 the west wall was taken down and rebuilt re-using the same stone.

ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel in one, a belfry over the west part of building which has a separate external entrance and a south porch. It is aligned west-south-west/east-north-east, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted.

Fabrics: 'A,' is of roughly coursed slabs of shale.

'B' is uncoursed or poorly coursed shale, frequently in thinner slabs, than 'A'.

However, the whole structure is heavily limewashed, internally and externally, effectively disguising detail.

Roofs: shale tiles.

Drainage: drain with concrete cover (or base?), around south side up to and including west wall of porch.

Exterior

Nave and chancel. General. Primarily Fabric A.

North wall: east end inset in line with chancel division (cf. interior), but on same alignment and no noticeable fabric difference; solitary window just to west of inset: crude single light with unusual trefoiled head, more like three miniature lancet heads carved from single block of stone; possible crude ashlar jamb on east. Simple splayed window known to have existed in west extension of nave no longer visible.

East wall: base battered for first 0.7m; no window; memorial slab of c.1730 affixed to wall; two projecting but broken stays high up in centre of wall indicate removal of some fixture.

South wall: largely Fabric A (though poor quality, east of porch), except for short length of wall in Fabric B west of porch; tie-beam terminals project beyond wall face (though nothing survives internally). West of the porch the wall terminal of the earlier church and blocked splayed window within the earlier masonry no longer visible because of whitewash. East of porch and lighting the chancel is a single square-headed wooden window with three round-headed leaded lights, the frame dated 1723.

West wall: door with wooden lintel; slit window above, projecting beam terminals, all obviously modern replacements.

The belfry is a wooden, pyramidal structure with weather boarding and louvred windows, surmounted by a metal æCelticÆ cross.

Porch. General. Fabric B, its apex at height of base of nave roof. No windows.

East wall: grave slab of 1803 placed against it.

South wall: of weather boarding with timber doorway, all black stained.

West wall: plain.

Interior

Porch. General. Roof on simple A-frame; floor of stone slabs. Wooden benches against east and west walls.

North wall: Cyclopean doorway with sloping shoulders and narrow flat top (cf. altar alcove), perhaps inserted into earlier wall; heavy door of 17thC date with metal hinges, its shape not conforming to doorway, and perhaps re-used.

Nave and chancel. General. Stone-slabbed floor except for dais in front of altar which has terracotta tiles. Walls plastered and whitewashed. Barrel ceiling with wall-plates set back from edges of nave walls.

North wall: inset at east end, matching exterior; one splayed window embrasure; three memorials of mid

18thC.

East wall: altar 'table' cut into thickness of wall with shouldered, truncated ogee arch over, comparable with south doorway; above this a moulded wooden beam that probably once supported a rood, with simple engraved decoration and the upper wall also cut back to a thickness comparable with altar alcove - this ledge traditionally said to be sleeping place of visiting priests before the Reformation! One mid-18thC memorial tablet set to north of altar.

South wall: splayed window embrasure, said to have possible consecration cross scratched on sill.

West wall: plain party wall separating chamber beneath belfry; date uncertain but it partially blocks former splayed window in north wall.

Belfry room: not accessible. Appears to be a simple lower chamber with stone-slabbed floor and wooden ring-beam built into wall to take belfry weight..

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: octagonal bowl of early 15thC; whitewashed.

Wooden chest: of 18thC date, in sanctuary in 1950, now removed.

Memorials: three memorials on north wall recall three generations of Proberts who died within four years of each other.

Church plate: communion cup of 1576 and matching paten: location unknown.

Bells: reportedly two medieval bells in belfry.

CHURCHYARD

Church and churchyard are set on the edge of a valley just above stream confluence. Valley reportedly called Cwm Tillo, a pointer perhaps to a former dedication? It has an irregular outline, but is broadly curvilinear, except for the angular south-east corner which is bounded by straight alignments that mark undated extension. Outside both the east and north sides is a scarp bank, its line continued as a more gentle slope across the south-east quadrant of the present churchyard.

Boundary: stone wall around present perimeter except where it disappears coincident with south-east corner extension.

Monuments: well spaced, the majority to north-east, east and south of church. Some may go back to 18thC and the most recent dates to 1994.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: none, other than scarp noted above.

Vegetation: massive yews of considerable age on east and south.

SOURCES

Church notes (in church) n.d.

CPAT Field Visit: 18 May 1995
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 250
Davies 1905, 317
Haslam 1979, 274
NMR , Aberyswyth

CONDITION

Satisfactory.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Poor to Medium

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor to Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Good

St Harmon

Diocese	Swansea and Brecon	Dedication	Harmon
PRN	16957	NGR	SN98897286

GENERAL SUMMARY

St Garmon's church occupies a near circular churchyard on the east bank of Afon Marteg less than 5km to the north of Rhayader. The church was completely rebuilt in 1821 with subsequent modifications in the early 20thC but historically it is potentially a most interesting site as the mother church of the district in the early medieval era. Internally, it has little of interest other than an early font comparable with those at nearby Rhayader and Llanwrthwl, and some interesting early 19thC memorials.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Hall-church of 1821 with a chancel added; and early 19thC features replaced by more conventional fixtures of 1908.

HISTORY

St Garmon's monastery was founded in about 6thC, and possibly dissolved after 1066. It was a clas foundation and developed as the mother church of the region. Its precise site is unknown, though it may have been within the present circular churchyard.

It appears in the St Davids' Episcopal Registers as 'Glascarmon' in 1500, and as 'Sanharmon' with a value of £9 12s 4d in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535.

Williams described the church in 1818 as consisting of a nave, chancel, porch, and a low turret containing one small bell, all in a very dilapidated condition. The old church was built in a barn-like fashion - low, long and dark, but "some years ago its reduction in size [became] necessary".

It was demolished in 1821 and a smaller church was erected by W. Evans. The Regency Gothic windows, pyramidal west bellcote, ball-finials, etc., that were designed by Evans were replaced by the present fixtures in 1908.

The 1907 Specification indicates that a flue stack/turret at the west end was to be pulled down, the floors were to be taken up, a new chancel, sanctuary and vestry were to be added together with all windows and door openings, the west gallery taken out, and heating grilles were to be inserted.

Francis Kilvert the diarist was vicar of St Harmon in 1876-7.

The bell turret of 1908 was demolished in the 1930s.

ARCHITECTURE

St Harmon's church consists of a nave, a south porch attached to the nave, a north vestry and a short

chancel. The church is oriented west-north-west/east-south-east but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted for this description.

Fabric: fabric consists of small to large slabs of weathered grey shale, though fresher on north side where grey-brown; better dressed stone used for quoins.

Roofs: slate with red ceramic ridge tiles; cross finials at west end of nave, north end of vestry and east end of chancel.

Drainage: probable drainage trench around at least part of exterior, visible as grass-covered depression, particularly on north side.

Exterior

General. Relatively plain exterior. Masonry plinth about 0.3m above ground level and projecting about 0.1m runs around building. Windows with two-centred arches containing three lights with cinquefoil tracery. East and west windows have panels above the lights, four-centred arches and hoodmouldings, all in yellow sandstone. Additionally, a small trefoiled lancet is set high up in west gable. Rings inserted under eaves at regular intervals on both north and south windows: purpose unclear. One mural tablet to a rector, Llewelyn Davies (d.1827), on east wall though church guide suggests this may have been inside the church in 1982.

Vestry conforms to same pattern, but has modern toilet block built adjacent to it, and in the space between is hung the church bell.

Porch is notably high and has a two-centred arch for main entrance.

Interior

Porch. General. Tiled floor. Rafters etc for roof. Unplastered walls with stone benches. Two-centred archway with hollow chamfers and hoodmoulding leads to nave. Above it an inscribed tablet stating that church was rebuilt in 1821.

Nave. General. Carpeted floor, with heating vents beneath, though underfloor heating no longer in use. Flush wooden block flooring beneath seating. Roof of seven bays with tie beams supporting arched-braces and small king posts; corbel supports. Walls plastered but window dressings bare. Three 19thC mural tablets on north wall, and two behind choir stalls on south side.

Chancel. General. Three steps up to chancel, sanctuary and altar. Carpets over tiles, though tiles exposed in sanctuary. Roof simply of rafters and purlins. Plastered walls.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: circular bowl, with projecting four human heads; 11thC-12thC; modern octagonal base.

Candelabrum: dated 1771, by James Haywood of Birmingham.

Monuments: Revd John Davies (d.1818), by Edward Stevens of Llandegley; all other memorials also post-date the 1813 rebuilding.

CHURCHYARD

St Harmon's churchyard is raised and also one of the most circular examples in Powys. Its northern sector is relatively flat but then the ground falls away to the south. Church and churchyard lie on east side of Afon Marteg on what is probably a river terrace.

It is well maintained.

The boundary consists of a well-made stone wall. Internally the ground is embanked, in places to a height of 1m. Externally there is a consistent drop to the ground outside; at least 1m on east, the drop is greater elsewhere, and on the west where the ground has been altered by the passage of the former railway line, the drop is nearer 4m.

Monuments: on the south and west these are regularly spaced and quite dense. 20thC graves predominate on the north and south-east, while older graves are found around the south side. These earlier ones are generally in poor condition with largely illegible inscriptions: a chest tomb of 1773 and several other 18thC gravestones could still be recognised.

Furniture: none.

Earthworks: there is some terracing on south side to accommodate graves, and the same side exhibits a broad bank inside the stone wall which could be of early date. There are references to a mound at the south-west corner of the church and the association of Garmon churches with preaching mounds may be recalled. However, there is now no sign of this feature.

Ancillary features: double iron gates at south entrance with tarmac path leading to church.

Vegetation: no yews, but a few deciduous and coniferous trees around perimeter.

SOURCES

Church Guide 1982: by R. Clew
CPAT Field Visit: 27 February 1996
Davies 1905, 275
Faculty 1907: NLW/SD/F/602
Haslam 1979, 274

CONDITION

A few minor cracks at east end. Otherwise appears to be okay but local informant indicates that roof in urgent need of repair.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor to Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Medium

Whitton

Diocese Swansea and Brecon**Dedication** David**PRN** 16975**NGR** SO27056733

GENERAL SUMMARY

St David's church at Whitton is a small, much restored building, lying some 3 miles to the north-west of Presteigne. Earlier masonry of uncertain date does survive in the tower and the lower walls of the nave and chancel, but the rest was rebuilt in 1874 and extended in 1905. There are a few features of interest within the building including an early stoup and a late 16thC monument brought from Pilleth church. The churchyard is solidly rectangular and contains little of interest.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Much of the tower, apart from the higher levels, as well as the lower parts of the nave and chancel walls, are original, though what date this implies is impossible to ascertain. Conceivably the 15thC chancel window may give a guide though this itself is re-set in Victorian walling. The upper levels are a Victorian rebuild, and the east end of the chancel was erected at the beginning of the present century.

HISTORY

The foundation date of the church is not known, but an early medieval origin seems unlikely.

It appears as 'Whytton' in the Valor of 1535, but not in the earlier Taxatios.

Glynne, in the mid-19thC, recorded a small, dark and neglected building with a low western tower, modern windows except for that in the east wall, and a modern doorway in the north wall of the chancel. The post-Reformation screen carried an inscription, and there was a porch on the south side. Howse records that prior to the restoration of 1874, there was a 14thC church with a good screen and a fine oak roof. He also claimed that it fell into a poor state of repair and was completely re-built.

In fact it was reconstructed in Victorian Gothic, the nave in 1874, the chancel in 1905. The specification for the former gives a clear idea of the extent of the rebuilding, but certain aspects, notably the use of monumental slabs for the chancel floor were changed subsequently.

The chancel was extended by 3'-4' in 1905, the gable wall being pulled down and dressings from the east window being selectively re-used.

ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of nave and chancel as a single unit, south porch, lean-to vestry on north side and a timber bell tower on stone foundation walls at west end. It is oriented west-north-west/east-south-east but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted in this report.

Fabrics: 'A' is grey tabular shale with occasional larger blocks, all regularly coursed, and roughly dressed shale quoins.

'B' has thicker slabs of shale, many manganese stained, and is irregularly coursed.

'C' consists of large regular blocks of shale, with better stones selected for quoins.

'A' could be medieval or perhaps early post-medieval; 'B' seems to be Victorian. 'C' is of 1905.

Roofs: except for tower in wooden shingles, roofs are covered by shale tiles with ceramic crested ridge tiles but no finials; vestry roof simply extension of nave/chancel.

Drainage: Broad grassed-filled gully edges most walls of church and on south side its outer edge is lined by old gravestones.

Exterior

Tower. General. Lower stages in Fabric A except where rebuilt in Fabric B; traces of render. Base battered for c1.6m. Above is a broad low broach spire over squared bell stage with open balustrade; all of tower covered in wooden shingles.

North wall: Fabric A, but above window level wall inset in Fabric B; inserted quatrefoil window with sandstone dressings.

South wall: all Fabric A except where south door inserted and top 0.5m of wall which appears to represent heightening.

West wall: all Fabric A except for inserted quatrefoil window similar to that on north, with relieving arch over, and top courses of wall.

Nave. General. Low walls.

North wall: lower part in Fabric A, upper part from window sill level in Fabric B, though Fabric A survival almost to eaves level at east and west ends of nave; two windows surrounded by 'B' masonry have double lights with cusped heads, both Victorian.

South wall: bottom 1m of wall in Fabric A covered by residual coat of render, while above is unrendered Fabric B; two windows matching those on north side.

Chancel. General. Little more than extension of nave. All three fabrics represented.

North wall: mostly hidden by vestry. Visible at extreme eastern end where Fabric C.

East wall: all Fabric C; main east window is wholly Victorian in Decorated style: three-lights with ogee-heads under two-centred arch with stopped hoodmoulding and relieving arch above. Above this is the exposed arch-braced timber of east gable, with masonry behind.

South wall: Fabric C at extreme east end, but otherwise Fabric A for perhaps lowest 1m coated in residual render, and Fabric B above; square-headed two-light window with 15thC tracery, though replacement of the head and perhaps some of the jamb stones. This was the original east window which was preserved in the 1874 restoration.

Vestry. General. Primarily in Fabric B with some Fabric C. Stone tile roof with leaded-light windows.

North wall: chamfered plinth at 1.2m; door and perhaps adjacent windows inserted or modified.

West wall: blocked doorway with window set in upper half.

Porch. General. Open timberwork structure with stone plinth in Fabric B, pierced quatrefoil panels, moulded bargeboards and pendant; slate roof with standard ceramic ridge tiles and metal cross as finial; porch set into angle of tower and off-set nave.

Interior

Porch. General. Nothing of note.

Tower. General. Ground floor only available for inspection. Walls thin; windows high up on sides; ceiled over with trapdoor access. Flooring of wooden boards at entrance, otherwise carpetted. Seats around walls for Sunday school.

North wall: no features other than mural tablet to Rev Rice James (d.1811).

South wall: internal plinth for first 1m, not readily explainable; Victorian doorway.

West wall: nothing of note.

Nave. General. Roof with cusped trusses with curved hammer braces, and a modern rood high up above chancel divide. Floor slightly lower than that of tower, approached by ramp rather than steps. Aisle carpetted, benches raised on wooden flooring. Walls, plastered and limewashed, windows widely splayed, embrasure not plastered. Simple screen separating nave from chancel, otherwise no significant details.

Chancel. General. Roof as in nave. Chancel raised above nave, carpet over Victorian tiles, choir stalls raised on wooden platforms.

North wall: blank arcading pierced by door to vestry.

East wall: reredos of Early English style blank arcading in two tiers with black marble shafts.

South wall: has piscina in niche with simple four-centred arch over; supposedly 12thC stoup on window sill; and John Price monument to west.

Vestry. General. Nothing of note.

FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Screen: three arches below a battlemented tie beam and the spandrels with Maltese crosses within pierced circles.

Font: 14thC.

Stoup: 12thC? Resting in window embrasure in the chancel, having been dug up in churchyard.

Pulpit: incorporates carved panels of late 17thC date, brought from Pilleth church.

Bench end: 15thC 'poppy head' bench end brought from Pilleth.

Monument: to John Price (d.1597) of Pilleth Court, brought from Pilleth church after its destruction by fire in

1894 and much restored in 1909. Two female figures beside the tablet, one holding a skull, the other a bird; upper section has swan-neck pediment and coat of arms.
Register: from 1600.

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard enclosure is almost an exact rectangle and there is no evidence whatsoever of an earlier perimeter.

The ground within the yard is relatively level though a faint slope can be detected on the west side. The U-shaped valley of the River Lugg forms the setting for the church, and the churchyard is perched on the edge of the terrace to the north of the river. The ground immediately surrounding the church is also flat but a short distance to the east it starts to rise to the hills that lie between the valley systems of the Lugg and Teme.

That part of the graveyard used for modern burial is well maintained, but much of the rest is overgrown.

The boundary consists of a hedge on the north-west, south-west and south-east sides while wrought iron railings edge it on the north-east.

Monuments: graves spread, though not particularly densely around all sides of the church except the north-west. The oldest lie to the south and south-west, although none of 18thC date were recognised, the earliest being from 1819. Two old stones leaning against the south wall of the church are indecipherable. There are a number of chest tombs and distinctive 19thC square box tombs with ball tops, as well as three graves with iron railings.

Furniture: north-east of the church is the war memorial consisting of a pillared cross on a two-tier plinth.

Earthworks: none.

Ancillary features: iron entrance gates lead from carpark to east of churchyard and a modern double gate leads into adjacent field on north-east. Grass paths.

Vegetation: two mature yews to south of church and a single yew on north-east boundary.

SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1992
CPAT Field Visit: 13 October 1995
Crossley and Ridgway 1949, 251
Davies 1905, 313
Faculty 1874: NLW/SD/F/678
Faculty 1905: NLW/SD/F/679
Haslam 1979, 278
Howse, 1949, 244
Wynn-Jones 1989, 2

CONDITION

Some cracks in west wall of nave and north-west angle of tower, painted over, and also around the dressings of the chancel arch. Paintwork blistering within the tower. Generally okay.

ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19th structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19th fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Poor

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