

**THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

**WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT**

**THE HISTORIC CHURCHES OF FLINTSHIRE AND  
WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH**



**CPAT Report No 313**

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WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH**

**CHURCH SURVEY**

**By BOB SILVESTER and  
PAT FROST**

**February 1999**

**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 new counties of Flintshire and Wrexham County Borough. 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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Gwaenysgor	St Mary Magdalene
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Llanasa	St Cynderyn
Mold	St Mary
Nannerch	St Mary
Nercwys	St Mary
Northop	Ss Eurgain and Peter
Trelawnyd	St Michael
Treuddyn	St Mary
Whitford	Ss Mary and Beuno
Ysceifiog	St Mary

### Wrexham County Borough

Bangor Is-y-coed	St Dunawd
Berse Drelincourt	no known dedication
Chirk	St Mary
Erbistock	St Hilary
Glyn Ceiriog	St Bridget
Gresford	All Saints
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Overton	St Mary
Penley	St Mary Magdalene
Ruabon	St Mary
Whitewell	St Mary
Worthenbury	St Deiniol
Wrexham	St Giles



# Caerwys

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St Michael**PRN** 15838**NGR** SJ12757282

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## SUMMARY

St Michael's church occupies an off-centre location in the medieval planned settlement of Caerwys, a little over 5 miles to the east of St Asaph. It has a late 13thC tower and nave to which a chancel and a north aisle were later added. The building contains a 13thC effigy, broken sepulchral slabs of 14thC date, and a range of wooden furnishings of 17thC date. The church is sited in large level churchyard with two lychgates, one originally dating to 15thC.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The tower is said to have been constructed in the late 13thC and raised probably in 1687 and again raised (or repaired) in 1769. Ellis Davies, however, thought that there had been considerable alterations to the tower in the late 15thC or early 16thC. The west end of the south nave is also thought to be from this period, though the surviving window is 14thC. Subsequently, the chancel was added to the nave and this, too, has a 14thC window though it is possibly re-set. The north aisle is perhaps an even later addition, but in its present Perpendicular form it could be a reconstruction; the east wall of the tower exhibits an earlier roofline to the north aisle but this could be a relatively modern modification, a result of a reduction in roof height. RCAHMW, however, argued that it was the south nave that was the addition, while Thomas thought that the north aisle pre-dated the chancel extension.

Together these elements give a pseudo-double-naved structure, but not quite because the chancel has an inset south wall and there is a chancel arch.

West porch from 1904.

## HISTORY

It has been suggested that the dedication to St Michael points to an early 8thC church, when the cult of St Michael became popular in Wales, and there is a well about half a mile to the west of the church known as 'Ffynnon Mihangel'. As the earliest reference to the church is in 1244 when it was nominated as a meeting place between Prince David and King Henry III and was referred to again in 1284, when compensation was paid to the rector for damage done to the church during Edward I's incursion into Wales, it is evident that there was an existing settlement and church prior to the laying out of the planned town from 1290. Whether the church, however, can be taken back into early medieval times remains to be satisfactorily established.

The church is not recorded in the Norwich taxation of 1254 but appears as 'capelle de Kerwys' in 1284 and subsequently in Pope Nicholas's Taxation of 1291 at a value of £8 1s 8d.

The town received a charter in 1290 and parts of the present building may date to this time. The tower, it has been claimed, was built on the site of a Roman observation tower, on the basis of the early fabric at the base but there is no justification for such a view. The late 13thC church was presumably a single-chambered building with the west tower linked to it on the north.

Considerable restoration and rebuilding work took place during the late 15th/early 16thC, and new east windows were inserted.

Documentation refers to re-slating the roof in 1675, which involved the purchase of 3,000 slates and 600 laths, painting the building (presumably with limewash) in 1689, and flagging the church floor in 1760, perhaps as a replacement for the rushes that were strewn over the earth floor. There is a reference to work on the top stage of the tower in 1769, perhaps an addition, though Hubbard thought this must be repair work.

Probably in the 18thC, the rood loft was taken down and utilised as a gallery at the west end of the church, though Thomas also noted some otherwise unrecorded alterations in 1810. At some time too the rood screen was taken down and used as panelling.

Sir Stephen Glynne visited Caerwys sometime in the middle of the 19thC, perhaps in 1839 when he visited other churches in the neighbourhood. He described the building in brief terms, noting the Perpendicular five-light window in what was then the chancel, and the Decorated windows in what was the south aisle. The wooden arcade pillars were noted as was the fine roof in the south aisle and its poor counterpart in the nave and chancel. These were described thus: 'The northern chancel and the nave have a rude, open roof; the compartments filled with wooden quatrefoils. In the south chancel there is a much more enriched roof; at least its cornice displays bands of vine-leaves and grapes, with pierced quatrefoils' (Glynne).

In 1894/5, the original arcade supported on timber columns between the chancel and aisle was replaced by the present stone arcading. Other work during the 1894 restoration by W. H. Spaul of Oswestry, included reslating the roofs, pulling down a vestry and building a south porch on its site, removing the west gallery and its stairs and replacing all the seating. The font, which is now sited in the west corner of the north aisle was supposed to be moved near the new south porch, though whether this happened is not clear. Decayed window dressings were renewed. The body of the church was refloored with tiles. Presumably, too, at this time the south nave and chancel roof was replaced.

The present vestry and the west porch were added in 1904.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and a slightly narrower chancel which is almost as long as the nave and shares a continuous roof line, a north aisle and a tower at its west end. A west porch abuts the nave and there is a vestry on the south side of the nave. The building is aligned fractionally south of due west.

Fabric 'A' comprises squared blocks and slabs of local limestone, mostly of medium size; irregular coursing. 'B' is of slightly bullnosed, rough cut, local limestone. 'C' is of good, fashioned slabs and blocks of limestone.

'A' may be of any date from the 13thC through to the 18thC; 'B' is attributable to the 20thC and 'C' could be 19thC or 20thC.

Roofs:- slates with blue ceramic ridge tiles which are decorative over the eastern part of the chancel; cross finials over the chancel, the west end of the nave, the west porch and south vestry. Also a chimney at the east end of the north aisle.

Drainage:- guttering and downspouts on the north and south walls lead to soakaways. Also concrete drainage channels run along the north and south walls, the latter continuing around vestry.

## Exterior

Tower - General. A four-stage western tower, battered at the base. A claim that the lowest c.0.6m of the wall



is supposedly the base of a 2ndC Roman observation tower can be dismissed: there is no physical evidence for such an assertion. Above this the walls, supposedly of 13thC date, taper to a string course about two-thirds of the way up the face of the tower. This course once formed the coping on the top of the tower, and two waterspouts protrude from it on the north side. Above the string course the walls are plumb and the bell chamber appears to have been either repaired or possibly and more likely added, in the 17thC for a tie beam in the interior carries a date of 1687. The uppermost part of the tower is battlemented and dates to 1769 - again this could reflect new building or a repair. A flagpole occupies the centre of the roof. Despite the different phases, it is not possible to distinguish different fabrics and all are classed as 'A'. Quoins are mostly limestone but occasional sandstone ones interspersed.

**North wall:-** in the first stage a single slit; the second stage has a round-headed slit, the head in pale sandstone; and above is a frameless window comprising a pair of trefoiled, round-headed lights with sunken spandrels, all in worn buff-yellow sandstone, certainly 15thC but perhaps earlier. Higher, a square-headed but frameless belfry window which contains a pair of four-centred, louvred lights with sunken spandrels. The jambs are in limestone, the arches in buff-yellow sandstone and original.

**East wall:-** abutted by the north aisle, and an earlier, steep roofline is visible on this face, about 0.4m higher than the present one. The third stage has a pair of round-headed trefoiled lights as the north wall, with their original dressings surviving. Then above the string course is a clock face (the clock by J.B. Joyce of Whitchurch from 1913, erected 1915). A standard belfry window though the dressings are in poor condition.

**South wall:-** the third stage on this side is visible above the southern nave roofline and includes a pair of trefoiled, round-headed lights. A standard belfry window, the lights as the north side and the dressings worn.

**West wall:-** first stage has a square-headed slit with voussoirs creating a relieving arch above it. Then a slit window with a two-centred head, and, against the south-west angle of the wall, a slit window lighting the tower stair. Next the standard trefoiled lights and the belfry window. Cast iron downpipes descend from the battlements.

**North Aisle - General.** Adjoins the west tower, its north wall continuous with that of the tower. In Fabric 'A', but the masonry is fractionally more regular with more medium-sized blocks than the tower and shows considerable repair work, particularly below the eaves. The quoins and a stepped diagonal buttress at the north-east corner date from 1894.

**North wall:-** from the west: i) a two-centred doorway with chamfered jambs, all in worn sandstone; adjacent to where the north aisle and tower meet. The batter at the base of the tower wall looks to have been truncated to allow for the introduction of the doorway. The door itself is studded and shows: 'TP RW CW 1780'. Could this be the date of the doorway also? ii) and iii) two windows in similar style, both exhibiting square-headed frames with labels, the more westerly renewed in 1894, the other with original jambs and perhaps the label too, but its tracery and mullion renewed. The western window contains plain two-centred lights, the eastern with two trefoiled two-centred lights. iv) a below-ground boiler house with a stepped concrete entrance on the east side. v) a diagonal buttress in regular masonry ('C'), and just beside this and below the eaves is a sandstone block inscribed William Pierce William Owen Churchwardens 182[7]' suggesting some rebuilding.

**East wall:-** the Perpendicular east window has a two-centred arch over five stepped, cusped lights; these are all in red sandstone and indicate complete renewal. (Interestingly, Thomas claimed a Decorated window in this wall). The hoodmould, however, has very weathered head-stops and these could be the only original survival. The chimney above the gable bears a cross on it.

**Chancel - General.** In 'A'. Although supposedly of different centuries there is nothing to distinguish the stonework of the north aisle and chancel and no butt joint. Unlike the nave which is on the level, the ground drops slightly so the chancel has a slope from west to east.

**East wall:-** presents a continuous face with that of the north aisle but divided from it by a stepped buttress in 'C'. A five-light window with renewed dressings. It has a two-centred arch with a hoodmould over it and five cinquefoiled, two-centred lights. Hubbard describes it as 'of transitional design, with Dec[orated] reticulated



tracery turning rectilinear. Arches upon arches, with their verticals suppressed'. However it is all renewed in pale yellow freestone.

South wall:- the wall is splayed at the base to a height of 0.2m. Features from the west are: i) a 15thC square-headed window with sunken spandrels and a pair of trefoiled, two-centred lights; some renewal of the dressings, but the jambs, one of the light heads and the label are original, and the last of these is badly broken. ii) as i) with only the mullion and part of one light arch renewed. iii) window with a two-centred arch over a pair of trefoiled, ogee-headed lights with a multifoil light above. Most of the dressings are original and it can be classed as 14thC (Hubbard). However both this window and iv) below it have been inserted in a matrix of irregular, indeed jumbled, masonry, indicative of some rebuilding here. iv) below the window set into the wall a memorial stone refers to Robert Evans, son of a Caerwys merchant who was appointed to the sinecure rectorship in 1557 at the age of 9. He died in 1582. v) masonry reverts to 'A', and a stepped diagonal buttress added during this rebuilding in 1894.

Nave - General. Slightly wider than the chancel, the change marked by a small offset of 0.2m in the south wall. In 'A', though more regular than that of the chancel. Walls splayed at the base to a height of c.0.1m.

South wall:- from the west features are: i) vestry from 1904. ii) window with a pair of weathered, trefoiled, two-centred lights of 14thC date; the mullion has been renewed but much of the stonework is original.

West wall:- this shows a plinth, chamfered at a height of c.1.6m, and above this the wall face is battered inwards slightly; also the quoins are of yellowish sandstone suggesting an original wall which could be of 13thC date, though it should be noted that the masonry is less regular than that in the south wall. There is evidence of masonry replacement relating to the construction of the 1904 porch, and above in what may be rebuilt wall is a window dating from the restoration of 1894 with a two-centred arch over a pair of trefoiled, two-centred lights with a quatrefoil above and a relieving arch of limestone voussoirs with protruding keystones.

Vestry - General. Constructed in 1904 in 'B' on the site of the former south porch.

East and west walls:- no features.

South wall:- window with a two-centred arch over a pair of trefoiled, ogee-headed lights with multifoil tracery above.

Porch - General. Constructed in 1904 in 'B' to replace the earlier south porch.

South wall:- contains a doorway with a flat four-centred arch in buff coloured sandstone. Twin, wrought iron gates were added in 1976.

## Interior

Porch - General. Built in 1904. Flagged floor includes re-used graveslabs, the walls have exposed stonework, and there is a plastered ceiling.

North and south walls:- benches fashioned from a re-used grave slab split longitudinally. A memorial stone records the erection of the porch.

East wall:- doorway to the nave has a two-centred arch with limestone voussoirs and jambs.

Tower - General. Concrete floor which is slightly raised above the level of the nave, whitewashed walls, and a boarded ceiling with one joist showing. The ground floor contains the clock mechanism. A well-worn staircase, accessed from the nave, leads to two upper chambers with planked floors.



North wall:- splayed slit window.

East wall:- entrance to the north aisle through inner and outer doors to the 2m-deep reveal. The reveal on the tower side has a segmental head. Then a door which carries a sanctuary ring and this opens to show a curious, almost round-headed arch but asymmetric as though the side has been filled in. The date of this is uncertain.

South wall:- featureless.

West wall:- splayed slit window.

North Aisle - General. Herringbone woodblock floor under the seats, but carpeted at west end; walls plastered and painted, except for some window dressings; a restored 15thC arch-braced roof incorporates some original timber; eight and a half bays formed by nine trusses that spring from 19thC stone corbels on the south wall and emerge from the wall face on the north wall; through purlins and rafters.

North wall:- in the north-west corner is an inner porch to the north door with two steps down into the interior. Lower part of wall painted brown to match the east wall dado. Stone memorial of 1732, a marble memorial of 1810, and a fine 18thC Royal Arms towards the east end.

East wall:- dado manufactured from old pews with a frieze of vine leaf trails interrupted by a panel of fighting dragons (perhaps from a rood screen though Crossley and Ridgway went to some lengths to deny that any remnants of the putative screen survived), set below the east window. Two of the pew panels have both brass plaques and painted inscriptions to Sir Thomas Mostyn recording his ownership.

South wall:- two wide arches of two orders, resting on octagonal columns from 1894-5. West of these the wall is wider by 0.4m, reflecting the original nave and narrower chancel as on the south side though here more pronounced; and there is a further two-centred arch from the aisle to the nave with slight chamfers but not convincingly old. Decalogue boards to either side of the arch..

West wall:- high, two-centred arch with limestone voussoirs to the tower, and one 20thC brass. Lower part of wall as north wall.

Nave - General. Carpeted central aisle with flush herringbone woodblock floor under the benches. Walls plastered and painted. Roof renewed in the late 19thC (?), with three arch braces - on stone corbels on the north wall above the arcade and running straight out from the south wall - creating four bays; and boarded ceiling behind the trusses.

North wall:- a spiral staircase gives access from the north-west corner to the tower with a small relatively modern, round-headed doorway and approached by eight steps running along the west wall. Dado of pew panels along the wall. Marble memorial of 1777.

East wall:- a two-centred arch divided the nave and chancel originally, but the former now extends beyond this.

South wall:- at the west end is the south doorway, its dressings renewed. Marble monuments, both of 1751.

West wall:- pure stonework. Apertures with segmental heads to west doorway and window.

Chancel - General. Two steps up from the nave, one to the sanctuary and one to the altar. Floor tiled in the 19thC but largely carpeted over and planking under the seating; mosaic floor in the sanctuary. Walls as nave. Roof replaced in late 19thC as nave; now two arch-braced collar trusses with raking struts and a boarded ceiling above.

North wall:- divided from the north aisle by a two-bay arcade of two-centred arches mounted on octagonal



stone piers which were inserted during the 1894-5 restoration to replace three timber piers. One 19thC stone memorial.

East wall:- dado around wall includes pew panels and other re-used woodwork.

South wall:- a late 14thC tomb recess with a fine cinquefoiled arch having a castellated head to the top of the arch, and containing a female effigy of slightly earlier date. Also one marble monument of 1766 and a brass First World War memorial.

Vestry - General. Dates from 1904. Linoleum floor, plastered walls with dado, and a boarded ceiling. One plaque on the south wall records the construction of the vestry and the renovation of the church.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Details derived from Hubbard with additions.

Effigy: a late 13thC or early 14thC female effigy in the late 14thC recess in the south wall. The head is framed by an arch. Traditionally identified as the wife of Dafydd ap Gruffydd, brother of Llewellyn the Last.

Sepulchral slabs: a group of broken stones and coffin lids were brought into the church at the time of the 1904 restoration and are now placed around the font. i) early 14thC four-circle cross slab in two pieces. ii) part of the head of another cross slab with four open-ended circles back to back, interlaced with a quatrefoil. Fleurs-de-lys in the circles and a flower in the centre; from the early 14thC. iii) a late 14thC slab commemorating Gyeon Fach with a foliated pattern and part of a sword. iv) slab with Latin inscription barely visible in Lombardic capitals, re-used for a 17thC burial, that of Katherine wife of Hugh (d.1666). v) slab to Gwenllian Lloyd (d.1566), with inscription and a band of guilloche around the edge of the stone.

Stained glass: the easternmost window in the chancel incorporates fragments of medieval glass, supposedly derived from a window representing St Michael and all Angels which was broken at the time of the 1894 restoration. Hubbard, however, considered the fragments to be of various dates.

Altar table: damaged by the removal of several inches from the rear legs. It has a date of 1620.

Pulpit: in oak and dated to 1628; incorporates some vine-leaf trails in panels. It has also been reported that it has the initials 'H.G.' referring to Hugh Griffith, owner of Plas Isa, Caerwys, at the end of the 17thC. The base was reconstructed in 1910.

Font: octagonal stone bowl with decorated facets, the panels outlined by grooves and one inscribed '1661 I: N: I: R'. A short octagonal stem and a stepped base. There is an iron bound font cover, and a modern crown top.

Panelling: the low chancel screen and those to the aisle include fragments of the original chancel roof (as described by Glynne) with vine trails and quatrefoils. There are also panels from pews which show dates of 1682, the arms of the Wynn family of Gwydir, and one panel with '1682 WHM', another with '1684 HG'. Balusters from the late 17thC altar rails were re-used to create the gates to the chancel. For a fuller description see Crossley and Ridgway.

Chairs: four carved oak chairs dating from the 17thC. One with a coat of arms inscribed 'A Batfelde 1661'.

Chest: with iron bands. Not dated. Not seen in 1998.

Royal Arms: George I or George II, with explanatory text below. Restored in 1984.

Decalogue boards: round heads and possibly 18thC.

Monuments: marble memorials except for i) which is in stone, to i) Richard Ffoulkes (d.1732), partly



obscured by the organ. ii) Thomas Mostyn (d.1751). iii) a similar monument to Rev. Thomas Lewis (d.1751), though more elaborate with broken pediment and heraldry between; putto. iv) Elinor Hughes (d.1759) and her parents, Roger (d.1777) and Mary (d.1809). v) Margaret Allen (d.1766) and also Thomas Jones (d.1743) with pedimented head and urn finial.

Plate: includes a silver chalice and paten (1685), two pewter flagons (1703), and a silver chalice (1750).

Bells: there are four hung in the tower. The bells are inscribed: i) 'CENWCH I'R ARGLLWYDD GANIAD NEWYDD' which was cast by W and T Mears, late of Lester Pack & Chapman of London. 1787. ii) 'CANTATE DOMINO CANTICUM NOVUM' cast as above. iii) from 1869. iv) a Sanctus bell of the 14thC inscribed 'CAMPANA MICHAELIS'.

Handbell dated 1703 and inscribed 'R.F' and 'W.T'.

19thC and 20thC furnishings and fittings include:

Monuments: marble to John Lloyd (d.1810) by T Kelley, Chester.

Stained glass: the east window by Joseph Bell and Son, depicts the Crucifixion and is dated to 1908, the east window in the north aisle depicts the Ascension from 1924, the south wall carries a Gabriel and Mary window from 1919 by Bell of Bristol, and the west window of the south nave has an Eisteddfod window, depicting bards receiving the authority of Henry VIII to hold an Eisteddfod at Caerwys in 1523.

Wooden furnishings: the organ from 1910 by John Bellamy of Denbigh, the reredos in oak from 1919; a credence from 1928, altar rails from 1956.

## CHURCHYARD

Caerwys churchyard is a medium-sized, relatively flat, almost rectangular enclosure. It was extended to the east in 1956, and a footpath east of the church defines the original extent.

Boundary:- a stone wall on all sides except the east.

Monuments:- a large number of gravemarkers are now laid flat beside the north and south paths, and there was some clearance in 1973 which included the removal of some headstones and kerbstones around the older graves. The earliest stones seen were of 1734, 1740 and 1742 to the east of the chancel, but a ledger in Welsh on the south-east side of the chancel could be 17thC. Modern burials are in the eastern extension.

Furniture:- a sundial on a brown sandstone baluster pillar is said to have been originally set up in 1608. The present plate and gnomon are inscribed 'P Jackson R. Jones Facit 1830'. It is sunk into a circular sandstone 'capital' and the pillar is mounted on a circular base; near the south vestry.

Earthworks:- the churchyard is raised slightly, by 0.3m on the south, 0.5m on the east (the difference between the old churchyard and its modern extension), and 1.0m or more on the west. Internally it is embanked by about 0.5m on the south side.

Ancillary features:- there are four entrances. Doors in the walls to the north-west and south-east of the church lead respectively to the old school and the rectory. There are lychgates at the north-east corner and on the south side, the former built in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the latter of 15thC or 16thC date with stone side walls, slightly splayed internally, and an original tie beam resting on more recent corbels; the purlins and rafters are also modern, as are the gates within it. On this beam the medieval lych cross stood. The structure was restored in 1866. Paths of concrete and tarmac.

Vegetation:- a mix of trees and bushes of no great age.

## SOURCES

Clwyd SMR

CPAT Field Visits: 7 November 1996 and 23 October 1998

Crossley and Ridgway 1945, 186

Davies 1960

Faculty: St Asaph 1894 (NLW): church restoration

Faculty: St Asaph 1956 (NLW): consecration of additional churchyard

Glynne 1884, 84

Gresham 1968, 120, 125, 171, 220, 227

Hubbard 1986, 335

Musson 1995

NMR Aberystwyth

Quinquennial Report 1988

RCAHMW 1912, 8

Soulsby 1983, 94

Thomas 1911, 8

## CONDITION

Church in reasonably good state of repair. Tower spiral staircase quite worn and dangerous. Well-kept churchyard.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Good

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Medium to Good

Group value: Medium



# Cilcain

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St Mary**PRN** 16747**NGR** SJ17666515

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## SUMMARY

St Mary's church occupies a sub-circular churchyard on the western edge of Cilcain village and is a double-naved structure with a western tower. Parts of the northern nave have been attributed to the 12th or 13thC, but most of the church including the tower is 15thC. The south nave has a spectacular Perpendicular hammerbeam roof, traditionally thought to have come from Basingwerk Abbey. There is a fragmentary font, perhaps of Norman origin, some broken 14thC sepulchral slabs, and a small amount of 16thC stained glass. The north nave is now partitioned off and used only as a vestry.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Original stone church of 13thC or even 12thC, but how much of this survives is unclear for the masonry phases are difficult to unravel. The tower and aisles are all in variations of the same masonry, but it is generally considered that, internally, part of the south wall of the north nave is original.

Thus the north nave is supposed to be the earliest but it was certainly improved with Perpendicular fenestration before being damaged by fire in 1532. Rebuilt but to a unknown degree in 1746.

The south nave is said to have been added in the 15thC, presumably replacing an earlier aisle.

Bottom portion of the tower is considered to be 15thC, but a round-headed doorway inserted in the ?18thC, and the belfry windows and battlements added in the 19thC.

South porch added 1888-9.

## HISTORY

An early medieval origin is suggested by the morphology of the churchyard and perhaps the location.

The church does not seem to have been recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254, but it is documented in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 as 'Ecclia de Kylkeyn' at a value of £11 1s 8d. Some of that 13thC building survives in the present north nave but there was a building programme in the 15thC which saw the addition of the south nave and the tower.

The north aisle was burnt down in 1532. It was rebuilt in 1746 at the personal expense of the Rev Davies, having stood without a roof for over 200 years.

It has been suggested that repairs to the roof in 1786-7, which included reslating, provided the opportunity for replacing an early roof with the carved and ornate timbers from Basingwerk Abbey, but there is no substantive evidence for this derivation though there can be little doubt that the roof was not originally designed for this church. At this time, too, a gallery may have been constructed at the west end of the south nave. Access was presumably by a staircase leading from the present alcove on the west side of the



internal doorway that leads to the north aisle. The present reredos may have been fashioned from the front of the gallery. The priest's door on the south side of the church was blocked at this time.

Restoration work by Ambrose Poynter took place in 1845/6, and included work on the nave roof which was described in detail, as were other discoveries, in 'Archaeologia Cambrensis' in the following year.

Glynne visited Cilcain at an unknown date in the 19thC. He implies that the tower was largely brick-built but may be referring to the upper stage. Noted briefly are the rebuilding of the north wall, the Perpendicular east window and the arcade with its differing pillars. The tradition that the south nave roof came from Basingwerk is reiterated.

More substantial restoration was undertaken by John Douglas in 1888-9. This included removing the plaster from the inner wall faces, screening off the nave from the north aisle, reflooring the sanctuary and the south nave and replacing the pews. The south porch was rebuilt and fitted with iron gates and two diagonal buttresses were added to the tower. The brickwork on the top of the tower was replaced by stone and a new window was inserted into the west face. Windows were renewed on the east, west and south sides. The organ loft and west gallery were removed and the east end of the north aisle was partitioned off to form a vestry which included the organ. The churchyard was levelled around the church where necessary, and soil was removed from the church floor to accommodate a cellar for the heating apparatus at the west end of the north aisle. The church was restored at the expense of William Barber Buddicom, a railway engineer of Penbedw Hall, near Nannerch. He died before the restoration was complete and his widow carried on the work in his memory.

In 1935-37 repairs to the roof were carried out by F.H. Crossley.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a double nave, though the north side is often termed a north aisle, a west tower at the west end of the north nave and a south porch. It is oriented north-east to south-west, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics: 'A' comprises irregular lumps of grey sedimentary stone (perhaps a siltstone), some limestone blocks, some buff coloured sandstone and some pebbles; randomly coursed, rough appearance and much weathered.

'B' is similar to 'A' but contains red sandstone blocks in addition. It is not clear whether 'B' is simply a variation on 'A' or a fabric in its own right.

'C' consists of regular blocks and slabs of limestone, medium in size; some coursing.

Roofs:- slate roofs with black ceramic ridge tiles over the north aisle and porch, red over the nave.

Drainage:- renewed guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. A concrete drainage channel runs the length of the north wall.

## Exterior

Tower - General. A squat tower. Lower courses in fabric 'A', and battered to a height of c.1m. Then a weathered string course c.2m above ground level, and an upper string course below the belfry; the upper part of the tower is in 'B' but the belfry string course marks the change to 'C'. Another string course with a cavetto soffit and then a battlemented parapet in ashlar surmounted by four corner pinnacles in buff coloured sandstone. Stepped diagonal buttresses in 'C' at western corners, added with the battlements during the 1888 restoration work, and a clasping buttress to the north-east angle. The tower is topped by a low pyramidal roof with a weathercock.

North wall:- doorway with round-headed arch, the jambs and voussoirs in limestone, and clearly inserted into the 'A' masonry. The lowest string course is broken and above this 'A' gives way to 'B'. Immediately



below the belfry window the wall is rebuilt in 'C', a wedge of this masonry tapering down to a point. The belfry window has a square-headed frame, and the arch is four-centred with a wide, cusped, ogee-headed light below, all in red sandstone. Plain waterspout from the battlements.

East wall:- aisle roof rises to about half the height of the tower. Just below the second string course is a flat-headed slit window with dressings of buff-yellow colour. Belfry window of standard form except that it has two louvred lights.

South wall:- lower courses in 'A' but sandstone slabs tend to blur the distinction between 'A' and 'B'. The lowest string course broken and above this is a broad slit window, its jambs mainly of limestone and with rendered edges. Masonry in this part of the wall more 'A' than 'B'. Standard belfry window with two lights; battlements etc, and again the wall rebuilt in 'C' immediately below the window.

West wall:- heavily covered in ivy and some remnant render/limewash. Appears to be mainly 'A' with 'C' high up. The belfry window has a single light.

North aisle - General. The original nave, but narrower and lower than the present nave and chancel. Of 13thC origin but reportedly rebuilt in 1746. How much was rebuilt it is impossible to determine from the fabric.

North wall:- the masonry is 'B' type but with limestone predominating. From the west a doorway with moulded jambs and a round-headed arch all in buff-brown sandstone. Two windows of similar design with round-headed arches and east of the more easterly window a chimney rises above the eaves; the windows retain most of their original 18thC glass. At the east angle the wall face is inset indicating complete rebuilding over the last 1m, and the quoins are in the same coloured sandstone as the window dressings.

East wall:- the fabric is as the north wall. The east window small in relation to the wall as a whole: a four-centred arch with hoodmould over three cinquefoiled lights with panel tracery above, the panels with trefoiled heads; the jambs have hollow chamfers. Some original tracery survives though not in good condition; most jamb and archstones renewed.

South nave and chancel - General. Not differentiated externally.

East wall:- in a variation in 'A', but much of the wall hidden by vegetation. Later than the north nave, it has a clear juncture with the latter's east wall and is outset from it. The Perpendicular east window, larger than its counterpart in the north nave, has five cinquefoiled lights and panel tracery under a four-centred arch with a hoodmould and weathered stops. Some of the jambstones and perhaps some of the tracery are original. Higher up in the gable are two holes of regular circular shape. Quoins at south-east angle are in red and yellow sandstone below and limestone above; only the yellow sandstone is original.

South wall:- masonry is as in the east wall but there is patching to the wall face which stands out. The features from the east are: i) a square-headed window in red sandstone; the four cusped lights are divided into pairs, each pair under a round-headed arch. Similarities with the belfry windows and dating from the restoration of 1888/9. Above this window regular blocks of limestone show the rebuilding that accompanied its insertion. ii) a priest's door with a four-centred arch, now blocked off in limestone; the arch stones in pink limestone, the jambs in buff-yellow and all showing signs of wear. iii) window as i) though it may be fractionally wider. Some re-use of yellow sandstone above and to one side of the window though none of the blocks are obviously dressings. iv) square-headed restoration window with three cusped, two-centred lights, all in uniform pink sandstone, and like the other two windows with a protruding sill of fired clay tiles. v) porch. The south-west angle has quoins which are predominantly of yellow sandstone.

West wall:- in a variation of 'A'. Some evidence at the top that the roof has been raised by around 0.4m, and explains why the window appears slightly off-centre (Note that there is nothing directly comparable at the east end). This window has a basket arch with three cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights with cusped panel tracery, all 19thC.



South porch - General. Added in 1888/9 in 'C'.

East and west walls:- small windows to the same general design as the belfry with broad ogee-heads in pink sandstone.

South wall:- a four-centred doorway with moulded jambs and a hoodmould with simple out-turned stops. Below springer level is a zone of ashlar masonry across the front of the wall. Above the doorway a small window, comparable with those in the side walls; a lamp above it. The entrance is closed off by wrought iron gates with gilded decoration. These are of c.1720 manufactured by the Davies family of Bersham and were brought from Mold Church where they formed the entrance to the Wynne chapel, prior to the 1856 restoration.

## Interior

Porch - General. Flagstone floor. East and west apertures in splayed openings. Boarded timber ceiling with simple rafters and purlins.

North wall:- four-centred arch to main church in red sandstone; chamfered dressings with double broach stops, 0.7m off the ground; some of the arch stones renewed; sharpening marks on some jambstones. Door itself may be 18thC.

East wall:- a wooden First World War memorial.

Tower - General. Narrower than the north aisle. A rough concreted floor, roughly rendered; whitewashed walls to a height of 3m which, with a projecting corbel, marks a floor now removed. Now open to the timber floor below the belfry and approached by a ladder. Owen noted that beams in the belfry were supported on corbels with heads and other engravings comparable with those in the nave roof (see below) - these have not been confirmed.

North wall:- doorway with segmental head to reveal, approached by one low step.

West wall:- one slit window.

North aisle - General. The original nave but now used for storage and at the east end a vestry has been partitioned off. Concrete floor with loose carpets, but a vault slab towards the east end. The floor level is below the ground level of the churchyard, and the vestry with its woodblock floor is one step above the general level. A boiler is sunk into the floor at the west end. All stonework exposed, except on the east wall which is partly plastered. The roof has seven bays separated by six arch-braced collars with king and raking struts; through purlins and boarded behind.

North wall:- four steps to the disused north door; voussoired arch to its reveal and also to the window reveals. In the north-west angle is a buttress rising to roof level - its significance is not clear (see also west wall below) On the wall a brass recording the rebuilding in 1746 and a benefaction board.

East wall:- lower part of the wall plastered.

South wall:- at the eastern end is a three-bay arcade in Decorated style with moulded two-centred arches of three orders, on octagonal stone piers with moulded capitals and splayed column bases; in grey sandstone with limewash traces still evident. West of the third bay is a juncture in the masonry indicating a change in the walling and it is believed that the western part of the south wall could be 13thC if not earlier. Cut through this is a cruder and wider bay in Perpendicular style, with a four-centred arch of two orders with plain chamfered responds rather than piers. Immediately to the west is another change in the masonry as a result of this insertion. West of this bay the early walling is broken also by a doorway which provides access from the nave to the north aisle. This has a four-centred arch with chamfered jambs and is presumably 15thC, though its stonework is similar to that of the Decorated bays. The recess to the west side of this connecting



door was the site of a staircase to the singers' gallery which was removed in 1888. The bays of the arcade are now closed off by glazed wooden panelling inserted by Douglas in the 19thC; the lower panelling may have been made from reused pews.

**West wall:-** a narrow square-headed doorway leads to the basement of the tower and is approached by three steps. The doorway is dated to 1746 when the north aisle was restored. North of the door the wall is wider and as with the buttress in the north-west angle this is difficult to explain, though it has been suggested (on uncertain grounds) that it relates to the former gallery.

**Nave - General.** Floor one step below the porch and of flagstones including at least nine graveslabs ranging from 1669 to 1830, and one with an inset brass plate of 1768. Two rows of benches on flush woodblock floors. Walls show bare stonework. Roof of four main bays defined by hammerbeam trusses with arch-braced collars and the tympana above them pierced by cusped apertures. In between are four further arch-braced collars with queen struts and subsidiary collars and quatrefoils between the struts. Angels on the hammerbeams carry shields bearing emblems of the Passion, and there are secular carvings and grotesque forms of animals and human figures on the bosses and on the wallplates beneath the arched-braced trusses. All the timberwork is moulded including the purlins and rafters. Above the wallplates is blind arcading with cusped ogee-tracery, showing some signs of replacement. There are no angels on the extreme west hammerbeam - presumably they could not be accommodated against the west wall. The general belief is that the roof was imported from elsewhere for it does not relate to the arcade, the scale implies it should be at a greater height, and the unequal distances at which the principal rafters are fixed suggest that it was made for some other church. Tradition suggests it came from Basingwerk Abbey after the Dissolution, though this has been questioned in recent years. It was repaired and restored in 1846, and one of the westernmost shields bears the inscription 'WB MJ 1888'.

**North wall:-** arcade as described above under south wall of north aisle. The alcove at the west end has a blind two-centred arch and as noted above is supposed to have related to the gallery. Over the Decorated arches further east is a continuous hoodmould; at the west end it terminates in a head stop, the head a caricature of medieval date, though the hoodmould stone behind it has been replaced. Also on the wall is a Psalm board in Welsh.

**East wall:-** one step up to the chancel. The change in the style of the roof (see below) is not in line with the division, for the last of the hammerbeams is about one metre to the east.

**South wall:-** tracery in most easterly window could be old, the rest replaced. The arches of the reveals consist of long limestone slabs: and there is a general impression that some of the reveals have been rebuilt. The doorway is slightly splayed. One memorial of 1718 in the reveal of the most easterly window. Elsewhere on the wall a First World War brass memorial.

**West wall:-** Decalogue and Psalm boards below the window, and to the south side of the window a corbelled 'buttress' rises up the wall and behind the roof, and presumably indicates a chimney.

**Chancel - General.** One step up from the nave, with further steps to the sanctuary and to the altar. The 19thC tiled floor includes two marble slabs to Thomas Hughes (d.1826) and Thomas Mostyn Edwards (d.1832), and encaustic tiles. Longitudinal choir stalls with carved fronts rest on herringbone woodblock. The simple wagon roof of two bays is coved with decorated purlins, moulded ribs and quatrefoil tracery. Above the wallplates are friezes of running foliate ornament, and much of this is earlier than the roof itself. Over the sanctuary the panelled background is painted red.

**North wall:-** the easternmost bay of the Decorated arcade is filled with the organ (installed in 1912 by Rushworth and Dreaper to replace a small organ brought from Llandymog church in 1888). The hoodmould over the arcade continues from the nave and terminates in a Victorian floriate design of pink sandstone.

**East wall:-** wood-panelled reredos, and the wall above this is plastered and painted. Monuments of 1731 and 1832 on the wall.

**South wall:-** a wooden sedile set in a recess below the south window. A bench with a carved head set



against the south wall covers the head of an arched reveal. This is presumed to be the priest's door, yet the arch is very broad and could be for a tomb recess. Also two 19thC marble memorials and one 19thC brass.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Details derived from Hubbard with additions.

Font: an early but broken square stone bowl with typically Norman decoration of trefoil-headed loops and chevron pattern; on a short octagonal base. It had been buried at a depth of about 1m below the pulpit on the south side of the church. Now at the back of the nave with other carved fragments. Its successor is a 19thC font.

Architectural fragments: these include a damaged stoup and a heavily carved capital of possible 13thC date. Now placed at the south-west corner of the nave.

Sepulchral slabs: i) slab in two parts with the bust of a female figure and the inscription 'Hic iacet Marred f' lerwerth'. Late 14thC. ii) slab with a griffin on a shield and a sword and an inscription to lowerth Ddu'; early 14thC. iii) slab utilised as a lintel to the tower door, inscribed 'Maredit Ap Bleddyn Ap...'. (iv) The central part of a slab depicting a female form; the head is broken away and the lower part of the slab is missing. v) slab depicting a female figure with long neck and square head-dress; the slab is ornamented with a leaf pattern and the inscription runs down the centre: 'hic; iacet' is visible. Early 14thC. vi) two pieces of a slab with inscription around the sword interpreted as 'hic iacet lowerth dv; cuius requiescat in pace, amen'. The lettering is, however of c.1700. vii) fragment of a cross-head, an eight petalled flower within a circle; early 14thC. ix) slab with circles interlaced with a cusped quatrefoil; from the early 14thC. x) floriated cross slab fragment to Angharad; late 14thC. xi) several smaller fragments. Many of the stones and slabs were uncovered during 19thC restoration work and are stacked at the back of the south aisle where it is currently impossible to check the details.

Stained glass: the east window of the chancel contains figures which are said to have been placed there in 1546. There is a central Crucifixion with the Virgin and St John, and St George and St Peter in the outer lights.

Choir stalls: of 19thC restoration date but with some 17thC carvings reused in the front panels.

Chair: a plain and solid reader's chair. 18thC or perhaps earlier.

Monuments: i) marble to Edward Eyton (d.1718) with heraldry, putto and draped curtain. ii) white veined marble memorial with a broken segmental pediment, shield and urn finials to three members of the Mostyn family, all named Roger, by T. Wynne erected in 1731.

Brass: plate in the nave floor to Henry Eyton (d.1744).

Brass plates: fourteen in all. A bench at the west end of the nave has reset brass plates from pews that were removed in 1888. These record, inter alia, Cilcen Hall, Penbedw, Trellynia and Coed ddu. The only dated example from 1789 is that of 'T Parry Caergwley'.

Porch gates: attributed to Davies from c.1720, and almost certainly brought from Mold church, where the screens were dismantled in the mid-19thC.

Benefaction board: 18thC in date with entries to 1759. The last entry of 1805 is an addition.

Registers: from 1576.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Pulpit: octagonal with the emblems of the Evangelists added.

Decalogue boards: in Welsh. Also the Creed and Lord's Prayer, all sited on west wall. One board signed by Robert Jones and dated 1809.

Monuments: white marble on black slate to Thomas Mostyn Edwards of Kilken Hall (d.1832) by Reeves and Son of Bath.

Churchwarden's chest: three locks. Date unknown but could be as late as the 19thC.

Dog tongs: in vestry and probably of late date.

## CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is a raised oval enclosure. Closed for burials, and a modern cemetery consecrated in 1899 is located on the north side of the village. The ground was levelled around the church during the 1887 restoration and in 1973 work in the churchyard included the removal of headstones and kerbstones.

Boundary:- a stone revetment wall, up to 2m high on the north side but less high elsewhere. Repaired in the 1980s.

Monuments:- scattered marked graves and areas of graves now laid flat and grassed over, though some upright markers to both north and south. The south path is lined with graves of 18thC and 19thC date laid flat. The car parking area is surrounded by re-sited grave slabs also of 18thC and 19thC date, the earliest noted of 1731. Along the south side of the church slabs laid flat include 1737 and 1739 examples.

Furniture:- east of the chancel is the stone pillar of the old cross, c.0.3m square; it is octagonal with broach stops at the base, and part of the socket remains. When Owen recorded it in the later part of the 19thC it was on the south side of the church, was reinforced by an iron band and, at over 7 feet, was considerably higher than today. He attributed it to the 14thC. The stone plinth for a sundial, c.1m high and sans plate and gnomon, has a rectangular section and chamfered edges, and is sited to the south of the chancel.

Earthworks:- the churchyard is raised up to 1m on the west and the east, 1.5m on the north, and up to 2m on the south.

Ancillary features:- the east lychgate has limestone walls c.2.2m high supporting 19thC timber framing over a pair of decorative iron gates. Slit apertures in the side walls and cobblestones set in the entrance. A hearse house of about 1810 adjoins the lychgate. A tarmac path leads up to south porch. There is a single western gate and to the north of it a pair of double gates lead into a car parking area created at the west side of the churchyard.

Vegetation:- mature poplars and horse chestnuts overhang the churchyard on the north and west sides.

## SOURCES

Anon 1847

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1995

Church guide: n.d.

CPAT Field Visits: 7 November 1996 and 15 December 1998

Clwyd SMR

Faculty: St Asaph 1887 (NLW): restoration of church

Faculty: St Asaph 1899 (NLW): addition to churchyard

Flintshire County Record Office: Parish Records D/GL/472

Glynne 1884, 182

Gresham 1968, 125, 133, 147, 173, 210, 241

Hubbard 1986, 337

Neaverson 1953-54, 10  
NMR Aberystwyth  
Owen 1886, 7  
Quinquennial Report 1986  
RCAHMW 1912, 14  
Thomas 1911, 367  
Westwood 1846



## CONDITION

The church is in a reasonably good state of repair.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Good

Group value: Medium to Good

# Flint

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<b>Diocese</b>	St Asaph	<b>Dedication</b>	St Mary
<b>PRN</b>	16778	<b>NGR</b>	SJ24347299

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## SUMMARY

St Mary's church is a large Victorian structure with 20thC additions in the centre of Flint. Nothing of its medieval predecessor survives. The churchyard was landscaped in 1994 as part of a pedestrianisation scheme.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Large church in Victorian Gothic style from 1846-8.

## HISTORY

The church was established when the town of Flint was laid out at the end of the 13thC. In the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 it was recorded as a chapelry dependent on Northop, the 'capella sua de Flynd'.

The Valor Ecclesiasticus (1535) attests that it had become an independent parish church by the early 16thC, yet at the beginning of the 17thC it was still being claimed as a chapelry by Northop. By the end of the century its parochial status was secured.

The old church had a small western wooden steeple, a north aisle shorter than the nave, and a north porch. It had some Perpendicular windows, though the east window of the north aisle had Reticulated tracery. Above the east window of the chancel was an ornamented niche for a statuette, and there were buttresses to the north and east walls. This earlier structure is shown in a drawing of 1800 and reproduced in the Royal Commission volume of 1912. At the time of its demolition old coffin lids were discovered in its foundations, seemingly indicating that it was not the first church on the site. At this time, too, medieval floor tiles were lost, and the churchyard cross, visible in the drawing of 1800, was removed.

A new church was built in 1846-48 by Ambrose Poynter.

The church was considerably altered in 1923-4, and the east end was extended to include a new chancel and vestry in c.1931-35 to the design of Sidney Street.

In 1941 a new organ was erected in the organ chamber which overhangs the chancel.

The bells were restored and rehung in 1961. At the same time panelling was fitted in the sanctuary and behind the north and south aisle altars.

A new porch was added to the north door in 1977.

## ARCHITECTURE



The church consists of a nave and chancel, north and south aisles with a west tower against the former. The church is oriented fractionally north of true east.

Fabrics:- 'A' is of medium and large, regularly cut slabs of local limestone, light brown in colour and coursed.

'B' is of regular blocks of limestone with ashlar dressings, uncoursed.

'A' is Victorian, 'B' is from the 1970s.

Roofs:- slates with ceramic ridge tiles. Cross finials to west end of nave, and at the east end of the chancel. Rising above the nave roof are two square projections probably supporting internal lights.

Drainage:- modern guttering, downspouts leading to main drainage system. No evidence of a drainage trench.

The following description is a summary statement only as this is a wholly 19thC and 20thC structure.

#### Exterior

Tower - General. All in 'A'. A square four-stage tower, with a basal plinth about 1m+ off the ground. Above are four string courses, the highest with gargoyles which project rainwater off the flat roof around the spire. Stepped angle buttresses at the north-east, north-west and south-west corners rising to about half way up the belfry stage, and a short buttress at the south-east corner. An octagonal spire tapering to a wrought iron weathervane has three ascending, cusped lucarnes, the lights decreasing in size on four of the eight faces as the spire rises.

North wall:- the first stage has a single, cusped window, the second stage has a similar window, the third stage a small cusped light, effectively no more than a window head, below the blue clock face with its gold numerals set in a chamfered aperture. The belfry window has a two-centred arch of two orders with a hoodmould and simple stops, and it contains a pair of trefoiled, two-centred louvred lights with an open trefoil above.

East wall:- visible above the north aisle. The third stage had a single light to the same design as the lower ones in the north wall, and the stage above contains a standard belfry window.

South wall:- adjoins nave roof and has only a belfry window of standard form.

West wall:- the first three stages have standard cusped lights, and there is a standard belfry window.

North aisle - General. Abuts the east wall of the tower and the north side of the 1930s transept. Roof slopes down off the nave north wall. The walls are plinthed at a height varying from 0.5m-1m.

North wall:- three bays each with a window consisting of a single cusped, two-centred light set within a two-centred frame, the bays separated by short buttresses. A third buttress is set against the modern north porch which abuts the fourth bay of the aisle.

East wall:- north transept against the wall.

West wall:- against tower.

North Porch - General. Constructed in the 1970s in 'B'. Plinthed at 0.5m.

North wall:- a two-centred archway turned in ashlar over a pair of modern vertically-planked square-headed doors with a plain glass tympanum.

East and west walls:- plain without features.

North 'transept' - General. In 'A'. Abuts the north wall of the chancel and adjoins the east wall of the north aisle. An addition of the 1930s. Buttresses extend the north wall outwards.

North wall:- basal plinth of two stages, the upper topped by a moulded course. Three windows with moulded two-centred arches, under a continuous ashlar head, set directly into the masonry of the wall; four small and narrow pilaster buttresses separate the windows, rising from the basal plinth. A large round multifoil window is set in the gable to light the organ chamber.

East wall:- three peaked arched windows with pilaster buttresses, as on the north side.

West wall:- four steps up to a doorway with a moulded two-centred arch, as the windows; stopped chamfers to the jambs.

Nave - General. The north and south walls rise above their respective aisles and have clerestorey windows.

North wall:- four clerestory windows consist of pairs of shouldered arches in square-headed frames, set directly into the stonework.

South wall:- as the north wall but five windows.

West wall:- the basal plinth is continuous from the tower along the nave west wall and south aisle west wall. A string course runs below the two-centred west window which has three cusped, two-centred lights as the east window and an irregular trefoil above. In the gable is a single trefoil. Stepped buttresses support the west wall.

Chancel - General. A 1930s extension to the nave, also in what is essentially 'A'. The join in the masonry is visible above the south vestry. There is a continuous plinth at c.0.7m above ground level, an extension of that around the north transept. Angle buttresses at this end.

North wall:- a long, cusped two-centred window with a blank datestone slab below.

East wall:- the window mirrors that in the west wall with three long, cusped, two-centred windows and a small irregular trefoil in the gable. Also a string course below sill level. To either side of the window, the two stepped buttresses rise to triangular heads, projecting above the gable roof.

South wall:- a single trefoil, of comparable form to the north wall, and with a worn datestone below.

South vestry - General. A variation on 'A'. Located in the angle between the east wall of the south aisle and the south wall of the chancel, but set slightly in from the south aisle. Its roof slopes down below the clerestorey windows, but is lower than the south aisle roofline. A boiler house is located below the vestry; a flight of steps leads down to a two-centred archway with a vertically planked door. The approach is enclosed by wrought iron railings and a gate.

East wall:- a single, cusped two-centred window. A new toilet block with flat roof abuts its east wall.

South wall:- a shouldered arch to the doorway, approached by three steps.

South aisle - General.

East wall:- adjoins 1930s vestry.



South wall:- six bays formed by seven short buttresses, and there is a continuous plinth as on the north side of the church. In the third bay from the west is a doorway with a two-centred, chamfered arch of two orders. The other bays contain cusped two-centred lights.

West wall: in line with the nave west wall. A single, cusped two-centred window.

### Interior

Porch - General. Tiled floor; walls plastered and painted; peaked ceiling.

South wall:- a two-centred archway of two orders (painted in buff brown) allows entry to the north aisle; inner and outer doors.

Tower - General. Floor with linoleum over; plastered walls and deeply splayed window apertures. Accessed from the dog leg staircase which leads up to the bell chamber and the west gallery (see below) is a platform for the ringing chamber. The ceiling with a trap door giving access to the bells.

North wall:- one splayed window.

East wall:- doorway to nave (see north aisle, west wall).

South wall:- plain apart from ?boxed-in pipes rising to the ceiling.

West wall:- a lead coffin lid to ? Ellis (d.1814) leans against the wall.

North aisle - General. Stone floor with carpetting over, and benches set directly on the stone floor. Plastered and painted walls. Lean-to roof of four and a half bays with rafters supported by braces resting on corbels that project from above the arcade. At the east end is an altar on a raised wooden dais.

North wall:- internal panelled porch and three windows. Commemorative slab to the west of the porch records the 1848 rebuilding of the church and lists the architect, curate and churchwardens of that time. One marble memorial of 1832 at the east end.

East wall:- a wall divides the aisle from the east vestry with panelling in front of it, from 1971. Above this in the wall is a small two-centred, splayed embrasure with a cusped light inside it.

South wall:- arcade of four bays on three octagonal piers with east and west responds supporting chamfered, two-centred arches; moulded octagonal capitals and high column bases. The arcade is painted in buff brown to set it off from the white walls.

West wall:- plain except for a square-headed, slightly splayed doorway to the tower.

North transept:- herringbone woodblock floor with carpet; walls plastered and painted; flat ceiling. Steps lead through a trap door to the organ loft. On the north wall a painting of the old church. Toilet extension off north side.

Nave - General. A large high interior. Stone floor with carpetting over; plastered walls. A camberbeam roof of five and a half bays, the beams supported on short wall posts resting on corbels and arch-bracing. Above the nave/chancel divide are two camberbeams only about 1m apart, demonstrating the addition of the chancel roof. Boarded ceiling.

North wall:- arcade as described above (see north aisle south wall). Four clerestory windows above the arcade have apertures without splays, and between the arcade and the clerestorey a heating pipe runs

along the wall. At the west end is a projecting buttress in line with the east wall of the tower. Also at the west end under the gallery is a 19thC brass and a 20thC marble memorial, together with a brass plaque recording the donation of bells in 1907.

East wall:- two steps up to the chancel but no screen.

South wall:- arcade and clerestory as described under north wall, but five clerestory windows, the fifth above the gallery. Under the gallery is a fifth bay to the arcade which is panelled off and partially blocked by the gallery itself.

West wall:- against the wall is a gallery supported on stone corbels and a main tie-beam; three braced beams project from the west wall to link with the main east-west beam. The gallery front bears the Royal Arms of Victoria. The gallery itself has tiered floors with benches.

Chancel - General. Stepped up from the nave with one step to the sanctuary and two to the altar. Roof as nave but the beams are heavier and of polished timber. The chancel ceiling is also more ornate with moulded ribs, and the spandrels formed by the arch bracing are filled in. In addition to the two complete bays there is a short bay at the west end with lateral ribs. The organ loft overhangs the chancel.

North wall:- entrance to north transept through a shoulder-arched doorway, and a memorial inscription of 1922 over it. There is also an organ plaque of 1941/2 and on the wall east of this a memorial of 1886.

East wall:- plain panelled dado of 1967 behind the altar, and three stained glass windows.

South wall:- access to vestry through a shoulder-arched doorway, with a memorial metal plate of 1941 immediately above it. Also an 1857 marble memorial.

South aisle - General. As north aisle, except that the rafters of the roof are visible. At the west end a storage area partitioned off.

East wall:- wall with panelling in front and altar.

South wall:- internal porch. Also a marble memorial of 1901 and a First World War memorial.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Based on Hubbard with additions.

Carved stone: from the earlier church, an architectural fragment with part of a canopy with pinnacled tops in relief, discovered during the 1992-3 excavations and now located near north door.

Altar table: with moulded legs and a front flange inscribed 'T M C H: 1660 I W'.

Chair: with some carving. Pre-19thC. West end of north aisle.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Font: octagonal stone font with carved facets; from 1925.

Pulpit: circular stone pulpit with open traceried panels.

Royal Arms: of Victoria; a painted panel.

Stained glass: in the south aisle is an 1885 version of Holman Hunt's 'The Light of the World' by Ward and



Hughes.

Monuments: Julia Muspratt of Seaforth Hall (d.1857), by Spence. James Muspratt (d.1886) and his son Richard (d.1885) by E.J. Physick.

Organ: built by Samuel Renn (1786-1845) and restored in 1991 by Hill, Norman and Beard.

## CHURCHYARD

The church stands in the remnants of a raised churchyard within the pedestrianised town centre of Flint. The churchyard ceased to be used as a cemetery in 1856.

Boundary:- a stone revetment wall on three sides of the church, more than 1m high in places, and surmounted by iron railings on the south side.

Monuments:- thirteen old grave slabs laid flat outside the south aisle range in date from 1782 to 1814, though a couple are too worn to read.

Ancillary features:- a pair of limestone pillars with a stepped entrance lead to the old vestry door and bear an 1886 datestone. There is also a splayed stepped entrance to the church from Church Street and near this is imitation Victorian street furniture. A gravel path around the east and west sides of the church.

During evaluation work in 1992-4, prior to the pedestrianisation scheme, the base of the churchyard cross was located on the south side of the church, a position which is depicted on John Speed's map of the early 17thC. The square limestone base is thought to have originally been the base of the town cross. The cross stood in the churchyard until the rebuilding of 1847 when the churchyard was replanned. During this rebuilding, the shaft and pedestal were destroyed but the cross head was removed to Stockyn Hall. It was reputedly given back to the church in the late 19thC after the Reverend Elias Owen had tracked it down to Stockyn (see also Thomas), but it was not seen during the current fieldwork. A description and drawing of it are to be found in Owen 1886.

## SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1995

CPAT Field Visits: 3 May 1996 and 11 December 1998

CPAT SMR

Faculty: St Asaph 1932 (NLW): alterations to church

Flintshire County Record Office: D/MT/165 (1564); P/20/4/1 (1923/4); D/DM/464/23 (1934/5)

Hubbard 1986, 349

NMR Aberystwyth

Owen 1886, 70

Quinquennial Report

RCAHMW 1912, 28

Thomas 1911, 176

## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Poor



# Gwaenysgor

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St Mary Magdalene**PRN** 16787**NGR** SJ07518102

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## SUMMARY

St Mary's church is recorded in Domesday Book, but it is unlikely that the present single-chambered building goes back to that time. Its core, however, is certainly medieval, perhaps even Norman, and it has been suggested, without adequate proof, that it was enlarged during the 15thC. The church retains a medieval arch-braced roof, a Perpendicular east window, a curious wooden entrance arch displaying Christian symbols, several re-sited sepulchral slabs of 14thC date and a 13thC font. The small polygonal churchyard includes a sundial pillar of 1663 and several 17thC graves.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The core of the church is medieval and it retains some Perpendicular features. There is no structural evidence to support Hubbard's contention that it was extended eastwards in the 15thC. The porch is possibly 16thC or 17thC and one window on the north side of the church may be later 16thC or 17thC.

## HISTORY

The parish and church of Gwaenysgor ('Wenescol') are recorded in Domesday Book in 1086, though the church itself was ruinous at that time.

The church was valued at 20s in the Norwich Taxation of 1254, and at £5 6s 8d in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291.

Hubbard claimed that the small church was extended eastwards in the 15thC.

There are records of restoration work in 1845 or 1846 when the rood screen is believed to have been removed. Thomas noted that there had been a screen dividing the nave and chancel, and that there were stalls in the latter for the male parishioners.

Glynne visited the church in 1854, 'a neat little Welsh church, recently put into good repair and nice order'. He remarked on the unusual porch ceiling vaulted in stone, and the 'curious doorway, of very wild character, and perhaps early' which he described in some detail. He believed the roof to have been renewed and 'of cradle form'. In the churchyard was the shaft of a cross.

During a later restoration in 1892, the church was re-roofed and a barrel-vaulted ceiling installed. This was subsequently removed in 1931.

The 1931 restoration work by Harold Hughes included partial re-roofing of church and porch, including guttering and downspouts, and the partial rebuilding of the south wall. Worn dressings were removed from the east window and re-used as mullions in other windows. The bell was rehung, and the font was refixed. Whitewash was removed from the wooden arch in the south doorway, a dado was removed from the east wall, wooden floors were taken up on the south side of the nave and slabs were laid on concrete. The



chancel floor was also relaid with flagstones. Part of the old north door was opened up and a small window inserted to light the new vestry at the west end of the nave. A sepulchral slab was removed from over the south doorway and fixed to the north wall of the chancel. The chancel was refitted and new oak seats replaced the oak pews.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a single-chambered church with a nave and chancel in one, a south porch and a west bellcote. The building is aligned almost due east to west.

Fabrics: 'A' is of small to medium, rectangular blocks of limestone, and occasional lumps of buff-yellow sandstone. The dressings are in Gwespyr sandstone, and there are traces of a render coat now gone.

'B' consists of blackened stone, mainly limestone, irregularly coursed.

'C' of small, mixed and rather fragmentary limestone, completely jumbled.

Roofs:- slates with plain blue ceramic ridge tiles. Modern pyramid finial to porch.

Drainage:- modern guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. There is a grassed-over gully on the north side of the church, and possibly a gully on the south side.

## Exterior

Nave and chancel - General. No external differentiation.

North wall:- features from the west are: i) a north doorway of rustic appearance and uncertain age. The two-centred arch is of long sandstone voussoirs and the jambs are unchamfered. It is now blocked, with limestone at the base, and has a single, two-centred light at the top. There are also clear signs of insertion but it is possible that this might relate to work in 1931 (when perhaps some of the dressings were replaced?), rather than to its original construction. ii) a square-headed window with two basket-headed lights and sunken spandrels; this is likely to be 16thC-17thC but some renewal of the dressings including the mullion, sill and jambs. Further east the wall has rather more sandstone than elsewhere. Could this anomaly represent a blocked window? iii) a light to the sanctuary, little more than a square-headed slit with chamfered dressings. It should be noted that there is no evidence (pace Hubbard) for an eastwards extension of the structure. There is, however, a change in the masonry from 'A' to 'B', just under the eaves (see south wall below).

East wall:- this has a plinth projecting outwards for about 0.3m at ground level. The east window has a weathered, four-centred arch, deeply hollowed chamfers, a hoodmould and three cusped, ogee-headed lights with cusped panel tracery. Some renewal of the dressings including parts of the mullions, a couple of jambstones and the sill, though the tracery is original. The roof has clearly been raised. Earlier kneelers, 0.1m below the present ones, are still in place, and there is an obvious disconformity in the masonry along the whole gable line, giving a rise of around 0.3m. This heightening is in 'C'.

South wall:- there is a slight batter at the base. Most of the wall is in 'A' but the top 0.3m or so under the eaves in 'B', a further sign of the walls being raised. From the west end the features are: i) porch. ii) a 19thC square-headed window with three cusped two-centred lights with sunken spandrels. iii) a Perpendicular square-headed chancel window containing a pair of cusped, two-centred lights; most of the dressings original and perhaps only the mullion replaced; deeply sunken spandrels.

West wall:- there is a modern concrete plinth at the base of the wall. The wall itself leans outwards towards the top and there are large sandstone quoins at the corners. For reasons not entirely clear the quoinstones at the north-west angle are plumb, creating a situation at the top of the wall where they lie back from the masonry face of the wall. Also further evidence of the walls being raised, but on this side the additional masonry is more like 0.5m high. The triangular bellcote at the gable apex is of dressed sandstone with some limestone. It contains what is almost an ogee-headed arch to the aperture which contains a single bell, and



the whole feature was evidently built after the roof was raised.

**South Porch - General.** In 'A' with occasional blocks of yellow sandstone. There is a basal plinth with a pronounced batter and this is capped by a course of protruding flat slabs on the south side to a height of c.0.6m above ground level. Possibly of 16thC construction, but could equally be later.

**South wall:-** a round-headed archway of yellow sandstone voussoirs, the door itself recessed by about 0.5m into the doorway. It contains a wooden door frame and a modern door of very irregular fit. Much of the upper face and gable of the wall is in yellow sandstone, and this presumably reflects some rebuilding.

**East wall:-** a basal plinth at less than 0.1m above ground level.

## Interior

**Porch - General.** This has a flagstone floor, walls that are not plastered and painted, and a barrel-vaulted stone roof, the stone slabs on edge. It contains several loose sepulchral slab fragments.

**North wall:-** a round-arched doorway with slightly projecting imposts, and dressed archstones, probably of no great age. Within this is and now freestanding on a raised threshold stone is a wooden arch with straight sides and a pointed head, the vertical timbers unchamfered and continuing up as solid pieces of wood to form the arch; above this is a later collar of three pieces, with wooden pegs. It has been suggested that this locally crafted arch was set into the nave wall when the porch was constructed and was later plastered and whitewashed over - it was only revealed during the 1931 restoration work. It shows symbols on the spandrels - a bird on the right side and a circle with Greek crosses on the left together with a group of circles containing a triangle, flowers and foliage.

**East and west walls:-** stone benches down the sides, otherwise plain. Four decorated slab fragments including part of a ?cross, are placed on the benches.

**Nave - General.** The stone slabbed floor includes two large gravestones at the west end, one of 1711 the other of 1743, and a third slab carrying some sort of pattern; flush wooden boarding below the seats and a carpetted central aisle over concrete slabs. Walls plastered and painted and displaying a batter on both the north and south; exposed stonework around the window apertures. Roof running the entire length of the building has 20 arch-braced collar trusses with raking struts and struts, springing directly, it appears, from the wall tops rather than from wallplates. Roof extends across both nave and chancel; two rows of through purlins and the ceiling is plastered above. Attributable to the 15thC, though many of the rafters and purlins have been repaired or renewed.

**North wall:-** the blocked doorway at the west end, thought by Hubbard to be earlier than the 15thC, was partially opened up in 1913. In the reveal, two steps above nave floor level, a cross is visible carved on the lower step on the east side. On the west side of the doorway is a socket stone for pivoting the door. Irregularities in the wall to the east of the doorway denote the position of an early fireplace and chimney. The only window has a deeply splayed aperture, the sloping sill utilising a cross slab; a modern lintel. One 19thC memorial tablet, and near the sanctuary a fine large cross slab, and a small cross-incised plaque set into the wall.

**East wall:-** one step up to the sanctuary. No changes in the roof.

**South wall:-** the deeply splayed window embrasure incorporates a carved cross slab in the sill; modern lintel. Also the doorway reveal has a round-headed arch.

**West wall:-** unplastered and plain except for a tablet of 1799 set into it.

**Sanctuary - General.** Stepped, with a floor of stone slabs, and partly carpet-covered. Walls and roof as



nave. Modern oak fittings.

North wall:- one splayed window, its dressings unpainted.

East wall:- splayed window with four-centred reveal.

South wall:- sill of the window incorporates four fragments of carved stones, and a single moulded stone protrudes from below the window in corbel fashion. One piece of loose stone and a handbell in the reveal.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: a tapering rectangular bowl, though circular inside, supported on a massive central shaft (which has been claimed as Roman though without corroborative evidence) and four lesser shafts. The bowl has a pattern of lobes and intersecting stalks and, at one corner, a head. Five supporting shafts have been renewed. The base is characteristically Early English in style according to Hubbard and original. Early 13thC. Fitted with a modern oak cover.

Sepulchral slabs: all of 13thC - early 14thC date. i) a cross surviving to full height with a circular head enclosing a pattern of four smaller circles; a sword to the right of the shaft. Formerly the lintel of the south doorway. Early 14thC. ii) fragment of another four-circle cross slab, of similar date. iii) two joining fragments of a four-circle cross slab, also early 14thC. iv) fragment of a floriated cross slab set in a window sill from the period 1250-1280. v) fragment of a cross slab set in sanctuary window sill from the early 14thC. vi) + vii) + viii) small broken slabs bearing circular-headed crosses of the early 14thC.

Altar table: inscribed 'Anno Do: 1637, E.O.' on the upper flange.

Monument: a round-headed sandstone tablet to Sarah Wynn (d.1799).

Plate: includes chalice inscribed 'The + Cvppe + of + Gwayniskor' undated, but attributed to c.1650-1660; and a salver of 1564 which cannot now be located.

Handbell: undated.

Registers: from 1538.

## CHURCHYARD

A small polygonal churchyard, though conceivably the west side may originally have been less angular. It displays an undulating surface, and is left deliberately overgrown and is preserved as a sanctuary for wildlife.

Boundary:- a mortared stone wall

Monuments:- several largely illegible ledgers are located near the south wall of the church, though one bears a date of 1779 and others appear to be early 18thC. There are only a few burials on the north side.

Furniture:- a sundial on a square sandstone pillar, about 1.2m high, with chamfered edges terminating in pyramid stops. One face is inscribed '1663 R.E. P.E'. The plate and the gnomon disappeared prior to 1910. It is located in the south-west corner of the churchyard. Is this the shaft of the churchyard cross referred to by Glynne?

Earthworks:- slight internal banking, particularly against the south-east wall. The interior is raised by up to 2m on the west, 1m or more on the south and east but not at all on the north.

Ancillary features:- there are entrances on the south-east side and at the north angle. That on the south has



a pair of iron gates supported on sandstone pillars and an iron overarch; a stone stile is set in the wall immediately to the west. There are also double iron gates on the north side.

Vegetation:- no ancient vegetation. Boundary wall overgrown with brambles and a laurel hedge.

Finds:- in 1875, a small bronze figure of a saddled horse, perhaps Romano-British, was found during the excavation of a grave. In 1931, a spindlewhorl was found under the floor of the church during the restoration work. And a Roman milestone was discovered some years ago, built into the churchyard wall. It is now in the National Museum of Wales.

## SOURCES

Church guide 1989  
Clwyd SMR  
CPAT Field Visits: 13 August 1996 and 11 November 1998  
Crossley and Ridgway 1945, 188  
D R T 1876  
Faculty: St Asaph 1931 (NLW): restoration  
Glynne 1884, 86  
Gresham 1968, 73, 118, 124, 129  
Hubbard 1986, 356  
Hughes 1932  
Neaverson 1953-54, 11  
NMR Aberystwyth  
Owen 1892  
Quinquennial Report  
RCAHMW 1912, 31  
Thomas 1908, 403

## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair, though some paint peeling in the chancel.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium



# Hawarden

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St Deiniol**PRN** 16792**NGR** SJ31576590

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## SUMMARY

First recorded in Domesday Book, the large church of St Deiniol may retain some 13thC fabric in the chancel, while the nave and aisles together with a chancel arch are of 14thC date and the central tower and Whitley Chapel are from the following century. It has two chapels at the east end, that on the north containing the Gladstone tomb and the Whitley Chapel to the south holding good examples of 17th and 18thC monuments. The building was restored in 1855-6, but almost immediately damaged by fire, so that a second restoration, by Sir Gilbert Scott, was required. It is sited on raised ground, within a polygonal churchyard.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The east end of the chancel is believed to be part of a church erected in 1272 and its axis deviates slightly from that of the nave. The nave with its blind clerestories, aisles and arcades dates from the 14thC, but it seems probable that most of the stonework both outside and perhaps inside has been refaced, presumably in the 19thC. The piers and arches that support the central tower are of different character and have been attributed to the 15thC, as has the Whitley Chapel on the south side of the church. The upper part of the tower is clearly Perpendicular.

Scott restored the church in Decorated style in 1857-9. North-east porch added in 1896, the Gladstone Chapel in 1901-3, and the north-east vestry in 1910.

## HISTORY

The church is said to have been founded by St Deiniol, a 6thC monk at Bangor-is-y-coed. A legend reports that in AD 946, the statue of the Virgin on the rood loft fell on the head of Lady Trawst, wife of the Governor of Hawarden Castle, and killed her. The statue was tried by jury and condemned to be thrown into the River Dee, eventually being washed up at the Roodee in Chester. An early medieval origin for Hawarden church seems assured from its appearance in Domesday Book; and in AD 1093, the Earl of Chester granted a tithe to St Werburgh's Abbey at Chester. In 1257, Roger de Mantalt, Baron of Hereford, restored certain lands to the Abbey in return for which he was granted the living at Hawarden. (From then until 1957 it had the legal right of 'Peculiar', exempting it from the control of the Chester bishopric).

There is an unsubstantiated claim that a new church, of which a small part only seems to survive, was built in 1272.

The church is recorded in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 as 'Ecclia de Haworthin' with a value of £13s 6s 8d..

Considerable building works took place in the 14thC and 15thC.

In 1632 and 1638 alterations and repairs were made to the roof, but in 1643 much damage was done by Parliamentary troops. Further repairs were made to the church in 1671.



Five bells, possibly of 16thC date, were sold in 1742 and six new ones were cast by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester.

In 1733-4, the churchyard walks were flagged and the wall repaired. Thirty years later, the nave and aisles were re-pewed, replacing old benches; flagstones replaced rushes, a west end gallery was removed, the walls and pillars were plastered, and the roofs painted and windows enlarged.

In 1810 an organ was placed in a new organ gallery erected under the west window. This gallery was enlarged in 1825 and in 1836 the organ was replaced by a newer one.

In 1816, Mr Dundas of Aston Hall gave up the Whitley Chapel at the east end of the south aisle to provide more accommodation in the church. Considerable restoration work was undertaken in the following year on the chapel, including the emplacement of new doors, windows, roof, floor and pews at a cost of £1416, and further work was conducted on other parts of the church. Thomas noted that the rood screen with its loft which had been approached from the outside was removed.

Hawarden was exempt from episcopal jurisdiction until 1849, and held its own consistory courts in the Whitley Chapel.

The 1855-6 restoration was to the design of James Harrison of Chester. Open benches replaced the pews, the chancel was re-seated with carved oak stalls, and stained glass was introduced into several windows. Hubbard felt that the reticulated tracery in the aisles might be due to Harrison. In the following year (1857) fire destroyed the roofs of the nave, chancel and aisles and also the organ gallery, pulpit, screen and other fittings. Little damage was inflicted on the inside of the chancel and the Whitley chapel, and the tower remained untouched. Some woodwork and stained glass survived at the east end.

Rebuilding work to the design of Sir Gilbert Scott began immediately and included the addition of a spire to the tower. An organ chamber was added to the north side of the chancel and the south porch was built. The work was completed in 1859.

The Whitley Hall Chapel was later restored as a morning chapel at the expense of Henry Hurlbutt in 1884.

In 1902, the Gladstone Memorial Chapel was consecrated; the organ was removed from the north aisle and re-sited on the south side. The old organ chamber was enlarged, its north and east walls were rebuilt and a groined roof added over the three-side apse to facilitate the Gladstone memorial. Iron screens were added under the arcades opening to the north aisles and the chancel from the chapel.

A new vestry was built on to the north side of the chancel in 1910 and in 1913, the rood was introduced as a memorial to Lt. W.G. Gladstone. In 1951 the stone and marble pulpit was removed to Bettws Cedewain (Montgomeryshire) and a new oak pulpit was imported.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel, with north and south aisles forming a rectangular plan and a tower above the central crossing. The chancel has a parallel south chapel extending to the south-east, and the Gladstone Chapel and vestry on the north side. It is oriented almost exactly east to west.

Fabrics:- 'A' - a mix of regularly cut sandstone ashlar blocks, probably from the Ewloe Quarries. Mainly red sandstone but some yellow; ranging from medium-sized square blocks to large rectangular blocks, coursed, variable weathering.

'B' is of small to medium blocks of irregular brown and pink sandstone; random coursing.

'C' is of small to medium blocks of homogeneous red sandstone; irregularly coursed.

'D' is finer grained sandstone used for repair work.

'B' is of 15thC date. 'A' is claimed to be from the 14thC and from later centuries but might conceivably be ashlar facing of more recent date. 'C' is late 19thC/early 20thC. 'D' is modern.



Roofs:- slate with grey ceramic ridge tiles, and in places lead. Flat asphalt roof to the vestry. Cross finials at the west end of the nave and on the south chapel, and formerly at the east end of the chancel and on the south-west porch.

Drainage:- lead guttering and cisterns lead to soakaways. Some decorated cisterns with 1923 dates. Flower beds on the north and west sides, and rough paving on the south side of the nave, so no obvious drainage trench.

## Exterior

General. There is a hollow-moulded basal plinth, splayed at the base, less than 1m above ground level and continuous around the main body of the church, except for the most easterly bay of the north aisle.

North aisle - General. A lean-to extension to the nave creating a consistent slope to the roof; battlemented parapet which is not original. In 'A', the stone both pink and red; and the buttresses the same other than their coping stones.

North wall:- four bays defined by three stepped buttresses and a diagonal buttress at the north-west angle, while the projecting tower stair lies at the east end. Three bays with 19thC Decorated windows, the second from the west with a north door. The windows in deep red sandstone each consist of a two-centred arch over paired cusped, ogee-headed lights with a multifoil above, and have moulded jambs. The north doorway has a two-centred arch, moulded jambs and a hoodmould with simple stops. Above it is a canopied niche containing a statue of the Virgin Mary. There is a lampholder west of the most westerly window, and a castellated chimney rises above the most easterly buttress. Further east is the tower staircase set in a square, battlemented turret built in 'A', with a shouldered arch and chamfered jambs to a doorway in the north wall which looks to be 19thC. The turret itself has a single small two-centred window with chamfered dressings in its north wall.

West wall:- contains a window with a two-centred arch over two cusped, ogee-headed lights with an irregular tracery light above, all in buff-brown sandstone with moulded dressings for the frame and buff sandstone for the window dressings. Not original but perhaps not of the same period as the windows in the north and south walls.

Gladstone Chapel - General. 1902 apsidal addition in 'C' at the east end of the north aisle, and rising above the adjacent vestry to the east. Apart from the basal plinth there is a string course at sill level, another which is integrated with the window hoodmould, and a third above window level; battlemented. On the north side a straight buttress abuts the stair turret to the west and there is a short two-centred three-light window; the lights are cusped and two-centred with an elongated quatrefoil above, and a hoodmould with a waterspout at the apex. A diagonal north-east buttress. In what is effectively a second storey the apse sides have single and double lights of simple design and there is also a segmental-headed alcove.

Vestry - General. Constructed in 'C' in 1908-9. Battlemented all round with a continuous string course below.

North wall:- plinthed at between 0.5-1.2m above ground level. It has a single window with three trefoiled lights and further east two frameless windows with two trefoiled lights cut into single lintel stones.

East wall:- a segmental-headed arch to the doorway.

Nave - General. Only the west end is visible.

West wall:- two stepped buttresses to either side of the west door and window. Over the doorway is a label and to either side of the door, which is two-centred with moulded jambs incorporating foiled decoration,



there are carved spandrels. This doorway is Perpendicular but completely renewed, probably by Scott. The window above has a wide two-centred arch over four cusped, ogee-headed lights with multifoils above, all in red sandstone.

Chancel - General. In 'A'.

North wall:- visible above the vestry are three windows of slightly different size but of the same general design as those in the north aisle, and a buttress. However, the window to the east is in pale buff freestone, the others in red. The fabric at the east end of this wall is in buff sandstone, a variation on 'A', but further west it could be 'B' though this might be packing around later windows.

East wall:- the wall is all in the paler 'A' type stone seen at the end of the north wall and is in remarkably good condition. A plinth between 0.4m and 0.7m rising to the north side as the ground slopes away, and a string course which continues uninterrupted across the Whitley Chapel to the south. A plain parapet accentuates the eastern roofline as at the west end. There is a narrow window with a two-centred arch over three lights, the centre one a cinquefoiled ogee-headed light, the outer ones with triangular heads; hoodmould. A 19thC window with packing around it. A large red sandstone tablet below the window depicts the Ascension.

Whitley Chapel - General. Externally this appears as a sloping extension to the chancel, but it has a higher roofline than the south aisle, with a battlemented parapet on the south side but plain on the east with a moulded string course below.

East wall:- a two-centred window, the arch of red sandstone over three stepped, cusped ogee-headed lights, the mullions carrying on to form sub-arches; hoodmould and head stops. All 19thC and with obvious packing around it. The plinth at the base of the wall is about 0.1m below that on the adjacent chancel wall. The lower part of the wall and the south-east exhibits a concrete-render skin but much of the rest of the wall in 'A'-type masonry looks remarkably fresh.

South wall:- plinth at about 1m+ high at the east end. From the east: i) bay which is built in 'B' to the level of the window springers, with east quoins of the same material. It contains a 19thC window with a rather flat two-centred arch and three cusped, two-centred lights, with tracery lights above, all in buff freestone. ii) a large stepped buttress in 'A'. iii) a window as in i). iv) porch. v) another window. Only the first window is supported on projecting blocks in corbel fashion.

West wall:- all in 'A' and abuts the south aisle wall. This wall has a second plinth at c.3m+ above ground level though for no obvious reason.

South aisle - General. Similar to the north aisle in that it appears as a sloping extension to the nave with a battlemented parapet on the south side; a moulded string course below the parapet on all walls.

South wall:- windows as in the north wall, with the second bay occupied by the south door (and its porch). A diagonal buttress at the south-west corner and a single buttress between the two windows east of the porch. Between the porch and the window to its west the masonry appears less regular than 'A' elsewhere and might conceivably be original?

West wall:- a window which is a smaller version of those in the south wall, though in brown freestone.

Porch (south-east) - General. An open porch, giving access to the Whitley Chapel and constructed in 1896 by Douglas and Fordham in memory of W.H. Gladstone, son of the Prime Minister. A short gable contains kneeling angels in low relief, either side of a figure of Christ in a canopied niche. Underneath is a two-centred doorway with a hoodmould that continues as a string course along the east and west walls. Stepped buttresses at the south corners extend the south wall face.



Porch (south-west) - General. In 'A' and rebuilt in 1857, again with stepped buttresses extending the south wall face.

East wall:- two trefoiled lights set in a square-headed frame with sunken spandrels; some of the dressings look original, perhaps earlier than the porch itself?

South wall:- contains a two-centred red sandstone doorway, effectively of two orders, with a hoodmould and a pair of wrought iron gates. Above the doorway is a canopied niche with a statue of St Deiniol. Stepped buttresses at the corners.

West wall:- as east wall, but the frames and dressings all renewed with the exception of one light head.

Tower - General. The central tower rises above the easternmost bay of the nave. It has a continuous string course below the belfry windows on all sides and another just below the battlemented parapet. A short lead-covered spire, originally with hipped lucarnes, was added to the Perpendicular tower by Scott.

North wall:- the belfry window has a two-centred arch over a pair of trefoiled, two-centred, louvred lights and a transom with two-centred trefoiled lights beneath.

East wall:- as north wall.

South wall:- as north wall but with a clock face beneath the window.

West wall:- as north wall.

## Interior

Porch - General. Rebuilt in 1857. Flagged floor, stonework exposed on all walls, and the roof supported on three tie beams with a foliate motif on the centre of each soffit, arch braces to the ridge purlin and vertical struts; exposed rafters.

North wall:- a square-headed frame to the south door of the church with carved spandrels and a two-centred inner arch. All in 19thC pink sandstone, though Perpendicular in style and possibly a renewal by Scott. Three steps up to the door.

East and west walls:- stone benches with the seats of re-used grave slabs below the window apertures. These have weathered light buff sandstone dressings and also some replacement, but some of the dressings look original and probably indicate that the medieval windows were re-used. A wooden plaque of c.1925 on the east wall.

North aisle - General. Woodblock floor with raised wooden floors below the benches. Walls of exposed stonework: sandstone ashlar. For the first three bays of the north aisle there is a sloping roof of four panelled sections defined by three sloping, moulded arch-braced trusses resting on stone corbels and intermediate moulded beams with exposed rafters and purlins. At the eastern end of the fourth roof section is a two-centred arch truss with an open spandrel on its south side, using the wall and the pillar as supports. Beyond this is a further bay of the north aisle with two more roof sections of similar form to the rest of the north aisle. A children's corner at the west end of the aisle.

North wall:- north doorway with segmental head to the reveal. Brasses of 1691, 1757, 1764, 1871 and 1900; two 20thC marble memorials and a 20thC metal plaque to Viscount Gladstone (d.1930).

East wall:- a high, narrow, two-centred archway of late 19thC date opens to the Gladstone Memorial Chapel. A late 19thC marble plaque adjacent, and below this is a piscina with an ogee head, fashioned from a single block of sandstone. The recess is shallow and without a drain hole, but the dressings are original. However, it is probably not its original position.



**South wall:-** a 14thC four-bay arcade with high two-centred chamfered arches of two orders springing from two plain octagonal stone piers with moulded capitals and bases to match, and a western respond. The piers were refaced or perhaps even rebuilt by Scott in 1858, though the arches retain their original appearance in pale sandstone. The third pier from the west is a ringed column which forms the base of the 15thC tower, and its associated arch is to a different design for this fourth bay opens on to the tower 'crossing' and has a two-centred arch of different design: it has a broader soffit and the springers have foliate decoration which could be original.

**West wall:-** in the window embrasure some of the internal dressings to the window itself look as though they could be original, particularly the jambs. Some of the stone facing on this wall could be re-used.

**Gladstone Memorial Chapel - General.** Developed in 1902 but formerly a small 19thC organ chamber. Sandstone ashlar with a rib-vaulted roof with heavily decorated bosses and a three-sided apse. Marble floor. It was built to house the monument to William Ewart Gladstone and his wife Catherine. There is a metal plaque on the north wall and two 20thC marble plaques on the north side of the archway reveal which it shares with the north aisle.

**Nave - General.** Woodblock floor with raised planked floors below benches. Exposed stonework as the north aisle. The roof has six bays with seven, moulded, principal trusses; there are three tie-beam trusses with king posts and cusped raking struts, and four arch-braced collar trusses, the collars immediately beneath the ridge purlin. The arch-braced trusses on wooden terminals are corbelled out further than the tie-beams. The tie-beams have decorative bosses on their soffits. Two tiers of cusped windbraces, and rafters. All a 19thC construction.

**North wall:-** see south wall of north aisle above. Original stonework to the wall.

**East wall:-** a two-centred arch of standard crossing type (see north aisle and below) and with decorated springers.

**South wall:-** as the north wall.

**West wall:-** the west door has a square frame, while the reveal has a segmental arch. A dado to either side of the west door rising to the sill level of the west window embrasure.

**Tower 'crossing' - General.** Not a genuine crossing for the church does not have transepts. The ceiling has nine wooden panels defined by solid oak beams supported on stone corbels. Crosses are carved into the beams at the intersections. Each of the arches has foliate decoration on the springers, a 19thC embellishment.

**North wall:-** two-centred arch (see south wall of the north aisle). A 20thC inscription on one of the piers.

**East wall:-** the base of the tower abuts the walls of the earlier church. The chancel arch is two-centred and of three orders, the innermost supported on vine leaf corbels which must be 19thC. There is a rood beam and rood of 1913 above it, and above this on the stonework of the wall are the pitch lines of the earlier roof. At the base of the north side of the chancel arch are the exposed but largely unintelligible remains of an 'Easter Sepulchre', consisting of a small alcove with stones set in it.

**South wall:-** as north wall, and also with one 20thC inscription, and against the south-east pillar a 20thC marble memorial with a canopy over it.

**West wall:-** arch which in form is similar to that in the north wall.

**Chancel - General.** The chancel on the same level as the nave but the sanctuary is two steps above the chancel, and there are three staggered steps to the altar. There is a woodblock floor with planks under the



benches. Exposed stonework, much of which is presumed to be 19thC. A four-bay, vaulted ceiling formed by five two-centred arches sprung from stone corbels forming three plain panelled bays with raised ribs over the chancel and more decorative panels over the sanctuary; fifty panels per bay.

North wall:- a two-centred arch of two orders to the Gladstone Chapel, and a rather flat two-centred arch to the vestry, with decorative 'bosses' on the hollowed chamfers. One marble memorial of 1693, brasses of 1683 and 1740/1, one 19thC stone memorial, one 19thC marble example and three 19thC brasses.

East wall:- stone reredos with flanking decorated wooden panels.

South wall:- two-centred arches with trefoiled tracery over the piscina and a triple sedilia renewed in 1846 but said to reflect an Early English original; a brass plate above the sedilia records the Rev Henry Glynne (d.1873). The rest of the wall is pierced by a three-bay arcade of two-centred arches of two orders on octagonal stone piers with east and west responds, all supposedly 19thC. Eight memorial plates are affixed to the piers, all 19thC and 20thC except for one of 1770.

West wall:- above the chancel arch are signs of the earlier and low-pitched roof line which Hubbard thought Perpendicular. Above this but not central is a blocked window. It probably has chamfered dressings but is largely hidden behind the chancel roof timbers. On the wall to the north of the arch two 20thC marble memorials to members of the Gladstone family.

Vestry - General. From 1908/9. Woodblock floor, exposed sandstone walls, and plastered ceilings. In practice two vestries separated by a panelled screen with a castellated head. Access is from the chancel through a slightly rounded arch with Tudor rose mouldings; six steps down to the vestry level.

South aisle - General. Floor, walls and roof as the north aisle. The organ extends from this part of the church into the Whitley Chapel.

North wall:- the four-bay arcade parallels that of the north aisle. The last bay to the east gives onto the 'crossing' as on the north side. A 19thC inscription on the western respond.

East wall:- a two-centred arch now filled by the organ.

South wall:- the south doorway reveal is splayed and has a segmental arch. On the walls marble memorials of 1592, 1736 and two of the 19thC; three marble plaques listing the rectors and is dated 1898; a plaque of the Incorporated Society for Building and Churches from the 1858 rebuilding; and a 20thC wooden memorial.

West wall:- window only.

Whitley Chapel - General. Woodblock floor and some raised benches. Walls plastered and painted. Roof of six moulded tie-beams with vertical struts, on stone corbels, with exposed rafters and purlins. A double concave stone corbel runs the full length of the chapel on the north side supporting the roof. It has been suggested that this feature is of 13thC date.

North wall:- arcade (see south wall of chancel).

East wall:- the reredos has a panelled base and upper traceried panels, with castellated frieze which then continues along the north and south walls. The east window in red sandstone has flanking wall paintings of angels playing harps

South wall:- effigy of Sir Stephen Glynne below a window. Also a figured brass of 16/17thC date, brasses of 1667 and 1686, a marble monument of 1722, and a marble plaque recording the renovation of the chancel in 1884.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Based on Hubbard with additions.

Heraldic bench end: the reader's chair at the west end of the chancel incorporates the arms of Randle Poole, rector from 1505 to 1538. The poppyhead terminals are carved with pelicans. Some of this detail was crafted by Harry Hems to match the original 16thC woodwork. For a fuller description see Crossley and Ridgway.

Monuments: i) round-headed slate with Latin inscription to John Davies (d.1592). Marble tablets to ii) George Ravenscroft (d.1592). iii) Thomas Whitley of Aston Hall (d.1650) and his wife Elizabeth (d.1667). iv) to Thomas Ravenscroft (d.1670) with Latin inscription. v) to Thomas Ravenscroft (d.1698) with drapery to the sides. vi) to Colonel Roger Whitley, (d.1697 but the monument erected in 1722), with Corinthian columns. vii) to Elizabeth Booth (d.1736).

Brasses: brass, engraved on two sides and indicative of re-use, depicts two figures under canopies, putto etc, from c.1630. The reverse commemorates John Price (d.1684). ii) Robert Whitley (d.1686) with armorial shield. iii) to Edward Evalt (d.1683) with benefactions. iv) to William Corbin (d.1691) and others. v) plate on wood to Anne Glynne (d.1740-1). vi) Josiah Boydell (d.1757). vii) Ann Boydell (d.1764). viii) to Richard Williams (d.1770). ix) heraldic plaque lacking any details.

Chest: decorated front, probably 18thC or earlier. In the children's corner in the north aisle.

Plate: includes small silver paten (1635), the 'Hawarden Communion Cup of the Sick' (1726), a credence plate of 1715, a small chalice of 1726, and a silver ewer with helmet-shaped handle of c.1700.

Bells:- ring of six cast by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester, 1733-4.

Registers: from 1585.

19thC and later furnishings and fittings include:

Font: in Early English style by Scott. An octagonal stone bowl on alabaster ring shafts rising from a stone base.

Pulpit: from 1951 by H.S. Goodhart-Rendel in Renaissance style.

Reredos: alabaster under a canopy of Caen stone from 1873 by Scott in Gothic style. A representation of the Last Supper behind a tripartite arcade, with canopy work above.

Rood beam: from 1913 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

Choir stalls: from the restoration of 1855-7, having survived the fire.

Stained glass: many of the windows are memorials to the Glynne and Gladstone families. The chancel east window has a 'Crucifixion' by Burne-Jones, executed by Morris and Co. The west window executed by Morris and Co in 1898, was the last stained glass ever to be designed by Burne-Jones and depicts a Nativity scene. The Whitley Chapel contains four windows by Wailes ranging in date from 1852 to 1859. Elsewhere windows by Edward Frampton from 1885, 1891 and 1904. The Gladstone Memorial Chapel has four windows by Sir William Richmond, executed by James Powell and Sons.

Monuments: Gladstone Memorial comprises a monument designed by Sir William Richmond, and completed in 1906, of Arts and Crafts character. Elsewhere the recumbent effigy of Sir Stephen Glynne (1807-74) in a tomb recess designed by Douglas.



## CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is polygonal and was extended northwards in 1849 and 1865. A more modern cemetery was added 1912. Well maintained.

Boundary:- stone wall on all sides.

Monuments:- gravemarkers on all sides of the church and a large number of re-sited stones around the boundary walls on the south and east. 18thC slabs, and 20thC burials included within the original burial ground. The earliest gravestone seen was of 1761, south of the Whitley Chapel though earlier ones may exist.

Furniture:- a large sandstone baluster pedestal for a sundial, but no dial or gnomon; south of the nave. A circular sandstone bowl - possibly a stoup? - on a tapering stem, located next to a chest tomb close to the south chapel wall.

Earthworks:- the church appears to be set on a platform, the ground dropping away to north and south, and a little to east and west. It is not clear whether this is a result of rebuilding on the site or perhaps an earlier boundary. The churchyard raised on the north by perhaps 1m and by 2m on the east.

Ancillary features:- main south entrance gates set in sandstone pillars constructed by Douglas in 1877. The north-west lychgate was built by Sir Herbert Baker in 1929. Flagstones around three sides of the church, a concrete path to the new burial ground to the north, a tarmac path to the south entrance. A possible hearse house in the south-west corner, built in sandstone with a date of 1906 in the gable.

Vegetation:- the oldest yews to either side of the south porch; and a large number of 19thC yews. Also conifers, holly and deciduous species.

## SOURCES

Church Guide 1987

CPAT Field Visits: 12 November 1996 and 4 December 1998

CPAT SMR

Crossley and Ridgway 1945, 189

Faculty: St Asaph 1849 (NLW): extension of churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1865 (NLW): extension of churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1902 (NLW): memorial chapel

Faculty: St Asaph 1912 (NLW): extension of churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1925 (NLW): straightening of churchyard boundaries

Flintshire County Record Office: D/BJ/947 (1671): D/BJ/G9-9113 (1733/4)

Hubbard 1986, 366

RCAHMW 1912, 39

Quinquennial Report 1985

Thomas 1911, 374

## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair, apart from general weathering of sandstone.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium to Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium



# Holywell

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St James**PRN** 16797**NGR** SJ18537627

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## SUMMARY

The church of St James in Holywell first appears in the records in 1093, but there can be little doubt that tradition is correct in attributing its origin to the early medieval era. The present building has a 14thC or 15thC tower, with aisles and galleries that were added in 1769-70, together with an apse of the later 19thC. Inside is the 16thC effigy of a priest, a chest and a range of memorials from the 17thC onwards. The churchyard sits in a churchyard which it shares with St Winefride's Chapel and much of which is overgrown, though monuments from the mid 17thC have been preserved.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Tower said to date from the 14thC, though the windows in the tower are Perpendicular.

The aisles, and perhaps the whole structure other than the tower, were rebuilt in 1769-70. Reputedly the gallery pillars retain earlier stonework, but this has not been proved.

The apse was added in 1884 and the north vestry in 1905.

## HISTORY

The church is said to have been founded by St Beuno in the 7thC and dedicated to his niece, St Winefride. The 'Churche of Haliwell' is first recorded in a documentary source in 1093, when the wife of Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, added the church to her husband's previous bequest to the monks of St Werburgh's at Chester.

In 1254 in the Norwich Taxation 'Ecc'a de Halliwell' was valued at £4, and in 1291 at £18.

The late 14thC or 15thC church, of which only the tower and parts of the nave remain, may have been a triple-naved structure.

The old church underwent a substantial restoration in 1715 when the roof was re-timbered, the floor flagged, the steeple leaded, and yew trees were felled in the churchyard. The building seems to have required continual repairs until 1768 when it was deemed irreparable.

In 1769-70, the north and south aisles were rebuilt and extended to the west to embrace the tower on both sides; large galleries were added and a singer's gallery was erected in the belfry. Curiously, however, a faculty petition of 1796 refers to the demolition of the north aisle and its reconstruction with a gallery. Pennant (cited by RCAHMW) indicated that the whole of the building was reconstructed. It has been suggested that the church was newly dedicated to St James at this time.

In 1884-5 Matthew Wyatt added 'a classical polygonal apse, inserted Italianate tracery in the windows, and curtailed the galleries giving them new staircases' (Hubbard). A west gallery was removed at this time. The

cost of these works was £2000 (or £3000 according to the schedule of listed buildings).

Restoration work in 1905/6 included removing the wooden vestry at the east end of the south aisle and building the new stone vestry on the north-west corner. A new altar table was introduced, the pulpit was moved to the south side of the eastern pillar of the north arcade, and a prayer desk was introduced in its place. In 1908, a new organ was built and a new heating system added.

Considerable restoration work was undertaken on the tower in the 1930s. Between 1937-39 the wooden window frames in the nave were replaced by stone mullions; original glass was removed and the present coloured glass was inserted.

The timber framing of the roof was restored in 1958 and the lead roof, which had been robbed, was replaced by a stainless steel roof in 1985.

The north-west vestry, which had shown signs of subsidence since 1953, was eventually closed for use in 1988 and the west end of the north aisle was enclosed to create a new vestry.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church comprises a tower at the west end of the nave, a chancel and north and south aisles which terminate in line with the west side of the tower, and a disused north vestry. The building is oriented east-north-east to west-south-west, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics: 'A' is of mainly medium blocks of buff coloured sandstone, regularly fashioned.

'B' is of small to medium blocks of buff coloured sandstone, with some red sandstone, the stones slightly irregular.

'C' is of buff-coloured ashlar sandstone.

'D' is of bull-nosed sandstone.

'E' consists of slabs and blocks of buff and brown sandstone and occasional red sandstone and grey limestone; a mixture of re-used masonry; of irregular size and the coursing also irregular.

'A' and 'B' are of 14thC date, and probably variations of the same masonry type. 'E' is of 1769-70 and 'D' is of 1905. 'C' probably reflects repairs of the recent past.

Roofs:- slates.

Drainage:- north and south wall guttering leads to downspouts. Church is terraced into the hillside on the north, east and south sides, and a flagged walkway runs around it on these sides, duplicating the effect of a drainage trench.

## Exterior

Tower - General. Generally in 'B'. Undifferentiated three-stage structure with a double basal plinth having two hollow-chamfered coping courses in red sandstone up to c.1.3m above ground level (but now visible only on the west side). Tower is topped by a battlemented parapet, a flat roof and a flagpole.

North wall:- a single square-headed louvred slit with chamfered jambs. Higher up a square-headed, louvred belfry window, with two plain two-centred lights.

East wall:- overlooks nave roofline. Masonry shows some ashlar patching. Belfry aperture as north wall, the mullion replaced but the rest original.

South wall:- the second stage has a square-headed window with two louvred, two-centred lights, the frame in renewed red sandstone, but the lights with their sunken spandrels in buff sandstone which is perhaps original. Around the window the wall face is patched in 'C'. The belfry window above has a four-centred arch



with two, four-centred, trefoiled lights; the jambs have hollow chamfers and the dressings are original except for the mullion. In the next stage a square-headed belfry window.

**West wall:-** the lowest courses of this wall are in 'C' suggesting masonry renewal, higher up around the main west window the masonry is 'A' and higher still 'B'. There are stepped buttresses in large linear blocks of red and yellow sandstone, mostly renewed, set at the angles and to either side of the boiler house (from 1958) which is built against this wall. Above this a window which was formerly the east window of the church, inserted into the west wall in 1884. It has a two-centred arch with a hoodmould and simple stops over three cinquefoiled, two-centred lights with cusped, panel tracery; all the dressings have been renewed in deep red sandstone. The second stage has a deep square-headed (though slightly peaked) window with moulded jambs, a pair of louvred, trefoiled, two-centred lights, the heads perhaps renewed; and the belfry stage has a window directly comparable with that in the south wall and largely original. The tower staircase is set within the south-west angle of the tower, and three small square-headed apertures pierce the west wall lighting the stairs, two together in the first stage, one of which is chamfered, and one in the third stage. High up at the south-west angle and again near the north-west one are projecting stones which could be much worn gargoyles.

**North aisle - General.** In fabric 'E' and dating from 1769-70, with a vestry appended to its north wall at the west end.

**North wall:-** the wall face tapers outwards from top to bottom. All the fenestration is Georgian. A lower stage of three segmental-headed windows with two round-headed lights; and an upper stage (lighting the gallery) of four round-headed windows over pairs of round-headed lights with circular tracery lights above. At the east end is a round-headed frame that rises from floor to ceiling and contains two sets of round-headed windows, one above the other, and the upper pair with a roundel above.

**East wall:-** a two-light, round-headed window incorporating a roundel and below this a two-light window with segmental arch as in the north wall.

**West wall:-** a continuous west wall with the tower and south aisle, these elements separated by stepped buttresses. Standard windows as in the north wall.

**North-west vestry - General.** Constructed in 1905, but it has broken away from the north wall of church and is now disused. Castellated parapet on the east and west sides, plain on the north.

**North wall:-** in a variation of 'A'. A square-headed window over two, two-centred lights with a label.

**East wall:-** in a variation of 'A'.

**West wall:-** in 'D'. Doorway with an ogee-headed inner arch under a three-centred outer arch; to the north of this is a square-headed window with three, two-centred lights, all in light buff sandstone. Doorway and window under a continuous label.

**Chancel - General.** Only the east wall is visible externally.

**East wall:-** upper part of the wall displays quoins against which the masonry of the aisles is set. Lower down these have gone, presumably as a result of the apse being knocked through.

**Apse - General.** Apse is lower than the chancel and aisles. In fabric 'D' with ashlar slabs at the angles and a horizontal band of the same stone at sill level. An eastern extension of 1884. It contains three pairs of round-headed lights with circular tracery lights all set in round-headed windows, broadly in keeping with the aisle windows. Above the windows is a string course.

**South aisle - General.** The details mirror the north aisle: in fabric 'E' and dating from 1769-70. A two-stage



elevation with windows directly comparable with the north aisle, all in Georgian style.

East wall:- a single window with two lights, sub-lights and a roundel under a round-headed arch. Below this is a blocked window with a segmental arch.

South wall:- at the west end is a pedimented doorway with engaged Doric columns flanking a round-headed doorway with a projecting keystone and imposts, and above this a broken lamp bracket; the doorway has a pair of panelled doors. The frame is edged by blocks of red sandstone, and just to the east is a block of red sandstone incised with 'C C 1885' and a second with 'J J 1844'. Four lower windows and six above. There is also a blocked doorway at the east end under a segmental arch.

West wall:- as the north wall with its standard windows. Grave slabs lean against the wall.

## Interior

Tower - General. Ground floor used as a baptistry. Tiled floor, bare stone walls, and a panelled wooden ceiling, with moulded ribs and cornice. A stone spiral staircase set into the south-west angle and indicated by corbelled masonry leads to the upper floors with access through a small door in the north wall of the north aisle.

North wall:- entered from the north aisle by a 14thC arch of three orders with moulded jambs, all in pink sandstone, mostly original though some renewal of the outer order. Dates of 1723 and 1731, together with other graffiti, have been carved in the soft sandstone on the wall beside the arch.

East wall:- a tall two-centred arch of two orders with moulded chamfers, opening to the nave and dating from 1884.

South wall:- arch similar to that in the north wall, but only the lower jambs are in pink sandstone, the rest in pale buff stone suggesting replacement.

West wall:- contained the original entrance door but this is now blocked and invisible. Above it is the former east window of the church with a splayed reveal having a two-centred arch with long stone voussoirs extending the full depth of a soffit.

North aisle - General. Tiled floor with herringbone woodblock below benches; heating grilles. Walls plastered and painted above a dado formed from the panelling of former box pews. The ceiling slopes down from north to south to accommodate the stepped gallery above. Over the gallery is a flat ceiling with a moulded cornice. A vestry created at the west end with the insertion of panelling, has a woodblock floor, partly carpet covered; painted walls. At the east end the aisle floor is raised up by two steps and is carpeted over the woodblocks. Above the aisle is a full-length gallery with a panelled front and round, tapering Doric columns in red sandstone rising to the roof. It is approached by a wooden dog-leg staircase against the west wall of the aisle and part of the north wall. Two chairs and a wardrobe in the gallery. Its easternmost bay was removed in 1884.

North wall:- in the vestry is the segmental-headed reveal to the blocked doorway of the 1905 vestry. Stone memorials of 1623 and 1729 and a 19thC marble memorial.

East wall:- one 19thC marble memorial.

South wall:- four-bay arcade supported on large circular piers with moulded capitals, imitating features of the medieval church. Indeed it has been suggested that medieval stonework may survive in them, and Hubbard remarked on this possibility because of a lack of correspondence with the window bays, while noting that Wyatt remodelled them in 1884-5.

Nave - General. Tiled floor with herringbone woodblock below the benches. Walls and ceiling as north aisle,



though the latter is higher and is coved with a blue cornice supported on decorative corbels all around.

North wall:- pillars of the arcade as recorded above. On the pillars are three 19thC and 20thC brasses.

East wall:- three steps up to the chancel between stone screens into which are set smaller marble plaques commemorating the 1914-1918 dead.

South wall:- as north wall. Three brasses, one of 1743, the others of the 19thC and 20thC.

West wall:- the tower arch is as recorded above, but of different stonework. The outer order is in grey sandstone for the arch and pink sandstone towards the base - all of this is earlier than the inner order which dates from the restoration of 1884. Thus some of it could be medieval. One 19thC marble memorial to the south of the arch.

Chancel - General. Stepped chancel with floors carpetted over; two further steps to the sanctuary. Longitudinal choir stalls on woodblock flooring. The ceiling is a continuation of the nave.

East wall:- a moulded four-centred arch opens onto the apse. The soffit of the arch is decorated with seven painted panels.

Apse = Sanctuary - General. Floor carpetted. Walls plastered and painted. Coved plastered ceiling. Richly furnished with stained glass windows and, above the reredos, wall paintings executed between 1908 and 1922, and including copies of Veronese's Magi and Via Dolorosa and Da Vinci's Last Supper, with further paintings above the windows which are separated by pilaster columns.

South aisle - General. Tiles at front of the aisle with heating grilles, but flags at the west end include early grave slabs near the south porch. Walls and ceiling as north aisle. The east end of the aisle contains the organ which was rebuilt in the 1970s, and is now plinthed and approached by three steps. Above the aisle is a gallery directly comparable with that above the north aisle.

North wall:- arcade as on south side of north aisle, and a three-centred arch with stopped chamfers to the tower stair at the extreme west end; some renewal of the stonework. One 19thC marble memorial, and a brass benefaction tablet from the same century.

East wall:- memorials of 1741, 1797 and two of the 19thC.

South wall:- inner panelled porch to south entrance door at the west end, with pilaster columns that match the apse. Square-headed reveal to doorway at east end. A brass of 1758, and memorials and monuments of 1629, 1694, 1795 and 1803, and others completely hidden by the organ.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Effigy: the mutilated and headless effigy of a vested priest holding a chalice, now placed upright in the north aisle near the staircase. It has been identified as that of Thomas, second son of Thomas ap David Pennant, Abbot of Basingwerk and vicar to the parish in the early 16thC. However, Hubbard, following Gresham claimed it as late 13thC. It was discovered during the rebuilding of 1769.

Chest: an iron-banded oak chest, plain and plank-built. RCAHMMW and Hubbard claimed a date of 1679 and Thomas noted that it also had the churchwardens' initials. RCAHMMW also recorded a second chest.

Monuments: i) stone shield with Latin inscription to John Pennant (d.1623). ii) to Mary Bethell (d.1629) and her husband Richard Davenport (d.1630), a painted shield on stone in a wooden frame. iii) a shield with 'T M /1658' and a coat of arms. iv) white marble to Rev. Robert Edwards of Brynford (d.1694), with skull and cross-bones, a putto, and a cartouche with painted heraldry. v) stone tablet to William Pyers (d.1729), in poor condition. vi) Edward Pennant (d.1741) and his wife Mary (d.1750), with three putto heads above. vii)



stone tablet within wooden frame to Eleanor Poppleton of Bath (d.1779). viii) white marble on black slate to Jane Hughes (d.1791). ix) white marble to Francis Smedley (d.1795), by E.S. x) grey marble with a pediment to Paul Panton (d.1797) by Flaxman. xi) painted stone shield with 'Labe Mea Morior Sangvine Vivo Tvo', undated but probably 17thC.

Brasses: i) John Pierce of Gadlas (d.1748) and his wife Ann (d.1780). ii) Mary Myddleton (d.1751). iii) Robert Totty (d.1758). iv) Jane Price (d.1775). v) William Coyney (d.1782).

Tooled stone: rectangular slab of unknown origin, without distinctive markings; now located in the baptistry.

Sundial: the plate is inscribed 1732 with the churchwardens' names. In a glass case in the baptistry.

Bassoon: in case in the baptistry; from 1765.

Hand bell: of at least 18thC date for its first reference is in 1714. In case in the baptistry.

Registers: from 1538.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Chairs: two of carved oak, now in the north gallery. Undated but possibly placed in church in 1842.

Font: octagonal bowl, carved facets, from 1885.

Stained glass: in the apse are War Memorial windows by Clayton and Bell.

Monuments:- i) a black slate tablet to Mary, daughter of Christopher Sugg, a ventriloquist (d.1800) by White Watson of Bakewell. ii) white marble to Thomas Simon, surgeon (d.1803) and his wife (d.1814) by J Wright, Chester. iii) white marble on grey veined slate to Hugh Humphreys (d.1820) by E. Jones of Liverpool. iv) white marble on black slate to Humphrey Roberts (d.1848) by Kirk of Dublin.

Brass: to Edward Jones, agent at Downing, (d.1821), made by George Davies of Holywell.

Benefaction boards: four large boards on the north wall of the south aisle against the tower. The earliest from 1775, the others of 1843, 1848 and 1859.

Collecting bowls: copper. Four hanging on walls of baptistry.

## CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is an irregular parcel of land largely to the south and east of the church, while to the west is St Winefride's Chapel. The southern part of the churchyard was landscaped in 1969 when many headstones and kerbstones were re-sited and the ground was levelled and reseeded. There is an overgrown part of the churchyard rising up the hill to the east through woodland, and also round to the north of the church. The churchyard was extended to the south in 1815 and again in 1847 on land given by Earl Grosvenor. It was closed for burials in 1864.

Boundary:- a stone revetment wall on the west above the road and a boundary wall along the south and some at least of the east. There is a high revetment wall on the north.

Monuments:- these are mostly 19thC in date, and many headstones are re-sited around the wall which encloses St Winefride's Chapel. There is a strip of land adjoining the south side of the church and west of the path leading to the church gate this has been cleared and grassed over leaving only three standing grave markers, but around the edge stones have been set as steps. East of the path is an overgrown part of the graveyard carrying 19thC tombs and graves, and around the east and north sides of the church it is equally overgrown and inaccessible. Near the south-east side of the church is a gravestone of 1728, and



one of 1753 leans against the west wall, but the earliest memorials - from 1658, 1661, and 1676 - are to be found against the east wall of the south aisle.

Ancillary features:- concrete path leads downhill to the south door of the church from a pair of iron gates forming a south entrance. A second path leads in from the west gates with their overarch alongside St Winefride's Chapel. A cast iron plate set in the wall near the south entrance records the enlargement of the churchyard in 1815.

Earthworks:- raised by up to 2m on west and by many metres on the north.

Furniture:- broken pillar of a sundial lies flat in the overgrown burial ground near the south wall of the church.

Vegetation:- a yew on the north side of the west gate by St Winefride's Chapel.

## SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1991

Church Guide n.d.

CPAT Field Visits: 30 October 1996 and 20 November 1998

Clwyd SMR

Faculty: St Asaph 1771 (Flintshire County Record Office): construction of singing gallery

Faculty: St Asaph 1796 (Flintshire County Record Office): demolition of north aisle

Faculty: St Asaph 1817 (NLW): consecration of an additional burial ground

Faculty: St Asaph 1847 (NLW): consecration of an additional burial ground

Faculty: St Asaph 1884 (NLW): faculty for alterations to the church

Faculty: St Asaph 1905 (NLW): new vestry

Gresham 1968, 159

Hubbard 1986, 373

RCAHMW 1912, 43

Quinquennial Report

Thomas 1911, 188

## CONDITION

The north-west vestry, which had shown signs of subsidence since 1953, was eventually closed for use in 1988, and has now broken away from the north wall. The sandstone masonry is suffering from erosion and dampness at the west end of the north aisle.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Medium to Good

Archaeological potential: Poor to Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Good



# Hope

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<b>Diocese</b>	St Asaph	<b>Dedication</b>	St Cyngar
<b>PRN</b>	16798	<b>NGR</b>	SJ30965836
		<b>Previous dedication</b>	St Cynfarch

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## SUMMARY

St Cyngar's church in Hope was almost certainly founded in the early medieval period, but though the present structure may date from the end of the 13thC it now has the appearance of a Perpendicular double-naved structure with a tower that is probably largely 16thC. The fabric incorporates earlier architectural and sepulchral fragments. Inside are some 15thC glass and fragmentary wall paintings, a figured monument of 1629 and a Jacobean pulpit. The church is set in a raised circular enclosure.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Double-naved church, with the east end of the southern nave with its crypt thought to date from soon after 1281. This was reputedly later extended westwards, but it is difficult to confirm this because the masonry mix in the south nave is so heterogeneous. In the 15thC a north nave was added on a slightly different alignment. There is a west tower in Perpendicular style, believed to have been completed by 1568. A north vestry was added in the 19thC and the building was restored in 1884 and new belfry windows were inserted at this time.

## HISTORY

The dedication, the churchyard morphology and a number of carved stones all point to an early medieval foundation on this spot.

The church is recorded as 'Ecc'a de Estun' in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 at a value of 13s 4d, and in Pope Nicholas's Taxation of 1291, its value is recorded at £14.

The 13thC church was damaged during the war between Edward I and the Welsh Princes. The small amount of compensation paid for the damage suggests that the church was of timber construction. Sometime after 1281, the wooden church was replaced by a stone one, now the eastern end of the south nave.

The building was extended westwards, perhaps in the 14thC. Traces of the south doorway were discovered during the 1953 restoration under the plasterwork at the west end of the south nave.

The present nave (the north nave) was added to the north side of the church in the 15thC and the two east windows in Perpendicular style were inserted. It seems that the 15thC church was dedicated to St Cynfach, a 5thC saint, but Edward Lhwyd and Thomas Pennant claimed that the dedication was to St Cyngar, a 6thC saint, and it is the latter that is now used.

The church was reputedly enlarged by Lady Margaret Beaufort (1441-1509), mother of Henry VII. During restoration work in 1953, two patches of wall paintings were discovered beneath limewash on the north side of the arcade. A date of 1533 was revealed on one of the roundels and this presumably related to reconstruction work undertaken by Lord and Lady Stanley, who also presented the church with a font

bearing eagle's claws which has now been transferred to Llanfynydd Church.

The tower was completed in 1568. There is no record of a bell being installed at that time, but three original bells with dates of 1623, 1720 and 1793 were removed in 1920, and melted down to produce a ring of six cast by Taylors of Loughborough.

In 1610, Sir John Trevor built Plas Teg Hall and became a major benefactor of the church. Monumental effigies of he and his wife Margaret were placed in the church, and the east end of the aisle is referred to as the Trevor Chapel.

The east window was reglazed in 1766, a brass gnomon bought for the sundial in 1768 and a new church clock in 1788. A watercolour of the church in c.1780 by Moses Griffith, Thomas Pennant's artist, shows the north aisle with two supporting buttresses, and two square-headed traceried windows of two and three lights, and Thomas noted that 'the foundations of a north aisle lie imbedded beside the nave wall'. The belfry windows in the tower are shown as two-light whereas the present ones are three-light.

Some rebuilding is believed to have taken place in 1812. Subsequently the north wall was rebuilt in 1825 on the 15thC wall foundations and Georgian windows were included. The plastered ceiling was removed from the south aisle and the oak roof exposed. Further work in the 1828 included reseating, the purchase of a new stone font and repairs to the windows.

In 1851 (or 1854 according to Glynne's notes), repairs were carried out to the church roof and yews were planted on the north and east side of the churchyard. The doorway in the north wall was filled in, allowing what had been a porch to become a small vestry. (This structure was extended in 1967 to form modern vestries for the clergy and the choir). The Georgian windows were replaced by the present Gothic fenestration in the north and south walls.

Glynne visited Hope at an unspecified date, but probably soon after 1854. His comments on the windows were not particularly complimentary, and he noted that the old stone font has been sent to St Matthew's Buckley, to be replaced by 'an ugly modern one'. The two east windows 'abound in fragments of stained glass, figures and scrolls'.

Between 1859 and 1867 further renovation work included reroofing the nave. In 1864, the organ was donated by the Atcherleys of Cymmau Hall and installed in the west end gallery which existed until 1871. In 1867 a new stone font was purchased.

Rebuilding and restoration work in 1885 was supervised by J.O.Scott, son of Sir Gilbert Scott and carried out by a local builder called Probert. The west end gallery and old box pews were removed, the church floor was raised some 15 inches and relaid in tile, the organ was transferred to its present position at the east end of the south aisle, and a screen was erected to separate it from the chancel. Much of the south wall was rebuilt, and two Norman coffin lids, discovered beneath the floor, and two millstones, were inserted as features in the south wall. Two of the east end buttresses were rebuilt, presumably the two to the south side. The total cost was £1550.

Tower masonry was repaired in 1912, and new stone steps were placed at the entrance.

The interior was restored and redecorated in 1953, when the wall paintings were uncovered.

In 1966 considerable rebuilding work took place at the east end of the church. In 1989 repairs were made to the roof.

At the time of writing (1998) the south aisle is filled with scaffolding due to fundamental problems with cracks in the masonry as a result of subsidence. Preliminary work has revealed a lead coffin and possibly traces of an earlier north wall.

## ARCHITECTURE



The church comprises a west tower, and double naves, the one to the south now functioning as an aisle and rather narrower than its northern counterpart. The church is aligned north-east to south-west but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is used here.

Fabrics: 'A' consists mainly of medium to large blocks of buff sandstone and some limestone, mostly quite regular in shape; some coursing.

'B' is of yellow, grey and occasional red sandstone, very irregular in size and coursing, and even occasional rounded blocks; heavily pointed and some limewash flecks.

'C' is of mainly large, well dressed, blocks of medium-grained buff and light brown sandstone; coursed.

'A' is from 1825, 'C' is of the 16thC. 'B' is possibly of the 13thC but similar masonry was used in the 15thC.

Roofs:- slates. Cross finials to the east end of the south aisle and chancel, and the west end of the south aisle.

Drainage:- cast iron downspouts and guttering leading to mains drainage. Possibly a concrete capped drainage trench towards the eastern end of the north side; also on the north and south sides of the tower.

## Exterior

Tower - General. In 'C', with some larger blocks forming the basal layers. The broad three-stage tower has four stepped, diagonal buttresses in the same material which rise to the apices of the belfry windows. There is a slightly battered base and a double sandstone plinth rises from c.1m above ground level at the north-east corner to around 2.5m at the west end buttress; the lower plinth has chamfered coping, the upper moulded. A moulded string course divides the first and second stages, and a second string course integrates the hoodmoulds over the belfry windows. Note that the plinths run around the buttresses but the string courses do not. The top of the tower is battlemented and there is a further string course just below the parapet with waterspouts at the angles and an extra one on the north wall. The tower is topped by battlements and surmounted by a pyramidal slate roof with a weathervane.

North wall:- there are no windows in the lowest stage, the second stage has a small square-headed window under a large stone lintel which might be re-used. The belfry window has a two-centred, unchamfered arch with louvred triple lancets and intersecting Y-tracery. This probably dates to the 1880s.

East wall:- visible above nave roof. There is a square-headed window as in the north wall but without the heavy lintel; this window is used as an outlet for a downspout. The belfry window as the north wall. An earlier roofline with a steeper pitch than the present one is visible about 1m above it.

South wall:- belfry window as the north wall and a slit window to the second stage, again with an unusual lintel. The tower stair has a square-headed unchamfered slit at ground floor level and two similar ones in the second stage, all near the south-west angle.

West wall:- the west entrance has a four-centred chamfered arch of 16thC date with moulded chamfers, a mix of worn grey sandstone and later renewal in yellow and red sandstone. Above this is a window of three lights with depressed ogee heads and mixed panel tracery, set under a four-centred arch with a hoodmould which is integrated into the lowest string course. Above is clock face bearing an 1880 date and a belfry window as the north wall. A small, but architecturally rather fine, window with a two-centred arch, moulded dressings and label lights the tower stair to the south side of the main west window.

Nave - General. In 'A' on the north side and may include re-used stone (the limestone?); in 'B' on the east side. No external differentiation between the nave and chancel.

North wall:- plinth at c.0.5m at the east end drops to ground level and below surface level towards the west end. The wall was rebuilt in 1825 and a rectangular early grave slab in grey sandstone with a incised round-headed cross was set between the second and last windows to the east. The three windows date from 1851. The central one consists of a two-centred arch with three cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights with heavily



cusped tracery, and to either side are windows with four-centred arches containing pairs of cinquefoiled, two-centred lights. All the dressings are in yellow sandstone and some mullion stones have already been renewed. At the west end, between the vestry and the tower, a short and lower length of wall, c.0.7m long, connects with the tower and is probably part of the earlier nave.

East wall:- in 'B' but the stonework more regular than the masonry in the equivalent wall of the south nave; part of the gable is in 'A'. Chamfered plinth at the base of the wall. A central buttress, rising almost to the level of the valley between the two nave roofs, masks the juncture of the two naves. This buttress does not look to be original but the stepped buttress at the north-east corner is 15thC. The east window has a two-centred arch, five, two-centred lights, sub-arches and panel tracery. All the dressings have been renewed in yellow sandstone; iron grilles protect the glass. A short central buttress below the window was added during modern repairs to the east end and contains a roll-moulded architectural fragment comparable with that in the vestry reveal (see interior below). Possibly a crypt below the chancel?

South wall: as on the north side a short stretch of wall connects the nave and tower. This incorporates a stone inscribed 'Mors Omnibus Communis' with carved spandrels over a linear stone with chevron carvings. These are located about 1.5m above ground level.

North vestry - General. Built of large regular blocks of sandstone, some probably re-used. Adjoins the north wall on the nave at the west end. Constructed in 1850 when it replaced a north porch, and enlarged in 1967 in sandstone, it is now of irregular plan. It has rounded corners, and is lit by modern square-headed slit windows and has an east-facing doorway.

South aisle - General. In 'B'.

East wall:- The east wall is believed to date from the late 13thC, and its alignment is fractionally different from that of the north nave east wall. Into this was inserted a 15thC window with a two-centred arch with a worn hoodmould over four wide, plain lights with sub-arches and panel tracery; the dressings have been renewed in yellow sandstone, except for some of the hoodmould. A short south-east buttress in fine grained yellow sandstone appears to have been added during the 15thC and is similar to that at the north-east angle of the chancel.

Boiler house:- located below the east end of the south aisle, it was converted from a crypt which had its entrance below the east window. In 1884 the rear of the crypt was walled up and the remainder was converted. The boiler house has a stony floor and a barrel-vaulted roof. Mason's marks are visible on the dressed stones of the walling.

South wall:- this is a heterogeneous mix of masonry with heavy pointing and it is not possible to determine the phasing which is surely represented in the wall. There are three 19thC windows as on the north side with patching around them. Between the two more easterly windows is a buttress, constructed in the 19thC to support the chimney, also in yellow sandstone, which rises above the roof. Set into the buttress is an ornate carved stone displaying a running chevron pattern, and a second carved stone with a round-headed cross is set into the wall above the buttress. West of the buttress is a blocked priest's door cut by the inserted window. Its two-centred arch with chamfered, yellow sandstone dressings is still visible in outline. Further west the wall incorporates a fragment of a pink sandstone gravestone, and two millstones have been built into the wall near the westernmost window - one visible in full and one in part. Towards the west angle is a blocked rectangular 'doorway', perhaps a former gallery entrance, and below this about 0.6m off the ground the wall contains a fragment of an 18thC gravestone. Either side of this are long and short jambs to a height of about 0.8m, signalling a blocked south doorway.

West wall:- the stonework is better coursed than the south wall, and there are larger blocks at the base with a wider variety of coloured sandstones, perhaps all original. The window with a quasi-shouldered arch, beneath which are three, narrow ogee-headed lights and two shield-shaped panel lights. Hubbard thought it could be either Decorated or Perpendicular.



## Interior

**Tower - General.** The ground floor is used as a baptistry and a flight of six stone steps leads up from the west door. 19thC tiled floor. Walls have exposed stonework in the form of dressed blocks. Oak floor below ringing chamber supported on heavy joists. The second stage contains the clock mechanism and ringing chamber, the third stage the bell chamber. The steel bell frame is supported on brickwork. The interior stonework is much rougher on the upper floors than the dressed exterior. The tower stair displays a good array of masons' marks.

**North wall:-** one 20thC brass and a wooden board listing the fees for the church.

**East wall:-** a high two-centred chamfered arch to the nave, of three orders, with moulded capitals and chamfers.

**South wall:-** in the wall adjacent to the south-west angle is the tower stair doorway with a four-centred arch and chamfered dressings. On the wall wooden Royal Arms of George III, and a marble memorial of 1808.

**West wall:-** from 1968 an inner wooden doorway forms a porch in the deep four-centred reveal. Above this is a splayed window aperture, with one of the sill slabs reported to be a re-used gravestone.

**Nave - General.** 19thC tiled floor includes iron heating grilles; benches on woodblock flooring. All walls plastered and painted light blue, leaving only the dressings of the windows exposed. A continuous roof across the nave and chancel dates to the early 19thC restoration: five bays formed by four collar trusses with king struts, and exposed rafters, through purlins and a ceiling plastered above.

**North wall:-** the reveal to the vestry entrance has a segmental head; a stone carved with roll mouldings is built into the west side of the reveal. Further east there are war memorials and two marbles of 19thC date.

**East wall:-** one step up to the chancel.

**South wall:-** an arcade formed by four wide, two-centred arches supported by three octagonal stone piers with expanded capitals, the facets fluted at the top, splayed bases topped by ring mouldings, and east and west responds; the arches have two chamfered orders, and the dressings are in pale buff sandstone. The fourth bay separates the chancel from the Trevor Chapel in the south nave. At the west end and attached to the wall is a panel with a wall painting fragment on it, and above the arches are two patches of paintings.

**West wall:-** arch as described above under 'Tower'. Some patching to the dressings.

**North vestry - General.** 19thC addition. Tiled floor, painted walls and a flat ceiling.

**South wall:-** the doorway has a two-centred arch and hollow chamfers with pyramid stops.

**Chancel - General.** Stepped up from the nave; tiled floors, some encaustic, with raised planked floors beneath the longitudinal choir stalls; one step to the sanctuary and two to the altar.

**North wall:-** marble memorials of 1722 and 1828, and a stone one of 1785.

**East wall:-** east window with late medieval stained glass.

**South wall:-** as noted above under 'Nave' the arcade continues, separating the chancel from the Trevor Chapel and organ chamber. There are traces of wall paintings above the arch.

**West wall:-** the rood screen of three traceried panels to either side of a central arch.

**South aisle - General.** [Note that at the time of the last visit the south aisle was largely inaccessible.]

Excavation at the east end had revealed a lead coffin with 'W. H. 1746']. The floor, all on one level, is a mix of herringbone woodblock and 19thC tiles, with some heating grilles. Walls as nave. The 15thC roof consists of seven bays formed by eight arch-braced collar trusses with cusped struts and principals, and exposed rafters, through purlins and cusped windbraces. This roof shows signs of re-use and modification: the central trusses are different at their terminals with extensions on the north side indicative of a change in design. The east end of the aisle was formerly the Trevor Chapel, but since 1884 has held the large organ.

North wall:- arcade as described above, with the most easterly bay screened off. A Consecration(?) cross is cut into the arcade pillar opposite the centre window.

East wall:- the window contains medieval stained glass, the quarries of different coloured glass.

South wall:- the upper part of a double piscina located below the Trevor Memorial; it has two simple two-centred heads with chamfered dressings and is painted dark red, and Hubbard attributed an Early English date to it. Memorials on the wall from 1629 (two), 19thC marble memorials (three) and three 20thC brasses. Also a modern painting.

West wall:- one splayed aperture.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Based on Hubbard with additions.

Wall paintings: fragments which include texts, in the north nave above the arcade. There are further fragments in a frame opposite the nave north door, reputedly part of a St Christopher.

Stained glass: the east window of the chancel contains glass dated to 1490. 'Evangelists in four long tracery lights, probably in situ. Inscriptions show this to have been a Te Deum window. Remains also of scenes from the life of the Virgin, formerly in the east window of the south nave. These include canopy work in the first, third and fifth lights, and St Anne praying in the fifth' (Hubbard). Glass moved from the south aisle window in 1931 and the same is true of the 'IHS' at the top of the chancel window. The east window in the south aisle still contains glass of 15thC date.

Pulpit: square on a stone plinth; 17thC Jacobean.

Monuments: i) black marble tablet to Sir John Trevor (d.1629) with a Latin inscription, heraldry and strapwork. ii) A second memorial with kneeling effigies of the same Sir John Trevor and his wife Margaret with heraldry all around; there is no inscription so presumably two parts of the same memorial. iii) White and black-veined marble with urn, lion and trumpets to Barbara Yonge (d.1722) and Dorothy Yonge (d.1714). iv) a stone tablet with castellated head and decorative pilaster pinnacles to Ellis Yonge of Bryn Yorkin (d.1785) by Carline of Shrewsbury. v) a white marble memorial to Jane Jones of Cymmau (d.1792).

Benefaction board: with dates down to 1723.

Clapper: a large iron clapper mounted on a wooden board on the north wall of the tower is believed to have come from one of the early bells, either 17thC or 18thC.

Plate: includes a 1670 silver chalice and a 1720 paten and flagon.

Registers: from 1673.

19thC and later furnishings and fittings include:

Royal Arms: i) of plaster with the arms painted. George III and of pre-1801 form, but with the painted date 1825. ii) wooden and painted, also of George III and possibly 18thC.



Stained glass: the west window of the south aisle has glass of 1860 depicting Christ with Moses holding the 10 Commandments and Aaron with his rod.

Screen: dates from Oldrid Scott's restoration of 1884-5.

Monuments: i) a white marble tablet to David Francis Jones (d.1828) by L. Wright of Chester.

Altar rails: from 1859.

Reredos: from 1915.

Font: of Caen stone font, with carved facets, from 1867.

## CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is a raised circular enclosure slightly truncated on its western side by a road widening scheme in 1979 and more drastically cut back on the north and east sides. It is well-maintained. A large gravel car parking area was constructed in the 1960s on the north side of the churchyard and there is also a new churchroom on this side.

Boundary:- a revetment wall is constructed in rubble on the north and north-west, and in addition there is a bank with a hedge on top on the north-west. A 1773 datestone is set in the wall on the west side. The eastern boundary is formed by a hedge and a wooden fence just outside it. The north and east boundaries are now straight, that on the north separating the car park from the churchyard.

Monuments:- burials fairly evenly distributed on all sides of the church and some dating from the 18thC. One possible early 18thC slab now covered over, and the earliest date seen was of 1763. By the mid-19thC, the churchyard was unable to cope with more burials and in 1864 a separate parcel of land was purchased for use as a cemetery.

Furniture:- a carinated, baluster sandstone pillar, standing on an octagonal plinth near the south path has lost its sundial and gnomon.

Ancillary features:- the present west entrance consists of a pair of ornamental iron gates set in stone pillars and a stepped and walled entrance leading up to the west door. There are south-west and south stiles above flights of steps, as well as a gate to the latter, a wooden gate on the north-west side and a pair of iron gates with an overarch, leading in from car parking area on the north. A gate to the rectory on the east. Tarmac and stone paths surround the church and include some grave slabs.

Earthworks:- raised by 0.5m on the north, and 2-3m on the west and south. The interior is generally rather irregular, and there is some mounding immediately north of the church.

Vegetation:- five yew trees, one in the rectory garden, encircle the churchyard with an infilling of beech trees and a mix of bushes, and a sixth yew closer to the centre of the churchyard.

## SOURCES

Church guide 1976

CPAT Field Visits: 4 July 1996 and 27 November 1998

Clwyd SMR

Evans, n.d.

Faculty: St Asaph 1884 (NLW): restoration

Faculty: St Asaph 1979 (NLW): loss of part of churchyard for road widening

Glynne, 1884, 257

Hubbard 1986, 376

Lewis 1833  
Lhwyd 1909-11.  
Pennant 1784, 435  
Quinquennial Report 1994  
RCAHMW 1912, 48  
Thomas, 1911, 394



## CONDITION

Church currently under repair.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium to Good

Group value: Medium to Good

# Llanasa

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**Diocese** St Asaph

**Dedication** St Cynderyn

**PRN** 16809

**NGR** SJ10668141

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## SUMMARY

The church of St Asaph and St Kentigern at Llanasa is recorded in Domesday Book and is presumed to be an early medieval site. The present double-naved structure was erected in the 15thC in Perpendicular style but the variable fabric suggests that the building has undergone widespread renovation and rebuilding over the centuries. Inside there is 16thC stained glass in the east windows, a Perpendicular font, 14thC sepulchral slabs and a 17thC pulpit. The small, irregularly-shaped churchyard includes a 1605 tomb chest for Sir Piers Mostyn, a sundial of 1762 and a reconstructed 1725 lychgate.

## ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

A Perpendicular double-naved church dating to 15thC, though the heterogeneous nature of the wall masonry indicates considerable rebuilding and/or patching. Conceivably the south nave is earlier than its northern counterpart and some of the walling on the south could be from a 13thC or 14thC structure.

The date of the tower is uncertain. Could it be 17thC as suggested by Glynne?

The internal arcade was built in 1739 in 16thC style.

The south porch was added in 1877 during a major restoration.

## HISTORY

The church has a dual dedication to St Asaph and St Kentigern, both 6thC saints. This together with the location suggest an early medieval foundation, and this is reinforced by the record of the church in the Domesday survey of 1087.

A grant of the rectorial tithes was made between 1240 and 1247 to the Dean and Chapter of St Asaph and the church appears in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 as 'Ecc'a de Llanassa' at a value of £4, and in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 'Ecclesia de Llanassaph' was recorded at £10 13s 4d.

The present building dates largely to the 15thC.

Restoration work is recorded in 1739, 1746, 1766, 1818 and 1877. In 1739, the pillars and arches of the arcade were rebuilt in 16thC style and the roof of the north aisle was replaced though the existing principal trusses were reused.

The chancel screen was removed in 1818 and the church was re-seated with pews of varying sizes.

Glynne visited Llanasa in 1854. He thought the 'steeple' 17thC, and the whole of the north and south walls were modern, presenting ugly 'Venetian' (i.e. Georgian) windows, 'a few of which had lately been altered into square heads'. Stained glass in the east window of the south aisle was said to have come from Basingwerk



Abbey. The arcade was late in date and there was a north porch.

A new bell was introduced in 1862 and an organ placed in the gallery at the west end of the north aisle.

In 1873 proposed restoration work by G. E. Street included reseating with open seats, tiling the aisles and raising the chancel with an approach by two steps, new roofs including panelling over the chancel, a new south porch, new windows, a vestry at the east end of the chancel, moving the organ to the east end, rebuilding one of the arches and generally carrying out repairs and alterations. The eastern gable on the northern side was rebuilt. The cost was £1900 and the church was re-opened in 1877.

## ARCHITECTURE

Llanasa is a double-naved structure with a small western tower against the north nave and a south porch. It is oriented east-north-east/west-south-west, but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabrics: 'A' consists of small to medium blocks and slabs of buff-coloured sandstone, with occasional red sandstone blocks; irregularly coursed.

'B' is of local carboniferous limestone; irregularly coursed; occasional limewash residues.

'C' is of square and rectangular quarry-cut blocks of sandstone

'D' is of fine-grained sandstone ashlar.

'E' is in yellow sandstone and incorporates long linear blocks of stone; also occasional sandstone of other colours and limestone; irregular coursing; some limewash residues. Similar to but not the same as 'A'.

'F' is of rough cut, quarried sandstone, the medium-sized blocks regularly coursed and with ashlar dressings.

'G' consists of slabs and some blocks of buff sandstone, regular coursing...

'H' is akin to 'A' but is a mixture of buff sandstone and limestone.

'A' and 'B' are 15thC, and 'H' might be of this date; 'G' may be mid-18thC; 'E' is probably later 18thC if not 19thC, though in the tower it could be earlier; 'C', 'D' and 'F' are 19thC.

Roofs:- slates with blue ceramic ridge tiles. Cross finials over east and west gables, except for the west end of the north aisle.

Drainage:- north and south wall guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. No obvious drain on north side, though the ground level is only just below the windows; nothing either on south and east.

## Exterior

### North nave - General.

North wall:- Masonry in this wall is extremely mixed suggesting considerable modifications over the centuries. At the west end the basal 0.4m or so in masonry of 'A'- type. Above this the masonry is 'E'. However about 2m east of the corner it changes to 'G' which seems to indicate some rebuilding, presumably when the door of 1750 was inserted. The features from the west are: i) a round-headed doorway, the dressings with stopped chamfers in fine grained sandstone, and incised 'Edward Ffoulks, William Jones, Chr Wardens 1750'. The ground level here is cut away to allow flagged entrance steps to the door. ii) a window with a square-headed frame and three round-headed lights; depressed spandrels; the yellow sandstone dressings are original. 17thC or perhaps later, but more weathered than the stonework of the doorway. iii) a square-headed window containing three cinquefoiled, two-centred lights with cusped, panel lights above; from the 1874-7 restoration. Between iii) and iv) the masonry may be 'G'. iv) a square-headed window with a single cinquefoiled light; perspex sheet over the window to protect the stained glass. Beyond this window the masonry is 'A', but the stonework at lower levels in the wall is more homogeneous and might indicate rebuilding at higher levels. v) window comparable with iii). vi) a single-light window comparable with iv).



Beyond this window the masonry reverts to 'E' and includes quarry-cut blocks with less potentially re-used material. New quoins added at the corner.

East wall:- in 'H', with the north-east angle obviously rebuilt. The east window has a two-centred arch with four cinquefoiled, round-headed lights and cusped, panel tracery, and a hoodmould; deeply hollowed chamfers. The sill and many of the dressings including some mullion stones, occasional jambstones and the whole hoodmould renewed. It should be noted that the window is not centrally placed in the wall and this could indicate that the roof and perhaps the north wall have been raised.

West wall:- appears to be in 'E', but some of the wall face obscured, and the quoins at the north-west angle have been replaced. The small tower projects off this wall. To either side of this are single trefoiled, two-centred lights. That to the north of the tower is in modern, fine grained, grey sandstone to match the 19thC light to the south of the tower.

Tower - General. A small square tower in 'E', and of uncertain date. It has a deeply splayed base rising to 1.6m above ground level. A string course runs below the turret and the masonry is stepped in above this level on the east and west sides; there is a pyramidal stone cap to the tower surmounted by a cross finial; east and west two-centred apertures for the single bell. The north and south sides, have small dormer lights.

South nave - General. The south nave is on a very slightly different alignment to that of the north nave on the basis of faint changes in the axes of the east and west walls.

East wall:- most of the wall is in 'B' but above the window and in places around it is in 'G'-type masonry which lacks any limewash residue, suggesting a relatively modern date, though it does contain occasional lumps of red sandstone which is probably re-used. A wide four-centred window with five lights and panel tracery; the three central lights have ogee heads, the flanking lights are round-headed; the hoodmould has been renewed except for the original head stops. Sill and mullions renewed. The chamfers to the dressings are less hollowed than their counterparts in the east window of the north aisle.

South wall:- a heterogeneous mixture of masonry types. The quoins at the west end are of worn sandstone. The fabric at this end appears to be an 'H' variation, though heavy pointing tends to obscure the masonry. Features from the west are: i) a restoration-period window with two-centred arch over two cinquefoiled, two-centred lights and a multifoil tracery light above; in fine-grained yellow sandstone. Surrounding the window is shaped sandstone, a pure variation of 'E'. ii) south porch. iii) a sandstone tablet records 'Thomas Jones, Vicr. Michael Hughes, Thomas Parr, Churchwards. Anno Domini 1746'. iv) a two-light window as i) but the multifoil light is replaced by two cusped panel lights; again some 'E' masonry surrounds the window. v) a recess with chamfered sides which may have contained another datestone, the face of which has completely flaked away. Between iv) and vi) the wall is in 'H' but at the lowest levels the stonework is more 'E'-like. vi) window as i). Immediately to the east is an area of 'B' which could conceivably indicate the former position of a priest's door. Next more 'H' and inset into this a large square block of sandstone with an armorial shield which has now largely disappeared. viii) another window as iv). ix) another block with an armorial shield, both of these being sited above the Mostyn tomb. x) a deep sloping buttress adjoins the south-east angle, c.1.3m wide, and effectively forms a continuation of the east wall; constructed in 'B' and of uncertain date.

West wall:- primarily in 'B' but rebuilt in 'G' from below eaves level, though re-using 'B' limestone. Clear traces of the roof having been raised. At the base of the wall a semi-subterranean boiler house and behind this some 'G'-type masonry which could indicate some rebuilding. Just above the top of the boiler house a decorated stone and other atypical stones utilised in this part of the wall.

Porch - General. From 1874-7, in 'F'. A basal plinth, c.0.3m high, along the sides and part of the front wall.

East wall:- plain.

South wall:- a two-centred open doorway of two orders with stopped chamfers on the jambs.



West wall:- plain.

#### Interior

Porch- General. Red and black tiled floor; exposed stonework to the walls, with wooden benches running along the east and west walls. There is a Victorian arch-braced roof of six trusses, plastered above.

North wall:- doorway from the 19thC restoration.

East wall:- two 19thC brass memorial plaques.

Nave - General. Carpetted floor throughout, even under the benches. Walls plastered and painted. The roof was raised probably during its rebuilding in 1739 (see below) and corbels on the south side reveal where the roof rested prior to that date: there are six stone corbels in all but it has been suggested that the four to the east pre-date the two western ones; the second corbel from the west has a carved face and is almost certainly a re-used slab, perhaps sepulchral. It should be noted too that there are none of these corbels west of the arcade even though the wall continues. The roof itself is of five bays with collars supported on straight braces and king and raking struts. Four of the trusses rest on wooden corbels on the south wall, though these are of different forms, and on the north wall the trusses run back behind the wall plate though the corbels are still in position. This suggests they are sawn-off tie-beams with thin chamfers. A stone tablet set in the wall records that 'the rooffe of the North Ile and the pillars and arches were rebuilt 1739' when Thomas Parry and Thomas Norman were churchwardens.

North wall:- a round-headed doorway, with a segmental head to the splayed reveal. Approached by a rise of five steps. There are eight memorials: a marble memorial of 1744, a stone example from 1798, the commemorative stone of 1739 mentioned above, one 19thC marble and four 19thC and 20thC brasses.

East wall:- two steps up to the chancel. No screen.

South wall:- a six-bay Perpendicular-style arcade, reconstructed in 1739; wide four-centred arches of two orders with chamfered dressings are mounted on octagonal stone piers with moulded octagonal capitals and square bases. The archstones bear Roman numerals, presumably to aid reconstruction, unless of course they are original? The arches towards the east end are in pink and buff sandstone, the most westerly is of 19thC date and is in fine-grained greyish sandstone, but to the same design. The most westerly pillar is in fact a double respond with a short stretch of wall between, and there are responds at the east and west ends. On the wall a stone memorial of 1729, a marble one of 1775 and two 19thC brasses.

West wall:- two windows but otherwise featureless.

Chancel - General. Two steps up from the nave, one to the sanctuary, and one to the altar. The 19thC sanctuary is tiled, some encaustic, and partly carpetted. A new roof was added by Street in 1874-7, and occupies three and two-third bays; four arch-braced collar trusses but the bracing consists of straight braces supported by arch braces beneath; heavily cusped king and raking struts, moulded cornices, and moulded ribs and purlins with timber boarding behind. The panelling, and braces and cusping are 19thC, but the principals are earlier and may well be original. While the trusses are at the same height as the nave, the ceiling in the chancel is lower.

North wall:- a 1914-18 War memorial in the sanctuary, and four 19thC and 20thC brasses set on the wall above the choir stalls.

East wall:- plain with stained glass in the window. Below and against the wall is a radiator.

South wall:- three bays of the arcade mentioned above; one has Arabic numerals inscribed on the stones. In the sanctuary, a credence with a sepulchral slab set in the wall below it.



South aisle - General. Carpeted floor throughout, except near the south porch where there is concrete, and at the extreme west end where a storage area has exposed boards with a tile surround. One step up in line with the nave/chancel divide, and one more into the vestry at the east end. Also at the east end is the organ. Walls plastered and painted. This roof too has been raised: seven stone corbels project into the aisle above the arcade; the three westernmost are older than the eastern four which may have been inserted 19thC to match the others. The roof itself is medieval. It has eight arch-braced collar trusses with cusped struts above, creating eight and a half bays; the trusses spring from wooden corbels above the arcade and from wall plates on the south wall, but are not symmetrical. The bases of the trusses have wooden shields on the south side only; through purlins and rafters. The four easternmost corbels are well fashioned and could be replacements from the 19thC; the most westerly is set higher in the wall than the others though for no obvious reason. At cornice level between the trusses defining the second bay from the west end is a block of wood supported on three corbels; its purpose is uncertain but could it relate to a former gallery?

North wall:- see south wall of nave and chancel. One 19thC stone memorial and another of marble.

East wall:- vestry partition.

South wall:- there are four 19thC marble memorials, an unusual one of 18thC date (last date 1749), and others referring to a vault. Also two brasses on a window sill from 1716 and 1755.

West wall:- two marble memorials from 1733 and 1784, and a third referring to a lifeboat disaster in 1857.

Vestry - General. Established at the east end of the south aisle. A 19thC tiled floor. Partitioned off with panelling.

North wall:- stone memorials of 1777 and 1781 and a safe set in the wall.

East wall:- a stone slab with a coat of arms but no inscription, set into the wall low down. Brasses of 1716 and 1755, and a loose one of 1822 on the window sill. A marble memorial of 1772 is hidden by furniture.

South wall:- stone memorial of 1774 and a marble one of 1762, both hidden by furniture.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Descriptions derived from Hubbard with additions.

Sepulchral slabs: i) an early 14thC heraldic slab (protected by glass) with shield and sword, gripped by a hand in a resting position; set in the floor, between the vestry screen and the organ near the east end of the south aisle, partly obscured. The shield is inscribed in Lombardic capitals 'Hic iacet Gruffyd Fychan' - the father of Owen Glyndwr. It was reputedly set originally in the centre of the south aisle and suggests that Gruffyd Fychan was buried somewhere in the church between 1350 and 1370. ii) fragment of a 14thC cross ragule set in the south wall of the sanctuary at the east end of north nave; the carved stone has an outer circular design, and an inner quatrefoil surrounding the cross ragule; the upper part of a sepulchral slab according to Gresham but Owen at an earlier date classed it as a consecration cross and revealed that prior to the 19thC restoration it was built into the south wall of the church. In support of Owen's view, it does not appear to this writer to be cut down from a larger slab. (iii) the north wall of the south aisle contains a carved stone with extended hand.

Font: Perpendicular, octagonal stone bowl with traceried panels, decorated underfacets and splayed stem, also decorated. 15thC. A more modern two-step base.

Stained glass: the east window in the chancel was brought from Basingwerk Abbey in 1540, after the Dissolution. This stained glass which Hubbard attributed to the early 16thC, was rearranged and new glass added by J. Bell at the time of 1870s restoration. Figures include an unnamed bishop, St Katherine, St James and St Lawrence. The east window in the south aisle also from Basingwerk and shows the



Crucifixion with the Virgin and St John; emblems of the Passion in four roundels.

Pulpit: has open scrolled brackets in the form of profiles of dragon-like beasts. Considered to be 17thC.

Chest: oak, planked, with a more modern brass-edged slit for offerings, three iron bands and a lock.

Altar table: undecorated with moulded legs; 17thC or 18thC. In vestry.

Chairs: several carved oak chairs. Two in the sanctuary have carved backs though to different designs. Near the font a highly decorated high-back chair.

Chandelier: of brass, an elaborate single tier with 12 branches and scrolled iron suspension painted blue, with a gilt dove at the junction. Near the top of the light fitting is a representation of the flaming sun; a little lower a whirling mass representing chaos and void before God created the world (Genesis X) and beneath that, a dove and olive leaf. Inscribed: 'this candlestick was erected solely by the industry of Edrid Foulks 1758'.

Monuments: i) marble tablet with putto at the base to ?Barbara Owens (d.1729). ii) marble to Thomas Parry (d.1733), with heraldic crest above. iii) to Thomas Jones (d.1744), resting on a black-painted corbel carved with foliate decoration and bearing the initial 'T'. iv) unusual lozenge shaped marble memorial to the Morgan family (d.1696 to 1749), with heraldry. v) stone to Matthias Bertwistle (d.1762). vi) marble tablet to Hugh Spencer (d.1772). vii) stone tablet to Michael Hughes of Picton (d.1774). xiii) marble to George Norman (d.1775). ix) sandstone tablet to Edward Griffiths of Axton (d.1777). x) sandstone tablet to Mary Williams (d.1781). xi) marble with black marble frame to Edward Maurice (d.1765) and other members of his family; erected 1784. xii) stone to Thomas Whithead of Gronant (d.1798).

Brasses: to Owen Richards (d.1716); John Davies (d.1755).

Plate: includes a chalice of 1576 made by William Mutton of Chester, a flagon of 1699, and a chalice of 1725 by Richard Richardson of Chester.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Monuments:- i) children of Edward Morgan (d.1795, and two in 1806) by John Forrest, Liverpool. ii) Peter Morgan (?1730) by W. Spence, Liverpool. Marble on black slate to John Harvey Douglas by Blackwell, Cheltenham. iii) John Douglas (d.1839) by Blackwell of Cheltenham. iv) Edward Morgan (d.1861) in marble by W.T.Hale of London.

Organ by Whiteley and Co of Chester, set up in 1930.

## CHURCHYARD

Well-kept irregularly shaped churchyard with ground sloping from the north. An extension in the south-east corner was added in 1844 on the evidence of a datestone on the external face of the south wall, and consecrated in 1845. Work in 1973 involved the removal of some head- and kerbstones enclosing older graves. The present cemetery is located across the road from the church.

Boundary:- a stone wall all around the churchyard.

Monuments:- the churchyard has a few marked burials. Gravel paths lined with re-sited gravestones of 18th and 19thC dates on all sides of the church. At the south-east end of the church is a tomb chest, formerly hooded, to Sir Piers Mostyn (d.1605) but with a later slab. There is also a 1706 table tomb with a Latin inscription, and another, also with a Latin inscription from the 1640s, and one or two other late 17thC memorials.

Furniture:- Baluster sandstone sundial with brass plate but minus the gnomon, dated 1762, with the names

of John Lloyd, Vicar of Llanasa, and John Morris and Thomas Roberts, Churchwardens. Owen refers to what may have been the cross base, lying beside the churchyard wall in the late 19thC, and also a fragment of a cross which had been found during a restoration of the church. Neither piece of stonework was recognised during current fieldwork.

Ancillary features:- the lychgate was originally constructed in the early 18thC, and there is both sandstone and limestone in the walls. The datestone records 'William Jones, Peter Griffiths, Churchwardens 1735'. A second datestone records its restoration by 'Ed. Sanders, J. Castwright, Wardens 1857', and a third refers to a restoration in 1962. Paired wooden gates, probably 19thC. There is an entrance on the north-east side with a round-headed stone arch with a cross finial of different date above; though undatable this could be pre-19thC. The modern south entrance, opposite the porch has an iron gate with an overarch and, adjacent, a 1976 datestone. Gravel path around the church.

Earthworks:- the churchyard is raised by 0.5m on the south, and on the west with the wall acting as a revetment the drop is over 2m.

Vegetation:- two mature yews against the north wall. Mix of walnuts, 19thC yews and firs. The yew in the south-east corner dates from the 19thC and may have been planted at the time of the 1844 extension.

## SOURCES

Church guide n.d.

CPAT Field Visits: 30 October 1996 and 11 December 1998

CPAT SMR

Crossley and Ridgway 1945, 190

Faculty: St Asaph 1845 (NLW): consecration of addition to churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1873 (NLW): alterations to church

Glynne 1884, 183

Gresham 1968, 143, 158

Hubbard 1986, 382

Neaverson 1953-54, 14

Owen 1886, 92

RCAHMW 1912, 51

Quinquennial Report

Thomas 1911, 196



## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair. Small patch of damp below easternmost window on north wall.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Good

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Good

Group value: Medium

# Mold

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**Diocese** St Asaph

**Dedication** St Mary

**PRN** 16913

**NGR** SJ23676418

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## SUMMARY

St Mary's church lies close to the centre of Mold. It was built in late Perpendicular style with considerable decorative detail at the end of the 15thC on the site of an earlier medieval church, the tower was replaced in the 18thC and an apse and vestry during the 19thC restoration. Internally there is some 16thC stained glass, a 17thC altar table and a number of 18thC brasses and marble memorials. The church is sited in a raised circular churchyard with memorials back to the 17thC.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The naves and aisles were constructed in a uniform late Perpendicular style during the late 15thC and earlier 16thC, and there are the remnants of a supposedly incomplete chancel and a complete rood stair of similar date. The west tower was added between 1768 and 1773 in a style compatible with the church itself.

In 1853 an apsidal chancel was appended and the interior restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott. The 17thC south porch was modified in 1911.

## HISTORY

The circular churchyard suggests an early medieval origin but there is nothing to substantiate this hypothesis.

The church is recorded with its chapel at Nercwys in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 as 'Ecclia de Monte Alto'.

It is believed that the original Norman church fell into disrepair and was demolished sometime in the 14thC. A new, larger church was built and extended soon after in the 15thC.

The body of this church was in a dilapidated condition by the 15thC, and the 14thC tower apart, it was demolished and the construction of the present church began around 1490. The benefactress was Lady Margaret Beaufort, wife of Lord Stanley. She died in 1509 and a lack of funds delayed the completion of the nave and aisles until about 1550. This post-Reformation continuation was financed in part by two bishops of St Asaph, Robert Wharton (1536-54) and William Hughes (1573-1600). According to Hubbard a stone bearing the latter's initials and the date 1597 is said to have been found during the 19thC, and the inner doorway of the south porch is Elizabethan in style.

The rectory of Mold had been appropriated to Bisham Priory in Berkshire, whose responsibility the chancel would have been. Ridgway and Crossley argued that plans for an undivided church were abandoned as a result of Bisham's refusal to participate in the building. A modified chancel was planned, but this was abandoned, almost certainly at the time of the Dissolution. The chancel arch had already been built, but it was blocked, and a seven-light window inserted, until opened up by Scott in the 19thC.

A record of 1674 refers to the purchase of a clock and the re-leading of the roof. New bells were installed in



the tower in 1678 and 1733, and restoration work took place in 1729. A terrier refers to a singing gallery added in 1751-2.

The west tower was rebuilt between 1768 and 1773 at a cost of £1047 by Joseph Turner of Chester, 'a creditable 18thC attempt at Perpendicular (Hubbard). Possibly the clerestorey may also be of this time.

The church was visited by Sir Stephen Glynne before the restoration work in the mid-19thC. He referred to the incomplete chancel, the tower of 1790 which 'though not good in detail is far superior to what might be expected at that time', '...the clerestory not properly finished', the windows were 'large but not exactly uniform on the two sides... generally of four and five lights, and the arches of depressed Tudor form'. The north aisle roof and the decoration above the arcades were highlighted. The porch was 'Debased, but with a stone roof', the stained glass, both medieval and Victorian was mentioned, and the canopied niches at the ends of each aisle.

Restoration work in 1853-6 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott included a new nave roof, the removal of the west gallery, removal of the pews and general restoration work to the interior which was fitted with oak benches that had poppy heads, a carved pulpit, a lectern and choir stalls. A new oak roof was placed over the nave similar to that in the north aisle and the apsidal chancel was added. Animal carvings in the style of those on the string course of the aisles were produced by J. Blinstone. The organ was moved to the east end of the north aisle and a north porch was added.

In 1885 there were repairs to the stonework, pinnacles and string courses.

The south porch was reconstructed by Prothero, Phillott and Barnard of Cheltenham as part of the 1911 restoration programme, which also included repairs to the stonework and foundations, and the re-arranging of drains which involved re-siting of some gravestones.

In more recent times, several carved stones, from the medieval church were located on the top of a wall of a house near to the church; they include various corbels in human and animal form and window jambs. The pedestal of a medieval font was located in the vicarage garden: it is probably of 15thC date with an octagonal and splayed base. Various other jambs and gargoyles were found in the garden, also in the 1950s.

Further restoration work took place in 1955-56.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel, north and south aisles, a west tower, a north vestry and a south porch. The building is oriented east-south-east/west-north-west but for the purposes of this description 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted.

Fabrics: 'A' is of sandstone ashlar, buff in colour, medium to large in size, largely coursed.

'B' is ashlar, smaller in size than 'A' but otherwise similar.

'C' is ashlar which is buff-yellow in colour, medium to large in size, and is all coursed.

'A' is used for the body of the church from the 15thC/16thC, but also from later periods. 'B' is used for the south porch and is probably from 1911, and 'C' is 18thC and used for the tower.

Roofs:- leaded behind the parapets. Chancel roof consists of sheets of lead on concrete. Stone slabs on porch. Cross finials to porch and chancel.

Drainage:- parapets have drainage gullies, with lead pipes and hoppers that lead to concrete drainage gullies of varying widths around the bases of all walls. It is unclear whether a drainage trench has been excavated around the church and beneath them.



## Exterior

**General.** All walls including those of the nave have battlemented parapets with continuous mouldings and buttresses with crocketed finials. The battlements on the east and west walls of the aisles continue those on the nave. The hollowed underside of a string course immediately below the parapet carries carvings of animals, throughout its circuit of the church. Gargoyles feed into cisterns and down pipes; and there are animal heads at the top corners of the buttresses. There is a lower string course which beneath the windows is stepped down to form the sills, though it does continue around the buttresses, and below this is a double plinth at the wall bases.

**Tower - General.** In 'C' and of three stages, at the west end of the nave. It has the double plinth but this is not at the same level as that around the aisles. Above this the string course with the carved animals on its underside continues from the aisles, then there is a band of blind quatrefoil ornamentation and higher still a hollow string course which forms the top of the first stage. A round-mould string course signals the top of the second stage and above this is a band of blind lozenge decoration. Another rounded string course is set beneath the battlemented parapet with crocketed central and corner finials. Angle buttresses with crocketed finials are stepped, rising up to the level of the battlements, and these have decorative finials at the tops of the first and second stages. A central flagpole.

**North wall:-** devoid of features in the first stage, except for a small slit light with trefoiled terminals which lights the tower stair. The second stage (the ringing chamber) contains a square-headed, moulded window frame with rolled and hollow chamfers over a two-centred arch above three lights; the central ogee-headed light is divided further into two trefoiled lights but is flanked by blind, trefoil-headed lights and there is blind tracery above them. The third stage has a square-headed belfry window frame with three trefoiled, two-centred, louvred lights and Y-tracery; the spandrels contain some decoration.

**East wall:-** nave roof rises to the second stage, so that only the ringing chamber and belfry windows are present, together with the intermediate decorative zone. The ringing chamber window lacks the detailed moulding on its frame which is visible elsewhere and all its lights are blind.

**South wall -** the first stage is wholly devoid of features. The second stage has a window similar to that on the north side and above this is a blue clock face with gold numerals which is set across the decorative zone. The belfry window is as on the north side.

**West wall:-** at ground level is a doorway set in a square-headed frame with a label over it. A four-centred arch with complex moulded chamfers contains a pair of vertically planked doors. The whole dates to 1864. Higher up the clock face and windows match the south wall.

**North aisle - General.** In 'B' and of 16thC date.

**North wall:-** seven bays formed by east and west stepped, angle buttresses and four central, stepped buttresses with crocketed finials. The second bay from the west contains an Elizabethan doorway though this is now within the north vestry. The windows have four-centred chamfered arches with hoodmoulds that have simple stops, and four cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights with trefoiled panel tracery; the chamfers are heavily moulded. There has been considerable replacement of the dressings, particularly the mullions but also some jambs and tracery. The window over the north door is reduced in size but is of standard form. A subterranean boiler room is approached via a staircase beside the north aisle.

**East wall:-** a wide, four-centred window with five cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights with sub-arches and complex cusped tracery; a hoodmould with simple stops. Some replacement of the dressings.

**West wall:-** the west window matches that in the east wall.

**Vestry - General.** In 'B'-type ashlar but an addition of 1856 which encloses the Elizabethan doorway of the north aisle. It is plinthed at about 0.4m on the west side sloping down to 0.2m at the east end; there is a string course at 1.5m above ground level. A further string course just below the flat roof and from this



gryphons project at the north-east and north-west corners.

North wall:- a square-headed window frame with a label that has vine leaf stops, and a pair of trefoiled, ogee-headed lights protected by wire mesh.

East wall:- nothing to note.

South wall:- a doorway with a four-centred arch with a hoodmould and vine leaf stops; hollow chamfers with pyramid stops.

West wall:- featureless.

Nave - General. In 'B'. The nave has a clerestory (visible only from a distance), though this is later in date than the nave itself, and above this a battlemented roof line with crocketed pinnacles.

North wall:- the clerestory windows consist of seven small, square-headed apertures each with a central cusped light and subsidiary lights around it. The most easterly clerestory light is now in the chancel.

East wall:- visible above the chancel roof.

South wall:- as the north wall.

Chancel and apse - General. In 'B'-type ashlar. The chancel which was created from the eastern bay of the nave is not visible externally, but there is a five-sided apse added by Scott in the 19thC. The apse has a continuous plinth, c.0.5m above ground level, and string courses as elsewhere; the frieze of carved animals is similar to that on the nave but at a higher level, and the battlemented parapet is also the same design. This part of the church is divided by four stepped, diagonal buttresses with crocketed heads; and each bay contains a four-centred window with a hoodmould that terminates in head stops and two rows of three cinquefoiled, two-centred lights divided by a transom, with cusped panel tracery above, and chamfered dressings.

North wall:- a chancel extension had been planned in the medieval period, but it appears to have got no further than short lengths of wall up to and including the west reveals of the most westerly apse windows. The juncture is visible on the external face of the north wall, though there is only a subtle difference in the appearance of the ashlar blocks.

East wall:- see above.

South wall:- an octagonal battlemented stair turret set in the angle between the east wall of the south aisle and the south wall of chancel was constructed reputedly to give access to a rood loft that was never built. The plinth and string courses of the south aisle continue around the turret. Two short round-headed slit windows are set in its south face. On top of it is a lead cistern and a downspout drops the full length of staircase. The turret itself rises above the height of both the aisle and the apse.

South aisle - General. In 'B'. In appearance very similar to the north aisle except for the buttresses (see below), and the absence of a window above the south door.

East wall:- as east wall of the north aisle, the window dressings showing considerable renewal.

South wall:- as the north wall of north aisle but the buttresses with their crocketed gables and pinnacles rising above the battlements were added in the 19thC.

West wall:- as west wall of north aisle. Some dressings renewed, and grilles over the lights.

Porch - General. Of 17thC date, re-modelled and probably largely rebuilt in 1911 in neo-Perpendicular style



using 'C' ashlar. It has a continuous plinth and a string course running on from the aisle and a battlemented gable roof with crocketed corner pinnacles, and at the southern angles there are diagonal stepped buttresses with crocketed heads which were added during the rebuilding. Lead hoppers on the side walls bear a 1911 date.

East and west walls:- plain.

South wall:- a splayed eight-step entrance leads to a wide, four-centred entrance arch over a pair of panelled doors with traceried decoration and wrought ironwork. The arch and jambs are moulded and could represent an original 18thC doorway but in fact only a small number of original jambstones remain. Above the doorway is a canopied niche, highly decorated, containing a statue of the Virgin Mary.

#### Interior

Tower - General. Within the ground floor of the tower are six steps up to a flagged stone floor, which is level with the nave. Walls in ashlar create a passage, with compartments to either side. A panelled ceiling above the hallway with six principals, moulded ribs and purlins, and eight panels to each bay, four to either side of the ornamented central purlin, containing cusped motifs and ribbed bosses. The first floor of the tower contains the ringing chamber, its walls boarded to half height; vinyl laid on the wooden floorboards. A rough stone staircase gives access to the bell chamber with a boarded floor and a roof with a ladder and hatch. There is an iron and oak bell-frame.

North wall:- a large two-centred arch, plain and functional, to the north side staircase.

East wall:- entrance to the nave has a segmental head to the reveal.

South wall:- a single door in a two-centred arch leads to stores.

West wall:- the outer doorway has a reveal with segmental head.

North aisle - General. Stone flagged floor with heating grilles, the flagstones under the benches as well. Two slabs at the east end are inscribed with the term 'vault'. Stonework of the walls exposed. The original 16thC panelled and embossed camberbeam roof has seven bays supported by eight tie-beam trusses resting on arch-bracing and short wall-posts which in turn rest of long, stone, pilaster wall-posts which drop down as far as the window sills on the north and from the capitals of the piers on the south. The ceiling of each bay contains 30 panels, each are divided into four small panels. Decorative bosses on the centres of the principals' soffits include the emblem of the Stanley family, and there is tracery in panels. Plain cornices.

North wall:- pilasters as noted above between the window apertures. Tudor doorway to vestry. At the east end of the wall below the sill of the penultimate window are at least four inscribed stones set into the wall with initials such as 'TAP' and 'E', and there is another further west; all probably 17thC or 18thC. Medieval glass is set in the short window over the vestry entrance. In the north-west angle is the monument to Robert Davies (d.1728), and also on this wall is a brass of 1728, five 19thC brasses, one stone and three marble memorials of the 19thC and three 20thC brasses.

East wall:- step to north chapel.

South wall:- arcade with six piers having four attached shafts each with highly decorated capitals; moulded bases. Four-centred arches of two orders, heavily moulded. Unlike the nave there is no decoration above the arches. Six bays to the aisle and one to the north chapel.

West wall:- plain but for the west window. Note that externally this is a five-light window, but internally there is an additional, blind light, though with an ogee head, to each side.

North chapel - General. At the east end of the north aisle is a chapel separated from it by wrought iron altar



rails. Three staggered steps to the altar, a marble floor, but walls and roof as the north aisle.

North wall:- a white marble war memorial tablet.

East wall:- window with two blind lights as in the west wall. The northerly light has a heavily ornamented, canopied niche containing a much later statue, a little less than life-size, of the Virgin Mary from 1898. The Stanley eagle and a child appear as a finial. Originally this niche probably held an image of the Virgin: this was re-discovered and then destroyed in 1768.

South wall:- a modern organ fills the south side bay of the arcade.

Vestry - General. One step down to the carpeted floor. A panelled oak ceiling with moulded ribs and purlins, in the style of the south aisle.

North wall:- a heavily moulded, rectangular frame to the Tudor doorway which has a four-centred arch, and foliate decoration in the spandrels; the stonework is worn.

West wall:- below the modern safe is its metal predecessor with the names of four churchwardens painted on it.

Nave - General. A wide, high nave. Floor and walls as the north aisle. The roof was created by Thomas Edwards, a local craftsman, who also made the benches to the design of Scott during the 1850s. The roof is of similar design to the 16thC roof in the north aisle with seven bays (including that of the present chancel) supported by eight moulded tie-beams rising from stone corbels supported on pilaster shafts above the north and south arcades. These walls have decorative panelling above the arcade, while the roof has panelling and decorated bosses, each bay containing 18 carved panels which are then sub-divided into four smaller panels.

North wall:- as noted above there is a six-bay Perpendicular arcade composed of four-centred arches with heavy mouldings, supported on six octagonal ringed and chamfered piers together with east and west responds. The spandrels are divided by roll mouldings which spring from angels bearing shields and rise to the roof as thin wallshafts. Cusped compartments in the spandrels, including multi-foiled circles containing a smaller series of shields. The two series include Emblems of the Passion and insignia of the Stanley family, e.g. arms, the Eagle and Child Crest, Eagle's Claw badge, arms of the Isle of Man and the Three Legs of Man. Stanley emblems occur also among the foliage and diverse subjects depicted in the pier caps. Between the spandrels and a frieze of quatrefoils in lozenges, the animal procession has invaded from outside' (Hubbard)

Chandeliers hang in the arcades. Above the arcade are the six, slightly splayed clerestory windows yet a low clerestory may not have been the original intention: the easternmost bay (now in the chancel) indicates that a start was made to extend it to the east and raise its height. Wall shafts relating to this development are partly buried in the sanctuary arch.

East wall:- two steps up to the chancel.

South wall:- as the north wall of the nave.

West wall:- there is a recessed and splayed two-centred archway leading to the tower, the inner arch chamfered with broach stops to the jambs. Over the arch is a brass of 1865. Above this is a modern organ loft supported on four octagonal wooden piers, between which are three, large, trefoil-headed panels. On the west wall is a hatchment of 1636, and seven marble memorials ranging in date from 1705 to 1815.

Chancel - General. Two steps up from the nave with two brasses, of 1629 and 1919, set into them. Encaustic tiles in the floor. Walls and roof as the nave because the chancel was formed from the easternmost bay of the nave in the 19thC.



North wall:- a 1972 organ.

East wall:- a wide four-centred arch of two orders, heavily moulded, cut into the original east wall of the church leads into the sanctuary.

Sanctuary - General. One step up with encaustic tiles to the floor. There are five stained glass windows, the arches completed by hoodmoulds with floriated stops. A ceiling of carved panels with ribs splaying from a central decorated boss and supported on stone corbels which rise from ringed pilasters between the apse windows.

North wall:- old stone work is visible at the west end of the wall, reputedly part of a late medieval chancel that was never built.

South wall:- old stonework is visible as in the north wall. In the south-east corner, a four-centred arch with chamfered dressings and sunken spandrels above a short, vertically planked door that leads to a staircase to a rood loft which was supposedly never constructed. Against the wall are stone sedilia in the form of chairs; there is a marble credence table, with a 19thC brass on the wall above it, and another, of 1613, resting on it.

South aisle - General. Floor and walls as the nave and north aisle. The roof has seven bays with tie-beams supported on pilaster wall-posts on the south wall as in the north aisle. But the roof is not carved like the nave and north aisle; it has plain, chamfered purlins and rafters, with each bay containing 12 panels. The east end, known as the Gysaney Chapel, has an altar raised one step above the general level.

North wall:- arcade for which see above.

East wall:- window and below its south side is the niche for a piscina with a two-centred head but no bowl. The blind lights on either side of the window have canopied niches, that on the south has a Jesse Tree up the side, while that on the north contains a monument of 1711 as well as the arms of Bishop Wharton.

South wall:- one window with early stained glass. At the extreme east end is another canopied stone niche. The wall supports an extensive range of brasses and marble memorials; there are thirteen brasses including two of 1739 and 1746; and seven 19thC marble tablets. Above the south door are three Benefaction boards.

West wall:- window with the standard blind lights. One marble memorial of 1803.

South porch - General. 19thC encaustic tiled floor; stone seats along the east and west walls which are of bare stone. It retains a vaulted stone roof on transverse ribs that spring out of the side walls, part of the original 17thC structure.

North wall:- 16thC three-centred doorway to the south aisle in a large rectangular and heavily moulded frame with a blank shield in its own square frame at the apex. Above the doorway are three modern stone (or alabaster) carvings including one of the Crucifixion.

East wall:- contains an inset worn limestone tablet with a date of 1776 just visible.

West wall:- a wooden plaque of the Incorporated Church Building Society recording donations of 1853 and 1913. Below it a memorial stone referring to the 1911 restoration.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Details from Hubbard with additions.

Gravestone: found near the church, it refers to the daughter of Ieuan ap Davydd ap Iawerth, a prominent



citizen of Flint in the 13th and early 14thC. Now at the west end of the north aisle.

Stained glass: one south aisle window has an assemblage of early glass fragments. In the north aisle, in the short windows over the north door, is heraldic glass commemorating Ellis ap David ap Rees, vicar of Mold (d.1576) and Edward, third Earl of Derby (d.1572), which though restored in the 19thC, is 'a rare instance of Renaissance design, with balusters, garlands and sea monsters. Legs of Man in the tracery and Eagle's Claw quarries' (Hubbard). Another window carries the Stanley insignia.

Hatchments: a small example to David Wynne of the Tower (d. 1636).

Altar tables: i) with decorated side and front flanges and moulded front legs, it carries the date 1683; west end of the north aisle. ii) decorative flanges but no date; at the east end of the south aisle.

Churchwardens plate: a small brass plate on the north wall records a seat reserved in the north aisle in 1734 for the churchwardens, Edward Jones, Randle Williams, William Thornton and James Henstock.

Churchwardens' stones: see north wall of north aisle. One is inscribed 'I.T. M.P. E.I. 1697'.

Monuments: i) a carved stone frieze with an inscription 'Hor apus factum fuerit py John ap Rhys' over two angels holding a shield with two flanking figures painted in black, red and gold on discoloured stone, to Robert Wharton, Abbot of Bermondsey and later bishop of Hereford (1554-1558); the monument was restored 1898 and this is referred to on a brass plate beneath it. ii) marble memorial with shield finial to John Davies (d.1705). iii) Catherine Wynne (d.1708), with heraldry, putto etc, set up in 1711. iv) Robert Davies of Llannerch (d.1728) by Henry Cleere; life-size figure leaning against an urn, with pediment and heraldry. v) marble memorial with shield, and an urn finial to John Wynne of Tower (d.1737). vi) a large memorial with canopied head and a putto on the apron to Edward Kynaston (d.1771). vii) white marble memorial to William Wynne of Tower (d.1776) by Michael Rysbrack with a cartouche and three putto heads below a moulded canopy. viii) white marble on grey slate with heraldry records the burial in a family vault in the churchyard of Roger Wynne of Tower (d.1776). ix) marble memorial to Louise Bertrand with putto (d.1789). x) white marble on black slate with broken sword at head, to Wilson Henry Jones; hidden by pews.

Brasses: i) to Robert Davies (d.1602), the plate displaying a kneeling figure. ii) to John Eyton of Leezwood (d.1613). iii) brass in the chancel steps to Edward Eyton (d.1629). iv) to John Jones of Bistre (d.1721). v) to William Lloyd (d.1739). vi) to Richard Davies, formerly vicar of Ruabon (d. 1746). vii) to Rev John Williams (d.1752). viii) to Elizabeth Lewis (d.1786) buried in a vault.

Benefaction boards: the last visible date is 1799, so assumed to be late 18thC; above the south door.

Registers: from 1612.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Font: octagonal, in neo-Perpendicular style with carved facets, sited on a large octagonal base at the west end of the south aisle. It has a modern oak cover and an 18thC wrought iron cross hanging above it.

Pulpit: octagonal pulpit with ornamented panels, on a ringed shaft; a stepped entrance. Also from 1856.

Reredos: in alabaster of 1878, designed by Douglas and made by Hardman and Co.

Monuments: marble memorials to: i) Thomas Griffiths (d.1813) and others by S. Gibson, Liverpool, though with a date of 1806 on the corbel that bears his name. ii) the Rev. Wynne Eyton (d.1824) and family by S. Gibson. iii) to Mary Whitley and others by J. Wright of Chester.

Organ: from 1916, renovated in the 1950s. It replaced the earlier organ of around 1805 which was removed during Gilbert Scott's restoration and placed in the Memorial Chapel, only to be replaced by the present organ by Rushworth and Dreaper in 1972.

Stained glass: in the south aisle are windows by Alexander Booker (1863) and by Clayton and Bell (1876).



In the north aisle are windows by Clayton and Bell (1865), Lavers and Barraud (1870), and one commemorating the painter Richard Wilson, buried in the churchyard. The two centre lights and tracery were by Burlison and Grylls (1889), the rest of 1924. The west window is by Wailes, and those in the chancel also by him in 1857.

## CHURCHYARD

Originally a raised circular churchyard, it is located on high ground to the west of the town centre. The burial ground has now been landscaped to accommodate newly laid paths and a vehicular access and parking area on the north side of the church. The graveyard was extended northwards in the 19thC, but this lower burial ground is divided off by a boundary wall.

Boundaries:- the old churchyard was formally bounded by terraced housing on its south and west sides, but the present churchyard is now enclosed on all sides by a stone revetment wall and the removal of the buildings means it now fronts High Street and Church Lane. Railings on top of the wall on the west.

Monuments:- gravestones have been cleared and re-sited on all sides of the church. The eastern boundary wall is lined with 18thC to mid-19thC slabs, the earliest one noted being of 1733. Two lines of re-sited 19thC slabs and some isolated chest tombs lie to the east end of the church. Modern cremations are placed around the apse. One chest tomb with ogee panels and baluster pilasters was built for Edward Williams (d.1730). The south side of the churchyard is levelled and grassed over; again there are isolated chests and table tombs including that of Edward Parry (d.1781), and several small grave markers include ones with dates from the 1720s. On the south side of the church is a chest tomb, with pilasters on its weathered side panels and a guilloche frieze, for David Lloyd of Tythyn (d.1658). Graves on the north side are re-sited around the parking area; a kerbed area formed by a base of 19thC slabs and with 18thC slabs as a wall contains a central ovoid chest to Elizabeth Leach (d.1768).

Ancillary features:- a new splayed, stepped entrance has been constructed at the south side and the path leads up to the south porch through the burial ground. A stepped entrance leads up to the churchyard through a two-centred arch from the vicarage garden. Well laid paths continue around the church.

Earthworks:- raised by 2m to 3m around its perimeter.

Vegetation:- 19thC yews line the path to the vicarage. The church is surrounded on the north and east by a mix of trees, mainly beech.

## SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1987  
 CPAT Field Visits: 18 July 1996 and 16 December 1998  
 CPAT SMR  
 Crossley 1947  
 Faculty: St Asaph 1843 (NLW); extension of churchyard  
 Faculty: St Asaph 1854 (Flintshire CRO); restoration and building works  
 Faculty: St Asaph 1910 (NLW); restoration  
 Flintshire County Record Office: D/KK/116 (1674); D/DM/563/37 (1955/6)  
 Glynne 1884, 261  
 Hubbard 1986, 389  
 Lloyd 1960b  
 Quinquennial Report 1993  
 Thomas 1911, 404



## CONDITION

General weathering of sandstones on all faces, but church otherwise in good condition, externally and internally.

## 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

# Nannerch

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**Diocese** St Asaph

**Dedication** St Mary

**PRN** 16915

**NGR** SJ16676968

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## SUMMARY

St Mary's church at the northern end of the village of Nannerch is a Victorian structure occupying a site which almost certainly had its origins in the early medieval era. Inside are a few fragments of medieval glass and a Grinling Gibbons monument of 1694. It is set within what was a sub-oval churchyard enclosure surrounded by yew trees.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The present church constructed in 1852-3 in Early English style. Nothing of the earlier building remains.

## HISTORY

The Norwich Taxation of 1254 refers to 'Ecca de Nannerth' at a value of £5 and the Lincoln Taxation to 'Ecclesia de Nannerch' at £4 13s 4d.

Glynne visited the church, prior to the rebuilding in 1853. This consisted of a single chamber a bell-turret over the west end. There was a south porch and a west gallery with external access via wooden stairs on the south side. The east window was Perpendicular, and the other windows were square-headed and late. The chancel had a coved ceiling with a cornice of vine leaves. The whole interior was 'clogged with whitewash'. On the south side of the chancel was a slab bearing the effigy of a woman beneath a crocketed canopy, and an inscription which was illegible. The memorial to Charlotte Digby was also mentioned.

This building was taken down in 1852, and the present church was constructed in Early English style to the design of T. H. Wyatt, and consecrated in 1853. The cost was £1314.

## ARCHITECTURE

Nannerch church consists of a nave and slightly narrower chancel with a south tower surmounted by a broach spire, the base of the tower forming the entrance porch. There is also a vestry on the south side of the chancel. It is oriented slightly south of west, but 'ecclesiastical east' is used here for descriptive purposes.

Fabric: 'A' is of small to medium blocks of uncoursed limestone with buff-yellow sandstone consistently used for all dressings.

Roofs:- slate tiles, play grey clay ridge tiles. Stone finial to the chancel.

Drainage:- 19thC. cast iron guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. No obvious drainage trench around the church.



The following summary description reflects the fact that this is wholly a 19thC building.

#### Exterior

**Tower - General.** Two-stage tower surmounted by slated broach spire with weathervane, adjoins south side of nave. A double plinth capped by chamfered sandstone at c.0.7m above ground level. Above a stepped and chamfered string course the belfry stage of the tower is inset, and there is a further string course above the belfry windows. Stepped clasping buttresses at the south-east and south-west corners.

**North wall:-** nothing except for the belfry window which is presumed to have a pair of trefoil-headed louvred lights with linked hoodmould, though difficult to see from any vantage point.

**East wall:-** a single trefoil-headed light in the first stage and a standard belfry window.

**South wall:-** the entrance to the porch beneath the tower has a two-centred arch with a hoodmould, chamfered dressings with broach stops to the jambs, and contains a pair of wooden entrance gates. Above is a single trefoil-headed light and a standard belfry window.

**West wall:-** a quatrefoil to the porch, then a trefoil-headed light and above this a standard belfry window.

**Boiler house:** abuts south wall of nave on east side of the tower. A modern construction in limestone with felt roof.

**Nave - General.** The nave and chancel have a continuous plinth c.0.5m above ground level, except on the north side.

**North wall:-** four windows in two bays separated by three straight buttresses; alternating single and paired trefoil-headed lights with quatrefoil tracery lights above the double lights.

**South wall:-** a single trefoil-headed light to west side of tower. Two paired trefoil-headed lights with quatrefoil tracery lights to east side of tower.

**West wall:-** tall trefoil-headed lights to either side of a central buttress with a hexafoil light in the gable above. Also a string course, 1.7m above ground level but below the windows, on this wall only.

**Chancel - General.** Narrower than nave, but plinched as the nave at 0.5m, and at the base of the east wall a concrete plinth at c.0.1m which runs the south side but not the north.

**North wall:-** two single trefoil-headed lights, of standard form but shorter than those in the nave. Straight buttress at the north-east corner.

**East wall:-** two-centred arch over three trefoil-headed lights with three cinquefoil lights above, and a hoodmould with block stops. Also a slate tablet set in the wall to J Mather (d.1961) below the window.

**South wall:-** single lancet with hoodmould and block stops. Straight buttress at the south-east corner.

**Vestry - General.** Abuts the south wall at chancel end. Two courses of small blocks of limestone capped by chamfered sandstone form a basal plinth visible but only where the ground level is low; above this another plinth topped by chamfered sandstone. Chimney at gable.

**East wall:-** two small trefoil-headed lights.

South wall:- two small chamfered, trefoiled, two-centred windows.

West wall:- doorway with chamfered, two-centred arch and pyramid stops to the chamfers.

### Interior

Porch - General. A stone flagged floor, and all the stonework of the walls exposed. Boarded ceiling with joists to belfry.

North wall:- contains two-centred arch with a hoodmould terminating in simple block stops. Also, above the door, an iron tablet from 1853 commemorates the rebuilding of the church.

East wall:- free-standing bench along east side.

West wall:- window only.

Nave - General. Stone flagged floor, worn near the south door; carpetted central aisle separates two rows of benches on raised plank floor. All walls plastered and painted with a dado on both the north and south walls. Roof of four bays with three arch-braced collar trusses springing from stone corbels; rafters and purlins with boarded ceiling.

North wall:- one 20thC brass.

East wall:- two-centred chancel arch of two orders, the inner emerging from the wall, the outer with pyramid stops to the chamfers. Above the arch is a painted text from the 19thC. North of the arch is a 19thC brass, and one of the 20thC to the south of the arch.

South wall:- one 20thC and two 19thC brasses.

West wall:- monuments of 1694 and 1808/1825. The former, the Mostyn memorial, is plinthed up on an earlier slab, probably earlier 17thC.

Chancel - General. One step up from the nave and two to the sanctuary. Tiled floor and some encaustic tiles. There is a boarded, ribbed ceiling with carved bosses and ribbed wall plates. Over the sanctuary are panels painted with flower heads and other symbols - six main panels and twelve smaller ones. Also at the bases of the wall plates are inscriptions but only in the sanctuary.

North wall:- three 20thC brasses, and a memorial of 1824.

East wall:- 20thC brass.

South wall:- two-centred arch under which is the organ. A broad arch to the vestry and also a wooden cross which is a WWI memorial

Vestry - General. Enclosed by a panelled screen and with a step down from the chancel.

### FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Details derived from Hubbard with additions.

Stained glass: Royal Arms of c.1500, in the hexafoil light of the easternmost window on north wall of nave. More arms of 1603 in hexafoil light in the west window. Early quarries in the window beside and to the east



of the organ.

Cabinet: carved oak embellished with vine trails. Brought from Penbedw Hall on its demolition in 1958.

Chest: heavily decorated with figures and columns. Inscribed 'G: HIR : B: CARIOV. 1652'. From Penbedw Hall as the cabinet above.

Monument: Large Baroque monument by Grinling Gibbons to Charlotte Mostyn (d.1694); 'above a plinth, with inscription, is a gadrooned sarcophagus. Cherubs at the side. Flaming urn on top, its plinth displaying heraldry, and flanked by weeping cherubs. Cherub heads on the sarcophagus are recognizable Gibbons details, and he himself possibly executed the monument' (Hubbard).

Registers: from 1664.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Chandelier: with two tiers of eight branches and a dove at the top. A gift of 1826 from Elizabeth Williams of Penbedw Hall.

Pulpit: Red deal on stone base.

Font: Octagonal stone font with emblematic panels.

Reredos: canopied arcade of Caen stone on green marble pillars with alabaster panels. Gothic style.

Organ case; attributable to Douglas.

Stained glass: east window by Charles Gibbs from 1853, depicting Crucifixion and Resurrection, Agony in the garden in side lights.

Monument: white marble memorial to Watkin Williams of Penbedw (d.1808) and his wife Elizabeth (d.1825), by S. & F. Franceys, with draped urn, heraldry and foliage. Marble memorial to Annabella, the wife of the Rev Phillip Puleston (d.1824), by J Carline with pinnacled columns and heraldic emblem over.

Brasses: to William Barber Buddicom (d.1887) and his wife Marie Jeanne (d.1892), by Cox and Buckley.

## CHURCHYARD

The original raised sub-oval enclosure has been extended on the east. Well-maintained.

Boundary:- stone wall on all sides, acting partly as a revetment wall.

Monuments:- a mix of 18thC to 20thC monuments, with a large number of chest tombs on all sides. It has been claimed that a 1600s grave slab was recently discovered commemorating a member of the Penbedw family, but the earliest monuments seen were chest tombs of 1764 and 1784 to the south of the church. Other slabs, probably of 18thC date, are too illegible to read. There has been some clearance of monuments near the west gate where grave markers have been stacked.

Ancillary features:- main entrance is through a pair of iron gates set on concrete gate posts in the west wall. A bier house adjoins the exterior. Stone stiles consisting of upright slabs at the ends of an east to west path along the northern perimeter.

Earthworks:- the churchyard is raised by around 0.6m on the south-west, nearly 1m on the south, and about 0.3-0.4m on the west and north. The original curvilinear enclosure can be detected on the south where it is followed by the present boundary and on the north-west and north-east where low scarp banks survive inside the present perimeter.

Vegetation:- encircled by yew trees, the oldest ones on the south side of considerable age where there are also some firs and an oak. More recent yews and firs on north side. Gravel paths.

## SOURCES

Church notes

CPAT Field Visits: 7 November 1996 and 27 July 1998

CPAT SMR

Faculty: St Asaph (NLW) 1869: additional burial ground

Faculty: St Asaph (NLW) 1916: additional burial ground

Flintshire Record Office: Parish Records D/E/3216

Glynne 1884, 184

Hubbard 1986, 402

Quinquennial Report 1988

RCAHMW 1912, 71

Thomas 1911, 418



## CONDITION

Church in excellent state of repair.

## 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

# Nercwys

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St Mary**PRN** 16920**NGR** SJ23476042

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## SUMMARY

The church of St Mary at Nercwys, less than three miles south of Mold contains what is considered to be a Norman tower arch, and some medieval masonry in its nave, but much of the cruciform church with its west tower is of 18thC and 19thC origin. It houses a rich collection of furnishings and fittings including fragments of medieval graveslabs from the mid-13thC, a late medieval arched-braced roof, some late medieval stained glass, a sedilia and pulpit fashioned from the medieval screen, 17thC and 18thC furniture, and some interesting memorials. The churchyard contains the Nerquis Vault and a 1768 sundial.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

A Norman arch to the west tower appears to be the sole survival from an early church, though curiously Glynne referred to it as a Pointed arch (i.e. Gothic), and this may cause some disquiet. Masonry in the nave may be medieval, perhaps earlier than the Perpendicular windows that form the first datable architectural features, and suggestive of a single-chambered structure.

There could have been some 17thC construction: Hubbard attributed both the gallery door in the tower and the south door to this time, though an 18thC date seems equally plausible. The tower was partially rebuilt in 1723, and on this basis the lowest sections should be earlier, perhaps even medieval. The porch was in existence in 1781, though some 19thC rebuilding is likely.

The north and south transepts were added in 1847, the north aisle and the chancel between 1882 to 1884.

## HISTORY

There is little to suggest that this church originated in the early medieval period.

It is first recorded in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 as a chapelry to the mother church at Mold. The Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535 refers to this as one of the three chapels attached to Mold.

The 15thC church may have been a single-chambered structure with a west tower in the Perpendicular style. 16thC records (from 1530) refer to the local gentry quarreling about their rights to certain seats and burial places within the chancel. By March 1579, the church had been defaced and the Communion table discarded.

In the post-Reformation era the church was a simple parallelogram separated into a nave and chancel by a rood screen; it probably had a south porch and certainly a west tower to which was added a slated spire in 1723 when the tower was partially rebuilt. Benefactors of the church during this era included the Wynns who built Nerquis Hall in 1637.

Much of the tower appears to have been rebuilt in 1723.



In 1729 and 1749, the Rural Dean reported that the chapel was in a good state of repair both externally and internally and that the floor was flagged. But by 1749 the bell was broken and had been sent for recasting. There is no record of the construction of the south porch, but it was flagged in 1781, and the steeple was again repaired in 1784. Works undertaken by the descendants of the Wynns included common seatings at the west end of the church, gallery seating and a new organ, the construction of an arch below the gallery and various Communion gifts.

The church roof was repaired in 1832, and commemorated on an inscribed stone with the churchwardens' names which is now set in the east wall of the churchyard.

In 1839 Sir Stephen Glynne noted the west tower with only one narrow aperture on the west side, a shingled spire, the south porch, and a number of Perpendicular windows, one with a hoodmould with large head corbels. Internally there was a large gallery at the west end which cut across the tower arch with its Pointed arch. A modern iron partition across the chancel, a large canopied pew of the early 17thC, part of the rood screen 'of rather uncommon character and of considerable beauty', and an elegant pulpit were all mentioned. Finally 'the contrivance for a font is somewhat curious. A small cavity is made in the sill of one of the south windows, in which is inserted a common earthenware basin'.

Photographs and plans of the old church (now in the vestry) reveal that the pre-restoration nave had a single-light window at the west end and there was a three light window at the east end.

In 1847, the north and south transepts and a recess for the altar were added to the design of Thomas Jones of Chester, and a stone commemorating that work is set in the churchyard wall on the east side. During the work decorated stones and coffin lids were found in the north wall and an aumbry was uncovered in the east wall. A piscina was inserted into the south wall and a new font on a baluster pediment replaced the old. This itself was replaced in 1883.

A new chancel was built in 1882-4 by J. Oldrid Scott, the north aisle was added to the nave, oak shingles replaced the slated ones on the tower, and fragments of medieval glass were incorporated into the east window. The west gallery was removed and old panelling from the pews was used to create a dado. Benches from the old gallery were used as seats around the interior of the tower to form a ground floor baptistry. The demolition of the gallery revealed the Norman arch and a round-headed doorway leading from the tower to the gallery. The removal of plaster from the ceiling uncovered a plain 15thC oak roof; the paint was stripped from the late medieval pulpit. A new font was installed and a portion of the old one with ball flower ornament was made into the base of a stone credence. The vestry was formed by partitioning off part of the north transept by a screen, general repairs were made to the church and tower walls. Plans of this work are retained in the vestry. The cost was £2100.

A coal house was added in 1884, and oil-fired heating installed 1968. The shingles on the spire were renewed in the 1970s.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel, a west tower, a north aisle, south and north transepts and a south porch. It is oriented slightly north of due east, but 'ecclesiastical east' is used here for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics: 'A' is of medium-grained yellow, grey and buff-coloured sandstone and possibly occasional blocks of limestone, all in irregular small to medium blocks; some coursing.

'B' is of small to medium-sized blocks of yellow and orange sandstone, with much less frequent brown and grey; some shaped irregularly; irregular coursing. No obvious limewash.

'C' is of blocks and some long slabs of grey sandstone, roughly fashioned; irregular coursing.

'D' is of blocks of buff-grey and brown sandstone, roughly fashioned and coursed.

'E' is in sandstone, predominantly grey, with some rounded lumps and generally less regular than other fabrics; some limewash residue.

E' is almost certainly medieval, possibly 15thC though it could easily be earlier, 'A' is undated but could be



medieval, though possibly later, 'C' is of 1723, 'D' is of 1847, and 'B' is of 1882-4'.

Roofs:- slates with red ceramic ridge tiles. The broach spire is clad in shingles. Cross finials over the south porch, the chancel and south transept. A different type of stone cross finial denotes the eastern end of the pre-1883 building.

Drainage:- 19thC guttering and downspouts with decorated cisterns. A gravel band provides a slight sunken walkway around the church and may well cover a drainage trench around the walls.

## Exterior

Tower - General. The square western tower in 'A' is probably of three stages. It has a solid, rectangular-sectioned, string course at 1m above ground level, and above this the walls are battered to a height of about 3m. The tower is surmounted by an octagonal broach spire which has, on each side, a group of three louvred ogee-headed lights all in wood, opening onto the bell chamber. Topping the spire is a weathervane dated to 1866, but Hubbard thought the spire itself was medieval.

North wall:- 'WJH' is carved on one of the 19thC stones replaced in the string course at the north-west angle. Higher up is a small square-headed window without chamfers to the dressings and certainly inserted. From about this level the masonry is classed as 'C'.

East wall:- abuts nave, the apex of which reaches almost to the level of the tower eaves. The only masonry visible is probably 'C'.

South wall:- most if not all of the wall is in 'A'. A former doorway in this wall now contains a 19thC window with paired lancets divided horizontally by a transom. There is now no sign of the door, nor any indication of whether it reached to ground level or was approached by steps. There is some stone infill below window. A single square-headed staircase window is located in the second stage, and towards the south-east corner of the wall.

West wall:- there are no windows, but there is an inscribed sandstone block about two-thirds of the way up the wall face stating: 'Repaired 1723. Wardens M R C Williams. Edwd Parry'. This is in the middle of a zone of 'C' which runs down the northern half of this wall face, and it suggests that this fabric reveals rebuilding in 1723. At a lower level on one of the quoins at the north-west angle is a further inscription: 'This church restored and enlarged T. H. Lloyd BA Vicar. R Lloyd Fletcher [and] R Ingman Churchwardens. J D Scott Architect'. The appearance of this quoin suggests that most of the wall quoins were replaced in 1882-4.

North aisle - General. From 1882-4 in 'B'. Lean-to roof continues the slope of the nave/chancel roofline.

North wall:- two frameless windows of three, stepped trefoiled lights set directly into the wall face, with voussoired relieving arches over them. Dormers in the roof allow the windows to be carried higher.

East and south walls:- not present.

West wall:- a single trefoiled light.

North transept - General. From 1847 in 'D'.

North wall:- the gable end has an octagonal chimney over a former fireplace. In the gable is a chamfered, two-centred slit window. and below this is a square-headed window with a label and Victorian head stops over three cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights. A Perpendicular-style window but wholly of 1847.

East wall:- an inserted window of 1882-4, with two cusped, two-centred lights and Y-tracery under a two-centred arch with a hoodmould, and a relieving arch above. Also a shouldered arch to a doorway.



West wall:- no apertures.

Nave - General. In 'E'. Note that the top of the south wall at the south-west angle has a projecting block of stone supported on corbels - its significance is uncertain.

South wall:- features from the west are: i) a 19thC window with a two-centred arch and Y-tracery; a hoodmould over. Hubbard felt this might be a reliable copy of a medieval window. ii) the south porch. iii) a boiler house of 1882-4 in the angle between the nave wall and the porch. An octagonal yellow sandstone chimney rises above the nave roof. iv) a Perpendicular window with a four-centred arch over three trefoiled lights, the central one two-centred, the outer two four-centred, and hollow-chambered jambs; a hoodmould with grotesque mask stops. Most of the dressings appear to be original. v) the south transept.

West wall:- visible to either side of tower, but without features. The masonry is original but the quoins almost certainly replaced.

Chancel - General. Built in 1882-84. In 'D'. A string course along the east side continues around the corners and for 0.6m along the north and south walls.

North wall:- three stepped, trefoiled lights under a two-centred arch with a hoodmould and stone voussoirs.

East wall:- a segmental arch to the window with five cinquefoiled, two-centred lights, a hoodmould and a relieving arch. At sill level is the string course referred to above.

South wall:- window, as that on the north side.

South Transept - In 'D' and dated to 1847.

East wall:- no windows.

South wall:- in the gable is a slit window as in the north transept. Below it is a Perpendicular window, probably moved from the south wall of the nave in 1847, and consisting of three stepped, two-centred lights under a four-centred arch with a hoodmould in yellow sandstone; the jambstones are hollow-chamfered and there are sunken spandrels. Some original dressings.

West wall:- plain but a recess has been left for the mask stop of the adjacent nave window.

South Porch - General. Abuts south wall of nave.

East wall:- a single trefoiled light of 19thC date.

South wall:- a simple two-centred arch over a planked and studded door. The upper part of the wall face appears to be in 'B'.

West wall:- as east wall. The stonework is rather mixed and could be 'D'-type.

## Interior

Porch - General. Stone flagged floor, plastered and painted walls, and a modern planked ceiling with exposed rafters and through purlins.

North wall:- doorway to the church has a round-headed arch with stopped chamfers; the dressings alone are exposed, but this is certainly not Norman - Hubbard placed it as 17thC. A heavy nailed door is considered by the same authority to be contemporary with the doorway.

East wall:- shoulder-arched recess to window, and a stone bench along the wall side. Two of the stones forming the seats carry fragmentary inscriptions. Cemented to the wall and seats are four decorated medieval slabs.

South wall:- a square-headed inner arch to the external two-centred arch.

West wall:- as east wall, with a further four medieval slabs.

Tower - General. Acts as a baptistry with two steps leading up from the nave. There is a stone flagged floor, wooden benches around three walls with a dado formed from old pew panels behind them. Above this the walls are plastered and painted. The flat ceiling has four joists supported on stone corbels.

North wall:- a 19thC Benefactions board and one 20thC copper memorial.

East wall:- round-headed archway (see west wall of nave below).

South wall:- the original south door into the tower is set under a moulded, shouldered arch (fashioned in corbel-style) with a deeply splayed recess. In this, now, is the inserted window of 1884, and a deep sill which supports two loose carved stones and the old stoup. Also on the south wall is a painted board with the Lords Prayer.

West wall:- Decalogue board.

North aisle - General. Flagged floor with flush woodblock flooring under the benches; walls plastered and painted, with a dado of old pew panels around the base. A lean-to roof sloping down from the arcade, the modern oak ceiling with rafters supported on stone corbels above the arcade; dormers set into the roof.

North wall:- two splayed window apertures, one of which has an Incorporated Society for Buildings and Churches' board recording a grant in 1883 placed in it, while the other has a brass of 1781.

South wall:- arcade of three round-headed arches in Caen stone supported on two octagonal stone piers with moulded capitals and bases, and on the east and west responds.

West wall:- splayed window with stained glass to Catherine Wynne Philpott (d.1871). Also a brass of 1756.

North transept - General. The southern part is an extension of the aisle and has a large 19thC graveslab set in the floor. The northern half is used as a vestry, and is separated from the aisle by a panelled screen. The vestry has a woodblock floor; walls with a dado as the aisle; and a planked, ribbed ceiling as in the south transept.

North wall:- a square-headed window embrasure, and in the angle a blocked fireplace.

East wall:- a square-headed doorway, and above it a marble memorial of 1808.

Nave - General. Two steps down from the porch. Red and black tiles in the central aisle of the nave and a flush woodblock floor under the benches; stone flags at the front and three of them have small brass plaques of 1680 recording the burial place of George Wynne. Plastered walls with exposed masonry to the window apertures, and around the base of the walls a dado derived from old pew panels incorporating six doors with armorial decorations. Late medieval roof, consisting of nine arch-braced collar trusses with raking struts, springing from the wallplates. Five bays have two tiers of cusped windbraces, the remaining four with plain ones.

North wall:- as south wall of north aisle. Above the arcade three 19thC marble memorials.



East wall:- the division provided by a low stone screen with one step up to the chancel, and a change in the roof form.

South wall:- from the west is: i) window with a deeply splayed embrasure and stained glass of the Lloyd-Fletcher family. ii) and iii) stone monuments of 1768 and 1800. iv) a segmental arch over the south doorway embrasure. v) a stone monument of 1714 over iv). vi) and vii) marble memorials of 1805 and 1918. viii) a window with 1909 stained glass. ix) a wide round-headed arch to the south transept, matching that on the north side.

West wall:- a round-headed unmoulded Norman arch of two orders in pale buff sandstone leads to the tower; there has been some replacement of the dressed stone. Above it is a round-headed gallery doorway with chamfered jambs, probably of the 18thC, though Hubbard attributed it to the 17thC. This retains its original planked and studded door. Also on the west wall is one 20thC brass.

Chancel - General. Stepped up from the nave, but otherwise continuous with it; two staggered steps to the sanctuary, two to the altar. Carpeted central aisle, raised planked floors below longitudinal choir stalls and encaustic tiles. Roof as nave but a copy by Scott: there are four arch-braced collar trusses with raking struts, the easternmost three trusses with cusped windbraces, the fourth with plain windbraces.

North wall:- marble memorials of 1705 and 1716/7. In the sanctuary, a sandstone aumbry on a pedestal.

East wall:- Caen stone reredos with a shelf above it. East window with medieval stained glass.

South wall:- unusual sedilia in the sanctuary. Two brasses of the 19thC and 20thC.

South transept - General. The flagged floor includes a graveslab of 1698, while the organ is supported on a woodblock floor. Around the wall a dado of reused pews with locks and catches, and carved panels including one with 'T.P'. The ceiling is of panelled oak with ribbed squares and diamonds.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Based on Hubbard with additions.

Sepulchral slabs: in the south porch are eight carved stones affixed to the north and south walls. i) part of a small coffin lid with floriated cross of mid-to late 13thC date. ii) floriated cross slab with the cross set diagonally in a circle, its arms branching into lobes, of c.1300. iii) fragment of a floriated slab, from the period 1250-1280. iv) fragment of floriated cross slab from c.1300. v) fragment of an interlaced cross slab of the early 14thC. vi) a fragment of an inscribed sepulchral slab commemorating Athunydd, daughter of Dafydd, from c.1300. vii) an inscribed slab fragment with 'V.T.P....DD....BLETHYN'. viii) an ornamented slab with a lion's head at the top and foliations of late 14thC date. ix) a further slab in the tower window embrasure.

Stoup: circular bowl fashioned from a square slab with chamfered angles; located on ledge of tower window. The RCAHMW considered this to be the old font.

Architectural fragments: i) seemingly the top part of a small arch of a Norman window, though with a head carved above it. Set on the tower window sill. However, is this what Thomas referred to as 'a small recess or aumbry, with a face cut upon the bottom stone' which was found during the alterations of 1847. ii) a flat stone ornamented with ball flower decoration which may have served as a bracket or pedestal for an image destroyed at the Reformation. Now supports the freestanding credence in the sanctuary.

Stained glass: the 'east window [of] 1883 by Burlison and Grylls, but incorporating early work, at least some of which may be dated c.1483-5 on the strength of the badge of Richard III (boar at foot of fifth light). Also old are e.g., in the first light, St David and lion; in the third light, angel; in the fourth, head of St John; in the fifth, angel, near the top' (Hubbard). These are possibly fragments of painted glass formerly in the south



aisle and north transept windows.

Altar table: of Jacobean date. Heavily decorated flags and ornamented, turned legs at one end but plain squared legs at the other indicates that it was intended to be placed lengthways from the wall.

Sedile: constructed from pieces of the late 15thC to early 16thC rood screen. These include 'a section of the loft parapet, with canopied niches, fretted pedestals for statuary, and pinnacled buttresses. Also part of the rood beam, with vine trail. Traceried panelling etc in the lower portion may also be old' (Hubbard). Colour was added in the 19thC. Known to Thomas as 'Cadair Fair'. For a full description and discussion see Crossley and Ridgway.

Pulpit: octagonal with carved panels of late medieval date, probably contemporary with the rood screen.

Altar rails: 17thC turned rails now in front of the baptistry.

Poor box: possibly 18thC? By the south door.

Pews: panels from the box pews used for a dado in the tower and main body of church.

Chests: i) small and low, with three locks and ornamented with circular star patterns on the sides. It carries a date of 1633. Located in vestry. ii) large and unornamented; no date; at the east end of the north aisle.

Chandelier: with ten branches; the gift of Elizabeth Hyde in 1761.

Monuments: i) white marble on black slate to Robert Roberts of Plas Ucha (d.1705), with an urn finial, draped curtains, flanking heraldic shields and kneeling weeping figures at the base. ii) stone memorial to Edward Parry (d.1714). iii) a white marble tablet possibly to Richard Jones of Hendre (d.1716/7), with a painted shield at the top. iv) stone memorial to Peter Parry (d.1768). v) stone memorial to Margaret Parry (d.1800).

Brass: i) - iii) brass plates record the burial place of George Wynne of Leeswood (d.1680) in a vault or crypt. iv) Elizabeth Parry (d.1756) and other members of her family. v) brass to Jane Jones (d.1781) set on a marbled, wooden panel, and surmounted by a stag's head.

Plate: chalice, flagon, paten and communion plate from 1752.

Bell: cast by Luke Ashton of Wigan and inscribed 'Robert Williams, Edward Parry, Churchwardens 1749'.

Registers from 1665.

19thC and later furnishings and fittings include:

Font: octagonal sandstone font in Norman style. The circular lead-lined bowl was an 1884 gift.

Benefactions board: from 1813, located in the tower.

Decalogue and Lord's Prayer boards: painted panels in the tower.

Restoration gifts: include a carved oak eagle lectern, a brass alms dish, a brass candlestick, a Glastonbury chair in the sanctuary and an alms box.

Monuments:- i) brass to the Lloyd Fletcher family by Cox and Sons, London. ii) marble to Jane Jones (d.1808) by Blayney of Chester. iii) marble memorial to Rev Hugh Mason (d.?) by Blayney of Chester. iii) brass to the Wynns of Nerquis Hall by Cox and Sons, London.

## CHURCHYARD



The original sub-oval enclosure was extended to the north in 1884 when the course of the lane which passes the eastern perimeter of the churchyard appears to have been altered. It was further extended in c.1936 and again in 1956 on land to the north-west of the church. The extent of the original churchyard is probably defined by a line of horse chestnut trees on the north side of church. The churchyard is well-kept.

Boundary:- a stone wall around the churchyard and this takes the form of a revetment wall along the eastern side.

Monuments:- a few marked graves in the original enclosure. On the south side the graves are grassed-over and the stones have been removed, though a few have been retained and laid flat. To the north of the church the gravestones have been left, and against the east wall of the churchyard is a simple stone bearing the date 1729. The Nerquis Hall vault is marked with a gadrooned white marble sarcophagus with elaborate heraldic cartouches, all on a stepped plinth. It records successive owners of Nerquis Hall from Edward Williams (d.1737).

Furniture:- a sundial with a baluster pillar mounted on a circular plinth surrounded by graves laid flat amid a garden area. Later iron bands around the neck. The octagonal copper dial and gnomon are intact and are incised 'Lewis Thomas (of Chester) Fecit 1768'. An 1884 churchwardens' stone on the inner face of the north wall next to entrance gate.

Ancillary features:- at the south end of the churchyard is a 19thC bier house west of the main entrance which has wrought iron gates with fleur-de-lys terminals set in red sandstone piers that have pyramidal capstones. There is a single north-west gate, and also a gate to the new burial ground on the west side. Both date from Scott's restoration. Paths in the southern part of the churchyard are made up of 18thC and early 19thC gravestones laid flat. Paths tarmac elsewhere

Earthworks:- the ground is raised by c.0.5m on the west side, 1.5m on the south and east. To the north of the church is a slight dip in the ground surface, probably the edge of the original churchyard on this side.

Vegetation:- six horse chestnut trees form a ring around the church. Two yews are located near the south gate and there is a large yew near the south porch. Also recently planted trees and ornamental shrubs. Another yew further north.

## SOURCES

Clwyd SMR

CPAT Field Visits: 29 June 1996 and 27 November 1998

Crossley and Ridgway 1945, 190

Faculty: St Asaph 1882 (NLW): restoration

Faculty: St Asaph 1884 (NLW): addition to churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1956 (NLW): addition to churchyard

Flintshire County Record Office: P/44/1/9 (c.1750); P/44/1/51-3 (c1936)

Glynne 1884, 262

Gresham 1968, 71, 73, 88, 106, 111, 220

Hubbard 1986, 404

NMR Aberystwyth

Pritchard 1977

Quinquennial Report 1986

RCAHMW 1912, 71

Sharp 1957

Thomas 1911, 422

## CONDITION

Church in a good state of repair, apart from general weathering of sandstones and plaster peeling off the west wall.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium to Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Very Good

Value of documentary evidence: Poor to Medium

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Good

Group value: Medium



# Northop

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<b>Diocese</b>	St Asaph	<b>Dedication</b>	Ss Eurgain and Peter
<b>PRN</b>	100307	<b>NGR</b>	SJ24646848

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## SUMMARY

The church of Ss Eurgain and Peter in the parish of Northop lies less than 3 miles from Mold. It has a fine Perpendicular tower but the main body of the church was completely rebuilt in 1839 except for an internal arcade, and the east wall of the chancel was replaced in 1850 to include a new east window. Inside there is a Perpendicular camberbeam roof, some medieval effigies and some 18thC memorials, but most of the furnishings and fittings were replaced at the time of the restoration or later. It is set within a rectangular churchyard which has been largely cleared of early gravestones.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The west tower is of the 15thC-16thC, though it is said to have been completed in 1571. The double-naved church is of 1839-40, except for the medieval arcade and the east wall of 1850. The interior is largely the result of refurbishment in 1877.

## HISTORY

The village is otherwise known as Llaneurgain, and the church was reputedly founded by St Eurgain, niece of St Asaph, sometime in the mid 6thC. The dedication apart there is, however, little to suggest that this is an early medieval foundation. Notwithstanding this the early church is claimed to have been a clas site.

Northop church is recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 as 'Ecc'a de Lhanensgeyn' with a value of £5, and in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 as 'Ecclesia de Llanewrgain cum Capella sua de Flynd taxatur' at £30 6s 8d.

It is believed that the 13thC church consisted of a single chamber and was extended eastwards in the mid-14thC when a small crypt was constructed below the new sanctuary (now the north-east vestry with a heating chamber installed in the crypt). Two corbels on the north wall of the nave remain from the 14thC. Sometime after 1282, the dedication to St Peter was added to that of St Eurgain.

The church was enlarged in the 15thC under the patronage of the Stanleys. A new nave was added to the south side and a four-bay arcade was inserted into the south wall of the earlier church. The original sanctuary at the east end of what became the north aisle was converted to a Lady Chapel.

It is claimed on the basis of a gargoyle carrying a date that the tower was completed in 1571.

In his will proved in 1658 Owen Jones left bequests for modifying and enlarging the porch in the church, and paving a path with flagstones between it and the west gate of the churchyard. Owen Jones's grave is laid flat on the south side of churchyard.

The 18thC church was in a poor state of repair. In 1729, the vicar reported that while the exterior was acceptable, the interior needed whitening. There were rushes on the floor and he suggested that flagstones



needed relaying in parts of the aisles. The roof had been recently reslated and releaded. By 1792-3, the condition of the church had worsened. The architect, Sillitoe, reported on the perilous state of the church; the floor was unevenly flagged and old pews needed repairing. This report led to a decision that the floors strewn with rushes were to be boarded or flagged, the size and position of the pews was to be reassessed, and church furnishings were to be moved to more convenient positions.

An 1806 report referred to the decaying timbers in the roof; the ruinous condition of the main body of the church contrasted with the fine tower, which appeared to be in good condition. In 1810 W. Turner, an architect of Whitchurch, suggested repairs and a programme of rebuilding, commenting on the necessity to take down the arcade which was badly cracked. But his proposals were turned down. New pews were set up and a gallery was erected at the west end in 1823, but no repairs were made to the fabric of the church. In 1830, the vicar reported on the subsidence of the arcade, movement in the south wall and the poor state of the roof.

In 1837, John Welch of Holywell recommended employing local craftsmen to make safe the roof until major repairs could be undertaken. A year later, the plans of Thomas Jones, an architect from Chester, were adopted. Rebuilding work began in 1839 and the church was re-opened in 1840. New walls were erected but the length of the church was shortened; the arcade, previously of seven bays was reduced to five. Battlements and pinnacles on the walls mirrored those on the old church, and the plaster vaulting in the tower was added. The oak roof was propped up while the new walls were built. The Jacobean font, the pews, the communion table and the pulpit were all retained. Any medieval glass was replaced. A contemporary illustration of the rebuilding of the church appears in the Church Guide, and depicts a south porch being taken down. Sepulchral effigies were removed from the Lady Chapel and were inserted into recesses in the north wall.

A memorial window to the Reverend Henry Jones was erected in the east window in 1850 and the entire wall was rebuilt to the design of William Butterfield. The rebuilding of this east wall resulted in the loss of the Decalogue which had been painted in stucco. A new set with zinc frames was painted in 1856 by Morris of Chester.

Glynne visited Northop sometime after 1840. He described the lofty tower and the rebuilding of 1840, the presence of several monumental effigies and a pulpit with Jacobean woodwork.

The interior was refurbished in 1876/7. Restoration work included reflooring, removing the box pews and re-seating, replacing the west door and screen, cleaning the piers and arcade, removing the west gallery, removing paint from the roof and introducing a new prayer desk, lectern, pulpit and altar rails. The restoration work was to the design of John Douglas of Chester.

A brass plate on the south inner wall of the tower records recasting of three early bells in 1891 and the addition of three new bells. Two treble bells were added in 1895.

1914 restoration work on the tower was to the plans of Prothero, Philpott and Barnard of Cheltenham.

A new lectern and bible were introduced in 1938; the organ was overhauled in 1949 and electric blower added. In 1950, the plain glass in the west window was replaced by the present rose window.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church is a double-naved structure, the north nave more like an aisle than a true nave, with a tower at the west end of the south nave. It is oriented slightly north of true east and for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is used in this report.

Fabrics: 'A' consists of medium to large linear blocks of buff-brown sandstone ashlar, regularly coursed throughout.

'B' is of orange-brown sandstone, well dressed but not ashlar; less regularly coursed than 'A'.

'C' is random limestone rubble with irregular coursing, found on the inner wall facings.

'D' is a mix of limestone and fine, grey sandstone.



Roofs:- slates. Cross finials at the east end of the north aisle and the chancel.

Drainage:- guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. Around the wall footings the ground is either concreted or tarmac. No obvious indications of a drainage trench.

## Exterior

**Tower - General.** Five-stage tower in 'A', from the 15thC/16thC. There is a double basal, moulded plinth with slightly hollowed coping stones, to a height of about 1m above ground level. The walls have four decorated quatrefoil bands and string courses, although these do not correlate with the tower stages. There are seven string courses in all: the first links with the string course below the battlements of the north nave; the second has a decorated quatrefoil band; the fifth and sixth partition off the belfry windows; and the seventh has gargoyles on it, another quatrefoil frieze below it and above it a final inset stage, basically a parapet. The gargoyles project on all sides and one at the south-west angle has a date of 1571 on it. The battlemented parapet has eight crocketed pinnacles. A flag pole rises from what appears to be a flat roof.

**North wall:-** the second stage has a small square-headed window with chamfered, moulded dressings, containing a single, worn, multifoil light set above the lower quatrefoil frieze. The third stage has a four-centred arch with a hoodmould and grotesque stops over a pair of blind, cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights with Y-tracery, and a transom separating them from a pair of trefoiled, two-centred lights, also blind. In the fourth stage is the belfry window consisting of paired, foiled and louvred windows with four-centred arches; each window has a pair of foiled, two-centred lights, a transom, and beneath, further foiled lights. All are louvred, and a string course rides over the arch as a hoodmould. The windows in both the third and fourth stages look to have quite fresh stonework. At the north-west angle is a diagonal five-stage, stepped buttress which rises to the string course below the battlements.

**East wall:-** the upper stages are visible above the south nave roofline. The second stage has a pair of multifoil lights in a square-headed frame, while the third and fourth stage windows are the same as in the north wall. One difference from the north wall is that the string course of the third stage has another quatrefoil frieze running below it but the quatrefoils are aligned differently from those above and below, and are in square rather than circular frames.

**South wall:-** diagonal buttresses at both the south-west and south east angles are equivalent to that at the north-west angle. The first stage has a empty niche with an ogee-headed canopy, set in a square-headed canopy. Next another band of quatrefoil decoration, of a different design to those on the north and east faces, beneath a string course. Then two multifoil lights and above them a clock face. In the third and fourth stages, standard windows as seen in the north wall, but the higher window is well off centre, presumably because the internal tower stair runs up through this wall. It is evidenced by four slit windows, two in the first stage, one in the second stage and one in the third - with two-centred heads and chamfered dressings, and small labels over them; the highest is also the longest.

**West wall:-** at ground floor level is a square-framed Tudor doorway with heraldic emblems in the spandrels, and a four-centred archway. Its dressings were renewed in a light-coloured sandstone in 1965, but Hubbard remarked that the detailing is not authentic. Above the label, which terminates in Tudor Rose stops, is a portcullis design, reportedly the armorial badge of the Beaufort family. Higher but also in the first stage is a two-centred window with four, cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights, and transoms and foiled tracery above. How much renewal of the dressings has occurred is impossible to ascertain. A continuous hoodmould extends as a string course to the corner buttresses, so eight on this wall. Next a square-headed window with a single multifoil, and a standard window above, and all four decorative friezes.

**North aisle - General.** In 'B', though the basal plinth is in rougher masonry which carries traces of limewash - re-used stonework from the earlier church? A basal plinth, c.0.6m high along the north wall, and c.0.5m high on the west wall. Battlemented parapet.

**North wall:-** the wall is in five bays created by four ordinary buttresses and diagonal buttresses at the



corners, all surmounted by crocketed pinnacles. The internal tomb recesses are set behind the straight buttresses. Each bay contains a four-centred window over a pair of cusped, ogee-headed lights with small tracery lights above, and a hoodmould over the arch which has simple stops. Grilles to the windows, and beneath the most easterly window a grille at ground level suggests an underground boiler room.

East wall:- separated from the chancel by a straight buttress from which rises an octagonal chimney. Its battlemented parapet is lower than that of the chancel. The window has a four-centred arch over three cusped, ogee-headed lights with cusped tracery above, and a hoodmould. Oil tank against the wall.

West wall:- square-headed frame to the west doorway with a label over; a four-centred, hollow-chamfered arch with sunken spandrels; a pair of panelled doors with wrought ironwork. Above this is a window similar to but smaller than those in the north wall: a four-centred arch with a hoodmould over a pair of cusped, ogee-headed lights with small tracery lights.

Nave - General. Only the south wall is visible externally. Four windows to the same pattern as those in the north wall of the north nave. Three buttresses separate the wall into bays and a fourth buttress effectively marks the divide between the nave and chancel. Basal plinth as on the north wall.

Chancel - General. Basal plinth continues from north nave.

East wall:- the Geometrical window from 1850 is to a different design than the windows in the rest of the building, and has a two-centred arch with hoodmould and five trefoiled, two-centred lights with a large central cinquefoil flanked by two round-headed lights. A relieving arch above the hoodmould. A string course dog-legs under the window, and over a string course with a hollow soffit, similar to that of the north nave.

South wall:- a continuation of the nave wall with two standard windows and a buttress between.

#### Interior

Tower - General. Stone flagged floor; walls lined with ashlar blocks, presumably of late medieval date. A vaulted ceiling of 1839 springs from stone corbels in the angles, each of a different design; these don't appear to be 19thC. Bosses at the intersections of the ribs include arms of local families such as the Grosvenors, the Lloyds and the Bankes; the ribs are painted in red and black and 'IHS' is painted on the plasterwork between. The ground floor is occupied by a baptistry dating from 1839-40. The bell chamber retains the original oak bell frame, but the interior has been refaced with breeze blocks.

North wall:- a First World War memorial and one 19thC memorial plaque.

East wall:- a high four-centred arch which was reset in 1839, and has heavily moulded, engaged pillars, with traceried niches on the reveal and intrados.

South wall:- staircase doorway with a two-centred arch but no chamfer, gives access to the upper stages. Three brasses refer to the 19thC restoration and to the re-casting of the bells.

West wall:- the west doorway has a four-centred reveal. An inner, panelled entrance porch below the four-light window.

North aisle - General. Stone flagged floor with iron heating grilles, and flush planked floors under the benches. Walls of exposed stone in 'C'. Roof has twelve bays of sloping wooden panels, resting on 19thC stone corbels on the north wall. On the south side the principals are set into the wall over the arcade. The east end is panelled off, in line with the fourth pier, to form a vestry. This is raised by one step and had a stone and brick floor, while the walls and roof are a continuation of the aisle. A large part of it is occupied by the organ, but there is a further step up to what was formerly the site of an altar.



North wall:- four effigies of 13thC and 14thC date set in tomb recesses with four-centred arches; the most easterly, in the vestry, is smaller than the others, and the arch, though four-centred and chamfered, is in brick, as is the rest of the soffit of the recess. Above this is a marble memorial with an illegible inscription but early 18thC or perhaps late 17thC. Also marble memorials of 1750, 1768, 1798 and several of 19thC date, and a brass of 1741/2 and two 19thC brasses.

East wall:- two large stone Decalogue tablets to either side of the east window.

South wall:- five-bay arcade with the most easterly bay separating the vestry and the chancel. The arches are two-centred and of two orders in dressed grey sandstone; supported on octagonal stone piers with moulded capitals and bases. At the extreme east end is a further arch in 14thC style, lower but of two orders, the outer two-centred, the inner ogee-headed with cinquefoil tracery: it was probably part of a tomb recess from the early church and is certainly original. The wall above the arcade and at the west end is in 'D'.

West wall:- a disused embrasure with a wooden lintel to the external doorway below two cinquefoiled lights. The wall is in 'C' but in the south-west angle is a wall junction and at the top the wall corbels out in beehive fashion to the roof. Also on the west wall is traceried panelling of 19thC or later date.

Nave - General. Carpeted central aisle with wrought iron grilles to underfloor heating vents and flush planked floors below the benches. Exposed stone to walls and the windows have round-headed embrasures with relieving arches above. A panelled, camberbeam roof of perhaps 15thC or even 16thC date has six bays (and continues across the chancel for which see below). The camberbeams rest on short wall posts and wooden corbels, and there are intermediate trusses. All, together with the purlins and the cornices, are moulded. Some of the timbers have been renewed but it is difficult to gauge how many. Two of the corbels have also been claimed as 14thC, though they could surely be later: on the north side the most westerly corbel is of a man's head and the fourth from the west end appears to be an eagle or mythological beast with a man's face.

North wall:- arcade as north aisle (above). One 20thC brass on a pillar.

East wall:- one step up to the chancel. A low stone and marble screen to either side. A camberbeam overhead.

South wall:- wall face in 'C'. Five marble memorials of 19thC date and seven brasses of 19thC and 20thC date.

West wall:- the moulded four-centred arch to the tower, and the surrounding wall is faced in ashlar.

Chancel - General. Tiled floor, some encaustic, includes a marble slab to the Wynns from 1743 to 1813, and to the west of it a brass plaque set in the floor; two steps up to the sanctuary and one to the altar. Walls as nave, though the east wall was rebuilt in 1850. Roof of two and a half bays as the nave, but the ribs, purlins and wooden panels are all painted: red, white, black and buff.

North wall:- the sanctuary wall on this and the east side is plastered and painted with a biblical scene, floral designs and the like. In the chancel a parciose screen set in the arcade bay to the vestry. Also two 20thC brasses.

East wall:- wall painted and a painted inscription on the stones of the window arch. The reredos is also painted.

South wall:- 19thC piscina in a cusped niche, and a sedile beneath the sanctuary window. Two late 19thC brasses.



## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Derived from Hubbard with additions.

Effigies: four stone effigies placed in recesses in the north aisle. From the west - i) knight of c.1400, discovered in digging a grave in the chancel in 1798; considerably damaged with smashed legs and face; the Arms suggest the figure is a descendent of Ithel Anwyl, an officer of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd. ii) the figure of a lady, the slab inscribed 'Lleucu ....anno domini 1382'. Possibly Lleucu Llwyd, the wife of Ithel ap Bleddyn. Square head-dress and pleated dress; her head rests on a cushion, framed in an arch with canopy work; a lion at her feet. iii) unusually small effigy of a knight in plate armour bearing a shield of c.1395; a Maltese cross on his breast, indicates a Knight of St John. Slab inscribed 'Hic iacet Ith. ap Bledd Vach' and this is presumed to be Ithel ap Bleddyn. iv) a military effigy of a knight, possibly late 14thC. Very crude, and perhaps unfinished.

Sepulchral slabs: in the recess behind the 1388 effigy are two fragments: i) fragment with inscription 'NT Davit E'. Early 14thC and includes part of a circular cross head, and a sword hilt. ii) decorated fragment inscribed 'Uxor quonda M: Bledyn'. Late 13thC date and found in the vicarage field in the ?19thC.

Monuments; marble tablet to i) Thomas Salisbury (d.1750); ii) with urn to Elizabeth Conway (d.1768); iii) Thomas Crewe (d.1798); iv) to Howell Lloyd (d.1783) and wife Dorothea (d.1801) with drapery, heraldry and a dove; by W.Spence, Liverpool.

Brasses: to Edward Williams (d.1741/2)

Bells: the eight bells includes two with dates of 1641 and 1680. Also an undated priest's bell.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Reredos: decorated panels from 1877 by Hardman and Co. Carvings were added to the altar in 1879.

Stained glass: from 1839 up to 1907. Windows by Charles Clutterbuck, by James Powell and Sons, by O'Connor, by Ballantine and Son, and by Hardman.

Monuments: marble memorials to: i) John Williams (d.1814) and others by T.Kelley, Chester; ii) to Mary Frances Ford (d.1843) by W. Spence, Liverpool; iii) to Henry Allen (d.1844) by W Spence, Liverpool.

Brasses: two later 19thC brasses on the north wall to the Howard family are by Hardman, and are particularly notable.

Gravestone: an early 19thC white marble slab records i) Dr John Wynne, Bishop of St. Asaph and later of Bath and Wells (d.1743); i) his widow Anne (d.1778), his daughter (d.1744), his eldest son, John (d.1804), and his younger son, Sir William Wynne (d.1815).

## CHURCHYARD

The early rectangular churchyard was enlarged in 1837 and again in 1866 to the north of the present vehicular access; it was extended in the early 20thC by a burial ground in the north-east corner. A 1911 datestone in the wall marks this extension beyond the old Grammar School. It was further extended in this direction in the 1920s.

Boundary:- a stone wall on all sides. A date stone of 1837 is set in the churchyard wall on the west side. It names Thomas Tomlinson and Edward Jones, churchwardens when this stretch of wall was built.

Monuments:- there are a few marked graves on the south side, but the ground has been levelled and landscaped, and graveslabs are used for walkways around the church. The earliest marker is of 1659, one of the few on the south side of the church, and there is one of 1718 laid flat on the north side. Some other



18thC examples but mostly 19thC. There are some large monuments by the east wall of the church, including a large marble chest surmounted by a limestone cross on a boulder marking the Huntley family burials. Entrances to vaults (or crypts) beneath the east end of the north nave and the chancel are still visible.

Earthworks:- the church appears to be slightly raised, particularly when viewed from the north where a definite platform can be seen. Conceivably it might mark the original edge of the churchyard. The churchyard is also raised, by nearly 1.5m on the south and west, and 1m on the north.

Ancillary features:- the worn sandstone head of a two-centred window with six ogee-headed tracery lights and part of two ogee-headed main lights, is set in the 1911 extension wall and is presumed to have come from the early east window. There is a double-gate entrance to the lower burial ground, and in the south-west and south-east corners stepped entrances to the churchyard, four and seven steps respectively; the former has a large iron gate, the latter a smaller one. Tarmac paths. The old Grammar School lies against the east wall of the churchyard.

Vegetation:- a mix of yews, cherry trees and lilacs, all of 19thC or later date. Yews along the north side of the churchyard.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visits: 21 November 1996 and 11 December 1998

CPAT SMR

Faculty: St Asaph 1837 (NLW): addition to churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1866 (NLW): addition to churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1876 (NLW): restoration faculty

Faculty: St Asaph 1912 (NLW): addition to churchyard

Flintshire County Record Office: P/45/1/90 (1686); P/45/1/91 (18thC); P/45/1/362 (1839); P/45/1/269 (1876); P/45/1/279 (1949)

Glynne 1884, 185

Gresham 1968, 82, 133, 198-202, 205, 237

Hubbard 1986, 406

Lloyd 1957

Pritchard 1976

RCAHMW 1912, 77

Quinquennial Report 1994

Thomas 1911, 428

## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Medium



# Trelawnyd

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**Diocese** St Asaph

**Dedication** St Michael

**PRN** 102099

**NGR** SJ08907963

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## SUMMARY

St Michael's church at Trelawnyd is first recorded in 1291 and there is no evidence to suggest that in origin it goes back into the early medieval period. The present church was built in 1724 and heavily restored in the 19thC. It contains a late medieval roof and part of a sepulchral slab but little else of early date. It occupies a sub-rectangular churchyard, which is notable for a 14thC churchyard cross and a rare 18thC hooded tomb.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church masonry probably dates to 1724 with windows from the restoration of 1895, though their round heads indicate the residue of the earlier 18thC windows. The porch doorway survived from the Georgian building. A vestry was added in 1917.

## HISTORY

The village of Trelawnyd ('Trevelesneu') is recorded in Domesday Book in 1086, while the church is first referred to in Pope Nicholas's Taxation of 1291 as 'Ecclesia de Deyserth, cum capella sua de Rywlyfnyd'.

The parish of Trelawnyd was referred to as Newmarket from AD 1700 when John Wynne of Y Gop rebuilt most of the village and obtained a faculty to substitute the name of the church. The Welsh name was reinstated in the 1950s.

The present church was built in 1724 and restored in 1863 when a gallery was added to the west end and the roof was reslated; the walls plastered and general repair work undertaken.

A more major restoration was completed by Douglas and Fordham of Chester in 1895-7. This included the removal of plaster from the walls, repointing of stonework, the chancel was tiled, the old roof cleaned and varnished, the gallery removed and a new east window of three lights inserted. The church was re-seated with pitch pine pews in the nave and oak in the chancel, woodblock floors laid under the benches; a new oak pulpit and reading desk were introduced, existing windows were removed and Gothic replicas inserted. The outer arch of the porch was removed and the present arch rebuilt. The east gable was fitted with a stone cross, the bell-turret was remodelled, the roof repaired where necessary and new guttering and downspouts added.

In 1917, a new vestry was erected on the north side to the design of Douglas, Minshall and Muspratt of Chester, in keeping with the general design of the church.

## ARCHITECTURE

Trelawnyd church consists of a nave and chancel in one, a south porch, a north vestry and a western

bellcote. It is oriented north-north-east/south-south-west but 'ecclesiastical east' is used here for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics: 'A' is of small and medium-sized blocks of grey limestone; some larger blocks are occasionally used for quoins and at the wall base; irregular coursing. Buff-yellow sandstone dressings for architectural features.

Roof:- slates with stone ridge tiles; cross finials at the east end of chancel and over the porch.

Drainage:- guttering and downspouts renewed in 1983; these lead to soakaways, but no obvious sign of a drainage trench around the church.

## Exterior

Nave and chancel - General. No external differentiation. All in 'A' though some variation in appearance.

North wall:- a foundation plinth rising to no more than 0.1m is visible for a distance of about 6m east from the vestry, but then disappears as the ground level rises. It is unclear whether this is an 18thC feature or earlier. Features from the west are: i) vestry. ii) round-headed window with two ogee-headed lights and panel lights above, flush with the masonry of the wall; above this a relieving arch of stone voussoirs; wholly 19thC. iii) window as ii) but with the addition of a hoodmould with simple stops. iv) a buttress at the north-east angle which takes the form of a battered plinth, 1m long and 0.4m high.

East wall:- base of wall hidden by several chest tombs. East window has a round-headed arch, three ogee-headed lights with panel tracery, a hoodmould and simple stops and a relieving arch of stone voussoirs. Over the window is a datestone recording 'Barnard Parry, R. Robt. Parry, Edwd Parry, Thos Parry, May 1724 A.D'. The kneeler at the north-east angle is inscribed 'Tho P'.

South wall:- in 'A' though a couple of blocks of brick-like material are also evident. Plinth of west wall (see below) continues along south wall as far as porch. Features from the west are: i) porch with boiler house adjoining its east wall. ii) window mirroring that in north wall of nave. iii) window comparable with that in north wall of chancel; smaller than ii). iv) low sloping buttress, c.1.3m high, at south-east angle.

West wall:- in 'A' although very occasional inclusions of what may be grey slate. Low basal plinth, c.0.1m high, along the whole length of the wall. Wall otherwise plain and without fenestration.

Bellcote has tiered head with segmental-headed opening for the single bell. The masonry appears slightly different from that of the west wall below.

Vestry:- in 'A', and dating from 1917. A door in the east wall, and windows in the east and west wall, all with three-centred heads; projecting chimney stack on the north side rises above roof level.

South Porch - General. In 'A' with sandstone quoins. West wall is plain, the east wall with a lean-to boiler house. The south wall has a round-headed doorway with a distinctive keystone; 18thC. Iron gate with grille.

## Interior

Porch - General. Flagstone floor, exposed rafters and purlins with ceiling plastered above. Exposed stonework to the walls and wooden benches on stone plinths along the east and west walls.

North wall:- round-headed arch in limestone to doorway.

East wall:- resting on the bench is a small free-standing stoup.



Nave - General. The stone flagged floor at the west end includes at least two graveslabs of 18thC date (1733 and 1778), and there is a sloping ramp down to the south door. A carpeted central aisle, and flush woodblock flooring below the benches. All stonework exposed, although heavily pointed and the window apertures are set under two-centred arches with stone voussoirs and flat sills; the windows are clearly inserted and the 18thC window embrasures may have been slightly larger than their successors. The late medieval roof consists of six arch-braced collar trusses with wave-carved raking struts, resting on wooden corbels, forming seven bays; exposed rafters and through purlins. On the south side at the west end is a dormer light.

North wall:- doorway from vestry with two steps down into the nave. One large religious painting. Marble memorial of 1777 and stone memorials of 1749 and 1752.

South wall:- nothing other than window embrasures and the south doorway which has a segmental head to the reveal and is finished in concrete, as are the angles of the jambs. The heavy door has a ring on the inside, similar to the sanctuary ring at Caerwys.

West wall:- an alcove with a modern figure of St Michael.

Chancel - General. One step up from the nave and two to the sanctuary. Floor and walls as nave but coloured tiles in the chancel and encaustic tiles in the sanctuary.

North wall:- niche for an aumbry.

South wall:- one brass memorial of the 20thC.

Vestry - General. Carpeted floor above concrete; unplastered walls; and ceiling with rafters and purlins.

South wall:- the door to the nave has a round-headed arch with simple chamfers and an arch fashioned from a single block of stone.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Sepulchral slab: i) sepulchral slab of the early 14thC; c.50cm long and set upside down, in the vestry north wall. Upper part of a shield and sword carved on slab. Possibly a second fragment beside it though this is disguised by a cupboard. This is presumably the stone referred to by the RCAHMS which was in the churchyard in 1910 and carried an inscription to Ithel ap Llewelyn ap Bleddyn.

Stoup: bowl with four sides but with broach facets and cushion stops.

Monument: a stone round-headed tablet to Catherine Jones of Pentref (d.1701) and Margaret Jones (d.1749). ii) large stone monument with armorial head and putto on the apron to Martha Davies of Henfryn (d.1752). iii) white marble tablet in black wooden frame to Mary Norman (d.1777).

Register: from 1698.

19thC and later furnishings and fittings include:

Font: plain octagonal bowl with faceted undersides.

Stained glass: the east window by Hemming from 1897.

## CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is a fairly level sub-rectangular plot, the ground dropping gently to the south-west. There is a modern extension on the south, and the whole is well maintained.

Boundary:- a revetment wall on the north side, west of the lychgate, and an ordinary wall on the rest of the north and on the east where it is c.1.5m. Revetment walls, too, on the west and south.

Monuments:- randomly placed on all sides, and many slabs have been cleared, particularly from the south side and reset along the paths. Five table tombs and a hooded tomb mainly of 17th and 18thC date and recording the Wynne family are set along the east wall of the church. The hooded tomb has a semi-circular canopy, partially supported by bricks, and has a broken finial; there is ornamentation on the table sides and the longitudinal panels have round-headed arches. Table tombs have side panels of similar round-headed arches between pilasters and bear dates of 1664 and 1762-64. On the south side of the church is a table tomb of 1651.

Furniture:- a 14thC churchyard cross, a scheduled ancient monument, is located south-east of the porch. The weathered reddish sandstone chamfered shaft, c. 3.5m high, is rectangular in cross-section. It has a square plinth, with chamfered angles that terminate in pyramid stops and this is now mounted on a circular concrete base. The head consists of four cusped panels; a cinquefoil on the east and west sides, containing respectively the Crucifixion, and the Crucifixion with Virgin and (missing) St John.

Sundial:- weathered, square-sectioned sandstone pillar c.1.3m high, with chamfered angles. No plate or gnomon. West of the church.

Earthworks:- churchyard raised on the west side some 2m above the road, less obviously so on the other sides. Internal banking on the north and east. The church itself occupies a level platform, most obvious from the west and south-west.

Ancillary features:- a tarmac path leads from the northern lychgate to the south porch and continues south to the new burial ground. A grass path runs eastwards to the former rectory beyond the east boundary wall. A lychgate on the north side was erected in 1921.

Vegetation:- a few beeches, clipped 19thC yews and ornamental trees.

## SOURCES

Church guide n.d.  
Clwyd SMR  
CPAT Field Visits: 3 October 1996 and 19 June 1998  
Faculty: St Asaph 1894 (NLW): restoration faculty  
Faculty: St Asaph 1917 (NLW): vestry construction  
Gresham 1968, 145  
Hubbard 1986, 446  
NMR Aberystwyth  
Owen 1886, 149  
Quinquennial Report 1989  
RCAHMW 1912, 72  
Thomas 1908, 408



## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair externally and internally.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Poor to Medium

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Medium

# Treuddyn

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**Diocese** St Asaph

**Dedication** St Mary

**PRN** 16387

**NGR** SJ25415810

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## SUMMARY

St Mary's church at Treuddyn, about 7 miles to the north-west of Wrexham, was built in 1875 on the site of a medieval double-naved church. It retains only a few items from its predecessor such as some 14thC glass fragments. It is sited within a raised circular churchyard which has been extended.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Constructed in Early English style in 1875 to the design of T. H. Wyatt.

## HISTORY

Treuddyn appears to have been an ancient chapelry attached to Mold until 1831. For this reason perhaps, it went unrecorded in the Taxations of the 13thC and in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535.

The old church was double-naved, divided by an arcade of late Perpendicular style. The south side chancel was divided from the nave by a low wooden screen, which continued across the north aisle. The reading desk dated from 1720. In 1749 a new bell was added and windows were rereaded in 1763. The west wall, having collapsed, was rebuilt in 1758. A sketch by Moses Griffiths in 1790 shows this church and a 1791 terrier records that its flagged floors were to be relaid. A west gallery was erected in 1792 and the chancel ceiling was plastered about that time.

Glynne visited the church, probably in the middle of the 19thC. It was double-naved, whitewashed, the arcade of low arches rested on octagonal pillars, the altar was encroached upon by pews, most of them 'ugly and inconvenient' although there were 'fragments of some ancient wooden seats'. Perpendicular windows were set in the south side, but the east window of the north aisle was perhaps Decorated, with medieval stained glass. Late, square-headed windows were set in the north wall; the eastern end of both naves plastered over, probably during the 17thC. The font had an octagonal bowl.

By the middle of the 19thC the church had fallen into serious disrepair. The north wall was leaning, the west gable bowing out and there was some displacement at the north-east corner. The building was taken down in 1874 and a new church constructed on the site to the design of T.H.Wyatt. It was consecrated in 1875 and cost £1900.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel with an eastern apse, and north and south aisles. It is oriented east-north-east to west-south-west, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabric:- 'A' is of medium to large blocks of medium-grained buff-brown sandstone; coursed. Dressings of the



same fine grained fabric.

Roofs:- blue slate tiles with red ceramic ridge tiles. Cross finial to the porch and a pinnacle finial to the chancel.

Drainage:- lead channels, guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. A gravel path following the line of the walls could disguise a drainage trench.

The church is a 19thC construction and for that reason the following description is only a summary.

#### Exterior

North Aisle - General. A basal plinth at c.0.6m.

North wall:- four pairs of trefoiled lights without full frames, and a short buttress separating the third and fourth windows to the east.

East wall:- a single trefoiled window, larger than those in the north wall.

West wall:- a pair of trefoiled lights, comparable with that in the east wall, light the vestry at the west end of the aisle.

Nave - General. A chimney at the apex of the west end, and at the east end of the nave a stepped bellcote with a single bell.

North wall: - a clerestorey with four hexafoil lights, all perspex covered.

West wall:- the chamfered plinth continues from the north aisle, and below the main window is a string course at a height of about 1.6m The gable end contains three trefoiled lights with linked hoodmoulds below a rose window with a voussoired relieving arch over it. In the top of the gable are two chamfered slit apertures and above them rises the short octagonal chimney. A subterranean boiler house with a corrugated roof and stepped entrance adjoins the base of the wall.

South wall:- as north wall.

Chancel - General. Apse with peaked roof. Plinth and string course as the nave. Three pairs of trefoiled lights with quatrefoil tracery lights above, but the trefoils have angular rather than round heads.

#### South Aisle - General.

East wall:- a single trefoiled, window with stained glass.

South wall:- a porch adjoins the west end. East of this are two pairs of trefoiled windows, then a single window, a buttress and another single window. Beyond these is a square-headed vestry door, corbels giving it a shouldered appearance.

West wall:- a pair of trefoiled windows as elsewhere.

#### South Porch - General. A stepped entrance.

East wall:- a single quatrefoil light.

South wall:- a two-centred arch with a hoodmould and simple stops.

West wall:- as east wall.

#### Interior

Porch - General. Tiled floor, walls plastered and painted with splayed window apertures; and a roof of five collar trusses.

North aisle - General. Tiled floors though mainly carpetted, with raised planked floors under the benches. Plastered and painted walls. Sloping roof of four and a half bays with rafters and through purlins, the principals supported on stone corbels on the north wall. A two-centred arch at the east end of the aisle opens onto the organ chamber, and in front of this is an altar. And at the west end is a vestry, partitioned off and raised above the general level of the aisle.

North wall:- photo of a Horn Book found beneath a pew in the church in 1866 and now in St Asaph.

East wall:- a two-centred arch with panelling.

South wall:- two-bay arcade, the arches two-centred and of two orders, on round pillars with moulded capitals, and engaged pillars for the responds.

West wall:- window embrasure.

Nave - General. Floors and walls as north aisle. Roof of five arch-braced collar trusses with king struts; two of the trusses are supported on wall posts resting on stone corbels. Splayed clerestory windows.

North wall:- as south wall of north aisle. A First World War memorial.

East wall:- a high two-centred chancel arch of two orders. Two steps up to the chancel through a low stone screen.

South wall:- two-bay arcade of similar form to that on the north side.

West wall:- splayed windows only.

Chancel - General. Stepped up from nave, with two steps to the sanctuary, and one to the altar. Carpets over tiles, and encaustic tiles in sanctuary.

North wall:- the organ occupies a chamber beneath a two-centred arch.

East wall:- wood panelled reredos.

South aisle - General. Floor, walls and roof as north aisle. A two-centred arch at the east end gives on to a small chapel. The font is at the west end.

North wall:- as south wall of nave. One 20thC brass.

East wall:- arch to chapel.

South wall:- arcade as above.

West wall:- window aperture.



## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Derived from Hubbard with additions.

Stained glass: the central west window has diamond leaded lights with coloured margins and fragments of medieval stained glass in a central roundel. Other fragments of early stained glass were retained by Wyatt and incorporated in the apse windows. That on the north-east has i) a bishop (or monk) with the lettering 'orate'; ii) a praying monk(?) with 'DBR II'; and iii) above them the Virgin. On the south-east i) a figure of the Virgin with crossed arms and a shield in a roundel beneath. ii) a knight with 'plena gracia' and a shield roundel, and iii) robes and a figure. These fragments were ascribed by Mostyn Lewis to three separate 14thC dates, together with some 16thC pieces. A date of 1305 has been suggested for the earliest piece, and c.1330 for the arms of Baron Montalt, Lord of Mold and Treuddyn.

Stoup: the 14thC stoup is reputedly kept in a wooden box. Not seen.

Chest: dugout chest with iron bands and locks. This is no longer in the church, the previous incumbent having disposed of it. It is reported to be now in Bodelwyddan Castle.

Altar table: heavily decorated and originally had a cupboard beneath. Could this be the Jacobean chest referred to in the RCAHMMW Inventory.

Registers: from 1611.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Font: octagonal bowl in Bath stone.

## CHURCHYARD

The irregularly shaped churchyard is a result of an eastwards extension in 1893. Formerly there was a small polygonal enclosure. It is well maintained.

Boundary:- a stone wall on all sides which has been recently repaired and repointed. The south side forms a revetment to a public footpath and a stream, and is capped in places with the side slabs of chest tombs.

Monuments:- few if any pre-19thC gravestones remain. The earliest memorial noted during a cursory examination of the churchyard was 1804.

Furniture:- on the south side of the church is a sandstone baluster pillar for a sundial. The plate which carried a date of 1803 when seen by Hubbard has gone.

Earthworks:- a curvilinear bank, rising to over 0.5m curves south on the eastern side of the church and represents the earlier boundary on this side. The churchyard is raised about 1m on the south and north sides, and about 0.5m on the east.

Ancillary features:- the timber-framed lychgate on the west side of the churchyard was erected in 1975, having been brought from the church at Llanddewi near Llangernyw. There is a south entrance through a single wrought iron gate, and to the north-east of the church is a single gate set between a wooden pillar and one in weathered grey sandstone. Gravel paths around the church.

Vegetation:- two yews of considerable age grow just within the south and east boundaries. The extent of the early churchyard on the east is shown by a few firs and horse chestnuts.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visits: 29 June 1996 and 27 November 1998

Clwyd SMR

Crossley and Ridgway 1945, 197

Faculty: St Asaph 1874 (NLW): church rebuilding

Faculty: St Asaph 1893 (NLW): churchyard extension

Flintshire County Record Office: P/66/1/15 (1870); P/66/1/17 (1873)

Glynne 1884, 263

Hubbard 1986, 453

Pritchard n.d.

Quinquennial Report

RCAHMW 1912, 91

Thomas 1911, 440



## CONDITION

Church in a good state of repair; general weathering of sandstone.

## 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: Poor to Medium

# Whitford

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** Ss Mary and Beuno**PRN** 102357**NGR** SJ14617818

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## SUMMARY

Whitford church, dedicated to Ss Mary and Beuno, is just over 5 miles to the south-east of Prestatyn. It is Perpendicular in style, though little architectural detail survives from the late medieval period. The north aisle is an original feature but the rest of the church was rebuilt in the 19thC. Inside are an early medieval incised stone, a churchyard cross of early date, a 14thC sarcophagus, various sepulchral slab fragments from the 13thC and 14thC, a font of 1649, and a range of other pre-19thC fittings and furnishings. It is set in a raised churchyard.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

While the architectural detail is in the Perpendicular style, the only original details may be a few dressings in the north aisle. It is also likely that the pebbledashed surfaces of the north aisle disguises original masonry, though the recessed gables probably point to rebuilding. The north aisle roof and the arcade are also original, and a date of 1500-20 was claimed by Ellis Davies, though a more general 15thC/16thC date span might be more realistic.

The western tower built in 1842-3. and much of the church itself was rebuilt in 1845/6.

## HISTORY

The church is believed to have been founded by St Beuno in the 7thC, and first appears in the written record as 'Widford' in Domesday Book in 1086. Possibly the church was dedicated to this saint initially, but sometime after the Norman Conquest it was re-dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It has also been posited that the first stone church on the site probably dated from the 11thC.

The church is recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 as 'Ecc'a de Fytford' with a value of £4, and in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 as 'Ecc'a de Chwytford' at £17 6s 8d. During the century the church suffered damage during Edward I's Welsh wars.

Nothing of the early church survives, the earliest architectural detail being from the 15th or 16thC, with parts of the north aisle, its arched-braced roof and arcade. The roof and the arcade however, indicate that the aisle was not all of one build.

In the late 18thC, Moses Griffiths illustrated the church, depicting the porch and main doorway, a priest's door in the south wall, and stone steps leading up to the west gallery. Two dormers lit the gallery and a small double-light window over the priest's door suggests the approach to the rood loft. The tower had a saddleback roof.

The church, basically a double-naved structure, was described by Glynne, sometime before 1842, as having a 'heavy, rude west tower, and a nave and chancel with north aisle to each'. It was whitewashed and contained windows in Perpendicular style, except for a triple lancet on the south side of the chancel which



Glynne doubted was original. There was no chancel arch and the six-bay arcade was described as Tudor in style. The chancel had a coved, boarded ceiling but the remainder of the roof was exposed. The tower opened on to the nave through a wide arch of Early English style.

The west tower was rebuilt in 1842-3 by Ambrose Poynter and paid for by the Honorable Edward Mostyn and Lady Emma Pennant, as is commemorated on a tablet on the north wall of the church.

Restoration work by Ambrose Poynter took place in 1845-6 at a cost of £3000, with the emphasis on the Perpendicular style, but it might be more appropriate to term it rebuilding for Archdeacon Thomas believed that only the north wall of the aisle was left. Again the cost of this work was met by Lady Emma Pennant.

In 1888 pitch pine seating replaced the high pews in the nave, oak seats were introduced into the chancel and parclose screens separated the chancel from the aisles. The organ was removed from the west end to the south aisle and a new oak pulpit was introduced. The 1888 work was to the design of Ewan Christian of London.

In 1993 excavations were undertaken along the west and north walls of the north aisle in advance of drain laying. Fourteen graves were uncovered, some of which had been truncated by the foundation trench of the 16thC structure.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church comprises a nave and chancel, north and south aisles, and a west tower. It is oriented north-east to south-west, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabrics:- 'A' is of regular linear blocks of yellow sandstone with ashlar dressings of the same material, all regularly coursed.

'B' is reputedly of limestone blocks, though this could not be confirmed.

'C' is mainly of medium-sized blocks of sandstone.

'D' is of irregular blocks of limestone, randomly coursed.

'B' is of 16thC date, the remaining fabrics are 19thC.

Roofs:- slates, with ridge tiles probably of reconstituted clay. Cross finials to the north and south aisles, the south porch and the chancel.

Drainage:- 19thC guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. The drainage gully along the north aisle is indicated by a band of gravel chippings.

## Exterior

Tower - General. Constructed in 'A' in 1842/3. There is a basal plinth, stepped in at <0.1m, at 0.4m and again 1.3m; this is continuous around the diagonal stepped buttresses at the north-west and south-west corners and there are straight buttresses at the other corners adjoining the north and south aisles. All of them rise to the level of the belfry windows. String courses divide the tower faces into four zones; the battlemented tower has gargoyles projecting from the top string course, and the roof is surmounted by a weathervane.

North wall:- the lowest window is an unchamfered slit; next a cusped, two-centred window with chamfered jambs, and above this an elaborate belfry window consisting of a four-centred arch over three cinquefoiled, ogee-headed, louvred lights with panel tracery, and a hoodmould.

East wall:- abuts the nave so that only a standard belfry window is visible, and below this a clock face bearing the date '1843'.



South wall:- as the north wall.

West wall:- a four-centred doorway of two orders with chamfered jambs and a hoodmould above the arch. Above this a two-centred window as in the north wall and then a belfry window.

North aisle - General.

North wall:- the stonework is pebbledashed but is reported to be limestone and is here classed as 'B'. From the west: i) a four-centred window with three stepped, two-centred lights, the dressings weathered but 19thC; in its appearance this window is of a different form to all the others in the church. ii) a 19thC window of two trefoiled lights and a quatrefoil tracery light, all under a two-centred arch with a hoodmould, comparable with that in the west wall. iii) a four-centred doorway (known as the Mostyn door) with chamfered dressings and a hoodmould, all 19thC; the vertically planked door with its wrought ironwork and the arch itself were renewed in 1845/6. iv) a two-centred window with two lancet lights and tracery light above, but no proper frame or hoodmould; the head has been renewed but some of the weathered jambstones are earlier. v) is very similar to iv) with a renewed head but some older jambstones; one difference, however, is that the lights are trefoiled. vi) diagonal buttress at the north-east angle in sandstone ashlar, added during the restoration of 1845/6.

East wall:- in fabric 'A'. There is a plinth at c.1.2m which is continuous along the whole east face of the church. Two courses above ground level is the pointed arch of a blind opening which matches that to the south aisle boiler house. The east window, from 1845/6, has a four-centred arch with hoodmould over four cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights.

West wall:- pebbledashed. The tower north-east corner buttress abuts the wall on the south side and the quoins of the buttresses are jointed into the fabric of the west wall. The wall has a two-centred window with hoodmould over two trefoiled lights and a quatrefoil tracery light above, from 1845/6. The wall is inset at around 3m, i.e. springer level of the window, and this tends to suggest that the gable has been rebuilt.

Chancel - General

East wall:- in 'A'. Dominated by a large east window with a two-centred arch, a hoodmould with large stops, five cinquefoiled, two-centred lights and panel tracery. To either side are stepped buttresses with splayed sides defining the corners of the chancel which is slightly out-set from the east walls of the aisles.

South Aisle - General. In Fabric 'A' with a continuous plinth comparable to that of the tower; the plinth is stepped along the south and west walls to take account of the ground slope.

East wall:- a four-centred window with hoodmould over four cinquefoiled lights, dating from 1845/6 and directly comparable with that in the north aisle. Below this is the boiler room with below-ground access through an opening with a pointed arch and an iron-grilled door; the steps are enclosed by railings.

South wall:- features from the east end are: i) a diagonal buttress at the south-east corner. ii) and iii) two 1840s windows with four-centred arches, hoodmoulds and three cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights with panel tracery above; smaller versions of the east windows in the aisles. iv) the south porch. v) and vi) two more 1840s windows to the same design as ii).

West wall:- a small, cusped slit, similar to those in the tower, in the gable, and below this a square-headed window containing three cinquefoiled ogee-headed lights.

South Porch - General. In Fabric 'A'.

East wall:- a square-headed window with two cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights.

South wall:- a two-centred arch of two orders with chamfered dressings and a hoodmould over; the entrance



closed off by a wire and wooden gate. In the gable a small cusped slit. Short diagonal buttresses at the south-east and south-west corners.

West wall:- as east wall.

#### Interior

Porch - General. Flagstone floor, exposed stonework to the walls and a planked and rafted ceiling.

North wall:- = south wall of church. Main doorway has a four-centred arch with hollow-moulded chamfers and a hoodmould with disproportionately large square stops.

East wall:- window with a square-headed aperture.

West wall:- as east wall.

Tower - General. Not accessible from the church itself. Rough floor of gravel and soil. The walls have exposed stonework, and some earlier masonry has been randomly re-used in the walls; deeply splayed, square-headed apertures. Oak timbers also reused. A ladder gives access to the upper storeys.

North Aisle - General. The west end is partitioned off as a vestry and has a raised wooden floor, carpeted. The Mostyn chapel occupies the east end of the aisle and has a raised altar below the east window; the Mostyn family vault: is also at this end. Stone flags to the floor of the aisle itself include gravestones at the east end (see below) and heating grilles, with some carpet over; raised plank flooring under the benches. Walls plastered and painted.

The roof retains old timberwork with 11 arch-braced collar trusses with arching struts; each of the 11 trusses has a decorative carving on the centre of its soffit, and the soffits of the most easterly four are further embellished with moulded ribs and projecting roundels. There are two distinct sections to the roof. At the east end are seven trusses supporting a lower roofline of six bays. There are two through purlins, a ridge purlin and two tiers of cusped windbraces. The corbels on the south side supporting the most easterly four trusses are roughly shaped blocks of stone; the remaining three together with those further west are fashioned blocks of stone of a more regular appearance. On the north side all the trusses spring from the wall face. The variations in both the corbels and the trusses at the east end suggest that this was the earliest roof which was subsequently extended, though the implications for the north aisle as a whole are not clear. Only part of the cusped windbraces remain on the south-west side of the roof, where the roof is cut off by the arcade.

The four bays to the west ( plus part of a fifth at the extreme west end) rise higher. There is space between the principals and side purlins and the roof. The roof here has obviously been raised leaving the trusses standing free, and as a result the apex of the roof is also higher and not symmetric. Most but not all of the cusped windbraces survive in this section.

North wall:- window apertures plastered and painted except for the window dressings. Centrally placed is the inner porch to the Mostyn door. To the east side of this are longitudinal benches, traditionally the Mostyn benches. Monuments of 1619, 1647 and 1683 are located above these benches, and there is also a tablet recording the building of the tower in 1843.

East wall:- the gable top is recessed.

South wall:- six-bay arcade comprising four-centred chamfered arches of two orders, supported on octagonal stone piers with matching capitals, and responds at either end; Perpendicular, dating from the 15th or 16thC. The three more irregularly-shaped arches to the east pre-date the remainder of the arcade.

Nave - General. The floor of the church follows the natural west to east slope of the ground, but while the nave falls steeply in this direction, the chancel and also the east ends of the aisles have been levelled up. A baptistery at the west end. The stone flagged floor at the east end includes several gravestones (spilling over from the Mostyn vault) as well as heating grilles; the benches on raised planked floor and the aisle and baptistery are carpetted. Plastered walls. The roof over both the nave and chancel is of 14 arch-braced collar trusses with queen and arching struts, the trusses mounted on small, lipped, stone corbels defining 14 and a half bays; the projecting roundels on the soffits copy the medieval roof in the north aisle; three tiers of cusped and decorated windbraces. The roof as a whole dates to the restoration of 1845/6.

North wall:- arcade (see south wall of north aisle), with six memorials pinned to the wall above: three 19thC marble memorials, one 19thC stone tablet and one 20thC brass.

East wall:- no division from the chancel.

South wall:- arcade, of mid-19thC date and modelled on the north arcade.

West wall:- marble wall monuments of 1818 and 1824.

Chancel - General. Divided from the nave only in that the floor is level. Stone flags with carpet over. One step to the sanctuary with a marble step, and an encaustic tiled floor; modern oak fittings

North wall:- separated from north aisle by an oak screen with traceried heads between the two eastern arches of the arcade.

East wall:- the Creed on a marble plaque with a wooden surround, to the south of the east window.

South wall:- separated from the south aisle by an oak screen with traceried heads between the two eastern arches of the arcade.

South aisle - General. Organ chamber located at the east end. Floor and walls as nave. Fourteen-bay roof with 14 arch-braced collar trusses with arching struts, springing from the same sort of stone corbels as in the nave; two and a half tiers of cusped windbraces on the south side, one and a half on the north side. The whole roof from 1845-6.

North wall:- arcade, for which see nave above.

East wall:- the window only.

South wall:- inner porch with castellated top. A memorial to the antiquarian Thomas Pennant is west of the organ, and there are five other marble memorials of 19thC date, a brass of 1785, and a Word War I memorial.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Derived from Hubbard with additions.

Inscribed stone: the Latin inscription reads 'Hic iacet Mulier Bona Nobili', commemorating Bona, wife of Nobilis; of c.6thC date, from Plas-yn-Rhos in Caerwys, it was rescued by Pennant and taken to Downing in the 19thC. It was given to the church in 1936 by Storey, and is now jumbled with the other stones at the west end of the south aisle.

Pillar stone: part of the head surrounded by bead moulding and bearing a central raised boss on either side. This was discovered embedded in the east wall of the church in 1845, and is dated to between the 7thC and 11thC.



Stone with incised cross: c.2m long, tapering from c.0.6m to 0.2m; formerly sited near the north wall until introduced into the church in 1951, but found in the northern half of the graveyard when a grave was being dug in the second half of the 19thC. Of c.10th-11thC date.

Sepulchral slabs: several fragments are stored at the west end of the south aisle though some at least of the fragments noted below were formerly outside (RCAHMW). i) and ii) two fragments of a decorated sepulchral slab from the late 13thC; indications of an inscription. iii) and iv) the upper halves of two cross slabs, one floriated and the other interlaced, both from the early 14thC. v) the lower part of a decorated sepulchral slab commemorating Gruffydd ap Dafydd, thought to be of early 14thC date. vi) an inscribed sepulchral slab for Bleddyn ab Ifor, Vicar of Whitford in 1306, so early 14thC. vii) a late 14thC decorated slab to Eva, daughter of Iohannes ap Madog.

Piscinae: fragments of two, both with decorated sides. At the west end of the south aisle.

Other stonework: also at the west end of the north aisle is a head stop, some incomplete slabs, a piece inscribed 'Fut Fil Davit', a small quern, and a 17thC sundial from outside, sporting a rhyming couplet in Welsh, and the latitude of Whitford 'Lat. 53, 15 de 9.00'.

Coffin: stone but without a lid measuring about 2m long; the carved front has an arcade of eight trefoils under crocketed gables with heraldic emblems in the spandrels; the rim sports an inscription in Lombardic capitals reading 'Hic iacet Robert'. Of 14thC/15thC date. Brought from Downing in 1936, where it had been stored by David Pennant since 1808 when he moved it from Faenol Fawr, Bodelwyddan, its original site being a chapel a Faenol.

Chest: fashioned from a solid block of oak, and about 2m long; two internal compartments; iron banded with rounded lid. Ellis Davies thought it to be of pre-Reformation date.

Font: octagonal bowl with carved quatrefoils on the facets, and carrying a 1649 date. The stem has been renewed, and there is a modern oak cover.

Altar table: with carved, bulbous legs; Jacobean.

Chandeliers: one hung between the chancel and nave has two six-branch tiers, and carries a dated inscription indicating its donation by Pierce Jones in 1755. The second is smaller, hangs above the font, and was donated by Edward Foulks in 1756.

Monuments: i) Ellis Wynn (d.1619). ii) Elizabeth Mostyn (d.1647), an incised slab, with a frame of dog-tooth ornament, inset into the wall, with representations of herself and her family. iii) Richard Coytmore, Vicar of Whitford, (d.1683), with coat of arms displayed above. iv) Thomas Pennant (d.1798) in an alcove near the organ, a marble monument by Sir Richard Westmacott consisting of a portrait medallion at the base of an urn; a draped harp and a mourning muse in front.

Brasses: to Louis Gold, servant of Thomas Pennant, (d.1785).

Slabs: above the Mostyn family vault, these include: Morris Kiffin of Mainan (d.1610); Thomas Pennant de Bychton (d.1634); Thomas Mostyn (d.1641); Roger Mostyn (d.1642); Thomas Mostyn (d.1646), with scrolled frieze; Mary, eldest daughter of Thomas Edward Mostyn (d.1667); Major Hugh Pennant, youngest son of Piers Pennant (d.1669); and others which are indecipherable.

Bells: three, all cast at Whitford in 1662 by Thomas Cliberie, a travelling bellfounder from Holt. Two were recast in 1844.

Registers: from 1643.

Plate: includes a 1733 paten, a chalice and flagon of 1755, and a smaller chalice and paten of 1771.

19thC and later furnishings and fittings include:



Clock: by James Joyce of Whitchurch from 1859.

Pulpit: octagonal and in wood.

Armchair: made of discarded timbers from the pre-1888 church; a 1938 gift.

Altar rails: by Lingen Barker, 1876.

Lectern: an oak eagle from 1890.

Stained Glass: the east window by C. A. Gibbs of London from c.1876, depicts the Crucifixion. The east window in the north aisle is by Lavers and Westlake from 1898, while one of the northern windows in the aisle is by Heaton, Butler and Bayne from 1917 and depicts St Michael and St David.

Monuments include: i) a large neo-classical marble memorial to Thomas Thomas of Downing (d.1823) and Henry Thomas (d.1824), by W. Spence; pedimented with medallion portraits against an urn, a seated mourning figure, and emblems of mortality. ii) Lady Caroline Pennant (d.1824) by Rickman and Hutchinson. iii) Caroline Griffith (d.1834), by Westmacott. iv) David Pennant (d.1835) also by Westmacott. v) a mural tablet to another David Pennant (d.1841). vi) white marble on black slate, to Mary Harrison of Saithelwyd (d.1841) by W. Spence of Liverpool. Full details of all monuments in Ellis Davies 1952/3.

A glass-topped oak case contains archaeological items discovered locally - these include a Constantine II coin, prehistoric whetstones, a stone hammer etc.

## CHURCHYARD

Whitford church occupies a large rectangular churchyard overlooking the Dee Estuary; the ground slopes naturally from west to east. The enclosure was extended westwards in 1833, 1872 and again in 1926. Clearance work in the churchyard occurred in 1964 when some gravestones were removed and others re-sited, leading to the sparsity of memorials around the church itself.

Boundary:- a stone revetment wall on the east, some property boundaries on the south, and boundary walls of different designs on the north and west.

Monuments:- there are only a few marked graves around the church itself. Chest tombs along the north boundary wall include the tomb (and a modern plaque in the wall above) of Moses Griffiths (d.1819), artist and illustrator to Thomas Pennant. The earliest marked graves are a 1694 chest tomb, south of the church, and at least one other of early 18thC date.

Earthworks:- on the east side the original revetment wall is set 2m inside the present stone wall.

Ancillary features:- two lychgates form the south and east entrances to the churchyard. That on the south is in 'D' and is the main entrance to church. It has an upper room formerly used for meetings which is accessible by a flight of stone steps on the west side, and a massive diagonal buttress at its south-east corner. The lychgate has north and south segmental-headed voussoired arches in buff sandstone for the entrances, and the interior has a flagstone floor with planked stone benches along the sides, but as with the walls, rendered over. Externally on the south face is a stone referring to Hugh Edwards of Mertyn (d.1624), who bequeathed money towards the building of the 'porch' (i.e. the lychgate). It also records Thomas Edwards (d.1719) who left money for the poor, and the plaque appears to be of this date. Above this is a square-headed 19thC window with two, two-centred lights. The present entrance to the churchyard is further down the slope and has a pair of iron gates with an overarch and steps up between splayed stone walls. The east lychgate in 'C' was rebuilt to the design of Lewis Watson of Holywell in the 1980s and contains a beam (now built into the south wall) from its predecessor inscribed 'Tho. Caesar: Jo. Davis: Churchwardens, 1667'. Tarmac and concrete paths around the church.

Vegetation:- two large yews grow to the north of the north aisle and one to the south of the south aisle. There are three large firs on the south-east side of the church, and ornamental laurel and yew bushes along



the roadside boundary and along the west path to the churchyard extension.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visits: 30 October 1996 and 11 November 1998

CPAT SMR

Crossley and Ridgway 1945, 198

Davies 1952-3

Faculty: St Asaph 1872 (NLW): churchyard extension

Faculty: St Asaph 1887 (NLW): re-seating in the church

Faculty: St Asaph 1926 (NLW): churchyard extension

Flintshire County Record Office: P/69/1/29 (1843); P/69/1/30 (1887)

Glynne 1884, 186

Gresham 1968, 85, 91, 109, 111, 150, 220

Hubbard 1986, 454

NMR Aberystwyth

Owen 1886, 195

Pennant 1796, 99

Quinquennial Report 1988

RCAHMW 1912, 97

Thomas 1911, 202

Thomas 1993

## CONDITION

The church is in a good state of repair, both internally and externally.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Medium



# Ysceifiog

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St Mary**PRN** 16977**NGR** SJ15257150

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## SUMMARY

St Mary's church lies on the edge of the small settlement of Ysceifiog, 7 miles north-west of Mold. The present structure was built in its entirety in 1836-7, replacing a medieval structure of which little is known. The present building retains a few fragments of medieval stained glass, a Perpendicular font bowl and a carved slab depicting a 14thC priest. Its churchyard is large and level and has portions of a 14th-15thC churchyard cross.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church in simple Early English style constructed in 1836-7 using local limestone with some re-use of masonry.

## HISTORY

The origins of the church are unknown but there is nothing to suggest an early medieval beginning. It is recorded as 'Ecc'a de Esceynant' with a value of £4 in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 and as 'Ecclesia de Skeyvauc' in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 when it was worth £13.

An earlier church is shown in a watercolour by Moses Griffiths dating from 1782. This had a nave, north and south aisles and a western tower with saddleback roof, attached to the north aisle, which itself appeared to be of two compartments, and had a round-headed north door and square-headed windows. Thomas noted that in digging out the cellar for the heating apparatus the remains of an even earlier church were discovered.

The present church was constructed in 1836-7, the architect being either John or Edward Welch.

A faculty was submitted in 1900 for the restoration of the church, but this does not seem to have taken place until 1912. At that time the work included the removal of all present seating, repaving the seating area in the nave with woodblock floors upon a concrete foundation and repairing the remainder of the nave with flagstones laid on cement. The nave was re-seated with pitch pine benches. The choir, vestry, chancel and organ chamber were separated from the remainder of the church by the erection of an oak screen, the old font was repaired and placed on a polished stone base, the gallery and its iron supports were removed and ventilation was inserted in the roof. The chancel was refloored with tiles laid on concrete, new choir stalls were erected as was a new oak reading desk, lectern and pulpit. The sanctuary was relaid with tiles set in cement, the existing door frames and casings were removed and the openings in the walls of the chancel were built up into a sedile and piscina. New heating apparatus was added and new grilles inserted, and during the work, the remains of an earlier church were encountered.

Further restoration work took place in 1972.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a wide nave, a short chancel and sanctuary with a vestry and porch on the north side against the sanctuary. There is also a west tower. The building is oriented fractionally north of true west, and for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabrics: 'A' comprises local limestone of medium to large size with dressings of the same stone, possibly some re-used; traces of residual limewash.

Roof:- slates with plain ceramic ridge tiles. Finial above the sanctuary broken off.

Drainage:- 19thC guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. No obvious drainage gully though possibly something on the north?

As the whole building dates from the 19thC, the following record is no more than a summary statement.

### Exterior

Tower - General. A four-stage western tower with clasping buttresses at the west corners and corner buttresses on the east. There is a continuous plinth at c.0.5m above ground level, and the walls are stepped in at two levels, effected by a string course and higher up a dentilation course, the latter in yellow sandstone, around the tower below belfry level. The top of the tower is battlemented with eight pinnacles.

North wall:- the second stage has a single lancet, the third stage a pair of blind lancets, and the fourth stage a belfry window comprising long, twin, louvred lancets with a pilaster buttress between them.

East wall:- nave roof rises to the third stage. Standard belfry window of paired lancets.

South wall:- the second stage has a blind lancet, the third and fourth stages as the north wall.

West wall:- at ground level a doorway with a two-centred arch and chamfered dressings. Above are windows comparable with the north wall.

Nave - General. Externally the nave and chancel are differentiated from the sanctuary by the slight reduction in width of the latter, although the plinth, 0.5m above ground level and first seen on the tower, continues around the sanctuary as well as the nave. The nave and chancel have five bays containing tall slim lancets in both the north and south walls separated by six straight buttresses, with triangular arched heads in yellow sandstone. All the lancets have chamfered dressings. At eaves level is another denticulated course.

East end:- a string course accentuates the roofline at this end.

West wall:- single long slim lancets to either side of the tower with adjacent buttresses.

Sanctuary - General. Effectively a short eastern extension to the nave and chancel with a lean-to north porch.

North wall:- two-centred doorway into porch.

East wall:- standard buttresses to either side of a set of triple lancets with yellow sandstone dressings except for the outer jambs. A below ground boiler house, its arch turned in brick, lies below the east window.

South wall:- another lean-to against this wall with a lancet window in its east wall.



## Interior

**Tower - General.** The ground floor forms the entrance porch. There is a stone flagged floor, exposed stonework to the walls and a plastered ceiling. Access to the belfry is via a staircase on the north side which is panelled off.

**South wall:-** a marble memorial of 1741, a brass plaque recording the 1983 restoration and one heraldic shield.

**West wall:-** the 14thC effigy of a priest under a cusped arch is set upright and embedded in the wall to the south of the entrance.

**Nave - General.** The nave has a herringbone woodblock floor throughout, with a carpetted central aisle, and heating grilles along the sides and front, though this underground heating has now been superseded by radiators along the walls; the stonework of the walls is exposed, the plaster having been removed in 1983, and there is a dado on the north, south and west walls of old pew panels. A low plastered ceiling. The vestry is partitioned off by wooden screens in the north-east corner of the nave.

**North wall:-** three 20thC brasses.

**South wall:** brass of 1757, and two of the 20thC.

**West wall:-** the centre of this wall, equivalent to the tower arch, is alcoved from floor to ceiling and has chamfered corners. Into this an internal porch has been fitted and above this is a four-centred window with modern glass.

**Chancel - General.** The floors of this and the sanctuary were relaid with mosaics in 1912; wooden block flooring under the seats. Vestry to the north and organ chamber to the south.

**East wall:-** the chancel is separated from the sanctuary by a wide four-centred arch with dressed stone voussoirs and chamfered jambs. Traces of earlier limewash and red paint on some of the chamfered blocks highlight the re-use of dressed stone from an earlier arcade. One stone on the north side has a prominent mason's mark. Two steps up to the sanctuary.

**Sanctuary - General.** Floor has mosaics and heating grilles.

**North wall:-** aumbry set into wall with two-centred arch over.

**South wall:-** sedile with two-centred arch over.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Derived from Hubbard with additions

**Sepulchral slab:** bears the effigy of a vested priest, with a cusped canopy at the head; 14thC. Located in the tower porch. The RCAHMMW in 1910 noted also the upper part of a female effigy, the top of a coffin lid with a cross on it (which Thomas saw near the chancel window in the churchyard) and the lower part of a floriated coffin lid; all of these have disappeared.

**Font:** a Perpendicular octagonal bowl with quatrefoils on the facets, repaired with brass banding which has damaged the font rim; stem and base of more recent date. This bowl was apparently found on the adjacent farm, and was not in use at the time of the RCAHMMW visit in 1910. Fitted with a modern oak cover.

Stained glass: the east window, largely by Hardman, includes some fragments of early glass depicting two chalices and an ornamental design in the margins of the south lancet.

Heraldic stone: of unknown date, in the tower.

Monuments: marble memorial tablet to Ignatius Fox (d.1741) and others.

Brass: to Ellin Fluitt (d.1757), with putto.

Bells:- three large bells and one handbell. It was suggested in 1910 that the handbell was of 1663 and the others of late 15thC, but these dates have not been confirmed.

Registers: from 1662.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Box pews: removed at the beginning of the century and used as a dado.

## CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is large, sub-rectangular and level. It is well-maintained.

Boundary:- a stone wall incorporating higher property boundaries on the south.

Monuments:- there are a few marked graves on the south side of the church, with rather more on the north side. Early graveslabs laid flat around the south-west corner of the church include dated examples from 1611, 1721 etc. There has been some clearance and rationalisation of gravemarkers with slabs laid flat along the north-east path. North of the tower is one from 1698.

Furniture:- the remnants of the churchyard cross, south of the nave, include the weathered octagonal base and part of the tapering polygonal shaft to about 1m in height. A fragment of the weathered head lies loosely on the base. A 15thC date has been postulated. The circular limestone shaft for a sundial is set to the south-west of the tower; no plate or gnomon.

Ancillary features:- a pair of iron gates form the west entrance; and there is a single gate in the north-east corner and a stile in the south-west corner - its path to the tower is composed of graveslabs with dates including 1737 and 1762. Otherwise tarmac paths with slabs laid flat on all sides, and a tarmac path leading to a gate to the new burial ground on the south side.

Earthworks:- the churchyard is raised about 0.5m on the north-east and north, and closer to 1m on the west, but with interior banking of 0.3m. No rise on the south.

Vegetation:- an old yew is near the south-east corner of the church. More recent yews grow near the north-east gate and midway along the south wall.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visits: 22 October 1996 and 20 November 1998

CPAT SMR

Faculty: St Asaph 1900 (NLW): church restoration

Faculty: St Asaph 1912 (NLW): church restoration

Hubbard 1986, 459

NMR Aberystwyth

Owen 1886, 205



Quinquennial Report 1990  
RCAHMW 1912, 101  
Thomas 1911, 209

## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair externally and internally.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor to Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Medium



## Bangor Is-y-coed

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**Diocese** St Asaph

**Dedication** St Dunawd

**PRN** 16706

**NGR** SJ38904539

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### SUMMARY

The church of St Dunawd probably occupies the site of a 6thC monastery on the east bank of the River Dee. The present building dates from the 14thC but saw considerable reconstruction including its tower in 1726, and restoration work in 1868 and 1877. Fittings include a medieval sepulchral slab, beams from the rood screen, font of c.1500, several 18thC memorials and a painting of St Dunawd depicted with cope, mitre and crozier, a replica of an original wall painting, now lost. It is set in a rectangular churchyard with a few 18thC monuments remaining.

### ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Original building from the 14thC of which the arcades survive and also the west wall of the nave. The chancel is claimed to have been added or rebuilt in the 15thC, but there is evidence including the east window with its (renewed) reticulated tracery that it too was originally 14thC.

Tower completely rebuilt in 1726/7, necessitating the shortening of the nave at the west end. Arch of the arcade on the north side truncated and that on the south side rebuilt. South aisle rebuilt at this time, and the north aisle in 1832.

South aisle was partly rebuilt again in 1868-9, and a south porch added in 1877.

The vestry and organ chamber as an eastern extension to the north aisle are from 1913.

### HISTORY

The church is dedicated to St Dunawd who founded a monastery at Bangor Is-y-coed in the 6thC. Its exact site is unknown but it is possible that part of what was probably a quite extensive monastic site may be occupied by the church and churchyard.

The church does not appear in the Norwich and Lincoln Taxations of the 13thC, but is recorded in the Valor Ecclesiasticus in 1535 where it was included with Overton and Worthenbury.

In 1660, the chancel was levelled and made even with the main body of the church and the stalls were removed, in accord with an Ordinance of Parliament from 1643.

Restoration work from 1723 by Richard Trubshaw of Staffordshire included the construction of the tower and the rebuilding of the south aisle. The overall cost seems to have been £2427.

Prior to the creation of the Diocese of Chester in 1541, Bangor belonged to the Diocese of Lichfield. In 1726 part of the Deanery of Bangor including this church together with Worthenbury, Overton and Hanmer became part of the Diocese of Chester and by 1844 it was all under Chester. In 1849, the Deanery was transferred to St Asaph.

A sketch by Moses Griffith from 1782 depicts the earlier and shorter north aisle with windows rising into dormers and a north porch which projected further than the aisle.

In 1832 work on the church included the rebuilding of the north aisle to the full length of the nave.

The south aisle was partly rebuilt in 1868-9 by Douglas of Chester and extended westwards to form a baptistry. The chancel was also restored and the panelled ceiling above the sanctuary was uncovered.

Archdeacon Thomas' record which must precede the restoration of 1876 claimed that the rood beam was still in place at the west end of the nave.

During the 1876-7 restoration work by Douglas, the west end gallery was removed, the church was re-seated with the present open oak benches; the pulpit, organ and screen date to this restoration also. The porch was added by the rector in memory of his wife and parts of the roofs were repaired. Tombs and stones were levelled in the churchyard where necessary.

Further restoration in 1913 included the eastern extension of the north aisle to form a new vestry and organ chamber according to plans by Douglas, Minshull and Muspratt of Chester. The screens were erected around the vestry and organ chamber, the wooden ceiling was removed from the north aisle and the timbers exposed, the plaster was stripped off the north aisle and chancel. A new floor was put in the belfry for ringers, doors and windows were repaired, and clock casing was installed for the weights. The oak panelling was placed around the choir stalls and reading desk, chancel screen erected and new altar rails and font cover were introduced. The sanctuary panelling is also from this time.

The north aisle wall appears to have been replastered sometime in 1947, and masonry in the north aisle was repaired in 1975.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel, north and south aisles, a west tower, a north porch and a vestry at the east end of the north aisle. It is oriented west-south-west/east-north-east but for the purposes of description in this report 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted.

Fabrics:- 'A' is a fine-grained, soft, red sandstone rubble in medium to large blocks and slabs; considerable weathering; coursed.

'B', is of quarry-cut red sandstone; medium to large blocks which are rough faced; coursed.

'C' is fine-grained, quarry-cut red sandstone ashlar, more regular than 'A' but otherwise very similar; coursed.

'A' from c.1300 and also from the 18thC, 'B' is generally 19thC, 'C' dates from 1877 and 1913.

Roofs:- slates with black ceramic ridge tiles, though the vestry has a concrete roof with asphalt covering. Cross finials to porch and chancel, the latter broken.

Drainage:- guttering and downspouts discharge into gullies. The ground has been dug out along the south aisle wall for new soakaways to be put in; there are cobbles along the north wall as far as the vestry and gravel around the west side.

## Exterior

Tower - General. A three-stage tower constructed in c.1723 in 'A'. There is a plinth formed by three courses of yellow sandstone which is almost flat-topped; and the three stages are separated by yellow sandstone string courses also of blocks. Above the uppermost string course is an inset parapet surmounted



by baluster pinnacles at the corners with wrought iron weathervanes, and smaller, ball finials centrally placed along each wall. Claspilaster buttresses in buff-yellow sandstone. A flat roof with a flag pole.

North wall:- the first stage has a round window in buff-yellow freestone with four projecting key stones, and a wooden-framed light with a grille over, the second stage a clock face, and the third stage a round-headed, louvred belfry window with a prominent keystone in the arch.

East wall:- abuts nave, the latter's roof rising to more than half way up the second stage. A standard belfry window.

South wall:- the first stage is abutted by a room added on to the west end of the south aisle and above this is a round window as on the north side, the second stage lacks features, and the third stage has a standard belfry window.

West wall:- the first stage has a round-headed doorway with projecting keystone and imposts; the doors have lights with grilles over, and the tympanum light is also protected. The second stage has a round window with a grille of radiating iron spokes, and the third stage has a standard belfry window.

Boiler room:- in the north-west corner between the tower and north aisle and constructed in mock sandstone breeze blocks. It is battlemented and there are double doors in the north wall. A chimney rises above the west wall of the north aisle on the inside of the battlements.

North porch - General. In 'C', an addition to the westernmost bay of the north aisle in 1877.

North wall:- a carved, square-headed opening with a decorated tie-beam resting on both the walls and on timber wall-posts with carved braces or supporters; a tympanum with vertical studs and plaster infill. The gable has decorated barge boards. Iron gates with gilt terminals.

East and west walls:- square-headed windows containing pairs of cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights with grilles over. Both side walls are slightly splayed.

North aisle - General. Constructed in 1832 in 'B', though later repair work. A vestry in 'C' from 1913 adjoins the east end but the wall face and roof show as continuous elements, the latter surmounted by a battlemented parapet and beneath this a string course with a hollowed soffit. A basal plinth, projecting only slightly, is formed by one course of red sandstone.

North wall:- four stepped buttresses, with an angle buttress at the north-west corner dividing it into four bays with the porch occupying the first bay at the west end. The remaining three bays each contain a window with a peaked four-centred arch with hoodmould and simple stops over three lancet lights with six small tracery lights above; the jambs have hollow chamfers.

West wall:- the masonry contains blocks of yellow sandstone which forms patching around the window, which is of the same design as those in the north wall.

Vestry - General. In 'C'-type masonry (though the blocks are slightly larger than those for the porch) and battlemented and aligned with the north aisle.

North wall:- two square-headed windows with a continuous label, each with two cusped lights in the same style as the south chancel window. To the west of these a basket-headed doorway with chamfered jambs. A diagonal buttress at the north-east corner.

East wall:- a square-framed window containing two cusped, ogee-headed lights from an earlier window which has been re-sited, though the dressings may well all have been renewed.

Nave - General. Externally visible only at the west end.

West wall:- in fabric 'A' but more weathered than the tower. Visible on the south side of the tower with the south-west angle room abutting it.

Chancel - General. In 'A' with some yellow sandstone and narrow blocks of red sandstone. Angle buttresses which at lower levels could be original but higher up are in ashlar.

North wall:- a Perpendicular four-centred window in red sandstone with hoodmould and stops of different forms contains four lancets with six round-headed tracery lights above; the jambs have hollow chamfers; the mullions, tracery and most of the arch stones have been renewed leaving a few original dressings. Buttress at north-east corner.

East wall:- the lower part of the wall is in 'A', but otherwise 'C' and some small slabs as well. The east window has a two-centred arch, five cusped, ogee-headed lights, reticulated tracery, and a hoodmould with worn head-stops. None of the dressings appear to be original.

South wall:- diagonal buttress at the south-east corner and a central buttress in the wall which appears to have been added in the 19thC (a similar buttress was removed from the north wall when the vestry was constructed in 1913). East of the buttress is a four-centred window in buff-yellow sandstone with a broken, yellow sandstone hoodmould and worn stops, one of which may have been a head. It contains four cusped, two-centred lights, and waisted tracery; some of this window is probably original but it is difficult to determine how much. The large triangular head of an 1869 grave is placed against the wall below the window. West of the buttress is a disused square-headed priest's door which is blocked on the inside; the lintel and some of the jambs have been renewed, but the lower jambstones on the west look to be original. West again is a square-headed window containing two cusped, ogee-headed lights: the mullions have been renewed but the light heads and many of the jambstones are original. Considerable repair work has taken place on the south wall, particularly over the blocked doorway.

South aisle - General. Constructed in 'A' with 19thC and more recent repair work in red sandstone ashlar. A buff-yellow sandstone course forms a projecting foundation in the soakaway trench along the wall.

East wall:- no windows.

South wall:- four square-headed windows the end ones with three lights, the central ones with four lights. All the lights are cusped and two-centred but the tracery lights vary between quatrefoils and multifoils. There is a 19thC buttress between windows three and four.

West wall:- some repair to the wall face. A square-headed window with hoodmould over three lights, comparable with the most easterly in the south wall.

South-west corner room - in angle between tower and south aisle. Battlemented parapet.

South wall:- two-centred arch over single planked door.

## Interior

Porch - General. Open porch with 19thC tile and marble floor, bare walls and a planked ceiling above exposed rafters and through purlins.

East wall:- slatted bench along wall.

South wall:- a chamfered, four-centred 'Tudor' doorway of three orders with hollow-moulded chamfers; a label above the door 'dog-legs' up to surround an 1832 datestone.



West wall:- as east wall.

Tower - General. Ground floor acts as ringing chamber. A woodblock floor, bare stone walls showing long linear blocks of red sandstone, and a timber ceiling. The second stage clock chamber has a timber-boarded floor, brick walls and a trap door with ladder to the similar bell chamber above.

North wall:- deep reveal for the round window has the inner face turned in brick, and the soffit plastered over. Below this is a round-headed alcove.

East wall:- a three-centred arch with the soffit of the reveal wholly turned in brick. In the south-east angle is the tower stair: a round-headed doorway without chamfered jambs. Above this at a height of about 3m is another doorway indicating the former presence of another floor; sockets in the walls for its joists.

South wall:- window as in the north wall. A brass plaque records the re-hanging of the bells in 1946. Also a wooden board, perhaps 18thC, with a verse commencing 'If that to ring you do come here, you must ring well with hands and ear...'.

West wall:- a three-centred reveal to the west door has its arch in red brick.

North aisle - General. Stone flagged floor with some concrete blocks for repairs; heating grilles; flush plank flooring beneath the benches. Walls bare except for north wall which is plastered. Roof of four bays with four moulded tie-beams supported on short wall posts and arch braces which spring from wooden corbels. Each bay consists of 6 plain panels with ribbed joists. The ceiling is low, effectively resting on the tops of the arches of the north arcade.

North wall:- a peaked, four-centred arch to the north doorway reveal. Marble memorials of 1758, 1818, 1845 and 1852 and a painting of St Dunawd.

East wall:- a wide two-centred red sandstone arch to the 1913 vestry, with chamfered responds and engaged, moulded capitals; the south respond also has a moulded jamb, probably re-used from a window. Panelling across the lower part of the archway. One 20thC marble memorial on the wall.

South wall:- four-bay arcade consisting of chamfered, two-centred, red sandstone arches supported by octagonal piers and moulded capitals in Decorated style; a continuous hoodmould. It originally continued beyond its present length for a small part of a fifth arch is visible at the west end, no more than 30cm separating the pier from the west wall. Interesting masons' marks on the dressed stone.

West wall:- a large board records the enlargement of the church in 1832, and includes a list of donors.

Vestry - General. Concrete floor carpetted over, bare walls and a concrete ceiling on joists. A large part of this compartment of the church is occupied by the organ. On the south side are three steps up to the chancel. No sign of any early stonework.

North and east walls:- nothing to note.

South wall:- a four-centred arch to chancel fitted with a wooden parclose screen.

Nave - General. Stone flagged floor, heavily worn at the back of the church, with carpetted central aisle and benches on flush plank floors; underfloor heating ducts around the seating area covered with cast iron grilles. Bare stonework to the walls. Continuous roof to nave and chancel of twelve arch-braced trusses with cusped struts and principals, springing from north and south wallplates which rest not only on the wall tops but also on wooden corbels; seven bays to the nave; through rafters and purlins with three tiers of cusped windbraces, except in the easternmost bay of the nave. Three iron tie-rods span the nave.



North wall:- the arcade (for which see above) has a continuous hoodmould, though the stop is a square block, probably 19thC. In the last two bays to the east the wallplate has slots for timbers (nothing comparable on the south side). The moulding on the wallplate of this side of the nave is different from its counterpart on the opposite side. Nor are they symmetrical for the wall plate projects slightly further on the south side so the corbels are broader. The significance of this has not been ascertained.

East wall:- three steps up to the chancel with a modern wooden screen.

South wall:- arcade as on the north side, but originally of only three bays for the most westerly has been added; it has crisper stonework and there are no mason's marks. Also the western half of the third bay has been rebuilt too as was the intervening pillar.

West wall:- a round-headed tower arch turned in buff-yellow sandstone blocks, over a pair of panelled doors to the tower. Former reredos now sited above the tower door. Benefaction boards to either side of the door, and two restoration brasses of 1877 and 1913, and a 20thC memorial brass.

Chancel - General. 19thC tiled floor with heating grilles; longitudinal choir stalls on planked floors; encaustic tiles in the sanctuary which is two steps higher than the chancel. Chancel walls inset slightly from the line of the nave arcade, but probably refaced with ashlar in the 19thC. Wood panelling on north and south walls continue round to form reredos at east end. Four bays to roof and a fifth, canopied bay above the sanctuary - this consists of seven curving tiers each one with six traceried panels with bands of leaf trail on the main horizontals. This part of the chancel roof is presumed to be 15thC.

North wall:- four-centred arch to vestry with hoodmould. Marble memorials of 1798, 1811 and 1825.

East wall:- three patches of black script visible to the north and south sides of the east window, and two small patches with colour, part of a frame.

South wall:- one marble memorial of 1741/1777, one 19thC brass and four 19thC marble memorials.

South aisle - General. Here restoration work by Douglas in 1877 in neo-Perpendicular style replaced the earlier work by Trubshaw. Douglas extended the aisle westwards, adding a fourth bay to the arcade and forming the baptistry at the west end. At the east end is a Lady Chapel created in 1933 with a planked floor. The floor of the south aisle is as in the north aisle except for a black and white tiled floor to the baptistry. Bare stonework to the walls. A low pitched, lean-to roof, resting on five tie-beams with bracing; corbels on the south side, while on the north the tie-beams are set into the walls, except for a corbel at the extreme west end.

North wall:- arcade as nave.

East wall:- Lady Chapel altar and modern oak reredos set against the wall.

South wall:- one banner in a glass-fronted frame, two brasses of the 19thC and 20thC, one marble of the 20thC and a wooden World War One memorial.

West wall:- three-light window with a storage area beneath it.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Based on Hubbard with additions.

Beams: two oak beams, one resting on top of the other, the heavier with ornamental carvings; these are the bressumer beam and the brattished rood beam of the rood screen from the late 15thC, subsequently used in the west gallery until its demolition in 1877. Placed on the floor at the west end of the north aisle.



Sepulchral slab: i) part of an early 14thC slab ornamented with curling volutes in pairs. ii) another sepulchral slab with shield and sword motifs from c.1300 was illustrated by Pennant at the end of the 18thC but has since been lost, while a third of similar form and date is now in the National Museum at Cardiff; these were reputedly two of several found in the churchyard and indeed Thomas records five in total.

Fonts: i) a disused and worn red sandstone octagonal bowl with plain panels; the shaft is a simple large block and may not be original; located at west end of church. ii) a second disused, square bowl on a square base in yellow sandstone has four projecting knobs at the top of the bowl, but no drain hole. iii) the present font is in a Late Perpendicular style of around 1500 with a highly decorative octagonal bowl and stem, mounted on a stone plinth. Cusped panels on the stem depict Instruments of the Passion and Evangelistic symbols on shields in panels on the bowl, and Tudor Rose motifs; some damage to the faces. Located at the west end of the south aisle.

Stained glass: fragments of early glass set in the six tracery lights of the south chancel window.

Reredos: mahogany panelling from the former reredos of 1775 (inscription at base); urn in a broken pediment, swags, and enriched pilasters; four panels for the Commandments, the Creed etc. The gift of Peter Lloyd. Now sited on the west wall above the tower door.

Wall painting: small fragments of painting with black lettering, and a polychrome border pattern, on the east wall.

Benefaction boards: two, to either side of the tower doorway, recording donations to the parish from 1728. That to the south is 18thC with donations up to the later 18thC. That to the north has a putto and could be late 18thC, perhaps early 19thC.

Chest: short, dugout, chest with wrought iron bands and three locks. At the west end of the nave.

Table: with carved front and sides, inlay work and baluster legs. A composite piece of uncertain date. West end of the north aisle.

Monuments: i) white marble tablet on grey background to Edward Wynne (d.1758) and others. ii) white marble memorial with slender columns and an urn to Rev. John Fletcher (d.1741) and his wife Mary (d.1777). by John Nelson, Salop, erected by their children. iii) white marble tablet to Sarah Wynne (d.1798). iv) white marble tablet on white and grey background to Thomas Davies of Eyton (d.1798).

Plate: includes chalice and paten of 1639, a paten of 1689, and a flagon of 1720.

Bells: of six, four were cast by Abraham Ruddall and dated 1727, a fifth by John Ruddall from 1811 and the sixth by Mears and Stainsborough in 1865.

Cross: broken fragment of a cross shaft and cross piece found 'in the bulwark' of the River Dee in 1849, 'two furlongs from the church'. Formerly in Marchiel church. A shaft nine feet high was referred to in a 19thC history.

Other stonework: i) a quernstone found in digging a grave in the south-east quadrant of the churchyard; and ii) a large sandstone weight with a hook in it.

Registers: from 1675.

19thC and later furnishings and fittings include:

Pulpit: octagonal, with incised flower patterns. From 1877 in refined Gothic style reflecting the Aesthetic Movement.

The stalls and rails by Douglas from 1868; the rector's stall with canopy in carved oak from 1913.

Organ screen: an 1872 memorial gift made by Douglas; re-sited in two sections in 1913 between the north



aisle and the vestry and the second section between the organ and the choir. Formerly sited at the east end of the south aisle.

Monuments: i) to Kenric Eyton (d.1825) by J Stant. ii) to Lucy March (d.1845) by Blayney of Chester.

Font cover: in tabernacle work by Evelyn Weiburg.

Stained glass:- the 1868 east window by Gibbs.

Wall painting:- the painting of St Dunawd depicted with cope, mitre and crosier is a replica of an original, now lost, which was found on the north wall of the chancel and was attributed to the 17thC. The replica was framed in 1908 and now hangs on the north wall of the north aisle.

## CHURCHYARD

A rectangular churchyard, on level ground, on the east bank of the River Dee within the centre of the village. The churchyard shows little modern clearance and is a little overgrown in parts. An additional burial ground was purchased and consecrated in 1885. The excavation of bones in 1986 behind the village hall on the south-east side of the churchyard suggests that earlier burials were extended in that direction.

Boundary:- railings on the western side above the riverbank; sandstone wall surmounted by railings on the north and east; railings form the south boundary with adjoining properties.

Monuments:- tombs and stones were levelled in the churchyard where necessary as part of the 1876-7 restoration work in the immediate area of the church. A mix of slabs, pillars, table tombs and crosses, unevenly placed on all sides of the churchyard and dating from the 18thC to the 20thC. 1990s burials line the east side of the new north path with 18thC to 20thC slabs in the area behind them. There are a large number of chest tombs on the south side of the church, including ones of 1770 (with a copper plate) and 1783. On the north side of the chancel a monument of 1751. Modern graves, randomly placed, to the north and south of the church.

Furniture:- the octagonal pillar, top and base of a sundial, all heavily moulded; dial and gnomon have gone. To the north of the chancel.

Earthworks:- the churchyard is lower than the river bank on the west side, but raised by 0.5m on the east and no more than 0.8m on the north. Uneven surface particularly on the south.

Ancillary features:- lychgate on red brick plinths supporting oak timbers. Quotes from Hebrews on the north and south tie-beams, and a worn sandstone tablet set into the east plinth records its erection as a memorial to Robert Webster in 1883. The main entrance is through this lychgate in the north wall and a new tarmac path leads up to the north porch. The path has a cobblestone boundary on its west side; cobblestones too outside the west tower door and alongside the base of the north aisle suggesting that these were the early paths. A second path leads in from an iron gate at the north-east corner to the vestry door and continues west to the north porch; a rough gravel path continues to the tower door. A short flight of steps leads up to a single iron gate to the river bank off this south-west corner. Brick-built store/shed against the west boundary, south of the church.

Vegetation:- nine poplar trees well inside the walled boundary on the east and north; others have been cut down; two 19thC clipped yews by the north aisle and chancel, and several holly trees and bushes.

## SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1997  
CPAT Field Visit 21 May 1996 and 29 January 1999  
CPAT SMR



Crossley and Ridgway 1945, 185

Faculty: St Asaph 1876 (NLW): restoration of the church and levelling of churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1913 (NLW): restoration of the church

Gresham 1968, 96, 134

Hubbard 1986, 320

Pratt 1992

RCAHMW 1912, 104

Quinquennial Report 1986

Thomas 1908, 429

## CONDITION

The north aisle north wall is the only interior rendered wall and shows considerable dampness.

Some areas of red sandstone on the exterior are very weatherworn. The ground has been dug out to the south side of the south aisle and new soakaways are being laid to renewed guttering and downspouts.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium to Good

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Poor to Medium

Group value: Medium to Good



## Berse Drelincourt

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<b>Diocese</b>	St Asaph	<b>Dedication</b>	None
<b>PRN</b>	16710	<b>NGR</b>	SJ31695097

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### SUMMARY

The small church at Berse Drelincourt, lacking a dedication, lies on the western edge of Wrexham. It was originally built as a chapel in 1742 and enlarged in 1828. It includes several 18thC fittings but nothing earlier. Its churchyard is small and rectangular but is not consecrated for burials.

### ARCHTECTURAL SUMMARY

Built in 1742 and extended westwards in 1828. A porch was added in 1930.

### HISTORY

The chapel was founded and endowed by Mary Drelincourt, widow of a Dean of Armagh, as a chapel for a girls' charity school that had been founded in 1719. The chapel was built in 1742 and consecrated 1759. This building had pinnacles on all corners and at the gable, and the present blocked doorway in the south wall was the main entrance as is depicted in Thomas's 19thC sketch.

The chapel was extended to the west in 1828 to accommodate two large pews for the Gatewen and Plas Power families.

It was re-seated in 1862.

### ARCHITECTURE

A single-chambered structure with a vestry projecting off the north side off the nave and a porch on the south side. A small square bell turret at the west gable. It is oriented fractionally south of due east.

Fabric: not visible.

Roofs:- slates with dark clay ridge tiles.

Drainage:- north and south wall guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. Gravel laid around all walls of the church suggest a possible drainage trench, as does the concrete base along the north wall.

### Exterior

Nave and chancel - General. No external differentiation. A chamfered sandstone plinth is continuous on all sides at c.0.1m. A small four-sided bell turret is painted white and contains four round-headed louvred

apertures, a domed head and an iron finial.

North wall:- three round-headed windows, all with three lights, to the nave and one to the sanctuary. Four iron tie-rod plates on the wall. Vestry at the east end.

East wall:- north-east and south-east stepped buttresses flush with north and south walls. A round-headed window of three lights.

South wall:- two round-headed windows with three lights to either side of a blocked round-headed doorway with projecting keystone and imposts. On the archstones is inscribed 'This chapel was built and endow'd by Mary Drelincourt 1742'. Four iron tie-rod plates on wall.

West wall:- north-west and south-west buttresses extend the north and south walls.

Vestry - General. North wall has a two-light wooden two-centred window with Y-tracery.

Porch - General. Added in 1930 to the 1828 nave extension. A square-headed doorway with moulded jambs in the south wall, and over it a sandstone cross set into the gable. A round-headed window with projecting imposts in the west wall.

## Interior

Porch - General. Stone flagged floor and plastered walls. A simple raftered roof.

North wall:- a round-headed doorway, unchamfered and unembellished.

East wall:- a bench, and a wooden plaque commemorating the erection of the porch.

Nave - General. 19thC tiled floors with the benches raised on wood plank flooring. Walls plastered and painted and four tie rods cross the nave. Plastered ceiling, flat at the sides and rising as a tunnel-vault down the middle; blue and gold bands painted along the cornices. The window dressings are likewise painted. At the east end of the nave are stalls, an organ and a pulpit.

North wall:- First World War memorial.

East wall:- two steps up to the sanctuary.

South wall:- one painting and above it a shell-like ornament of some size projects from the wall with a winged putto in relief below it: this was over the now blocked south door.

West wall:- a Creed board and two 20thC embroideries.

Sanctuary - General. Two steps up from the nave. Encaustic tiles on the floor. Roof and walls are a continuation of the nave.

North wall:- monument to Mary Drelincourt.

East wall:- above the window is a plaque in high relief with a verse, and beneath two putti with unfurled wings.

South wall:- brass of 20thC date.



Vestry - General. 19thC tiled floor. Plastered walls and ceiling.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Based on Hubbard with additions.

Altar table: from Wrexham church. Spiral legs and carved front panels. Late 17th or early 18thC.

Chandeliers: i) one, the survivor of two dating from the 1740s, has eight branches and is plain. ii) a second has two tiers of eight branches (both incomplete) and a broad central stem; a winged cherub head above. It is inscribed 'The gift of Christian Powell, wife of Captaine Thomas Powell and daughter of John Edwards of Keffn Tuvem[?] Esq to the Church of Wreham 1688'. Both chandeliers had their iron suspensions curtailed in 1978.

Monuments: large marble memorial to Mary Drelincourt, founder of the church and school, with pilaster pillars and capitals, and heraldry but no dates.

Plate: includes flagon, paten and chalice from 1742.

Creed board: painted on canvas, the background including the Whole Armour of God (worn, it would appear, by Britannia) and Works of Mercy. There was also a Decalogue board with figures of Moses and Aaron (seen by Hubbard) but this is no longer in the church. These panels were formerly grouped at the east end of the church with the painting.

Painting: Supper at Emmaus; removed from church in 1981, pending an investigation of an attribution to Velasquez, but this was not substantiated and the painting was returned to the church.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Pews: from 1862 but with older pew plates bearing the names of Plas Power 1831, Gate wen and Croes Newydd.

Pulpit: includes some original tracery that should be 18thC.

## CHURCHYARD

A small raised rectangular churchyard.

Boundary:- a stone wall. The roadside walls are surmounted by iron railings.

Monuments:- none.

Earthworks:- raised by about 1m on the east and west and 1.5m on the south.

Ancillary features:- a pair of decorative iron gates form the south entrance.

Vegetation:- two 18thC yews located to either side of blocked south doorway. Single yews in the north-east and south-east corners.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visits: 21 November 1996 and 17 February 1999

CPAT SMR

Faculty: St Asaph 1828 (NLW): enlargement of the chapel

Faculty: St Asaph 1930 (NLW): boiler house, porch

Hubbard 1986, 108

Thomas 1913, 234



## CONDITION

Church pebbledashing renewed within the last few years; exterior in good state of repair. Interior plasterwork showing signs of damp.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Poor

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Poor

# Chirk

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<b>Diocese</b>	St Asaph	<b>Dedication</b>	St Mary
<b>PRN</b>	16745	<b>NGR</b>	SJ29143762
		<b>Previous dedication</b>	St Tysilio?

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## GENERAL SUMMARY

The church of St Mary at Chirk above the Dee Valley is believed to have been first built in the late 12thC, though an earlier foundation date is not impossible. In the 16thC the north aisle was added to form a double-naved structure, and a west tower was also built. The present building contains little of medieval date other than the north nave roof and a stone from a heart shrine, but does have a range of post-medieval wooden fittings and some elaborate memorials to the Myddleton family. The churchyard is rectangular and has seen substantial clearance.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The nave and chancel on south side are the earliest portion of the church. The date cannot be ascertained for the fenestration is Perpendicular, yet a small round-headed window should indicate a 12thC date. The original south wall was perhaps taken down and rebuilt slightly further to the south with recesses holding the Perpendicular windows; built into this wall are the remnants of a round-headed door which could be 17thC, though its purpose is unclear.

The northern nave (north aisle) and the west tower date from a Late Perpendicular (16thC) remodelling.

## HISTORY

Little is known of the early history of Chirk church, though it has been argued that it may have been as early as the 12thC when a maerdref was in existence here. Indeed, there is some evidence of a link with St Tysilio and the possibility of an early medieval church though whether it was on this particular site is unknown.

It is claimed that at some point in the earlier part of the 13thC Chirk was a chapelry appropriated by Valle Crucis Abbey, and that the dedication was changed to St Mary at that time. However, in the 1291 Taxatio it appears as 'Ecclia de Eweun' with a value of £8, by which time the Cistercian link may have been limited.

In 1804 the chancel was repaired, in 1811 the building was whitewashed, and in 1829 new pews were introduced, the galleries were added and the south nave roof was replaced, all at a cost of £2064.

The galleries were altered 1849, and the roof at the east end was renewed after a fire in 1853 which also destroyed the fittings in the south chancel.

Glynne's visit is not dated. He remarked that the whole was Perpendicular, and described the windows. A sculptured cross, probably a consecration cross, was noted in the south wall.

Some re-seating occurred in 1877, together with the removal of a staircase to the west gallery, allowing the introduction of swing doors at the entrance to the nave.



The vestry was enlarged around 1927, a faculty of 1950 reveals the renewal of tracery in the westernmost window of the north wall, and the church hall was added in 1981.

## ARCHITECTURE

Chirk church is a double-naved building, the nave and chancel on the south and a north aisle to which a tower is attached at the west end. There is no separate porch, but a vestry on the north side of the tower has been added to in recent years to form a church hall. The church is oriented fractionally south of west. For descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted for the church, though not for the churchyard.

Fabrics:- 'A' consists of large squared blocks of grey stone, perhaps a coarse sandstone with some smaller blocks, coursed; occasional 'foreign' inclusions.

'B' is of small, irregularly shaped blocks of red and grey ?shale, with well-dressed regular quoin stones.

'C' is as 'A', except that in places there are considerable patches of buff and orange sandstone, and the masonry appears cleaner.

'D' is of irregularly shaped blocks of grey and brown shale, randomly coursed.

'E' consists of blocks of grey shale, frequently roughly squared off, and mixed with blocks of buff-coloured sandstone.

'F' is of richly iron-stained shale, but with some sandstone which is probably re-used fragments; some of the associated quoins are of well-dressed stone.

'D' is medieval, 'A' of the 16thC, 'C' could be re-used pre-16thC masonry, or of later date, 'F' is post-medieval, and 'E' is 19thC. The date of 'B' is uncertain.

Roof:- slated roofs; cross finials to the east ends of north aisle and chancel, and west end of nave.

Drainage:- drains on north and south sides, less certainly on east, and tarmac on west.

## Exterior

Tower - General. In 'A'. String courses at tops of first, second and third stages of tower; the third stage is inset and constructed in 'C', though the upper part of this stage appears to be in 'A', perhaps indicating re-use of masonry. The third stage also has an intermediate string course which runs over the top of the belfry windows as a hoodmould. Both string courses on the third stage have cavetto underfaces. Waterspouts on top string course on north and west sides. Above is a battlemented parapet. Tower turret is topped by a conical cap and a weathercock. Diagonal buttresses, but 'B'-type stone used for facing in places, and the parapet, too, is in 'B'.

North wall:- vestry blocks lower part of wall face. Second stage has a small centrally placed two-centred window, its eroded, chamfered jambs original. At the same level but to the west is a smaller window, again with weathered jambs but of different colours, and the jamb on the west is cusped; this might be due to differential weathering but it is perhaps re-used window tracery. Belfry window in the third stage has two louvred lights with broad ogee heads and Y-tracery, under a two-centred arch. Possibly all but one of the archstones has been renewed.

East wall:- north aisle roof rises to just below first string course. Above this in the second stage is a broad lancet with renewed dressings. The belfry window is as on the north side; perhaps not all the dressings have been replaced though it is impossible to decide on the jambs from ground level.

South wall:- the first stage string course runs only for about one-third of the side. No window in second stage. Standard belfry window with some of the tracery perhaps original; hoodmould renewed.

West wall:- founded on a high basal plinth with a chamfered overhang. First stage has more 'C' than 'A'. Tudor doorway with label over; sharp arrises look very fresh. Immediately above is a four-centred window of four lights with septifoil heads and Y-tracery rising above the central lights. Deeply hollowed jambs are



original, but mullions and tracery renewed. Second stage in 'A' has clock face. Standard belfry window with some of tracery perhaps original. Both the first and second stages have two slit windows with chamfered dressings to light the tower stair, the upper one in the first stage with a bulbous enlargement at its top. Dressings are all original.

North Aisle - General. Lower parts of walls to height of around 3m in well laid and coursed 'A'-type masonry. Less well coursed 'C'-type masonry for upper levels; occasional flecks of limewash adhere to stones. Basal chamfered plinth (rising to only 0.3m on east side); diagonal buttress at north-east corner.

North wall:- two four-centred windows both with three lights that have ogee heads with cinquefoil tracery, and panels above. Jambs and sill of more easterly window look to be original but the rest of the dressings are renewed though at different times on the evidence of the differently coloured freestone.

East wall:- 'C'-type masonry from window springer level. The east window has a four-centred arch, five lights, three with cusped ogee heads, the others with round heads; sub arches above, together with cusped panels. The tracery and mullions replaced but the hollow-moulded jambs are original.

Nave and Chancel - General. This cell of the church rises about 1m higher than the north aisle.

East wall:- in 'D' fabric, but in 'E' from window springer level. Close to the southern angle is a vertical butt joint running up from ground level to the point where 'D' gives way to 'E', indicating a widening of the wall. On the north the join with the north aisle is hidden behind an angle buttress. The window has a two-centred arch, four trefoiled lights with round heads, sub arches and cusped panels; most if not all of the dressings have been renewed. Below the window is a broad pilaster buttress.

South wall:- the wall is supported by four buttresses, two diagonal and two angle but all are of well-dressed freestone and appear Victorian or later. These break the south wall into three bays, the central part of each being recessed and containing a window, except the bay at the extreme west which is narrower and has no window. From east: i) the first bay is in 'D' and has a flattish four-centred window of three lights with two-centred heads and cinquefoil tracery, mainly original. The hoodmould too is original and has much weathered ?animal-head stops, unless these are the heads of a monk and nun (signalling the Valle Crucis connection) which are mentioned by Thomas. The outset wall beyond the bay and behind the main buttress is in 'F'. ii) the second bay contains a square-headed window of three lights with trefoiled two-centred heads, the dressings in the main original; no hoodmould. Above it is a worn consecration cross, reputedly 12thC, below it a pilaster buttress. Next to it are the western jambs and the arch stone of a small, round-headed window; it is low in the wall and appears not to be in its original position, yet is presumably the remnant of a 12thC opening. iii) the next section of wall, in a mix of fabrics 'D' and 'F' together with one quartz lump, is outset with a buttress set against it. Immured in this section is a round-headed doorway, the arch complete with a moulded capital still in place, but without any of the jambs. Hubbard considers this to be as late as the 17thC, though it has also been remarked as a Norman survival - either way it must be re-set. iv) the next, narrower, bay is devoid of features, its fabric heavily pointed and showing much limewash residue. It appears to be a mixture of 'D' with a little 'F'. v) the last projection, at the south-west angle incorporates sandstone slabs.

West wall:- mainly in 'D' though heavy pointing. Sandstone quoins indicate that the original south-west corner was a little further north than present corner (cf east wall). Assuming they existed, the quoins at the former north-west corner are hidden by the diagonal buttress of the tower. Four-centred Tudor doorway with label, and above it a four-light window under a two-centred arch, with panels above the lights. Both door and window are in relatively modern, pale buff sandstone, and there are signs of insertion.

## Interior

Tower - General. Carpetted floor, painted and plastered walls but with some panelling from old pews. Ceiled by sloping base of gallery.



North wall:- passage to vestry cut through the wall thickness, its doorway four-centred and with chamfered sides.

East wall:- chamfered responds of tower arch; low gallery front.

South wall:- passage with a four-centred entrance giving access to nave.

West wall:- on the west, part of the ground floor is partitioned off to create a porch with a marble floor, a low flat ceiling and plastered walls; rectangular doorways give access to the gallery (currently unsafe) and the bellchamber.

North aisle - General. Carpetted floor, wooden benches raised on wooden boarding platforms; at the east end a row of benches at right-angles, facing altar. Walls plastered and painted, including the arches of the arcade; ornamental wooden panelling on north and east walls behind and beside the benches at the east end facing the altar. Roof of four bays with pseudo-hammerbeams and, between these, arch-braced collar trusses which spring from the wall top in front of the ribbed wall beam; in every truss the spandrel above the collar/hammerbeam is filled with intricate carving; the side panels of the hammerbeams are painted with flower heads and foliage; painted animals and other carvings affixed to the terminals of the arch braces on both sides. The roof 15thC or 16thC but the carvings repainted in 1953. The rest of the roof painted brown.

North wall:- two windows with splayed embrasures, only the window dressings unpainted; stained glass of 19thC and 20thC date. Ten memorials, the majority 19thC.

East wall:- splayed window embrasure. Three brass or stone memorials, including one a commemorative plaque relating to the erection of east window; all 19thC.

South wall:- three-bay arcade set on octagonal columns of bare stone with ribbed and hollow-moulded capitals and four-centred arches; arches spring from plain wall responds at both east and west ends. Mural tablet set on east face of more easterly column.

West wall:- dominated by tower arch, also four-centred and of two orders, with capitals of the same design as the arcade. Inserted above this is a gallery of 1829 with decorated front panelling; the space above this is now panelled off and painted, acting as a back drop for a modern Myddleton hatchment of 1988. Standing out from the wall to the south of the tower arch and running for equivalent distance into the nave is a masonry 'buttress'; this now effectively acts as the west respond for the arcade and acts as a support for the gallery, but may have been constructed for some other purpose. It also supports a wooden Commandment board and the painted Coat-of-Arms above it. Behind it is a passage way and the heart shrine stone is housed there.

Nave - General. Floor carpetted and raised benches as north aisle. Walls also as north aisle. Roof of six bays with pseudo-hammerbeams modelled on those in north aisle, and raking struts, heavily decorated. Moulded wall plates project from walls but rest of roof plastered over. This roof and the west gallery are of 1829, the latter projecting further forward than its counterpart in the north aisle and holding the organ; not currently accessible.

North wall:- arcade (shared with chancel) as north aisle. Four-centred arch at west end leads back to tower.

East wall:- a change in the roof alone.

South wall:- one splayed window embrasure, the window without stained glass; one 19thC brass, and the dominant Myddleton monument of 1718-22, adjacent to which are shorter benches because of its size.

West wall:- an internal wooden porch, and in the south-west corner a curtained area for storage; above the porch a splayed window, without stained glass, mostly hidden behind gallery; two 19thC mural tablets.

Chancel - General. Demarcated only by change in roof style, though further to the east are two steps to the



sanctuary and one to the altar. Floor carpeted apart from wooden block flooring around altar. Myddleton family vault beneath the floor. Walls as elsewhere in church. Roof of three narrow bays, the main moulded ribs and the intermediate ribs meeting a central ridge purlin, and the four main intersections having decorated roundels with a winged putto above the east window. All heavily painted.

North wall:- as north aisle.

East wall:- shallowly splayed window embrasure. 18thC Myddleton monuments on either side of window. 19thC reredos.

South wall:- one splayed window with stained glass and a number of 19thC and 20thC memorials in stone and marble; one brass.

Vestry - General. Tiled floor, standard wall finish with two 19thC windows on west and east; simple purlin and rafter roof. North wall cut through for access to 20thC hall.

### FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Sculpture: a stone with a figure; evidently from a heart shrine. Located outside the church until recently, but said to have been found in the vicarage garden in the 19thC. Now inside the church.

Font: dated 1662; octagonal bowl on waisted stem; with moulded corners and four of the faces carved, two with incised roundels, one with the date, and the fourth with 'D R & T P'. Incised roundels but in a different form also appear on the contemporary low-pitched font cover, along with turned finials.

Panelling: 'pulpit, Litany Desk and Reading Stall all have panels, with formal foliated patterns, taken from a 17thC pulpit and reading desk' (Hubbard).

Chests: dated 1675 and 1736, the latter a long, plank chest with arm rests for sitting, and metal fittings, still functioning; inscribed on the top '1736 Robt Simon Edwd Green Church Wardens'. The former is ornately carved, its front with '1675 S L'.

Tables: i) plain, but supports a copy of a well-known (1565/1575) brass in Llanfarchell church. ii) carved on all sides and having bulbous legs.

Monuments: 'Sir Thomas and Lady Myddleton, by John Bushnell, 1676; two busts on pedestals and a background inscription, folded drapery as an awning, two large cherub heads above, and urns either side, gadrooned base partly obscured by a cartouche, dated 1722, to Sir Thomas Myddleton, steadied by two cherubs. Elizabeth Myddleton, also by Bushnell, 1676, and also with drapery as an awning, and two cherubs; reclining effigy, suckling her infant son; her portrait was sent to London for Bushnell to work from; added cartouche to her husband, Sir Thomas Myddleton (d.1683)' (Hubbard). Brass to Samuel Myddleton (d.1678) and Eliae Duranc (d.1715/6), set in ribbed stone surround. On the easternmost arcade pier a marble mural tablet (reportedly by William Stanton, 1678), to Walter Balcanqual (d.1645). 'Monument to Sir Richard and Lady Myddleton, by Robert Wynne of Ruthin, c.1718-22. Three life-size effigies: Sir Richard and his wife stand either side of an urn on the pedestal of which is a relief of their chrisom infant daughter; their son, Sir William, whose death in 1718 may have occurred after the monument was commissioned, reclines in front. Segmental canopy, with urns, garlands, heraldry etc. on Corinthian columns; Gadrooned pedestal' (Hubbard). Brass to Thomas Foulkes (d.1752). Thomas Lovett (d.1801) and wife Mary (d.1809) by S. & F. Franceys; draped urn, marble.

Plate: cup, of the late 16thC, flagon of 1623/4, paten of 1697/8, salver of 1744/5. and a larger cup of 1794/5.

19thC furnishings include:



Royal Arms: 'post-1801 Hanoverian; a painted panel' (Hubbard).

Commandment Boards: Gothic, with creed etc.

Bells: six, one of which dated to 1814.

## CHURCHYARD

The earliest churchyard at Chirk was strictly rectangular, but it has been extended eastwards at least twice in 1882 and 1905, and again in 1939. It occupies level ground, but the edge of the Dee valley is less than 100m to the south. It is well-maintained and the eastern extension is used for burial.

Boundary:- a well-mortared stone wall with coping stones on the south and west. The wall is less uniform on the north.

Monuments:- few are left in place around the church for there has been drastic clearance; there is nothing of pre-19thC date and some of the visible burials are modern. The paths leading past the church are paved with grave slabs. Some are certainly 18thC, the earliest seen being of 1737 but much worn. East of the church the gravemarkers remain in situ.

Furniture:- a sundial inscribed 'W Potter, R. Edwards, Churchwardens. W & S Jones, 30 Holborn, London'. No obvious date. Gnomon in place and the dial raised on an octagonal, niched pillar. Also a cross on a four-step plinth, erected in memory of J. Darlington (1933).

Earthworks:- churchyard is raised by up to 1m on the south, and 0.5m or so on the west and north. On the east is a slight drop down into the churchyard extension. Spoil mounded up on the north side of the church is presumably a result of the construction of the new hall (see below).

Ancillary features:- new hall added to the north side of the church in recent years. Half-timbered lychgate with stone-slabbed roof, of 1923, on west; tarmac paths on west, slab paths to east.

Vegetation:- yews on south and east, mature but of no great age. Original eastern boundary is marked by several of them. Conifers on the north and west sides.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 19 June 1997

Faculty: St Asaph 1882 (NLW): addition to the churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1939 (NLW): addition to the churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1950 (NLW): removal of tracery

Glynne 1884, 187

Hubbard 1886, 128

Hurdsman 1996

Lloyd Williams and Underwood 1872 pl 45

Pratt in Clwyd Historian 13 (1982), 30

Pritchard 1973

Quinquennial Report 1986

Quinquennial Report 1994

Ridgeway 1997, 56

Thomas 1911, 270

## CONDITION

Some cracks in plaster in north aisle and in nave. Peeling paint on roof of nave.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Poor to Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium



# Erbistock

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<b>Diocese</b>	St Asaph	<b>Dedication</b>	St Hilary
<b>PRN</b>	16776	<b>NGR</b>	SJ35574132
		<b>Previous dedication</b>	St Erbin

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## SUMMARY

St Hilary's church lies on the north bank of the River Dee at the centre of the small settlement of Erbistock, about 5 miles south of Wrexham. The present building was constructed in 1860 and contains only a few furnishings and fittings of earlier date including a font bowl that may be Norman, an 18thC chandelier and several memorials.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Church constructed in 1860 in Gothic style.

## HISTORY

Reputedly the church was originally dedicated to St Erbin but this was superseded by a dedication to St Hilary. There is however no evidence to indicate that it is an early medieval foundation.

The Norwich Taxation of 1254 refers to 'Ecclesia de Embestock', and in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 it was valued at £5.

The vestry book recorded a building in 1692 whose 'large wooden posts are rotten and in danger of dropping down'. By 1748 this wooden church had been rebuilt in stone, and two parishioners were paid for 'clearing the rubbish occasioned by ye stone there for building ye church'. A painting in the National Library of Wales shows a double-aisled nave with a bellcote, a south porch and a gallery window; the interior had box pews according to contemporary pencil sketches.

The Georgian church was demolished in 1859 and the present church built in Decorated style in 1860-61 at the expense of Caroline Boates of Rose Hill. She died in 1860 and the work was continued by her daughter.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave with narrow aisles, a bellcote at the west end, a chancel with polygonal apse, a south porch and a north vestry. It is oriented almost due east to west.

Fabrics: 'A' is of small to medium blocks of regularly cut, red sandstone ashlar with red sandstone dressings; randomly coursed.

'B' is of rubblestone and barely visible at the base of the north wall.

Roofs:- slate tiles and red ceramic, toothed ridge tiles. Cross finial above the bellcote, and a metal one to the apse. Rising above the east end of the nave is what may be a chimney.

Drainage:- cast iron guttering and downspouts, with 1861 dates on hopper heads, lead to soakaways. A drainage trench runs along the north wall but there is nothing obvious along the other sides.

The church is entirely 19thC and for this reason the following description is a summary only. All masonry is 'A' except where stated.

#### Exterior

North aisle - General. As one with the nave, the roof being continuous. Plinthed at 0.4m.

North wall:- three two-centred windows with paired, trefoiled two-centred lights and a quatrefoil above; hoodmoulds and floriate stops of different forms. At the base of the wall is projecting masonry in 'B', perhaps the foundations of the earlier church.

Vestry - General. Abuts the north wall of the chancel, overlapping the east end of the aisle. Plinth at a height of c.0.2m above ground level. On the north wall an octagonal chimney with broach stops and a castellated moulding around the top rises above the gable. and beneath this a two-centred window with a pair of trefoiled lights with a cinquefoil above; hoodmould with floriate stops. The coping on the gable also terminates in floriate stops.

#### Nave - General.

East wall:- visible above the roofline of the apse and to the south side of the apsidal chancel where there is a single trefoiled light with a trefoil above and a hoodmould with floriate stops.

West wall:- a central two-centred window with a hoodmould and floriate stops over three trefoiled two-centred lights with cinquefoil tracery lights above. Two short stepped buttresses flank the west window and small, single, trefoiled two-centred lights with stopped hoodmoulds are set to either side of the buttresses. A string course runs between the buttresses below sill level. A stepped bellcote rises above the west gable and contains three bells hanging in trefoil-headed apertures.

Chancel - General. The plinth rises in two stages to a maximum height of c.0.7m with a roll moulding on its top. The chancel and its pentagonal apse has a continuous string course below the level of the windows, there is another roll moulding above the windows and then a cornice with floral motifs below the eaves. Single, trefoiled two-centred lights with hoodmoulds that have head stops to different designs in each wall face except that on the south.

South wall:- a two-centred arched doorway, the chamfers with broach stops and two trefoiled lights of standard form.

South aisle - General. As north aisle, see above.

South wall:- two windows with two trefoiled, two-centred lights and quatrefoils as in the north wall and to the west of these the south porch. Between the windows a stone memorial to Rev George Robson (d.1851), recording his burial in a vault beneath.

South Porch - General. The open porch is entered beneath a two-centred chamfered arch of two orders with small columns in the angles rising to floriate capitals and supporting roll mouldings with floriate motifs around the arch, a hoodmould and floriate stops, and chamfers with stops of different types. There are inner pilasters and an inscription on the face of the outer order beneath the hoodmould. The east and west walls of the porch are plain.



## Interior

Porch - General. One step above the external ground level. Tiled floor, bare sandstone walls. Roof has three narrow collar trusses with straight braces.

North wall:- the doorway to the church has a two-centred chamfered arch of two orders with marble pillars supporting a moulded arch, a hoodmould and floriate stops. One step up to the church.

West wall:- wooden war memorial (1914-18).

Nave and aisles - General. Nave and aisles under one roof; aisles separated from nave by triple arcades with two-centred arches supported on circular marble piers with heavily carved capitals of grey freestone and square stone bases, broached to circular column bases in red sandstone. Carved heads and angels act as stops to a continuous hoodmould. At the west end of the north aisle is an organ on a raised dais.

Floors of red and black quarry tiles, the central aisle carpetted, with benches on raised planked floors. Plastered and painted walls with only dressed stonework exposed. The nave roof has close-set collar beams with straight braces and scissor struts, decorative cornices to the wall plates which project and are supported on red sandstone corbels; also one tie-beam truss with king post and arch bracing beneath the collar. The aisle roofs slope to north and south and are plastered above exposed rafters which are braced off the wall beams.

North wall:- four 19thC and 20thC brasses.

East wall:- a high chamfered, two-centred chancel arch with foliate frieze supported on short engaged marble pillars with carved capitals, and supported on sandstone corbels. The arch is of two orders and its hoodmould has floriate stops. South of the arch two 19thC brasses. In the east wall of the north aisle a two-centred arch over the door to the vestry.

South wall:- on the wall a single block of sandstone part of a 17thC memorial with the date 1664? and the name Roger legible. One 19thC marble memorial.

West wall:- five 19thC and 20thC brasses include a Second World War memorial.

Chancel - General. Two steps up from the nave and two steps to the sanctuary. Tiles including some encaustic, and carpetting. Walls as nave, and the apse windows contained in cusped embrasures with marble pillars supporting the outer faces. The roof of curved vaulted construction rising from floriate corbels between the windows. A castellated and decorated cornice around the wall.

North wall:- two 20thC stone memorials.

East wall:- reredos.

South wall:- splayed doorway reveal with two-centred soffit.

Vestry - General. Carpetted floor, walls plastered and painted, purlined roof. Fireplace in the north-east angle.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: seven-sided bowl with four worn heads projecting off angles. ?Norman.

Chandelier: with six branches and a dove, the gift of Kenrick Eyton of Eyton in Denbighshire. Probably 18thC.

Monument: i) stone of 1664?, the commemoration unknown. ii) marble memorial to Anne Vaughan (d.1791) and Robert Vaughan (d.1792) with unusual broken column.

19thC and later furnishings and fittings include:

Chest: with feet.

Pulpit: polygonal.

Reredos: of Caen stone in three compartments supported by marble columns and surmounted by a vine frieze.

Decalogue boards: Lord's Prayer and Catechism in compartments to either side of altar.

Prayer desk: with a carved 'Annunciation' panel.

Stained glass:- the west window depicts Faith, Hope and Charity.

Organ: by Charles Whiteley of Chester, installed 1937.

Monuments: White marble tablet on grey slate to Sir John Evans of Erbistock Hall (d.1825); marble memorial to Eliza Jane Robson (d.1835) by T. Ashton, London.

## CHURCHYARD

The small, originally rectangular churchyard is sited on the north bank of the River Dee; it was extended in the north-west corner in 1910, and a further burial ground uphill of the site was consecrated in 1939.

Boundary:- revetment wall of red sandstone rubble on the south and east sides.

Monuments:- a mix of 18thC-19thC monuments. There is a fine 18thC slab by the south door and a stone of 1727 by the south-east entrance.

Furniture:- the slim pillar of a sundial with chamfered edges terminating in arrowhead stops is now mounted on a square base. The dial and gnomon carry a date of 1993, replacing one of 1702.

Ancillary features:- new wooden gates at the south-west corner, and wooden gates too at the north-east. Another, gateless entrance in the south-east corners; paths of gravel, stone and turf.

Earthworks:- the churchyard is raised by about 2m above the road on the south side, and on the east side by 1m. On the north there are properties and the ground rises away from the churchyard.

Vegetation:- two large yews on the eastern boundary and a mature yew and a younger one near the west boundary with the Boat Inn. Yew bushes along the north side.

## SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1995

Church Guide: n.d.

CPAT Field Visits: 12 July 1996 and 15 January 1999

CPAT SMR



Faculty: St Asaph 1910 (NLW): addition to churchyard  
Hubbard 1986, 159  
Quinquennial Report 1985  
Thomas 1908, 439

## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair.

## 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



# Glyn Ceiriog

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**Diocese** St Asaph

**Dedication** St Bridget

**PRN** 16889

**NGR** SJ20473844

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## GENERAL SUMMARY

St Bridget's church is terraced into a steep hillside overlooking the valley of the Ceiriog some 6 miles west of Chirk. Rebuilding occurred at the end of the 18thC and again in the 19thC, and even the tower which has been claimed as medieval appears more likely to be of 18thC origin. Internally there is nothing which is demonstrably earlier than that first rebuilding, and indeed the oldest feature may be an incised stone re-used as a quoin in the chancel wall. The churchyard has an irregular shape and has no features clearly earlier than the 19thC.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The tower has been claimed as the only medieval survival but there is nothing to confirm this and the architectural details and fabric imply a late 18thC construction, contemporary with a few other diagnostic features in the church. While much of the masonry is certainly of this time the windows and porch must date to the 1838-9 remodelling.

## HISTORY

The origin and early history of this church are unknown. Only the dedication (St Bridget = St Ffraid) suggests an early medieval beginning. In the Middle Ages it was certainly a chapelry to Llangollen and with the mother church was appropriated to the Cistercian abbey of Valle Crucis in the 13thC.

In the Taxatio of 1291 it is probably to be equated with the 'Ecclia de Llanfanfreit' which was valued at £3 6s 8d, and in 1535 the Valor Ecclesiasticus records it as 'Capella de Llansanfraid'.

The church was rebuilt about 1790 and remodelled in 1838-9, at the expense of Viscount Dungannon with its architecture in the Decorated style.

In 1853 Glynne found a church 'presenting scarcely any object of interest', the west tower alone retaining some of its character. The windows were new, and internally the chancel still had pews; the font bowl had been replaced.

The panelled ceiling over the sanctuary was added in 1887, seats replaced the pews, a new pulpit and lectern provided, and the outer walls covered with roughcast plaster.

In 1909 external drainage was undertaken.

## ARCHITECTURE

Glyn Ceiriog church (otherwise known as Llansantffraid Glyn Ceiriog) comprises a broad nave and chancel

in one, a west tower, a south porch near the south-west corner and a vestry against the north side of the chancel. It is oriented fractionally south of east. For descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted for the church, though not for the churchyard.

Fabrics:- 'A', the only discernible fabric, consists of slabs and some blocks of shale in colours ranging from off-white through grey to brown, randomly coursed and small to medium in size; large blocks selected for quoins. Occasional waterworn stones and even the odd brick fragment incorporated into the fabric.

Roof:- slates with crested ridge tiles in red clay, on both the body of church and the porch. Stone cross finial at east end.

Drainage:- no clear evidence on the south side though it is possible that a drain exists here. At west end and continuing around north is a deep gutter up to 4m deep, a response to the steeply sloping hillside into which the church has been terraced.

## Exterior

Tower - General. Fabric appears to be 'A', though the pointing is heavier, particularly on upper storeys. Battered base visible in gutter on north and west. Tower of three stages, each inset. Only the top stage has a projecting string course (in 19thC freestone) and above this is a battlemented parapet.

North wall:- plain with no distinctive features. West wall of nave does appear to butt against it.

East wall:- not visible from ground level.

South wall:- at ground level a round-headed doorway with chamfered dressings and above this is a narrow Victorian lancet. The third stage carries a louvred belfry window with a two-centred arch and hoodmould.

West wall:- a round-headed window with concave mouldings and projecting sill in the second stage; its dressings are similar to the Victorian ones elsewhere on the church. Several squared-off blocks of sandstone butt up against the window dressings, perhaps re-used from an earlier, medieval window? Original lead downpipes still in situ.

Nave and chancel - General. Visible in the gutter on the north side, the walls of the nave drop to the same depth as those of tower.

North wall:- plain but for one window which is difficult of access, but is the same as those in the south wall except for its smaller dimensions.

East wall:- dominated by a large four-light Perpendicular-style window, the lights with two-centred cinquefoiled heads, panel lights and a quatrefoil above; hoodmould with simple dogs-leg stops. Window shows signs of insertion. Gable above the window has a concrete render coat. Also a flat-topped basal plinth which emerges beneath the window and because of the slope reaches a height of 0.5m at the south-east corner. A decorated freestone block re-used as a quoin in north-east angle: incised conjoined circles.

South wall:- three windows each with two cusped lights under a two-centred head and a hoodmould with simple stops. Some of the masonry has traces of render adhering. Windows show signs of insertion and central window may have earlier jambstones re-used. Plinth continues, but west of the porch it is below the present ground level and is not horizontal.

West wall:- single light windows with cusped, two-centred heads and hoodmoulds, to either side of tower. Signs of insertion.

Porch - General. In Fabric 'A' but raised on a freestone plinth; diagonal buttresses.



East wall:- single-light window with heavily moulded jambs in yellow sandstone. No hoodmould.

South wall:- two-centred arched doorway with mouldings the same as the windows but a hoodmould which could be a later addition. Datestone of 1838 above the entrance.

Vestry - General. In 'A'. North wall has a zone of brick which may represent a former window. Single light in east wall with hollowed chamfers, all in yellow freestone.

#### Interior

Porch - General. Interior two steps up from churchyard. Slab floor, walls plastered and painted, and simple pitched roof with exposed rafters.

North wall:- two-centred arched doorway, chamfered dressings.

East and west walls:- slightly splayed windows with slate benches set into walls beneath.

Tower - General. Floor of wooden blocks. Walls plastered and painted. Embrasure of doorway on south is round-headed as on the outside. On the east side a large tower arch, now filled in, although changes in the thickness of the walling indicate that it was originally open. On the north side a wooden stair gives access to the nave gallery through a wooden door set to one side in the top of the large but plain round-headed tower arch. A second door of similar form on the other side of the arch leads from the gallery to the first floor of the tower.

Nave - General. Floor carpeted including under benches which are not raised on plinths. Walls plastered and painted. Roof of three bays with two more over chancel and sanctuary: collar trusses are supported on large arch braces, with king and raking struts above; rafters and purlins with unpainted wooden panelling.

North wall:- one splayed window.

South wall:- two splayed windows.

West wall:- against the wall, a gallery with open benches, some rough and old, and a front attributable to the late 18thC rebuilding. The tower arch on this side has its tympanum filled with blank, cusped lights, and a hoodmould rests on corbel heads.

Chancel - General. One step up to the chancel, two to the sanctuary. Victorian encaustic tiles in chancel and mosaic in sanctuary, though carpet over the former. Walls as nave. Above, the most easterly bay has a wagon roof with foliage on the bosses, and the truss on the west side of this has an arch-braced tie-beam with king and queens struts, and raking struts above the collar; pieces of shaped wood stuck on to struts to give cusped effect.

North wall:- door to vestry; two marble mural tablets of 1837 and 1839.

East wall:- splayed east window.

South wall:- splayed window, a marble memorial recording ten members of the Jones family, a 20thC slate tablet, and an indecipherable brass, probably 18thC.

#### FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Altar rails: turned, of 18thC date.

Monument: i) marble to Jones family of Havodgynfor (1790-1835).

Brass: i) perhaps 18thC, illegible but probably to be equated with that recorded by Thomas to John Maurice (d.1746).

Plate: cup of 1637/8.

Victorian furnishings include:

Commandment boards: the Creed, Decalogue and Lord's Prayer in Welsh, on either side of the altar.

Font: octagonal of sandstone.

Stained glass: 'attributable to Evans are the most easterly on the south, and also four heraldic panels, one dated 1843' (Hubbard).

Royal Arms: of Victoria; elaborate with putti.

## CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is small and set on steeply shelving hillside. That part of it behind the church (to the north) is overgrown and inaccessible though it appears to have been used in the past for burial; the rest is well maintained. Originally polygonal in shape with virtually no evidence of curvilinearity, it has been extended eastward twice, the first time probably very early in the 20thC.

Boundary:- a stone retaining wall, 2m or so high around the south, continues as an ordinary wall around the west. On the east, only the base of the wall, 0.3m high, remains though with the extension of the churchyard it no longer serves any purpose.

Monuments:- stones are sparse around the south side and all 19thC. A few modern gravemarkers are set to the south-west of the church, and to the east there are indications that the churchyard has been cleared.

Furniture:- none.

Earthworks:- none.

Ancillary features:- wrought iron gates on the south, with an iron arch over, give access via a concrete path and steps to the porch.

Vegetation:- yews around the southern edge, continuing around former eastern side - none of any great age.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visit: 9 October 1997

Faculty: St Asaph 1886 (NLW): restoration of church

Glynne 1884, 190

Hubbard 1986, 168

Lloyd Williams and Underwood 1872 pl 45

Quinquennial Report 1986

Quinquennial Report 1994

Ridgway 1997, 188

Thomas 1911, 293



## CONDITION

In reasonable condition.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor to Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Poor

# Gresford

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** All Saints**PRN** 16785**NGR** SJ34645497

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## GENERAL SUMMARY

All Saints at Gresford has been claimed as one of the finest parish churches in Wales. It has a nave and chancel with a clerestory rising above north and south aisles which are all of the same length, and a west tower. Mentioned in Domesday, the building is largely Perpendicular with wonderful carvings on the external faces, but the tower is 14thC and there are remnant walls from the previous century. Internally there are panelled and ornamented camberbeam roofs, 15thC screens of English workmanship, a wide variety of monuments and memorials, and a range of furnishings and fittings. The churchyard is rectilinear and holds a good range of monuments from the late 17thC onwards.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Tower of several phases. A buttress against the north wall survives from a reputedly 13thC towerless church, the line of its roof visible internally, and indicating a narrower nave than the present one. The lowest stage of tower attributed to 14thC on the basis of the tower arch and west door details, but the higher stages are early 16thC, as indicated by documentary evidence, and the south wall has been broadened outwards. External doorway to stair added in ?18thC.

There must have been a 14thC south aisle for this is the date of its west window, but the rest of the church including the nave, chancel and aisles is 15thC to a complete and uniform design. The south porch was added in the 16thC.

Some Victorian modifications include features in the south porch, the east wall of the chancel and elsewhere. North porch added in the 1920s.

## HISTORY

Domesday Book (1086) carries a reference to a church and priest at 'Gretford', but nothing survives of this building and indeed there is no certainty that it was on this spot. The earliest building represented here is probably from the 13thC, for the record of an inquisition held at Gresford in 1333 refers to the church being built on land given by Trahaearn ap Ithel ap Eunydd who is known to have lived at the end of the 12thC.

The Taxatio of 1254 records it as 'Ecclesia de Cresford' with a value of £2 13s 4d (£2 according to Thomas), while that of 1291 has 'Ecclia de Grefford' at £24 (£23 19s 0d according to Thomas).

There appears to have been a major rebuilding in the 14thC. The tower was added and also a south aisle; the chancel was extended eastwards as far as the present altar rail, and a crypt inserted beneath it.

The church was rebuilt late in the 15thC, and on a remarkable scale. There is stained glass of 1498, and a record of another window having been given by Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby, in 1500. Together these ought to give a broad guide to the completion of the building programme. Rebuilding may have been dependent on Stanley patronage, but the wealth of the church could have been derived from a relic or



miracle-working image, that led to it becoming a place of pilgrimage.

In the rebuilding the nave was widened at the expense of the south aisle, putting the tower arch out of axis. The church was also extended even further east, but the arcades were left as in the previous design, and the altar remained in its previous position, while the 14thC east wall was cut down to provide a reredos. Behind, this was a processional way, linking two chapels, presumably for the circulation of pilgrims.

Building work continued into the 16thC; though the upper parts of the tower are Perpendicular, it is known from wills that the work had not commenced in 1512 and that as late as 1582 the pinnacles had not been completed.

Some considerable time after the Reformation - possibly c.1634-5 and in the course of the Laudian reforms - the reredos wall was removed and the altar placed against the east wall, at a higher level, the processional passage being boarded over. But the original arrangement has been further obscured by changes of level, and the passage is now a vestry.

In 1810 the south porch was converted into a vestry. A restoration of c.1820 concentrated on the chancel roof.

Glynne visited the church at some date prior to 1870, describing it at some length, as did Archdeacon Thomas some years later.

A sympathetic Victorian restoration of the church was undertaken by Street in 1865-7, following a fire in 1865. However annotations to Glynne's report also indicate that Street was also active in 1871 when the chancel was remodelled and a north organ chamber added.

In 1908-10, the floor level in what is now the vestry was lowered. The present chancel steps added by W. D. Caroe, 1913-14, who also restored the Lady Chapel. The north porch was erected by Sir Thomas Graham Jackson in 1920-1 as a war memorial.

A restoration by F. H. Crossley, between 1929 and 1931, included the chancel roof. Further repairs have taken place in more recent times including 1954.

## ARCHITECTURE

Gresford church comprises a nave and chancel with similarly sized north and south aisles and both with chapels at their eastern ends, north and south porches at the western angles of the aisles, and a west tower against the nave. The church is oriented south-west to north-east but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here. The churchyard is described in conventional terms.

Fabrics:- 'A' consists of medium to large blocks of buff yellow sandstone, mostly coursed.  
'B' is similar to 'A' but the blocks are larger and the coursing more regular.  
'C' shows further variety with the sandstone sharply dressed and displaying less weathering.

Roof:- roofing materials not observed.

Drainage:- shallow drain along south and north sides, separated from wall by concrete slabs that are also placed between the buttresses. Concrete edges the north side of the tower, tarmac the west and south sides. Overall it is not possible to achieve a clear idea of drainage disturbance.

## Exterior

Tower - General. Wall faces exhibit four stages defined by string courses, excluding the parapet. Double basal plinth with chamfers, the upper one hollowed, to height of c.0.6m. At a level with the top of the nave parapet is a quatrefoil band which marks the top of the 14thC tower. Well above this the bottom of the



parapet also has a quatrefoil frieze defined by string courses, the upper one with gargoyles; then the panelled parapet and sixteen pinnacles, the two intermediate ones on each side in the form of figures. At the angles, stepped diagonal buttresses with canopied and pinnacled niches for statues.

Lower part of the tower is 14thC, the upper part 16thC.

North wall:- first stage above the plinth has a two-centred arched window with two lights, trefoil tracery and chamfered dressings; the archstones renewed. One mural slab of 1819 set into wall face, another of early 19thC date concreted to the wall. String course has gargoyles. 2nd stage plain. 3rd stage has a quatrefoil frieze immediately above the string course. 4th stage has double belfry windows, louvred, transomed and traceried, though the tracery in the lower lights is different from that above; windows under pairs of crocketed ogee hoodmoulds. Putlog hole on either side of window. Buttress at north-west angle has the lowest string course running around it; above this is one of the statue niches referred to above.

Buttress at north-east angle starts above nave parapet. Set into wall is an earlier stepped buttress, reputedly 13thC and the earliest surviving masonry in the building; the projection of its basal slab sets it apart from the nave and tower; however its lower chamfer matches that on the west face of north aisle.

East wall:- nave roof peaks just below the first frieze. Otherwise of standard appearance.

South wall:- at ground level near the south-west angle is a two-centred arched doorway giving access to the tower stair; the dressings appear reasonably fresh and the date 1731 is incised on a stone beside it; a light above it. Lower part of wall refaced or widened in 'B', but 'A' higher up in 1st stage. Centrally placed at height of c.4m is a rectangular window with a small, round-headed light, and complex mouldings; it looks out of place and could be Victorian. Also in this first stage is a similar but smaller light illuminating the tower stair in the south-west angle; its mouldings are worn and it looks original. Above, the standard first-stage window has a replaced mullion and possibly some archstones too. Rest of wall as north side; clock face beneath belfry window; some of belfry window tracery may be replaced, and parts of the hoodmould and canopy have fallen away. A small stair-light above and to the west of the belfry window lacks the pronounced hoodmould of its first-stage counterpart.

West wall:- the double basal plinth (part of the 14thC tower) stops short of the present south-west buttress, indicating a thickening of the wall on the south side, and a change in the masonry is visible close to the south-west angle for the whole of the first stage. A two-centred arched doorway with two orders of wave moulding is 14thC, yet it is central to the broader wall face; its threshold is now below tarmac level. Set in the later walling at the south-west angle are two slit windows with round heads, complex mouldings and hoodmoulds. Also in the first stage a decorated block of stone set into the wall face; similar stones on the inner face of the tower wall have a different trefoil design and are larger. Remainder of the wall is of standard form, comparable with north wall, and there are putlog holes on either side of the belfry window.

North porch - General. In 'C'. Diagonal buttresses, chamfered plinth continuing line of that around tower. Porch looks like the 20thC structure that it is.

North wall:- two-centred arch, complex chamfers with stops; foliate hoodmould with half pinnacles rising from rectangular pilaster columns. Glass doors to the entrance. Above the doorway a canopied niche, richly ornamented and containing a statue of St George in white stone. Top stage consists of a quatrefoil frieze edged by a string course and chamfered coping.

East wall:- plain wall with two pairs of small, broad, ogee-headed lights.

West wall:- as east wall.

North aisle - General. In 'B'. Integral angle buttresses; double chamfered plinth as on the tower and a further chamfered course below window level. Parapet.

North wall:- seven windows to east of the porch; all have four-centred arches with four ogee-headed lights having cinquefoil tracery, and trefoiled, two-centred arched panels above; hoodmoulds with stops displaying



animal and human heads etc. The extent to which the dressings have been renewed is impossible to ascertain, though it is frequently the upper panel tracery that is weathered suggesting that some at least of the main mullions and tracery could have been replaced. Above the windows a string course shows as a frieze with small carvings of flowers, animals, grotesques and the like, and incorporates grotesque heads (gargoyles) for water spouts. Buttresses have stepped arches at their tops. Below the most easterly window the chamfered plinth is stepped up and a second less elaborate one introduced beneath.

East wall:- east window has a two-centred arch, but otherwise is very similar in design to those in north wall. Frieze continues from north side, angling up the wall face to run parallel to roof line; one small carving missing. Another animal is set just above frieze in the angle with the nave buttress. North-east buttress is topped by an ogee arch with grotesque stops.

West wall:- four-centred arched window with four two-centred lights but fewer panels than the windows in north and east walls. Standard hoodmould and standard frieze.

Nave and chancel - General.

North wall:- eight clerestory windows in the wall rising above north aisle (for details see south wall below).

East wall:- dominated by large four-centred window with seven narrow lights which have two-centred cinquefoiled heads, with sub-arches and foiled panels above; some renewal of mullion stones is obvious but uncertainty remains about other dressings; the hoodmould is pulled up to form an ogee head and there are the usual stops. Above is the standard frieze with animal carvings, and then a battlemented parapet with a stone cross. Beneath the window is a chamfered string course and a centrally placed buttress with an ogee arch at its top; either side is a small, splayed ogee-headed light comparable with those in the north porch, and closer to the southern aisle is a doorway with a Tudor arch, all Victorian insertions. Finally there are angle buttresses with the usual arches at their tops.

South wall:- eight clerestory window with four-centred arches, four lights with two-centred, trefoiled heads and hoodmoulds which are integrated in a continuous string course. Another string course is set above the windows and then there is a battlemented parapet. At the east end an ornamental pinnacle rises above the wall top. At the extreme ends metal tie-rod plates are visible. There may be some renewal of dressings.

South aisle - East wall:- of comparable appearance to the north aisle but window is the same as that in the west wall of north aisle; some renewal of mullion stones, the roll-moulding of the second chamfered plinth and at least one parapet stone.

South wall:- seven windows of standard form; again minor renewals of mullion stones.

West wall:- two-centred window with four ogee-headed lights and reticulated tracery with two ogee sub-arches; less elaborate hoodmould and stops than the windows elsewhere. In its original form a survivor from a 14thC enlargement. Standard frieze and a diagonal buttress.

South porch - General. Original chamfered plinth, plain parapet similar to that of north porch, and plain stepped diagonal buttresses. Basically 16thC.

East wall:- two-light rectangular window, the lights with two-centred heads and cusping; label with head stops, all Victorian.

South wall:- broad flat-headed doorway with roll mouldings; label with much worn head-stops. Above this a niche with an ogee canopy holds a weathered statuette of the Virgin. Apart from the parapet all this looks original.

West wall:- as east wall, the window clearly inserted.

## Interior

North porch - General. Stone slab floor, bare walls, wooden ceiling. Of Victorian date.

North wall:- nothing of interest.

East wall:- window with two rectangular lights.

South wall:- Tudor doorway with complex mouldings and hoodmould.

West wall:- window as on east side; dedicatory inscription to the dead of World War I.

Tower - General. Standard Victorian tiled floor, but heating grille beneath tower arch; bare walls with cupboards set against them to height of 2m; wooden ceiling at height of about 8m.

North wall:- plain but for Benefaction board of 1731 and two wooden wall tablets of 17thC date.

East wall:- two-centred tower arch with plain chamfers cut through an earlier wall. Above this is a blocked doorway (revealed by masonry differentiation only) that gave access to a west gallery.

South wall:- supports a second Benefaction board of 1731, three 17thC wooden mural tablets, and a window embrasure with an asymmetric splay. Entrance to tower stair in south-west angle, subsequently replaced by external door in 18thC.

West wall:- west doorway has slightly splayed embrasure, and a chamfered and peaked arch. High up in the wall face is a slab with trefoil decoration, presumably re-used.

North aisle - General. Tiled floor with heating vent grilles towards east end. Bare walls. Roof of six bays with principals springing from corbels, and floral bosses where these intersect with the main purlins, though one boss missing. Organ at east end and 14thC effigy fragments adjacent to it.

North wall:- range of mural tablets, mainly marble and three of 18thC date, together with some 19thC and 20thC brasses. Beneath the fourth window from the west is a recess with a moulded, peaked arch and a 14thC heraldic slab beneath.

East wall:- screen in good condition.

South wall:- six-bay arcade with piers of eight shafts that have deep hollows between; rudimentary capitals with deep octagonal abaci; two-centred arches without hoodmoulds.

West wall:- slightly splayed window, and in the north-west angle, a simple rectangular doorway with chamfered dressings leading to stairway to roof. Wall supports three 19thC marble mural tablets.

North chapel (Lady Chapel) - General. Marble slab floor and altar raised on marble plinth. Bare walls. Roof of two bays as north aisle. Foliate bosses over screen at east end.

North wall:- two splayed window embrasures; stained glass in tops of windows only. Between windows two 18thC marble mural tablets.

East wall:- north of the altar a canopied niche with paint traces, its base resting on a corbel decorated with a 'green man'. Originally it may have held an object venerated by pilgrims, but now contains a Virgin and Child statue by William Webb, 1927. Two 19thC marble tablets to south of altar.

South wall:- to west is a single bay of the arcade. The solid walling to the east is pierced by a doorway with wave mouldings. Adjacent is a monument of 1837 and two 19thC/20thC marble tablets. A semi-circular



archway leads to the vestry.

Nave - General. Standard floor finish with grilles running down the edges of the aisle almost to the step which is set in front of the screen; also two marble plaques, one of 1804, set in floor. Seats set on wooden boarding. Bare walls. Camberbeam roof of five bays, moulded roof members and a panel pattern with two sizes of purlin and three sizes of rafter; varied corbels, floriate bosses, angels on wall posts etc.

North wall:- arcade as north aisle, with clerestory windows above, all with four-centred heads, four lights with trefoil heads and plain glass.

East wall:- screen.

South wall:- as north wall but stained glass in windows.

West wall:- two-centred tower arch. Above this the pitch of an earlier nave is still visible and the 13thC fabric beneath is faintly rougher than the later masonry rising above it. Below this earlier roof line a patch of fresher masonry shows the position of a gallery entrance (see tower above), and there are two 19thC marble mural tablets attached to this part of wall. Above the line is a small plaque, partly hiding another patch of fresher stonework suggestive of a blocked door or window, and this is confirmed by a photo of c.1908 (in the NMR) that shows a blocked 14thC window.

Chancel - General. Encaustic tiles on floor and seven marble steps to altar, though partly carpetted. Choir stalls raised on wooden plinths. Bare walls. Roof as nave but there are extra ribs and shield bosses (dating from a restoration in 1929-31), and the angels are painted.

North wall:- two bays to the arcade and a round-headed archway from the north chapel with a simple, unchamfered reveal. Three clerestory windows above, two of four lights, one of three, and the two most easterly with stained glass. Three marble mural tablets, the earliest of 1770.

East wall:- splayed window with internally complex mouldings; large reredos.

South wall:- arcade and archway from south aisle as on north side; clerestory windows, again that to the east of three lights. Three marble mural tablets including one of 1797.

West wall:- screen only.

Vestry - General. Beneath chancel. Wooden block floor; bare walls; roof plastered but joists showing.

North wall:- eight steps up to north chapel.

East wall:- contains a splayed embrasure to doorway and double windows. Hanging on wall is an Incorporated Church Building Society plaque of 1866 and another of 1930 in the doorway reveal.

South wall:- old pew panels with brass plaques cover much of wall; a recess behind them.

West wall:- the wall has a hollow-chamfered plinth at a height of c.1.6m, broken by a segmental-headed doorway holding an old door. Most of the wall covered by pew panels and cupboards.

Crypt - General. 14thC in date, adjacent to vestry, which is three steps above it, and below the chancel. Tiled floor, bare walls and segmental tunnel-vault.

North wall:- set in this is a splayed, rectangular window embrasure, covered by an iron grille and blocked behind. To the west of it is an irregular rectangular embrasure like a small doorway; this too is blocked off, but is probably the result of heating apparatus being inserted.

East wall:- main entrance from vestry via a sloping tunnel. To south of this an alcove with a rounded and broken arch, its purpose uncertain. Set against the wall are the figures of four saints in cast iron, formerly below the chancel roof, and dating from a restoration of c.1820.

South wall:- window embrasure chamfered internally; blocking material and, in front, an iron grille. Another door-like alcove boarded off is presumably related to the heating system.

West wall:- some disturbance for the heating system.

South aisle - General. Floor as north aisle with wooden boarding under seats and one obvious heating grille in front of them. Walls and roof also as north aisle. Deeply carved initials 'I.M. and T.P.' on wall. Set on floor is a Roman altar found in the masonry of the east end of the church when the heating chamber was built in 1908.

North wall:- arcade of 7 bays.

East wall:- screen.

South wall:- features from west are: i) doorway to roof stair as in north aisle; masons' marks adjacent. ii) splayed doorway to south porch. iii) under the third window a recess with a figure and at the back of the recess a long stone with a continuous pattern of plain shields in quatrefoils. iv) several marble memorials ranging from 1659 to 1806.

West wall:- stone mural tablet of 1693.

South chapel (Trevor Chapel) - General. One step up from the south aisle. Floor has carpet over tiles; bare walls; roof of two bays is an extension of south aisle, but no foliate bosses. Attached to ceiling at east end are two undated hatchments.

North wall:- one bay of arcade as in the aisle and above this a four-centred arched doorway with chamfered dressings, presumably an entrance to a gallery over the reredos. Further east the blocked doorway for the processional way is now a recess holding a modern mural commemorating the Gresford Colliery disaster of 1934.

East wall:- splayed window; several memorials and monuments, the earliest of 1589, but ranging in date up to an early 20thC brass.

South wall:- two splayed window embrasures, that to west has a splayed sill but that to east, over piscina, a flat sill. Piscina with cusped ogee head and crocketed gable; bowl set in top of corbel-like head.

South porch - General. Standard floor, bare walls, modern ceiling with large joists. Two steps down into south aisle.

North wall:- wide Tudor arch with complex chamfers and a hoodmould.

East wall:- rectangular splayed window embrasure which looks recent; figure of an angel in south-east corner.

South wall:- rectangular wooden door frame, and inset stone just above this could indicate some reconstruction.

West wall:- as east wall and irregularities in masonry above the window suggest that some rebuilding. In the south-west corner is the carved figure of a bishop.



## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Note: the following descriptions are largely derived verbatim from Hubbard though with some additions.

Roman stone: found in 1908 in the foundations of the 14thC east end. The god Atropos, with shears, is shown in relief. Now in south aisle.

Font: Perpendicular; panels represent the Virgin and Child, the lion of St Mark, saints and angels; ribbed patterns below and cusped panels in the stem.

Sepulchral slabs: i) in an arched recess in the north aisle is a heraldic slab, commemorating Goronwy ab Iorwerth, of the late 14thC; behind the shield are a spear and, grasped by a hand, a sword. ii) in the south aisle a fragment of an early 14thC heraldic slab with sword and shield, commemorating Gruffydd ab Ynyr; found in foundations of old barn at Pantiocyn in the parish of Acton and formerly in the Trevor chapel.

Effigies: i) loose fragments of a late 14thC male effigy in the north aisle, found under a buttress in 1908, and thought to represent a judge, Madog ap Llywelyn ap Gruffydd (d.1331), in an arched recess; effigy in mailcoat, with shield, sword etc., his head on a cushion. ii) upright in the south porch is a mutilated effigy of a bishop (late 13thC or early 14thC), and iii) statue of an angel. It is claimed that ii) and iii) originally came from Gresford, but on no firm evidence, and were taken to Emral, the seat of the Puleston family, but were then given back to the church by the Vicar of Worthenbury. iv) effigy of an unnamed man, probably late 14thC.

Rood screen: dated to 1480-1500 by Crossley and of English type, i.e. with the uprights extending through from sill to head; loft with lierne vaulting in stellar patterns on the west, and panelled, coved soffit on the east; cresting, friezes of vine trail, much tracery etc., including open traceried cusping in the main arches and arcading on the wainscot. Probably incorporates some cast iron dating from repairs in 1820.

Chapel screens: to north and south; simpler, but of comparable character to the rood screen and with reduced versions of the vaulted and coved loft; pierced wainscot tracery, and the arches fretted with tiny cusps.

Parclose screens: Two bays on north and south sides of chancel; similar to the rood screen, but without the miniature lofts.

Tower screen: made from old pews formerly used as panelling in Church House, and erected in 1949.

Stalls: on either side are four against the western parclooses and three returned against the rood screen; elbow knobs of angels and animals, two seated beasts either side of the screen doorway. Eleven misericords survive; on the south from east to west and returning to north, they include two lions holding a fox, the devil wheeling souls to Hell, angels, a fox preaching to geese and hens, and the Annunciation. In front are panelled desk fronts, their four bench ends traceried and with figures in the poppyheads.

Credence table: perhaps 17thC; given to church in 1948.

Chandeliers: one of 1747, with two tiers of eight curly branches; shaped centre and fine wrought-iron suspension. Another, from Chirk, of 1796; unusual, with gadrooning, and a broad stem between two eight-branch tiers.

Benefaction boards: two, now under the tower, both dated 1731.

Stained glass: in 1966, much of Gresford's glass was treated with detergent by a church cleaning company and very badly damaged. Restoration carried out by Denis King of Norwich.

East window is the one given by Lord Derby in 1500, though now mostly by Clayton & Bell, 1867, with surviving early parts rearranged (all suffered extensively in 1966). A Jesse Tree in the tracery and a Te Deum in the lower parts of the main lights, both introduced 1867, but incorporating work of 1500, and there may well have been a Jesse originally. Large figures in the main lights are mostly original (or were until 1966), but only that of the Virgin in the first light is entirely so.



East window in north aisle - badly damaged in 1966. Of 1498 and restored by Clayton & Bell, 1872. In the lower tracery row the second light shows St Apollonia (patron of toothache sufferers, with tooth in pincers), followed by the Evangelists with their symbols. In the main light a touching series of ten scenes from the lives of St Anne and the Virgin, with inscriptions: angel appearing to Joachim in the wilderness, angel appearing to Anne, Joachim and Anne meeting at the Golden Gate at Jerusalem etc. In the two lower corners are, respectively, the donor and sons, and his wife and daughters.

North aisle windows from east to west: i) c.1500; fragments in the tracery. In the main lights the Entombment, Coronation, Funeral (not restored after 1966) and Assumption of the Virgin. In the last the head has at some time been replaced by that of Our Lord. ii) fragments, including angels, of similar date and later. iii) hidden by the organ, fragments, partly of c.1500 and partly 18thC continental. iv) in the tracery, angels of 1508, damaged in 1966; the remainder by Kempe, 1905. v) and vi) both by Clayton & Bell, the former with commemoration date 1877. vii) by Kempe, commemoration date 1895.

North aisle, west window by L. Lobin of Tours, 1868. In pictorial, transparency manner, with little use of leading.

South aisle east window. Glass of c.1500 and later; arranged by Clayton & Bell under Caroe, 1915-16; escaped harm in 1966. Some jumbled fragments and, in the tracery, kneeling angels. Panels in the main lights depict the execution of John the Baptist, with Salome waiting with her charger, and Salome serving up the head to Herod and Herodias; these two are said to be of 1506. Of 1510 are St Anthony entering the religious life and the burial of St Anthony, his soul being carried away by angels. In the row below are symbols of Evangelists in the first and fourth lights and, in the second, St Apollonia with tooth and pincers again appears. Bottom row, fourth light, includes St George.

South aisle windows from east to west: i) in the tracery are fragments of c.1500 and a late 18thC or early 19thC panel. ii) in the tracery heraldic and other fragments of c.1500. iii) by Clayton & Bell, with commemoration date of 1880. iv) in the tracery, angels, saints and a nimbed bishop of c.1500; the remainder by Heaton, Butler & Bayne with commemoration date of 1873. v) by Clayton & Bell, commemoration date of 1872. vi) angels and symbols of two Evangelists in the first, second, seventh and eighth tracery lights, c.1500; the remainder by Heaton, Butler & Bayne, commemoration date of 1873. 7) by Ward & Hughes, with later commemoration date of 1873.

South aisle west end: by Clayton & Bell, commemoration date of 1868.

North clerestory easternmost: commemoration date of 1849 and, according to Fishbourne, by Hardman, though it does not look like a Pugin design. That next to it and the south clerestory easternmost both by Clayton & Bell, with commemoration dates of 1882 and 1883 respectively.

North porch: fragments of c.1500, originally from a north aisle window.

South porch: cherubs and cherub heads; Italian, 17thC or 18thC.

Monuments: i) John Trevor (d.1589); three arches with a Welsh inscription on a panel in the centre one; behind is a reclining effigy, but just the legs and bust, visible in the end arches; heraldry and, below, a winged death's head. ii) Sir Richard Trevor and wife Dame Katherine; erected 1638, in his lifetime; he wears armour and both kneel, looking out from arches; heraldry and Corinthian columns. iii) monument to Dame Katherine Trevor (d.1602) alone. iv) Anthony Lewis (d.1659); Welsh inscription. v) John Robinson (d.1680), cartouche with cherub heads and heraldry. vi) Anne Robinson (d.1693) and husband William (d.1717). vii) John Robinson (d.1732). viii) Rev. Robert Wynne (d.1743). ix) tablet to John Travers (d.1748) and wife (d.1749). x) William Madocks (d.1749). xi) George Warrington (d.1770), by Benjamin Bromfield; obelisk and a very small urn. xii) Jones monument (erected in 1779). xiii) William Pate (d.1783) by S. & F. Franceys. xiv) Townshend monument, by Edward & Richard Spencer of Chester, 1790. xv) the children of George Shakerley (died between 1714 and 1792). xvi) John Madocks (d.1794), by W.Rogerson. xvii) John Parry (d.1797); by Sir Richard Westmacott.

Wooden memorials to: i) John Pecke of Allington (d.1661); ii) John Robinson of Gwersylt (d.1680); iii)



Thomas Ball of Burton (d.1687); iv) Robert Cawley of Gwersyllt (d.1688); v) Thomas Powell of Horsley (d.1689)

Hatchments: two fixed to the aisle roof.

Plate: two cups of 1738/9, two more cups and patens of 1739 and two flagons, also of 1738/9.

Bells: eight of which two are of 1775.

19thC and later furnishings and fittings include:

Stained glass: see above in medieval section.

Monuments: i) Rev. Henry Newcome (d.1803), and wife, by Westmacott; standing female figure, very small. ii) Travers and Johnson monument, latest commemoration date 1806; by Alexander Wilson Edwards of Wrexham. iii) William Egerton (d. 1829) by Chantrey. iv) Margarette Golightly (d.1831), by Spence. v) Mary Boydell (d.1823) and son Richard (d.1835), by J.Blayne of Chester. vi) John Madocks (d.1837), by James Harrison. vii) John Boydell (d.1839) by James Harrison of Chester. viii) Anne Goodwin (d.1842) by William Spence. ix) Christopher Parkins (d.1843) and wife; low tomb-chest with encaustic tiles in the sides; on the top a brass by J.G. & L.A.B.Waller, with canopied effigies. x) John Williams (d.1851), by the younger Theed.

Brasses: Lady Broughton (d.1857), by Hardman.

Reredos: by Douglas, 1879, with a Last Supper painting by Heaton, Butler & Bayne; side panels added 1895.

North-east chapel fittings: by Caroe, 1913, including reredos with figures executed by Nathaniel Hitch.

Vestry panelling: made up in 1910 of wood from pews, with brass pew plates.

Pulpit: by Street, contemporary with his restoration; Perpendicular in detail, and with figures under nodding ogee canopies.

Lectern: brass eagle, 1878.

Candlestands: a pair of 1892, also a two-tier brass corona.

## CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is large and well-maintained, occupying level ground just to the south of the Alyn valley. Its irregular rectilinear form now edged by roads on all sides results from additions to the graveyard in the 19thC: in 1831 and again in 1862, when the road around the south-west corner was taken up and re-routed. The extension in the north-west corner cannot be distinguished on the ground, but parallel lines of yews on the south could mark a former boundary.

Boundary:- a mortared stone wall with railings on top.

Monuments:- some re-organisation with graveslabs laid flat to edge or form paths; east of the church the ground has been cleared. On the south there are groups of chest tombs in situ but clear areas around them. Earliest monument seen is from 1696, others of 1765 and 1770. A number of graves, mainly 19thC though at least one from the previous century, are enclosed by iron railings - of sufficient interest for some of them to be listed in their own right.

Furniture:- sundial on stone baluster plinth. Elaborate plate with inscription and date of 1732; gnomon in place.

Earthworks:- south of the church is a slight scarp by the yews mentioned above, and there is a second one beyond it; together they suggest a track or earlier boundary. Churchyard is raised slightly: from 0.8m+ on east side to 0.3m or less on the south.

Ancillary features:- main entrance on west has elaborate iron gates, now locked. Plain iron gates at south-east angle and similar ones on north. Tarmac paths, but graveslabs used on north side of church.

Vegetation:- numerous yews but of no great age except for one on the south-east side of the churchyard near the entrance.

## SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings

CPAT Field Visits: 17 May 1996 and 20 February 1997

Crossley 1946, 17

Faculty: St Asaph 1862 (DRO/PD/34/1/411) churchyard addition

Faculty: St Asaph 1865 (DRO/PD/34/1/280) repairs to chancel

Faculty: St Asaph 1883-5 (DRO/PD/34/1/259ff) church tower repairs

Faculty: St Asaph 1908 (NLW) new heating apparatus

Faculty: St Asaph 1911 (NLW) churchyard addition

Faculty: St Asaph 1920 (NLW) north porch

Faculty: St Asaph 1954 (NLW) church repairs

Glynne 1885, 122

Gresham 1968, 150; 165; 185; 218; 228

Hubbard 1986, 168

Jones n.d. Church Guide

Lloyd Williams and Underwood 1872 pl 12-17

NMR Aberystwyth

Neaverson 1953-54, 18

Quinquennial Report 1985

Quinquennial Report 1993

Ridgway 1997, 84

Thomas 1913, 243



## CONDITION

Good, though some minor cracks in masonry, particularly internally at the east end.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Very Good

Value of documentary evidence: Good

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium

# Hanmer

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St Chad**PRN** 100182**NGR** SJ45453972

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## SUMMARY

St Chad's church is a late Perpendicular structure much repaired. The tower and aisle walls, particularly that on the south, survive, as do the chancel walls of 1720 but much else was destroyed in a fire of 1889. Externally the grotesques on the south walls are memorable. Inside little remains from before the fire: an early 19thC monument and some furniture. The church occupies a rectangular churchyard overlooking Hanmer Mere and there is a fine medieval churchyard cross to the south of the building.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The west tower was supposedly completed in 1570. The nave and aisles were reportedly built around 1490, but a butt joint on the east wall of the north aisle, and differences in the masonry of the north and south aisles suggest that this picture is not so simple, and it is possible that the north aisle was rebuilt at an unknown date. The chancel was added in 1720, the south porch at the end of the 19thC.

Fire caused considerable damage in 1889, contemporary photographs showing only the skeleton of the building.

## HISTORY

The church is dedicated to St Chad, who became Bishop of Mercia and reputedly founded a cell on the site of the present church in the middle of the 7thC.

The earliest documentary reference is from 1110, when a moiety of the church was granted to the Augustinian monks of Haughmond Abbey. The Lincoln Taxation of 1291 includes 'Ecclia de Hameme' at a value of £10 within the diocese of Lichfield. Owain Glyndwr married Margaret, daughter of David Hanmer in the church.

The church was damaged about 1463, during the Wars of the Roses, and rebuilt around 1490 according to Thomas, though he felt the clustered shafts of the arcade were Early English from the 13thC. There were chantry chapels at the eastern ends of the aisles.

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the property and rights were purchased by Sir Thomas Hanmer of Bettisfield Park.

Dineley in the 'Duke of Beaufort's Progress through Wales' in 1684, noted medieval stained glass, one piece carrying the date 1433, and he sketched the north side of the church and a graveslab of 1608. Also he noted that a free school had recently been constructed in the churchyard and he appended a sketch of it.

The chancel was built 1720 to replace a smaller one of timber construction. It is reported that a two-storey porch on the south side of the church and the addition of battlements to the western tower were of this period also.



In 1739 the cross was re-erected having been taken down at the time of the Commonwealth.

Glynne visited the church sometime in the mid 19thC and noted that it was in a poor condition. He commented on the beautiful ceilings, but thought the chancel 'modern and ugly'.

The chancel was restored about 1884 including encaustic tiled floors and new stained glass windows.

Much of the church was destroyed by fire in 1889. Lost at this time were the roofs, a fine one in the north aisle and a less elaborate one in its southern counterpart, the southern arcade, screens across both aisles, and a part of the rood loft that had been set in front of the southern chantry chapel. The tower was gutted and the bells fell; the south gallery was totally destroyed and all the interior was burnt out leaving only bare stone walls. None of the early stained glass survived, but two chained books dating 1611 and 1632 were saved. Among other losses was a 14thC floriated cross slab, a mid-14thC slab depicting Dafydd ap Madog ap Rhirid, and the pulpit of 1627. The communion plate and registers were saved from the Fens Chapel by the vicar during the fire, and this is commemorated on a brass plate on the east wall of the present vestry.

Rebuilding to the plans of Bodley and Garner began immediately and the church re-opened in April 1892, at a cost of around £8000.

But the chancel was separated by a brick wall from the rest of the building and remained roofless until 1935-6 when it was restored by Caroe. The faculty for rebuilding and restoring the chancel included removal of the dividing wall, rebuilding the battlements and cornices on the east, north and south aisles and making the walls good. All exterior stonework was repointed below the level of the window arches and new stone inserted where necessary. The mullions and tracery in the three windows of the chancel were renewed, ashlar was replaced where necessary and undamaged ashlar was cleaned and pointed. Brickwork and timber was removed, and all interior rebuilding work was faced with ashlar. The roof of oak principals, purlins and boards supported on rafters was sheet leaded, and lead guttering was added fixed to the stone gullies, connecting to drains. The windows were fitted with diamond leaded lights in varying tints of cathedral glass and wrought iron window bars were added.

The bells were rehung in 1976.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church comprises a west tower, a nave with side aisles, a chancel and a south porch. It is oriented west-north-west/east-south-east but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted in the description that follows.

Fabrics: 'A' is of dressed sandstone, yellow originally but largely weathered to grey; coursed.

'B' is of grey and reddish sandstone blocks; irregular coursing.

'C' is of buff sandstone ashlar turning to grey; of regular appearance and mainly coursed.

'D' is similar to 'B' but more weathered and in buff turning to grey; more regularly coursed than 'B'.

'A' and 'D' of 15thC date; 'C' is from 1720 and 'B' of unknown date.

Roofs:- slates with stone ridge tiles, but lead sheets over the chancel and north and south aisles and a copper roof to the tower.

Drainage:- 19thC lead parapets and gutters all round leading to drains. No obvious drains around the buildings.

## Exterior

Tower - General. In 'A'. A three-stage tower, each stage clearly smaller than the next, with stepped diagonal buttresses at the north-west and south-west corners, and stepped straight buttresses on the north and south



walls at the east corners which rise above the aisle roofs as high as the bottom of the third stage. There is a continuous double plinth at c.1.2m above ground level, with a chamfer to the first stage and overhanging coping stones to the plinth top. Above this are four moulded string courses with two to the first stage and the upper three defining the three stages. Gargoyles, at the corners and mid way along each side, protrude from the top string course below the battlements. A battlemented parapet which has probably been added at a later date, and a weathervane and flag pole.

North wall:- no window in first stage. Second stage has a rectangular window with moulded frame and a label, and contains two quatrefoil lights, all in greyish-yellow sandstone. Third stage has a pair of two-centred windows each with two louvred, foiled, two-centred lights and transoms at half height; the hoodmould is continuous over both windows. Three tie-rod plates on the wall at this level. The first stage has a wide 'buttress' of masonry projecting no more than 0.3m from the wall face, its purpose unclear. A buttress, too, towards the east end of this wall face, one side of it against the west wall of the north aisle.

East wall:- abuts nave. The second stage has a square window with moulded frame and label, and a single quatrefoil light, and above this but in the same stage, a clock face. In the third stage a standard belfry window, and also two tie-rod plates.

South wall:- first and second stages similar to the north side, including the masonry 'buttress'. Above the second stage quatrefoils with their original dressings is a sundial on the wall, the face weathered but the iron gnomon still in place. Third stage has a standard belfry window. One of the merlons carries the initials 'T C'. Three tie-rod plates.

West wall:- on the ground floor is an original west door in reddish-brown sandstone with a square-headed and heavily moulded frame and label over a four-centred arch with carved spandrels; chamfered jambs; a pair of heavy panelled doors. The head of its arch has probably been renewed. The upper part of the first stage has a window with a high two-centred arch, hoodmould and four foiled, ogee-headed lights, with panel tracery above. The first string course runs over the top of this window as a hoodmould. Above are the standard quatrefoil and belfry windows.

North aisle - General. A lean-to against the nave, all in 'B'. The walls have a stepped plinth at about 1m above ground level which is continuous around the buttresses, and is similar though not exactly the same as that around the tower; on the north wall a lower plinth can be recognised. There is also a continuous string course above the apices of the windows, and the walls are topped by a plain parapet. The cisterns above the downpipes carry the churchwardens' initials. In the angle between the tower and the north aisle is a modern boiler house.

North wall:- in 'B' but also incorporates some dressed blocks of grey and yellowish sandstone. Four bays distinguished by three stepped buttresses and diagonal buttresses at the east and west corners. The three eastern bays each contain a window with a flattish, four-centred arch and four cinquefoiled, four-centred lights with a transom and foiled panel tracery and sub-arches. All the tracery is in pale buff freestone which has been renewed, while the hollowed and fluted chamfered jambs in grey and pink sandstone and the arches in pink sandstone look largely unweathered, but might conceivably be original; hoodmould and simple out-turned stops. The most westerly bay contains a doorway with a rectangular moulded frame within which is a four-centred arch over a panelled and studded door; a label above. Most of the dressings are original. The window above the doorway has a square-headed moulded frame which is original but the tracery and mullions in deep red sandstone are renewed; four foiled lights and small tracery lights, all under a label which runs across the width of the bay. Built into the north-west angle is a stair turret with a small round-headed light.

East wall:- double plinth at the base. A broad east window with a four-centred arch and five lights, three with ogee-heads, two with two-centred ones, and above this foiled panel tracery. All the tracery is 19thC, but the moulded jambs and arch could be original; a hoodmould above. At the extreme south end of the wall is what must be a butt joint rising to a height of c.2.5m. North of the window a wall tablet in white stone is set into the wall; any inscription on it has gone.

West wall:- a four-light window as on the north side, all its tracery renewed and its mullions in deep red sandstone. Another stair light near the north-west angle was a rectangular frame with a label and within the



frame a two-centred light.

Nave- General. Nothing is visible of this externally.

Chancel - General. In 'C'. Double plinth, but not tied into those of the aisles. Battlemented above a moulded string course and a datestone of 1720 on the east side. Corner pilasters.

North wall:- a round-headed Georgian window with a projecting keystone and imposts and ribbed pilaster jambs; four foiled two-centred lights inserted. Also a pilaster buttress at the extreme west end of wall.

East wall:- a two-centred Gothic window with hoodmould, framed by pilasters which are not the same as those on the north wall window, and containing four two-centred lights with mixed tracery above (Hubbard speculated that the pointed window might be original though not the tracery). A panel of decorated slabs set below sill level is part of this late window embellishment.

South wall:- window as in the north wall, and the pilaster at the west end is also there.

South aisle - General. In 'D'. The parapet is battlemented and the string course below the eaves is ornamented with gargoyle-like carvings.

East wall:- a broad four-centred window holding five ogee-headed lights with panel tracery, all in pinkish-red sandstone that represents new dressings inserted after the 1889 fire. The hollow-chamfered jambs on the other hand are probably original, and the hoodmould has weathered stops, one an animal, the other perhaps a jester. Two carvings on the string course.

South wall:- the westernmost bay is occupied by the south porch, while the remaining three bays have windows that are comparable with those on the north side, but here original stonework with only the occasional renewal. The hoodmoulds have an interesting array of original stops and all the carvings along the string course are of different designs.

West wall:- the window has a four-centred arch, and the hoodmould has much weathered stops; four foiled, basket-headed lights. Again the hollowed jambs are original but not the arch or the tracery.

South porch - General. Originally there was a two-storey porch here but it was rebuilt as a single storey by Bodley at the end of the 19thC. The masonry is 'B'-type and there are red sandstone battlemented parapets on the east, west and south walls, and below these a string course with stone 'troughs' channelling rainwater at south-east and south-west corners.

East wall:- a stepped buttress abuts south wall. In the wall a square-headed window with two-foiled ogee-headed lights, all in red sandstone; a label.

South wall:- the archway into the porch has a square-headed moulded frame with label, and within this a four-centred arch in red sandstone with decorated spandrels. It is now fitted with a pair of wood and wire gates. Above the archway is a heavily decorated, but empty, ogee-headed niche and between this and the doorway a coat-of-arms on a stone plaque.

West wall:- as east wall.

## Interior

Porch - General. One step up into the porch and one up to the church itself. Stone flagged floor; walls have exposed stonework with a mix of red and buff blocks of sandstone. Oak panelled ceiling with heavy joists.



North wall:- the south aisle doorway in original buff and yellow sandstone has a four-centred chamfered arch within a square-headed frame with fluted and moulded jambs, and over the frame a label (replaced) and large weathered head stops. In the spandrels are motifs of a lion and a Tudor rose. A pair of planked doors of no great age.

East wall:- a stone bench below a square-headed window aperture.

West wall:- as east wall.

Tower - General. One step down from the nave. A stone-flagged floor, loosely carpetted over. Exposed masonry to walls consisting of large linear blocks of reddish ashlar. Originally there was (or more likely was intended to be) a vaulted ceiling, and the corbels and springers are still in place, as are linking arches on the sides. Now a modern oak floor for the bell chamber.

North wall:- two wooden plaques (see below).

East wall:- a high two-centred chamfered tower arch of four orders, the innermost supported on engaged pillars and columns. Only the outermost order is original. The arch is fitted with an oak screen dating from 1906.

South wall:- 19thC monument to Lloyd, Lord Kenyon.

West wall:- four-centred arch to the reveal of the west doorway.

North aisle - General. Stone-flagged floor includes heating vent grilles and at least five worn gravestones, one with a date of 1788 date, and another with a brass plaque of 1793; flush woodblock floor under the benches. Exposed stonework to walls consists of sandstone ashlar, with radiators against them. Ribbed, panelled oak roof of four bays with camberbeams supported on modern corbels; 80 panels per bay. Reported to be an accurate reproduction of what was destroyed, on the basis of a report by Thomas Dinley in 1684. The roof dates from the end of the 19thC, and in contrast to the south aisle it lacks bosses. Chapel at the east end of the aisle and a baptistry at the west end.

North wall:- in the north-west a staircase leads to the church roof and is approached by three steps. A square-headed frame with a four-centred arch to the doorway and sunken spandrels; moulded and hollow chamfers. The north door has a high reveal with a four-centred head. Brasses of 1764, 1792 and two from the 20thC.

East wall:- one step up to a heavily decorated and curtained screen.

South wall:- three bays of a four-bay arcade in red sandstone with broad four-centred arches of two orders on clustered shafts and octagonal bases, restored by Bodley to the extent that it appears to be completely Victorian.

West wall:- nothing to record.

Fens or St Michael's chantry - General. Located at the east end of the north aisle. Contains an organ and the vestry. Stone floor, and one step up at a point which might suggest a sanctuary or altar. The fourth bay of the main arcade is on the south side and there is one 19thC brass on the east wall.

Nave - General. Floor and walls as north aisle. The roof consists of an arched ceiling of close-set trusses springing from wall plates above the arcades.

North wall:- as south wall of north aisle.

East wall:- a high two-centred chancel arch of two orders with engaged columns and capitals; hoodmould;



all in red sandstone, and all 19thC. Two 19thC brasses.

South wall:- a four-bay arcade as on the north side.

West wall:- tower arch of three orders, all 19thC and in keeping with the nave arcades.

Chancel - General. Stone flagged floor includes a slab inscribed 'B.E. SEP 12 1656'; one step up to the sanctuary, one to the altar. Wall stonework exposed. three-bay roof with tie-beams and short king posts, all 19thC.

North wall:- one 20thC brass.

South wall:- one 20thC brass and a painting.

South aisle - General. Floor, walls and roof as the north aisle, but there are bosses at some of the intersections, representing unfinished work by the villagers after the fire. A chapel at the east end of the aisle.

North wall:- arcade as south wall of the nave.

East wall:- screen across to chapel.

South wall:- doorway reveal four-centred but appears to be of late 19thC date. There was formerly a south-west corner gallery set above the south door, and a staircase to it ran up the west wall below the present four-light window: shown on a painting hanging on the west wall. Two 20thC brasses and one 20thC marble memorial.

Bettisfield/Hanmer or Holy Trinity Chapel - General. One step up to this chapel, another to the altar. Dedicated to Arabella Charlotte Hanmer, widow of Thomas Hanmer, who died in 1862.

East wall:- brass to Arabella Hanmer.

South wall:- a small niche with chamfered edges, probably an aumbry.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Wooden carvings: two, formerly sited within the gallery. i) records; 'this gallery was builded by Thomas Eddow of Ty Broughton, Gent, on his own charge AD 1638'. ii) a later board records 'for a free gallery to all the Parish. Except the foremost seat of the south side to his house and the foremost seat of the north side to the minister'.

Brasses: i) to Lewis Lewis (d.1764). ii) Margaret Morris (d.1792) and Thomas Morris (d.1795).

Chest: decorated panels and bearing the initials 'S R'. Date uncertain but could be 18thC.

Chairs: two chairs; one has a date of 1607 and a heavily decorated back, the other is to a different design and bearing no date. Two more chairs in the sanctuary heavily decorated with putti and urns and must be 18thC.

Table: with moulded legs, and probably a former altar table of 17thC date.

Chandelier: with two six-branch tiers. 'The gift of Mr Thos Davies of Chester to the Parish Church of Bangor Anno 1727'.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Pulpit: with carved panels.

Font: octagonal with carved facets, on a high two-step plinth.

Stained glass: the chancel east window by Shrigley and Hunt from 1936. the Bettisfield Chapel east window by Kempe from 1901.

Monuments: i) a grey marble memorial to Lloyd, Lord Kenyon (d.1802) by J Bacon, Junr, Sculptor, London from 1806. Lord Kenyon is seated in his robes of Lord Chief Justice, accompanied by figures of Faith and Justice, but all in small scale. Set into the south wall of the tower.

## CHURCHYARD

A large well-maintained rectangular churchyard, the north and west sides fenced off. An additional burial ground was consecrated on the north side of the church in 1854, ground on the south-eastern side adjoining the vicarage in 1859 and ground fronting the Overton road in 1883. The churchyard slopes from the north to the south

Boundary:- railings on the west side a stone revetment wall on the south side and wooden fencing and hedge on the east. North of the church all sides have a brick wall.

Monuments:- mix of slabs, chests and crosses of 18th - 20thC date. Weathered earlier 18thC gravestones lie to the west of the church. The graveyard remains unlevelled and hummocky ground on the north side reflects unmarked graves. An early grave - a sandstone slab to Edward Lloyd of Halghton - dates from 1646 and is located in the angle between the south aisle and chancel. The 'Founders Tomb' is set beside the south wall of the south aisle and has three panels bearing coats of arms; it is claimed to be the tomb of the architect of the old church, which was built c.1490.

Furniture:- the churchyard cross is a slender octagonal red sandstone shaft on a stepped octagonal base; the original steps that led up to the cross were altered in 1850. The worn 14thC (Decorated) head depicts the Crucifixion on the west face, the Virgin and Child on the east, St Chad on the north, and a mitred bishop on the south. It has been suggested that the cross was removed by Parliamentarians and only reinstated in 1739, when a parish record accounts for 'setting ye cross right'. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (F98). A sundial with the Hanmer crest is set on a moulded and carinated pedestal and circular plinth near the south porch; copper gnomon and a plate inscribed 'Thos. South, Rich. Hinton, Churchwardens 1821'. Made by Dolland of London.

Earthworks:- a gentle fall in the level of the graveyard on the south side of the church presumably marks the 1883 extension.

Ancillary features:- the main south entrance has churchyard gates which were the former chancel gates and screen, presumably of 1720, and attributable to Robert Davies; set between a pair of ornamental sandstone pillars surmounted by lions. A wide tarmac path leading up to south porch. An eastern pair of iron gates lead to the 17thC vicarage and Church Square. The gateless west entrance from School Lane has a gravel and cobblestone path leading to the south door,

Vegetation:- two large yews located near the south-east corner of the church and a large oak on the north-west side. More recent yews planted along the northern boundary. Large fir trees to either side of the south path.

## SOURCES

Church guides 1996 & 1997



CPAT Field Visits 22 May 1996 and 12 February 1999

CPAT SMR

Crossley and Ridgway 1945, 189

Dineley 1888, 65

Faculty: St Asaph 1854 (NLW): consecration of additional burial ground

Faculty: St Asaph 1859 (NLW): consecration of additional burial ground

Faculty: St Asaph 1883 (NLW): consecration of additional burial ground

Faculty: St Asaph 1889 (NLW): rebuilding of church

Faculty: St Asaph 1935 (NLW): restoration of church

Flintshire County Record Office: Parish Records

Glynne 1885, 125

Gresham 1968, 133, 190

Hubbard 1986, 361

Lee 1876b

RCAHMW 1912, 108

Quinquennial Report

Thomas 1908, 441

Williams 1892

## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair. Well-kept graveyard.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium



# Holt

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St Chad**PRN** 16796**NGR** SJ41205409

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## SUMMARY

St Chad's church on the eastern edge of Holt is a late Perpendicular building with nave, aisles and a west tower, which benefitted from the patronage of the Stanley family in the late 15thC. There is a fine south doorway and some impressive Perpendicular windows and, inside, arcades of earlier date. It houses a richly carved sandstone font, a chest and some interesting 17thC and 18thC brasses, but most of the remaining furnishings and fittings are 19thC. The churchyard is rectangular with a sundial pillar dated to 1766.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Nave has pointed arches to its arcades which are late 13thC/early 14thC Decorated. This would indicate that the early church had aisles, though these were probably narrower than the present ones on the basis of masonry details in the west wall of the south aisle.

West tower added in the mid to late 15thC, though one of Hubbard's collaborators suggested it could be as late as 1679; it is difficult to accept this belief.

Aisles rebuilt and chancel and aisles extended to the east at the end of the 15thC, sometime before 1495; west window in the tower added at this time.

Further restoration work in the 1730s and a major restoration in 1871.

## HISTORY

The church is dedicated to St Chad, the Saxon bishop of Lichfield, but there is no evidence to suggest that this was an early medieval foundation. Indeed the earliest documentary reference is as late as 1397. However, the town of Holt was a planned settlement by the Warren family, almost certainly in the early 1280s and the church was no doubt established around that time.

The early church was initially appropriated to the mother church at Gresford, but then passed to St Stephen's, Westminster. In 1547 it was transferred to the Dean and Chapter at Winchester, and included in the See of Chester.

Additions to the church and the late 15thC remodelling are attributed to the Stanley family. Sir William Stanley held the Lordship of Bromfield, and with it Holt Castle, from 1483 until he was executed by Henry VII in 1495. His work included taking down the outer walls of the aisles and the east wall of the chancel to sill level. Wider aisles were added and also extended to the full length of the chancel. The nave walls were also raised though without clerestoreys and continued to the east end to form the new chancel. The tower pointed arch was raised to correspond to the height of the new roof and a west window added. Large new windows were introduced into the aisles. To explain anomalies at the east end of the south aisle it has been suggested that because the east window of the aisle was too large for the wall to support, an external

buttress had to be placed nearer to this window than was planned. An internal pillar was then constructed where the exterior buttress should have been sited.

In 1604, the right of Bostocke and Crue to an oratory or chapel in the church is mentioned in Bishop Gastrell's 'Notitia'. The presence of a brass in the north aisle chapel to Thomas Crue (d.1666) by Silvanus Crue is relevant here.

During the Civil War of the 17thC, the church was occupied by Parliamentary forces; bullet marks on the wall and pillars at the west end of the church remain from this time.

In 1714, six bells were made by Rudhalls of Gloucester, and in 1720, Lord Grosvenor presented the church with a clock, which remained in the tower until 1901.

In 1732 the church was renovated. On the south face of the church a parapet replaced the Stanley battlements, and this incorporates a commemorative datestone 'John Rowe, Joshua Powell Church Wardens 1732'. The rood loft and screens were removed. A figure of £1,939 is recorded for this restoration.

Glynne visited the church at least twice, firstly at an unknown date and later in 1853. On both occasions in his fairly full description he noted that some of the old stalls survived in the chancel, and in 1853 that there were fragments of stained glass, presumably medieval. He also thought there was a crypt under the church. Thomas, too, noted remnants of the roodloft.

In 1861 the church was transferred to the diocese of St Asaph.

A major restoration took place between 1871-73. Planned by Ewan Christian it was carried out by Douglas of Chester. It included renewing the oak panelled roof of the nave, and in more elaborate fashion that above the sanctuary; completing the stone groins in the tower; re-laying the floors; and re-seating the nave. New oak screens were introduced to divide the chancel from the north and south chapels, the choir was refitted with oak seats and window tracery was renewed. Many memorial tablets were removed during the renovation of the interior and whatever remained of the rood screen and stalls was stripped out. The cost was nearly £4000.

The bells were hung in a new iron frame in 1896, the weathervane added to the tower in 1897, and in 1902 a new clock with Cambridge chimes was introduced.

More recent work includes the introduction of improved lighting and heating in 1960, and the construction of the boiler house. In 1963 there was restoration work on the tower and re-covering of the roofs.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel, north and south aisles and a west tower. It is oriented almost due east/west.

Fabrics: 'A' is of dressed red sandstone; coursed.

'B' medium to large rectangular blocks of paler red sandstone ashlar.

'A' is original late medieval stonework. 'B' is used for more recent restoration work.

Roofs:- the roof over the nave and aisles is reputedly covered in copper sheets. The flat roof over the tower is constructed in concrete and covered in asphalt. A cross finial to the chancel.

Drainage:- lead downspouts project rainwater from the parapets of the tower, and the water from the tower by gargoyles mounted on the string course below the battlements. Gravel laid at the base of the walls presumably disguises trenches on the north and south sides of the building.



## Exterior

**Tower - General.** A square western tower with a double plinth with chamfered coping at a height of c.0.7m; four string courses define four stages but only on the south and west faces. Battlements renewed in sandstone ashlar ('B'), and surmounted by a flat roof with a weathervane on the north side, and a central flagpole; gargoyles at the angles. There are stepped diagonal buttresses at the north-west and south-west corners, the steps in line with the string courses, and the buttresses terminating at belfry window springer level; and a straight buttress on the north side near the east angle rises above the north aisle, and is matched by a projecting stair turret on the south side.

**North wall:-** only the upper step of the basal plinth is visible. A slit aperture with chamfered dressings in the third stage and above this a string course with a two-centred belfry window above, containing two louvred, trefoiled, two-centred lights and an angular quatrefoil above; a hoodmould. The chamfered dressings are worn. Above the belfry level a worn string course with gargoyles.

**East wall:-** rises above the nave. In the third stage is what may be a doorway with a peaked hoodmould over it (though there are difficulties in observing this feature), and in the next stage a standard belfry window with worn dressings. The highest string course has beneath it a row of grotesque heads, rather like a corbel table.

**South wall:-** a slit window in the third stage has worn chamfered jambs but perhaps a new lintel. A standard belfry window in the fourth stage with original dressings. At the south-eastern angle a projecting stair-turret which is corbelled outwards at two points, rises to the full height of the tower and is topped by battlements. Its walls have five window slits, all on the south face. The masonry in the angle between the south wall of the tower and the stair turret includes the trefoiled head of a window and higher up a second carved stone.

**West wall:-** the ground floor has a two-centred doorway of two orders with roll-moulded chamfers and a renewed hoodmould; all the dressings are weathered. The twin doors themselves are studded. The second stage has a window that appears to post-date the construction of the tower, presumably relating to the late 15thC remodelling elsewhere in the building. It has a two-centred arch with a renewed hoodmould over three cinquefoiled, two-centred lights with foiled panel tracery above. The third stage has both a single square-headed slit with chamfered jambs and an open ironwork clock, while the fourth stage has a standard belfry window, though the hoodmould appears to have worn head stops. Beneath the top string course is another row of grotesque heads, but these are closer together than on the south wall.

**Boiler House - General.** Located below ground level in the angle between the north wall of the tower and the west wall of the north aisle. There is a stepped entrance alongside the tower wall. Its concrete roof is set below the sill level of the north aisle's west window.

**North Aisle - General.** Constructed in fabric 'A' with large linear blocks at the base of the walls. A two-tiered stepped plinth, variable in height from 1m to 1.5m above ground level, is stepped down in three places on the north wall to compensate for the ground slope which falls from west to east.

**North wall:-** a north-west diagonal buttress, five straight buttresses and an angle buttress at the east end together form six bays. The sixth bay, at the east end, is of almost double width and includes two windows. The east corner buttress and the three buttresses to the west of it rise to crocketed pinnacles with grotesque carvings, and are indicative of the replacement of the aisle by the Stanleys. A moulded string course with concave soffit runs below both the plain parapet of the three western bays and the battlements in the eastern bays, and also contours around each buttress. The six four-centred windows have hoodmoulds with simple out-turned stops, and four foiled lights with sub arches and panel tracery above. The easternmost window is narrower than the rest, presumably to accommodate it in the wide bay, but of the same design. It shares a hoodmould with its neighbour. Most of the windows show some renewal to their dressings, but especially the mullions of those at the east end. The second bay from the west contains a square-headed doorway with a moulded label which is then stepped down to form a string course running only as far as the buttresses to either side; there is a four-centred inner arch to the doorway with quatrefoils in the spandrels, and fluted chamfers to the jambs and arch. A broad studded door.



**East wall:-** double basal plinth and string course continue from north wall. The east window, which is set higher than those in the north wall, has a two-centred arch with hoodmould over five tall, foiled, ogee-headed lights with sub arches and panel tracery above.

**West wall:-** abuts the tower buttress and is clearly later. The window has a weathered, four-centred arch with a much damaged hoodmould over four foiled, ogee-headed lights with sub arches and panel tracery above.

**Nave - General.** Nothing of this is visible externally from ground level.

**Chancel - General.** Only the east wall is visible externally.

**East wall:-** stepped basal plinth and two string courses. There are two straight, stepped buttresses which terminate in trefoiled canopies and crocketed pinnacles. These divide the chancel from the aisles to either side, but these are not precisely the same for the stepped plinth goes round the one to the north but not that to the south. Below the lower string course which arches over a niche with fluted chamfers is a memorial slab set into the wall to Jasper Peck (d.1712) and his wife Mary (d.1740). Above this is a large, wide four-centred window with a transom dividing the shallow arched, cinquefoiled lights below and inverted arches on its upper side which lie at the base of cinquefoiled tracery lights; sub arches and foiled panel tracery; hollow chamfered jambs and a hoodmould. All the dressings look original. The parapet at the apex carries an inscribed slab stating 'The Reverend John Adams Minister 1732'. The stonework of this wall carries some carved names and initials such as 'Thomas Baker 1794' and 'Tho. Gee'.

**South aisle - General.** Wider than the north aisle, but of similar height and design, and similarly displays an eastern extension by the Stanleys.

**East wall:-** the double plinth of this wall does not line up with that of the chancel. The window with a wide, four-centred arch and hoodmould over six foiled, ogee-headed lights with sub arches and panel tracery above. Very similar to the equivalent window in the north aisle, but extra embellishments, with a sort of pseudo-capital below each springer. The mullions may have been renewed.

**South wall:-** in 'A' but some 'B' at the east end. Along the whole length is a plain parapet with capstones rather than battlements, a result of a restoration in 1732 which is recorded on a datestone in the second bay from the west above the doorway (see above). Windows as on the north side, also showing mullion renewal. Underneath the more westerly of the paired windows in the most easterly bay are two stones projecting step-like from the lower plinth: could there have been a doorway here originally? The second bay from the west contains a more ornate doorway than the north aisle, since it was the approach from the castle at Holt. The square-headed doorway has a label with foliate decoration and much weathered stops, and above this is a panel depicting the Annunciation. The masonry is extremely weathered but there are carved spandrels which include the Arms of Henry VII, and a mitred figure which is in relief on the hollow chamfer. The doorway has a four-centred arch and chamfered dressings, hollowed and fluted. Above the doorway is a projecting string course with fluted underside, and about 1.5m above this is a carved frieze of small quatrefoils with its own string course above. As on the east side there is graffiti on the stonework surrounding the door including 'I.C. 1730'.

**West wall:-** a standard four-light window as in the west wall of the north aisle. This wall abuts the tower staircase turret.

## Interior

**General.** The walls of the interior show carved initials, some of which may have denoted the owners of adjacent pews. There are masons' marks on the internal stonework.



**Tower - General.** Ground floor forms main entrance to the church and there is a disabled ramp from the tower into the main body of the church which is effectively two steps lower than the tower. Red and black tiled floor. Walls have exposed stonework. The ceiling was vaulted by Douglas with eight ribs; the springers reportedly already existed, but it is worth remarking that in the south-west corner the vaulting springs from a large stepped corbel, but in the other corners it emerges directly from the walls. The second floor has the clock mechanism and the bell ringing chamber, with a planked floor and ceiling. The third floor is the belfry.

**North wall:-** some masons' marks visible on the sandstone blocks. Wooden plaque of the Incorporated Society for Buildings and Churches from 1871, and brasses recording the installation of electric lighting in 1936 and the clock and chimes in 1902.

**East wall:-** a high, narrow, two-centred chamfered arch of two orders; the inner arch with engaged capitals, the outer directly from the wall faces. The arch rises almost to the clock chamber, having been raised by the Stanleys.

**South wall:-** doorway leads to spiral staircase, with one worn step in the tower. The doorway has a rectangular frame with moulded chamfers and pyramid stops. Wooden boxing running up the wall encases works associated with the clock.

**West wall:-** an inner porch with one step down. Segmental head to the reveal. The door itself of some antiquity, as noted above.

**North aisle - General.** Red and black tiled floor, and flush, planked floor below benches. Stonework of walls all exposed. Roof of ten camberbeams form eight bays for the full length of the roof, and the principals are supported on short wall posts resting on head stops of medieval date. The camberbeams are moulded - are they original? The west end is screened off as a modern vestry. The east end is occupied by a chapel - formerly the Crue chapel. It is fully carpeted with modern oak fittings, and is separated from the aisle by a large pipe organ which fills the width of the aisle.

**North wall:-** four-centred arch to the reveal of the north door which is now disused. The door itself is similar to that in the west wall of the tower. On the threshold stone rests the carving of an animal, probably from a corbel course or the like. There are brasses of 1767 and 1784, one marble memorial of 1712/1731 and two 19thC marble memorials. Initials carved on the wall include '1707 I M' and 'C I 1711' in a square frame, and are generally held to be the initials of adjacent pew owners.

**East wall:-** an organ divides the aisle from the north chapel, this at the end of the fifth bay.

**South wall:-** a five-bay arcade, of Decorated style, of high, narrow, sharply pointed two-centred arches on octagonal stone piers, with moulded capitals and bases. To the east of the fifth bay the wall is fractionally outset and in ashlar. Above the apices of the arches, the wall has been set outwards (i.e. to the north), but only one course before the roof starts.

**West wall:-** a bell of unknown date rests on the window sill.

**North chapel - General.** Carpet throughout. Walls and roof as north aisle.

**North wall:-** a fine brass of 1666.

**East wall:-** the window of this wall but also those in the north wall, a ledge has been cut into the sill of the window, an original feature.

**South wall:-** arcade with two four-centred arches, heavily moulded. The octagonal piers have slightly hollow faces, and there are octagonal capitals and bases. The more westerly bay has a parclose screen, that to the east is separated from the chancel by a low stone wall interrupted by a two-step entrance.

**West wall:-** the organ.



**Nave - General.** Floor as north aisle but aisle carpetted. Walls as north aisle, but a change in the masonry above the arcade arches indicates that it has been heightened. The high roof which was raised by the Stanleys, is unusual for the absence of clerestories below it. It is continuous across the nave and chancel, but in the nave its four camberbeams create five bays, with a fifth beam over the screen. These are moulded and the spandrels above the wall posts are decorated. Moulded ribs between the camberbeams create 40 panels to each bay. The principals are supported on stone corbels, some carved; and the bosses at the intersections are carved with Tudor rose motifs.

**North wall:-** arcade as described above. Some initials carved on the pillars, with one particular one which has something along the lines of 'C S 16?2' overlain by 'JM T I 1742' representing a palimpsest which reinforces the view that these were the initials of adjacent pew holders. A change to ashlar masonry at the extreme east end of the nave.

**East wall:-** two steps up to the chancel and a 19thC oak screen of five bays, the upper part filled with tracery and the beam ornamented with cresting.

**South wall:-** five bay arcade comparable with north arcade. Above the pillar supporting the most westerly arch an alcove or slot in the masonry - perhaps for a gallery timber? Again an obvious change in the masonry at the east end.

**West wall:-** two-centred tower arch of two orders; the moulding on the capitals of the inner order is carried across the outer order where there is no capital. One brass of 1784.

**Chancel - General.** Two step up from the nave and two to the sanctuary. Carpetted central aisle with longitudinal choir stalls on raised planked floors. The sanctuary has an encaustic tiled floor and modern fittings. Roof of two main bays which are sub-divided; the camberbeams are heavily decorated but the central one of the three is not supported on corbels. Smaller panels within each bay with bosses at the intersections of the ribs, and larger bosses on the undersides of the camberbeams; tracery in the panels over the sanctuary. Note that the alignment of the chancel is fractionally different from that of the nave.

**North wall:-** the chancel is separated from the north chapel by a two-bay arcade as noted above. The chancel wall is clearly outset from the nave wall on this side.

**East wall:-** against the wall, the south arcade is supported on a corbel comparable with the capital heads, and carved with an angel carrying a tablet on the underside.

**South wall:-** as north wall.

**West wall:-** screen as noted.

**South aisle - General.** Floor, walls and roof of eight bays as north aisle. However while the western bays have principals which are in alignment across the two aisles, the eastern principals are not in alignment with those in the north aisle. There is no obvious reason for this anomaly. Camberbeams rest on stone corbels, some worn. The west end is used as a baptistry. At the east end is a Lady Chapel, tiled and in places carpetted, with modern oak fittings.

**North wall:-** arcade as on north side, with five bays to the nave and two to the chancel.

**East wall:-** against the east wall a respond but this does not rise higher than the abacus. This looks as though it ought to have completed the arcade yet it does not and it is out of alignment. It has been argued that it buttresses the wall because of the large-sized east window. Could it just represent poor building or as Hubbard suggested a change of plan?

**South wall:-** in the chapel is a red sandstone piscina in Decorated style; it has an ogee-head to the niche with thin pinnacled buttresses to either side resting on animal-head corbels. And the ledge has a corbel depicting the head of a green man; yet there is no bowl. The piscina pre-dates the fabric of the wall, and is



obviously reset. Three consecration crosses on the south wall of the chapel. Internal wooden porch to the south door.

West wall:- the wall reveals two phases of construction for beneath the window is a butt joint though with projecting bonding stones giving a stepped pattern. The masonry to the north of this joint is more worn than the ashlar to the south, and also this ashlar is visible around all of the window which looks to be inserted into the earlier wall.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Descriptions from Hubbard with additions.

Font: octagonal sandstone font: of c.1493 with fine decoration. Heraldic panels depict aspects of the history of the Lordship of Bromfield over the previous two hundred years, each face of the bowl, the stem and the coving is carved in boldly scaled relief. Symbolism includes arms of the Warren, Stanley and Fitzalan families.

Chest: iron bound chest, plank built, with four locks. No date.

Bell: parson's bell of the c.15thC. This may be the bell in the vestry.

Monuments: marble memorials to i) Jasper Peck (d.1712) and others. ii) Captain William Peck (d.1757), a cartouche with putto. iii) Susanna Peck (d.1782) with a lintel and tipped urn. iv) memorial with triangular pedimented head to Christian Jones of Pentref (d.1789).

Brasses: i) a small plate to Thomas Crue (d.1666) and signed in Greek by Silvanus Crue of Wrexham. Inscription and various symbols of mortality. ii) to Mary Dutton of Grafton Hall (d.1767), her father Roger (d.1782) and his wife, Justina (d.1799). iii) to Christopher Dod of Holt (d.1784). iv) to John Lloyd of Issacoid (d.1784), with angel on clouds.

Bells: six cast by Abraham Rudhall in 1714. Two were recast in 1738 and 1752.

Register: from 1661.

Note: 49 varying masons' marks on the arcade pillars, the walls and the tower have been recorded.

19thC and later furnishings and fittings include:

Pulpit: 19thC and heavily embellished.

Organ: a large pipe organ made by Norman Beard in 1910 and rebuilt 1976.

Monuments: i) white on grey marble to Christian Smith (d.1811) and others by Edwards of Chester, with putto, urn and pediment. ii) white marble on black background to Thomas Poole of Eyton (d.1815), by Haswell of Chester.

## CHURCHYARD

The original rectangular churchyard was extended to the south in 1881 as a result of an 1880 enquiry into its crowded condition. Though there was plenty of space on the north-west side further ground was also enclosed on west where there had been a back lane to Church Street. The ground immediately around the church was closed for burials at this time. There was a later extension in the south-east corner. The ground slopes naturally from west to east where it overlooks the River Dee.

**Boundary:-** red brick wall beside the west path, along the west side of the churchyard. Hedged boundaries to the north and east and a stone wall on the south. Garden wall to the north-west of the church.

**Monuments:-** no marked burials on the north side. Scattered marked burials on the south and east sides include several chest tombs of mainly early 19thC date. Gravestones of 1776 and 1780 on the south. Some gravestones laid flat for paths.

**Furniture:-** the red sandstone pillar for a sundial is mounted on a stepped circular base, and has a circular shaft becoming octagonal above a roll moulding. The octagonal faces are incised 'TP WR CW 1766'. No dial. It has been suggested that it may originally have been part of a Roman column.

**Earthworks:-** not raised, though there is a drop of perhaps 0.5m on the north side.

**Ancillary features:-** the main entrance to the churchyard is along a narrow drive between property on the east side of Church Street. There are wrought iron ornamental gates, made in Wrexham in 1816, sited where an earlier lychgate had stood. Tarmac and slab paths laid along the north, south and west sides of the church. Store shed in north-west corner.

**Vegetation:-** 19thC yews mark the original rectangular layout.

## SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1996  
CPAT Field Visits: 27 March 1997 and 12 February 1999  
CPAT SMR  
Crossley 1946, 25  
Denbighshire Record Office: PD/39/1/43 (c.1880)  
Glynne 1885, 125  
Hubbard 1986, 182  
Lloyd Williams and Underwood 1872 pl 33-34  
Palmer 1910, 169  
Powell 1973, 11  
Pratt 1965,  
Quinquennial Report  
Soulsby 1983, 144  
Thomas 1913, 259



## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair apart from weathering of sandstone. Well-kept churchyard.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor to Medium

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Medium to Good

Group value: Medium

## Isycoed

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St Paul**PRN** 17136**NGR** SJ40405010

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**SUMMARY**

The church of St Paul is of late Georgian build, and is located in a large extended churchyard. There are no early features but it does include box pews in the west gallery.

**ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY**

The present church was built wholly of brick in 1829 in Georgian style. The interior was restored at the end of the 19thC.

**HISTORY**

Isycoed was formerly regarded as a part of Holt and it may not have become a separate parish until 1827. There was a church (or chapel) on the site in 1718 and this was superseded by a new structure in 1742, but it is unclear whether there was a medieval structure here - currently there is no evidence for one.

The old church was demolished and a completely new church built in 1829 by John Butler at a cost of £700.

The interior of the present church was altered at some point in the later 19thC, probably c.1871. The box pews were removed from the nave, a new roof replaced the old and the interior was re-painted. The south-west vestry door was moved from its position in the vestry east wall to its present position in the north wall. The north and south wall doorways were bricked up, the chancel given a new oak wagon ceiling, and it was refloored along with the nave. Presumably at this time, the pulpit and reading desks were moved from their positions to either side of the chancel, where the longitudinal stalls and organ are now located. Prior to this alteration, a stove was located in a central position in the north aisle.

A report on the poor state of repair of the church in 1890 was followed by the programme of restoration work to plans prepared by Howel Davies of Wrexham.

**ARCHITECTURE**

The church has a nave and chancel in one, and a small but narrow sanctuary. There is also a small western tower which is set into the west end of the nave. The church is oriented north-north-west/south-south-east but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted in the description that follows.

**Fabric:** 'A' consists of red brick in Flemish bond.

**Roof:-** slates with black ceramic ridge tiles.

**Drainage:-** no obvious drainage trench around the church, although on three sides there is a tarmac surface.



Note: as this is a wholly 19thC building the following report is a summary only.

## Exterior

General: a continuous brick plinth up to three courses high above ground level is visible on all walls, though because of the natural ground slope it is not visible at the western end of the nave. All the windows have wooden frames.

Tower - General. A four-stage structure though no division between the first two stages. The top of the second stage is marked by a protruding brick course and the third stage by a moulded freestone string course at nave roof level. Finally above the belfry stage there is another freestone string course which is topped by crown finials at the corners. Above this rises a smaller octagonal turret with a domed and leaded roof which has a weathervane marked 'LIRE CW 1742'.

North wall:- a small round-headed louvred belfry window, the arch turned in brick but with a stone sill.

East wall:- belfry window as north wall.

South wall:- belfry window as north wall.

West wall:- a pair of panelled entrance doors (from 1964) under a round-headed arch turned in brick. The second stage has a round-headed window with plain glass. In place of the belfry window is a blind roundel with a sandstone frame.

## Nave - General.

North wall:- five tall and rather narrow round-headed windows with brick voussoirs. At the west end is a blocked doorway, also round-headed with long brick voussoirs; it is approached by a worn sandstone step. There is a blank sandstone slab with moulded edge, presumably an unused datestone, above the doorway. To the west of the door is a blind window to the same pattern as the windows further east, and either side of this are tie-rod plates, and adjacent is a metal chimney.

East wall:- a round-headed window of standard form to either side of the sanctuary.

South wall:- in all essentials, including the blind window at the west end, it is the same as the north wall, except that there is no sandstone slab above the doorway.

West wall:- round-headed windows of standard appearance to either side of the tower.

Sanctuary - General. A small projecting compartment.

East wall:- a round-headed window, wider than those in the nave, over the only stained glass window.

## Interior

Tower - General. Tiled floor to entrance, plastered and painted walls; plastered ceiling.

Nave - General. Carpetted, but woodblock floors beneath the benches. Plastered walls painted pink and buff. Ceiling of 104 square panels filled with tongue and groove planking.

North wall:- the doorway at the west end shows as an arched alcove. Radiators against the wall.

East wall:- a low screen with built-in pulpit and reader's desk.

South wall:- as north wall.

West wall:- the west gallery is supported on four cast iron columns, and has a panelled wooden front. It retains its numbered box pews. A ladder leads up to the belfry from the rear of this gallery. Beneath the gallery is the entrance to the vestry on the south side, and to the north an alcove acting as a baptistry with an encaustic tiled floor and two triptychs on the wall. North of this the stairs to the gallery itself.

Chancel - General. At the same level as the nave with no division but a low screen. Floor, walls and ceiling as nave.

North wall:- the organ against the wall.

East wall:- wall painted blue, metal Decalogue boards to either side of a large, plain segmental arch with 'Glory to God in the Highest' painted over it.

South wall:- nothing to report.

Sanctuary - General. One step up from the chancel. Carpetted, the walls painted blue. Panelled woden ceiling. Plain north and south walls and a stained glass window in the east wall.

Vestry - General. In the south-west corner of the church below the gallery. Woodblock floors, plastered and painted walls and ceiling. A cast-iron fire grate in the south wall.

#### FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: small round bowl tapering to square base, but stemless. On the edges of the base 'W Dutton, C Minshall C W 1725'.

Chest: churchwardens' chest at rear of gallery, possibly 18thC.

Registers: from 1749.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Font: octagonal, lead-lined bowl mounted on octagonal base.

Corona: Victorian, in central aisle.

Stained glass: east window by Swaine Bourne of Birmingham.

Decalogue boards: mounted on east wall to either side of sanctuary alcove.

Organ: by Bevington and Sons, London.

#### CHURCHYARD

The original rectangular churchyard on level ground is supposed to have been extended to the south,



though the date of this has not been established.

Boundary:- on the east a low red brick wall surmounted by stone capping and iron railings forms the eastern roadside boundary. Hedges on the north, south and west.

Monuments:- the earliest graves are located to the east of the church. One small round-headed slab by the sanctuary is carved 'E.D. 1752'. Otherwise apart from a gravestone of 1790 all are 19thC and 20thC.

Earthworks:- most of the churchyard is set over ridge and furrow. Clear on the south side less obvious to the north of the church. The churchyard is raised by perhaps 0.5m on the east side, but not elsewhere.

Furniture:- south-east of the sanctuary is a stepped base, probably for a low sundial that has now gone.

Ancillary features:- a pair of iron gates set in sandstone pillars and dating from 1964 form the main entrance. A single gate to a field on the west side. Tarmac paths all round.

Vegetation:- deciduous trees to either side of the west gate, and yews to either side of the east entrance, and two more deciduous trees to the north of it. One yew in the north-west corner.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visits: 29 June 1996 and 5 February 1999

CPAT SMR

Denbighshire County Record Office: D/BP/1063 (1871) plan of church

Hubbard 1986, 184

Faculty: St Asaph 1890 (NLW): restoration

Faculty: St Asaph 1915 (NLW): addition to churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1944 (NLW): addition to churchyard

Thomas 1908, 452

## CONDITION

Generally in a good state of repair; plasterwork peeling all around the interior, but a superficial problem only. Church is naturally well-lit and airy.

## 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 to Medium



# Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog

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**Diocese** St Asaph

**Dedication** St Garmon

**PRN** 100998

**NGR** SJ15833280

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## GENERAL SUMMARY

St Garmon's church lies at the eastern end of the village of Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog, 8 miles to the south-west of Chirk. Little is known of its history though an early medieval origin can be assumed from the dedication and its location beside the Ceiriog. Victorian rebuilding has left nothing of the medieval structure and there are no furnishings or fittings earlier than the 18thC. The churchyard was perhaps once curvilinear and displays one of the 'preaching mounds' associated with churches dedicated to St Garmon.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The church is a complete rebuilding from the early Victorian era.

## HISTORY

The church was reputedly founded in the 5thC by St Garmon. Nothing of this remains nor of its medieval successor.

In the 1254 Taxatio it appears as 'Capella de Llangamayan' and in that of 1291 as 'Ecclesia de Llanarmaior' valued at £4 6s 8d.

Prior to its demolition in the 19thC the 'old church was a parallelogram in form with a square flat tower at the west end and a south porch; the floor was of clay covered with rushes and it was seated with benches and two large high backed pews' (Thomas).

The church was rebuilt in 1846 by Thomas Jones. A hoard of over 100 coins of Edward IV, now in the British Museum, was found during the demolition.

A heating system was installed in 1930 including a boiler room at the north-west corner. Major renovation took place in 1986/87.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel in one, and a west tower with a short spire over the porch entrance. It is oriented west-north-west/east-south-east but for descriptive purposes 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted for the building, though not for the churchyard.

Fabrics:- 'A', the only fabric, consists of irregular blocks and some slabs of grey shale with occasional rounded river stones and rare quartz blocks; more regular blocks used for quoins. There is no obvious re-use of material though this cannot be entirely ruled out. Heavy pink mortar pointing.

Roof:- reconstituted grey clay tiles, and the ridge tiles probably similar. Stone cross finial at east end. A slated spire.

Drainage:- no obvious drainage trench but all the downpipes are sunk into the ground, and there are hints of ground disturbance along the north and south walls.

Note: the church represents a complete Victorian rebuild. As a consequence the following description is only a summary.

#### Exterior

Tower - General. Square tower of three stages including low basal plinth. The third stage has broached angles converting to an octagonal cross-section just below the level of the nave roof apex. Battlemented parapet and then an octagonal spire surmounted by a weathervane.

North wall:- second stage has a single small four-centred light illuminating the ground floor, while the third stage has a two-light window, the lights with standard four-centred heads and tracery. Above this a louvred belfry window of standard design as seen below.

East wall:- standard belfry window immediately above the nave roof apex.

South wall:- as north side.

West wall:- square-headed doorway with four-centred arch and filled spandrels, and a relieving arch over. Standard windows above.

Nave and Chancel - General. The body of the church is a simple rectangle, though unusually the angles are chamfered. Walls have a plinth topped by chamfered freestone at a height of 1m-1.5m. Windows of consistent appearance in Victorian Perpendicular.

North wall:- three windows with four-centred arches, three ogee-headed lights having cinquefoil tracery, and six cusped panels above; worn dressings in yellow sandstone.

East wall:- three-centred east window of five lights with panels above. Uninscribed lozenge-shaped tablet set just below apex of gable.

South wall:- as north wall.

West wall:- chamfered corners have slit windows, one above the other. On either side of the tower the wall face has a small, square aperture covered by wire mesh.

#### Interior

Porch/Tower - General. Porch beneath the tower leads to an inner porch under the west gallery. Floor covered by lino, walls plastered and painted, flat ceiling at c.3m. Inner porch has modern doors in north and south walls giving access to gallery.

North wall:- splayed window with flat soffit and rough jambs.

East wall:- segmental-headed arch with chamfered jambs.

South wall:- as north wall.

West wall:- segmental-headed arch with chamfered jambs.



Nave - General. Carpetted floors, plastered and painted walls (from 1987). Roof of five bays (including sanctuary); collars and king struts, supported on diagonal bracing and reinforced by metal tie-rods.

North wall:- three splayed windows and three memorial tablets, two of the 19thC, one of the 20thC.

East wall:- step up to sanctuary.

South wall:- three splayed windows plus a memorial plaque commemorating the benefactor who facilitated the restoration of the church.

West wall:- lower part of wall brought forward to support gallery above; in angles at gallery level are internal buttresses. The gallery front carries a painted inscription recording the rebuilding in 1846 through the benevolence of F.R.West, and with the addition of two other grants. Names of vicar and churchwardens given.

Sanctuary - General. Details as nave, which is separated from the sanctuary by a single step. Pulpit and reading desk on either side of the altar.

East wall:- splayed window and internal buttresses in corners which counteract the external chamfered angles.

#### FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Altar rails: 'late 17thC or early 18thC turned rails and similar ones on the gallery front' (Hubbard).

Table: small and unadorned, from the old church; sold in 1846 but given back to church in 1970.

Pews: gated box pews, three with brass owners' plaques.

Pulpit and reading desk: dates uncertain.

Plate: cup of 1631/2.

#### CHURCHYARD

The church is situated towards the eastern end of a sub-elliptical churchyard enclosure which occupies a natural terrace on the south side of Afon Ceiriog. Originally it was probably more curvilinear than it appears today. A modern extension lies to the south-east. It is well-maintained and is still used for burial.

Boundary:- this is defined by a stone wall of relatively modern appearance; it revets an earthen bank around the south side where the ground level is up to one metre lower, and on the north it acts as a retaining wall where the slope has been cut back. The extension on the east has resulted in the removal of the boundary leaving just a low bank.

Monuments:- these are not dense; they are spread out around the south, a few are scattered on the east side, and there are 20thC memorials on the north. A mixture of gravestones and chest tombs with some ledgers which are generally in poor condition. South of the tower are the earliest gravestones from 1742 and 1745, and there are distinctive Welsh tombstones from the 1820s.

Furniture:- none.

Earthworks:- a large mound - Tomen Garmon - at the western end of the churchyard; it is not circular but

looks to have been cut back on the north and east. It has an unmarked upright slab on the top. The church itself is set on a slight platform, noticeable on the south and particularly the east where it is up to 0.5m high; on the north it is even more pronounced but this is part due to the natural fall of the ground.

Ancillary features:- double wrought iron gates on the west with a cobbled and gravel path to the porch. A separate entrance at the east to the new extension.

Vegetation:- two ancient yews immediately to the west of the porch, two younger ones further west, and another to the south of the church. Holly trees scattered in the churchyard and some deciduous trees and pines around the western and southern boundary.

## SOURCES

Clwyd SMR  
CPAT Field Visit: 9 October 1997  
Faculty: St Asaph 1930 (NLW)  
Hubbard 1986, 184  
Quinquennial Review 1986  
Quinquennial Review 1992  
Ridgway 1997, 109  
Thomas 1911, 276



## CONDITION

Appears to be in good condition.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Good

# Marchwiel

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<b>Diocese</b>	St Asaph	<b>Dedication</b>	Ss Deiniol and Marcella
<b>PRN</b>	100145	<b>NGR</b>	SJ35704772
		<b>Previous dedication</b>	St Deiniol

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## SUMMARY

St Marcellus' church is a wholly Georgian structure which replaced a medieval predecessor in 1778. It contains several monuments to Yorke family of Erddig, and some interesting stained glass from the late 18thC. The building is set on a slightly raised platform within the present extended, rectangular churchyard.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

A Georgian church from 1778 with additions of a tower in 1789, a north transept in 1829 and a 19thC polygonal apse to the chancel.

## HISTORY

The original dedication was to St Deiniol but this in itself cannot be taken as an indication that the site had an early medieval origin, and there is nothing that points to a pre-Conquest foundation.

'Ecclesia de Marchocil' is recorded in the Norwich Taxation in 1254, and it appears later as 'Ecclia de Marthwyel' in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 with a value of £5.

Two wooden boards on the south wall of the tower staircase bear the following record: 'Parish of St Marcella, formerly called St Deiniol, originally part of parish of Bangor-is-y-Coed until c.1535, at which time it became a Parish of itself. On the site where the present church stands was formerly a chapel called St Deiniols belonging to the Monastery of Bangor-is-y-coed and after its demolition took the present name from materials of which the first church was built viz. strong twigs and mortar, march in Welsh denoting strength and gwiall meaning twigs. The said church was dedicated to St Marcella by Bishop Wharton September 5th 1537'. Of its form we know nothing..'

The present church was built by subscription in 1778. The tower was added in 1789 by James Wyatt at the expense of Philip Yorke of Erddig and a subscription of £50 from Charles Brown of Marchwiel Hall, at an overall cost of £450.

The building was enlarged in 1828/9 by the addition of a north transept to house an organ gallery and vestry. An apse was also added to the chancel, probably a Victorian embellishment according to Hubbard.

In the present century there were repairs and reseating in 1923, the erection of the altar and reredos in 1927, faculties for re-seating in 1938 and renovation work in 1939, and in 1960 the coke-fired heating system was replaced by an electric one. In 1977/8 a major restoration programme included re-slating the roofs, re-timbering the barrel vaulted ceiling over the chancel; replastering the walls and replacing in concrete the timber floors in the chancel and north transept. The church was rewired and the vestry modernised. Pews were removed from the north transept and loose chairs substituted. Toilet facilities were added to part of this north vestry/transept.



## ARCHITECTURE

The church comprises a nave and chancel, a north transept and a west tower. The church is oriented west-north-west/east-south-east but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted in the description that follows.

Fabric: 'A' consists of medium to large linear blocks of buff-yellow sandstone ashlar with regular coursing.

Brick footings are visible along the south wall and below the sanctuary, and the vicar reports that the inside of the tower and the north transept are faced with brick.

Roofs:- slate with black reconstituted clay ridge tiles.

Drainage:- guttering and downpipes lead to soakaways. A cobbled zone around the whole church, except along part of the south, probably covers a drainage trench.

### Exterior

General. There is a basal plinth around the whole church to a height of c.0.5m, consisting of projecting blocks of stone which give a narrow flat ledge on the top of the plinth. The stones forming the plinth are larger for the tower than for the body of the church. Overhanging cornices below the parapets.

Tower - General. A west tower with a standard basal plinth which rises in three stages, separated by string courses, the first a moulded string course, the second a pilaster string course. Above the third stage an overhanging moulded cornice and then a balustraded parapet which is set back slightly, and four corner urn finials surmounted by weathervanes. The upper two stages have their faces fractionally inset.

North wall:- the first two stages are featureless; the third stage has a belfry window consisting of a long round-headed, louvred window with large, arced slabs for the arch. A long downpipe.

East wall:- as north wall with only the belfry window but no downpipe.

South wall:- in the second stage is a clock face set in a roundel with a moulded stone surround, and in the third a standard belfry window.

West wall:- in the first stage is what was once the main door - there is now a large, wide, round-headed window. This retains the moulded pilaster columns, foliate capitals with moulded abaci and large consoles, and a hoodmould, of its predecessor but there is stone blocking beneath the window, down to ground level. In the second stage a black clock face with gold numerals in the roundel. The third stage has a standard belfry window.

Nave - General. Basal plinth and moulded overhanging cornice.

North wall:- on the west side of the north transept is a single tall round-headed window with a grille over it as indeed have many of the windows. The arch stones are of a different form from those in the tower (see below under south wall).

East wall:- visible above the chancel roof line, the cornice forms a string course.

South wall:- at the west end is the main doorway, a plain, round-headed archway with pilasters formed of large projecting blocks and a pediment defined by moulded courses; a semi-circular glass panel in the tympanum. Further east are three round-headed windows with arches of voussoir-like stones, and below the middle one is a railed grave plot.

West wall:- short, featureless sections only.

North transept - General. An addition to the north wall of the nave with a continuous plinth to the same height as that of the nave and chancel. The cornice is similar to but not exactly the same as that in the nave.

North wall:- a round-headed window with a tie-rod plate beside it. Above the string course ( an extension of the cornice) is a blocked aperture, presumably formerly a window in the gable.

West wall:- one round-headed window, the arch stones matching those in the church rather than the tower.

East wall:- round-headed window and to the north of it a plain, square-headed doorway. Outside this east door, a patch of flagstones suggests that there was originally a porch here.

Chancel - General. Plinth as nave. A narrower and lower addition to the nave with a polygonal apse. The three sides that light the sanctuary contain square-headed stained glass windows, those on the north and south sides, much larger than that in the east wall.

## Interior

Tower - General. Part of the ground floor forms a vestry which is panelled off. The rest which links with the nave was until recently the baptistry. Carpetted floors, plastered and painted walls, and a planked ceiling. Above this is the organ loft approached by a dog-leg staircase. In the organ loft a ladder to the belfry.

North wall:- pew plates and keys affixed to the wall, and a 1930 commemorative tablet referring to the installation of the bells.

South wall:- stair to organ loft. In the organ loft on this wall are two wooden boards relating the history of the church.

Nave - General. Carpetted floors to wide aisle and slightly raised, planked floors under the benches. Plastered and painted walls. The roof is reported to be of king-post construction but now disguised by a flat plaster ceiling, with coving around the edge.

North wall:- wood panelling along the wall as a dado. A broad, basket arch, the soffit with depresseed panels painted blue, gives access to the north transept. Marble memorials of 1804 and 1827 and a 20thC brass.

East wall:- a two-centred arch to the sanctuary with moulded and decorated engaged capitals. The soffit of the arch is finished in the same way as that to the north transept. One 19thC brass and another as a First World War memorial.

South wall:- inner porch with panelled doors and sides. Marble memorials on the walls of 1770, 1773, and 1779, and one of 1978.

West wall:- a round-headed tower arch, with a soffit as the north transept, but largely hidden by the organ.

North transept - General. Carpetted with plastered and painted walls, and a flat ceiling. On its north side is a gallery below which is a separate exterior porch, toilet facilities etc.

North wall:- marble memorial of 1828.

East wall: stained glass in the window from 1985, and a large painting.

Chancel - General. One step up to the chancel, one to the altar. Fully carpetted, and the sanctuary with an



encaustic tiled floor; the walls plastered and painted in pale cerise; and a plastered and painted ceiling with a moulded cornice.

North wall:- a painted Decalogue board with a moulded lintel above, a marble memorial of 1816, and brasses of 1860 and 1861.

South wall:- a Creed board similar to the Decalogue board. Marble memorials of 1795, 1881 and 1922.

East wall:- carved wooden reredos, a memorial gift referred to in an adjacent plaque with putto from 1926.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Descriptions based on Hubbard with additions.

Monuments: i) white marble with grey pyramidal canopy, side volutes and an heraldic shield in a cartouche; Latin inscription to John Mellor (d.1733) by Scheemakers. ii) large Yorke memorial overlies the Yorke vault, a white and cream veined marble with grey pyramidal head; seated female figure and a rose bush with a serpent, all on a sarcophagus, to Anne Jemima Yorke (d.1770) by Tyler, erected in 1773. iii) marble sarcophagus tablet against a pyramid with armorial apron to Elizabeth Yorke (d.1779), by Tyler and Ashton. iv) white marble with armorial apron and urn above to Anne George (d.1795).

Brass plates: i) Simon Yorke (d.1767). ii) Anne Jemima Yorke (d.1770). iii) Elizabeth Yorke (d.1770). iv) Dorothy Yorke (d.1787). Coffin plates in a framed case.

Stained glass: the remarkable heraldic Erddig window with eighteen shields in roundels by Francis Eginton from 1788, with the lettering 'F.Eginton. Faciebat'. The shields are in rich blue and gold surrounds and cover the period 1660-1784. In the central window of the south wall.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Stained glass: window on south side by Hardman, 1860. The chancel windows include two with heraldic glass commemorating members of the Yorke family.

Monuments: i) white marble memorial with weeping maiden and broken harp at the base; the inscription on a column-like shaft, with a willow and armorial shields to Philip Yorke (d.1804) by Sir Richard Westmacott, London. ii) white marble to John Edgworth of Bryn-y-Grog (d.1827) by Wright and Harrison, Chester, with inverted torches, heraldry, wreath etc.

Brasses: one on veined marble to Captain Thomas David Ellis (d.1858) by Evans and Gresty of Chester.

Benefaction board: records charitable gifts from 1626 to 1793 so possibly late 18thC. A second board recounts the history of the church.

Pew plates: three of 1831, eight undated.

## CHURCHYARD

A near rectangular churchyard which was extended to the east in 1861, but has been encroached upon by road widening schemes. Municipal burial ground adjoining to the north. A well kept churchyard.

Boundary:- wall on all sides. A modern stone wall surmounted by railings on the south side. On the east a low red brick wall surmounted by a hedge and on the north and west a rubblestone wall with peaked coping stones.

**Monuments:-** burials on all sides. A chest tomb of 1729, and quite a number of 18thC memorials to the west and north-west of the church.

**Furniture:-** a sandstone baluster pillar for a sundial, minus the plate and gnomon, terminates in a plinth set on a large circular base. A short stone stump with a rounded top is placed on the south side of the chancel; it also has a splayed base. Its function is unclear.

**Earthworks:-** a scarp bank just to the east of the church marks the original east side of the churchyard.

**Ancillary features:-** a pair of large iron gates with an overarch and lamp form the south entrance, and at the south-west corner are similar gates. Leading into the cemetery on the north are a pair of iron gates supported on iron posts. Tarmac paths laid all round.

**Vegetation:-** ten yews of no great age around the west and north boundary walls. The remainder of the churchyard is encircled by later firs, Irish yews and five poplars along the south roadside.

## SOURCES

Church notes n.d.

CPAT Field Visits: 7 July 1997 and 5 February 1999

CPAT SMR

Denbighshire Record Office: records for 1828 proposed enlargement of church

Faculty: St Asaph 1861 (NLW) addition to churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1923 (NLW) repairs and re-seating

Hubbard 1986, 251

Quinquennial Report

Thomas 1908, 453



## CONDITION

Church in good condition apart from general weathering of sandstone particularly around the plinths.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Poor to Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Medium

# Overton

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**Diocese** St Asaph**Dedication** St Mary**PRN** 100152**NGR** SJ37354181

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## SUMMARY

St Mary's church is set in the centre of Overton, a short distance east of the River Dee. Its tower and nave are from a 14th-15thC building while its aisles are later additions. The interior contains several carved stones of 14thC date, some 17thC and 18thC wooden furnishings and elaborate 18thC memorials. The rectangular churchyard contains the shaft of an early cross and a large number of old yews.

## ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Tower in Decorated style from the 14thC and the core of the nave is 15thC Perpendicular.

The western piers of the arcades have responds on their east sides and parts of walls on their west/tower sides suggesting that these arches were let into the existing nave walls during the 15thC when the remainder of the arcades were constructed. Yet the two western arches are pointed whereas the remaining bays consist of four-centred chamfered arches.

The chancel was constructed in 1710 and restored in 1870. The north aisle rebuilt in 1819 but wider to bring it in line with a pre-existing transept whose date is unknown; the north aisle also carries a datestone of 1844. The south aisle was rebuilt in 1855, adding on to a south-west vestry also of 1819. The interior was largely the result of 1870 restoration work by W. M. Teulon.

## HISTORY

Overton is a planned town which developed in the late 13thC and it is therefore likely that the church was founded at this time. It has been suggested that the present tower was constructed in the 14thC with a nave that was shortly after replaced with one of cruciform plan. But the earliest record of the church is from 1402 when Overton was a chapelry to Bangor Is-y-coed.

The chancel was added in 1710, and the north aisle was rebuilt in 1819, bringing it into line with the existing transept.

The west gallery was removed during restoration work in c.1854, and at more or less the same time the south aisle was built to match the north.

The church remained in the diocese of Chester until 1861 when it was transferred to St Asaph and it was given parochial status in 1868, its patron the Duke of Westminster.

Major restoration took place in 1870 under the control of W.M. Teulon. This included the introduction of new seats, floors, windows and a new stone chancel arch to replace the wooden one. A new external gable and buttresses were added. The cost was over £1,000. This work on the chancel was followed by the restoration of the nave which included removing the low pitched roof, inserting new open seats, transferring the organ from west end of the north aisle to the transept and opening the arch to the tower; the remains of the rood



screen at the west end of the north aisle were thrown out, but during the subsequent incumbency fragments were discovered and built into parclose screens. A clerestorey was added at this date, the low arched lath and plaster walls of the nave being raised c.1.2m above the arcade and a new hammerbeam roof introduced. The ceiling was boarded and the floor lowered. During the restoration work, the north transept was enlarged to take the organ and it was given a steep pitched roof with hammerbeams and boarded ceiling. The cost was £2,000.

Glynne visited the church on the day it reopened in 1871.

In the 1920s, the organ was moved to its present position at the east end of the south aisle and the north transept was made into a side chapel.

In 1935, the choir stalls were replaced by new carved oak ones. 20thC restoration included the oak floor covering the marble one in the sanctuary, panelling on the east wall, and a carved oak reredos.

1959-60 restoration work by Clark and Heaton included renewing the lead valleys in the roof, curing dry rot in the timbers, and reslating the south aisle. Seating was relaid on concrete floors, woodblock laid in the centre, granolithic material in the aisles and new stone paving under the east end benches. The tower was repaired and decayed stones were replaced.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel, north and south aisles, the former incorporating a north transept, and a west tower. It is aligned slightly north-west to south-east but for the purposes of description 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here.

Fabrics: 'A' is of red sandstone ashlar, generally regularly cut and regularly coursed.

'B' is of tooled red sandstone ashlar, similar to 'A', but the blocks a little larger.

'C' is of medium to large blocks of fine-grained red sandstone with some recent repair work in ashlar.

'D' is in red sandstone, small to medium blocks of rough-faced stone, random coursing.

'C' is of the 14thC, 'A' can be attributed to the period from the 15thC through to the 18thC or 19thC, 'D' is of 1855, and 'B' dates to the later 19thC and 20thC restoration.

Roofs:- slates and plain black ceramic ridge tiles. Clerestory fenestration set under slated dormers on the north and south sides. Cross finials to the north transept, the west end of the north aisle, the east end of the nave and chancel, and broken finials to the south aisle.

Drainage:- cast iron guttering and cisterns. Gravel laid around the base of the north, south and east walls to facilitate drainage, and probably disguises a drainage trench.

## Exterior

Tower - General. In 'C'. Battlemented eastern tower in Decorated style with four stages, though the lower two may equate with one floor; diagonal stepped buttresses at the north-west and south-west corners and straight buttresses at the east ends of the north and south walls; the former incorporates the tower stair. A continuous stone plinth with a double hollow-chamfered, moulded coping around all the walls and this continues around the buttresses. A concave string course just below the battlements, in places rather fragmentary. Flag pole on the north side of the flat roof.

North wall:- the third stage has a single square-headed slit window with a new lintel. The fourth stage has a louvred, belfry window with a two-centred arch and trefoiled two-centred lights with cusped tracery above and a hoodmould. All the dressings are renewed and the window is surrounded by replacement ashlar. On the east side of the north-west buttress above the plinth is a white marble tablet to Arthur Reuben Holt (d.1882). The north-east corner buttress enclosing the tower stair abuts the nave and rises above the level



of the tower battlements as an octagonal turret, with chamfered corners and broach stops at the base and battlements above. The stair is lit by three long square-headed slits. The remnant of what is supposedly an old stoup is set in the angle between the staircase and north wall of tower at a height of about 3m.

East wall:- abuts the nave and appears to have only the belfry window, which has been completely renewed, though it is impossible to determine whether there is anything lower down this wall.

South wall:- the lowest stage is obscured by the south-west room. The third stage has a square-headed slit, and a sundial on the south-east buttress is inscribed with 'Carpe diem sic vita', the date 1803, and the churchwardens' and designer's names, though these are much worn. The fourth stage has a standard belfry window, mostly renewed though some of the jambs may be original. Most of the wall face at this level has been renewed or rebuilt. A drain pipe runs down the south side of the tower.

West wall:- a two-centred, chamfered doorway of two orders, the wave-moulded chamfers ending in broad broach stops. Its hoodmould and headstops are probably Victorian, and conceivably the whole doorway may have been renewed. The second stage has a Decorated window with a two-centred arch and hoodmould over a pair of trefoiled two-centred lights with cusped tracery; the mullion has been renewed but the tracery may be original? The third stage sports a blue clock face with gold Roman numerals from 1862. The fourth stage has a standard belfry window. The wall as a whole shows considerable masonry replacement.

North aisle - General. Constructed in mainly large blocks of fabric 'A', a rebuilding of 1819. Basal plinth with hollowed coping and topped by a roll moulding.

North wall:- a continuous plinth, c.0.5m deep, with red sandstone coping, and in places a much lower plinth just breaks the surface. Could this be from an earlier structure? Four bays form the aisle (the fifth bay is the earlier north transept). Four straight buttresses with two diagonal buttresses at the corners, topped by gabled canopies. Three four-centred windows with four foiled, two-centred lights and small tracery lights, but the most westerly window though conforming to the same pattern is narrower and has only three lights. A stone in the third bay from the west is inscribed 'Vt - 1844'.

West wall:- four-centred chamfered doorway with large broach stops; a pair of panelled doors.

North transept - General. Projects from the nave, its cross-gable roof rising above that of the north aisle. The masonry is a variety of 'C'.

North wall - part of the continuous north wall, but it pre-dates the building of the aisle. The moulded plinth continues from the east wall of the aisle, dipping beneath the window; this is deeply moulded and less than 1m above ground level, and as with the north aisle there is a lower plinth. In its single bay is a window which has a large four-centred arch with five cinquefoiled lights, the three central ones with ogee heads, the outer two with round heads; sub arches, a transom and panel tracery. Some of the tracery and most of the jambs are original. The east end has been extended in 'A', and this was presumably when the north aisle was built.

East wall:- the gable end of the aisle is also the east wall of the north transept. A moulded plinth at c.0.5m above ground level. No windows, but a diagonal buttress at the north corner.

Nave - General. Its walls of 1870 rise above the aisles and chancel, and include three north and south clerestory windows with two cinquefoiled lights with quatrefoil lights above; gabled dormers with canopied heads.

Chancel - General. An 18thC addition to the nave and aisles, but remodelled in 1870. Constructed in blocks of fabric 'A' which are larger than those of the aisle. The roof is wider and lower than the nave. Diagonal south-east and north-east stepped buttresses with yellow capstones and a plinth at c.0.6m, its topped simply chamfered off. There is a string course at eaves level on the north and south sides, following the gable on the east side.



North wall:- two-centred window with three cinquefoiled, two-centred lights, and cusped panel tracery above; Victorian hoodmould with head stops; a relieving arch of voussoirs in pink sandstone.

East wall:- the east window in mustard-yellow sandstone has a two-centred arch and five cinquefoiled, two-centred lights, sub-arches and panel tracery; sandstone voussoirs for a relieving arch, and a hoodmould with head stops. Beneath the window is a plinth resting on a pilaster corbel, probably a projecting sill from the 18thC window.

South wall:- the priest's doorway has a two-centred chamfered arch with a hoodmould above and chamfered jambs ending in bar and broach stops. A weatherworn wall tablet is set into a recess above the east side of the door; it is mounted on a plinth with a pedimented head, but the inscription if it ever existed is now illegible. Also a window as on the north side of the chancel.

South aisle - General. Constructed in 'D' with larger blocks for the plinth. Continuous plinth, c.0.3m above ground level with simple chamfer, rising towards the east end.

East wall:- a two-centred window with three cusped, ogee-headed lights with panel tracery and sub-arches above; all in red sandstone.

South wall:- five bays formed by four straight buttresses and south-east and south-west diagonal buttresses. Four two-centred windows containing three cusped, ogee-headed lights with mixed tracery above, but the westernmost bay has a two-centred window with two cusped two-centred lights with a cinquefoil light above. All the windows in red sandstone. A dentilation course below the eaves.

West wall:- gable end. Abutted by south-west corner room.

South-west corner room - General. Constructed in 1819 in 'B'. Located in the angle between the south wall of the tower and the west wall of the south aisle, with a diagonal south-west corner buttress. The walls plinthed at c.0.5m and with a concave string course below the parapet. A chimney rises from the top of the south-west buttress.

South wall:- a four-centred window with three trefoiled, two-centred lights with tracery above.

West wall:- no apertures.

Boiler house - General. 19thC. Located below south-west room with access via steps of brick and stone leading down the south wall to a square-headed basement door. Retaining walls of staircase constructed in brick.

## Interior

Tower:- General. Ground floor forms entrance porch. Stone flagged floor with heating grille; walls have all stonework exposed, and these reveal occasional repairs in fabric 'B'. Ceiling is a heavy planked floor below the clock chamber.

North wall:- a square-headed doorway with inset frame to the tower stair, approached by one step. A wooden board lists church fees and is presumed to be 19thC. Also brass plaques of 1912 and 1981 recording work on the bells.

East wall:- tower arch to nave filled with a pair of panelled doors with leaded lights, and the typanum, too, with leaded lights. The arch itself is broad and rather short and of two orders which spring from the walls.

South wall:- five steps and a modern doorway lead to the new south-west room. To the east of this a Benefactions board from the 1750s. Built into the wall are two long slabs of red sandstone. These are



indicative of some masonry re-use.

West wall:- recess c.1m deep to exterior door, with a four-centred soffit though the archway outside is two-centred.

North aisle - General. Stone flagged floor with iron heating grilles, flush woodblock flooring under benches, carpet in places, and modern concrete slabs at the east end. Walls of roughcast plaster. Roof of three and a half bays with four trusses: tie-beams rest on wall plates with support from short wall posts resting on stone corbels and arch bracing. Above the beams are short queen posts with arch bracing between and trefoiled tracery in the spandrels. Many of the timbers are moulded.

North wall:- Marble memorials of 1696 and 1853, together with 20thC war memorials.

East wall:- a richly carved oak traceried screen retains some of the 15thC work from which it is copied, and separates the aisle from the Lady Chapel. One of the principal trusses in the roof is directly above.

South wall:- arcade (see nave below). Against the most westerly pillar is a 19thC seated figure of Christ. By the second pillar are three medieval sepulchral fragments.

West wall:- two steps lead up to the four-centred doorway, the inner dressings with a hollow chamfer.

Lady Chapel/ North transept - General. The chapel was created 1924. Woodblock floor. Walls as north aisle. The altar, raised up on two steps, is set in an alcove created by the insertion of a large four-centred arch, the chamfered jambs terminating in pyramid stops, all in buff-coloured sandstone. However, the base of the arch is established on pink sandstone blocks of an earlier date. On the southern base of the arch is a brass recording that 'this is the way leading to Llanycefn Vault'. A gabled roof runs north to south with a large tie-beam against the north wall; moulded purlins.

North wall: dado formed of old pew panels. Dedication tablet of 1924.

East wall:- hanging on the east wall a large painting, and on the north and south sides within the alcove marble monuments of 1708, 1756 and 1791.

South wall:- parclose screen, also incorporating some old woodwork. One brass of 1693.

Nave - General. Floor as north aisle. All stonework exposed. A steep hammerbeam roof of 19thC date rises from long stone pillars on stone corbels, placed between the arches of the arcades; clerestory windows are inserted as dormers. Five bays formed by five hammerbeams, the fifth beam against the east wall and above the chancel arch. At the east end of the nave a step up to the last bay in which are the choir stalls.

North wall:- five-bay Perpendicular arcade of pink sandstone with four-centred arches of two orders supported on four octagonal piers with moulded capitals; the western bay, though, has a narrow two-centred arch of two orders and is cut through earlier straight walling, so the first pier from the west end was originally a respond. Wrought iron lamps hang in the bays, and there is one 20thC brass attached to a pier. One course above the apices of the arcade arches is evidence that the wall was heightened for the clerestory; the stonework is fresher in appearance.

East wall:- two steps through a broad, two-centred, chamfered chancel arch of two orders with engaged, ringed shafts.

South wall:- arcade as north wall. A cross slab is built into the base of the pier at the west end and above this is a brass tablet of 1901. Evidence of wall heightening as on the north side.

West end:- the line of an earlier roof can be seen as a 'ghost' mark about 0.4m below the present roof line.



Chancel - General. Two marble steps through the chancel arch and one step to the sanctuary and two to the altar. Carpetted central aisle and stone slabs; polished wooden floor to sanctuary. Walls of roughcast plaster with exposed dressings. Wagon ceiling with three arch-braced collars sprung from wall posts and stone corbels; three and a half bays.

North wall:- five marble memorials of 1681 (in the sanctuary), 1720, 1790, 1794, and 1857. Two 19thC brasses, one in the window.

East wall:- wooden reredos; marble memorials of 1728 and 1808.

South wall:- a two-centred doorway with chamfered dressings. Marble memorials of 1780, 1787 and 1835; brasses of 1734, 1769, two 19thC examples, one of them commemorating the installation of a stained glass window, and one brass undated.

West wall:- nothing to comment on.

South aisle - General. Floor as north aisle including heating grilles, but concrete under the benches. At the west end the font is set on a mosaic floor. Walls as north aisle. Roof of four and a half bays formed by arch-braced collar trusses with king and raking struts. The most easterly bay is occupied by the organ.

North wall:- considerable variation in the stonework above the arcade, lacking the finish seen in the nave; and the highest stage of this wall is formed of brick.

East wall:- nothing other than the east window.

South wall:- marble memorial of 1783 and three of the 19thC, and one cartouche in stone, probably 19thC. 19thC and 20thC brasses.

West wall:- pointed arch over door to south-west room, approached by four steps. One 19thC marble memorial and two brasses from the 19thC and 20thC.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Information taken from Hubbard with additions.

Sepulchral slabs: i) the lower part of a slab dated to around 1300 commemorating Angharad daughter of Einion; inscription on the border and a pattern of stems and leaves. ii) fragment of an early 14thC expanded-arm cross slab built into the most westerly pillar of the south arcade, though this has the appearance of a consecration cross. iii) fragment of a four-circle cross of early 14thC date, loose in the north aisle of the church. iv) part of a slab with a recessed bust relief, possibly of early 13thC date. It is said to be inscribed 'Marrat : filia : Euniawn:oro pro nobis'.

Rood screen: parts of the Perpendicular screen were incorporated into the screens of the Lady Chapel by Gronwy Robert Griffith in 1921, though Crossley and Ridgway claimed these screens were made between 1879 and 1885: a full description can be found in their article of 1945.

Chests: large dugout chest with wrought ironwork, in excess of 2m long. Believed to be from the 15thC. Located in south aisle. Also in the south aisle a second, smaller chest; this could be 19thC or earlier.

Pulpit: octagonal, wood panelled, and mounted on an octagonal stone plinth. It carries the inscription 'E. LL. 1637'.

Chairs: i) heavily decorated but with short spindle legs; 17thC or 18thC. In Lady Chapel. ii) in south aisle, a chair inscribed 'Maurice Matthews Mayor 1753' with a painted coat of arms.

Font: a small, mid-18thC black marble bowl on a stone baluster pedestal (recorded in use in 1746). Now in



the north-east corner of the nave, but not in use.

Benefactions board: wooden board with a round head, from 1750; located in tower.

Chandelier: with two six-branch tiers. The 'gift of Cath Humphreys Widow 1746'.

Processional Cross: a brass cross incised with the Crucifixion and brought from Ethiopia. Thought to be early 6thC date and probably brought to Britain in the 19thC (not seen).

Monuments: i) white marble with gilt on black slate, with heraldry and putto on apron to Edward Philips (d.1681) and family; includes two cartouches of drapery. ii) white on grey marble to Francis Price (d.1749) by Daniel Sephton of Manchester; floriate decoration, putto, heraldry and a plinth surmounted by an urn. iii) white marble with gilt and a worn inscription to Beatrice Lloyd (d.1708), putto on apron and heraldry. iv) oval white marble tablet on grey marble to Mary Hanmer (d.1720) and others, by V. Hagen, Salop. v) a large white and grey veined marble memorial to the Lloyd family including Thomas Lloyd (d.1728), with pilaster columns supporting a segmental pediment, the centre dislocated by the introduction of cherub heads and heraldry. vi) white marble tablet to William Powell (d.1756) and family. vii) white marble memorial on grey marble with triangular pediment and urn to Owen Wynn (d.1780) by Van der Hagen, Salop. viii) white marble to Matthew Costling (d.1783). ix) large white marble memorial with coloured inlay, drapery and heraldry to Francis Parry Price (d.1787) by Bromfield of Liverpool. x) White marble on variegated marble with urn finial and heraldry to Kenrick Price (d.1790) who was buried on the north side of the churchyard. xi) black slate tablet to Powel Parry (d.1791). xii) large white marble tablet on grey veined marble, with two columns supporting lintel and urn to Thomas Hanmer (d.1794), and others by John Nelson of Salop.

Brasses: i) Ursula Lloyd (d.1664) and Thomas Lloyd (d.1693). ii) John Eyton (d.1734). iii) John Edwards (d.1769), in a vault.

A small brass plate on the south sanctuary wall records 'six feet from north to south and seven feet from east to west, within these rails are three of the Ancient Hereditary Burying Places of Roger Barton, late of Knolton Hall, Esqr'.

Plate: flagons and chalices from 1783; early pieces c.1740.

Bells: tenor bell inscribed '1615 Gloria Deo in Excelsis'. The others of the 19thC.

Registers: from 1601.

19thC and later furnishings and fittings include:

Font: in Caen stone on a stone base, from 1872; made by Cox & Sons.

Choir stalls: elaborately carved in 1935 by Evelyn Wybergh, a local lady. The war memorial also by her.

Stained Glass: the east window and chancel north window by Clayton and Bell, from 1870, showing the Ascension and Resurrection respectively. The north and south sanctuary windows are similar in style but unsigned. The south aisle has three windows to the Kenyon family by William Kempe from 1890.

Monuments: i) a large white marble tablet with a triangular pediment and armorial apron to Philips Lloyd Fletcher (d.1808), by Richard Westmacott, London. ii) a large white marble memorial on grey slate to Susan Price (d.1813) by Edwards of Wrexham. iii) a large white marble memorial to Thomas Bennion (d.1803) and his wife Jane (d.1840) by the Marble Works in Esher Street, Westminster 'by patent machinery'; a canopied relief of three daughters mourning their parents. iv) white marble memorial on black marble to Francis Price (d.1853) by Bedford of Oxford Street, London. v) marble memorial, white on black, to Lieutenant Colonel Ebenezer Jones (d.1857) by W.R.Hale of Edgeware Road, London.

Organ: a 20thC example made by Alexander Young and Sons, Manchester; completely overhauled by Charles Whitely of Chester in 1970. The screen in front of it is made from parts of the old organ case.



Clock: of 1826 by Joyce of Whitchurch. Quarter chimes added to clock in 1862; carillon installed 1912.

## CHURCHYARD

A well maintained rectangular churchyard on level ground which was subject to considerable clearance work in the 1970s and 1980s.

Boundary:- a red sandstone boundary wall, recently repaired. West wall surmounted by railings.

Monuments:- generally cleared. Re-sited headstones line the inner side of the east boundary wall and part of the south wall. Cremations in the angle between the chancel and north aisle. Chest tombs still in situ on all sides of the church, the earliest noted with a 1763 date on the north-west. A slab of 1783 against the east wall.

Furniture:- a much weathered red sandstone shaft, c.0.9m high, thought to be part of the churchyard cross, is on the north side of the west gates.

Earthworks:- ground raised 0.3m on the south side, 1m on the west and 0.5m on the north.

Ancillary features:- the north-west corner has a metal kissing gate, and in the south-east corner metal gates lead in from School Lane. The main entrance is opposite the west tower, a pair of iron gates set in sandstone pillars. Gravel paths laid all round the church.

Vegetation:- churchyard boundary is lined with 20 yews of considerable age. There are also two clipped yews in the south-west corner and firs planted outside the tower to conceal the heating boiler. One of the clipped yews was planted by Queen Elizabeth in 1992 to commemorate the Royal Charter granted to Overton by Edward I in 1292.

## SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1994

Church guide n.d.

CPAT Field Visits: 10 July 1996 and 15 January 1999

CPAT SMR

Crossley and Ridgway 1945, 193

Denbighshire Record Office: D/BP/902 (1869): proposed alterations

Faculty: St Asaph 1870 (NLW) restoration

Glynne 1885, 127

Gresham 1968, 88; 102; 122

Hubbard 1986, 410

RCAHMW 1912, 111

Quinquennial Report 1995

Thomas 1908, 456

## CONDITION

Well maintained church in good state of repair.

General weathering of sandstone. Iron window frames in the north aisle are eroding and causing damage to the stone work. Plans are being made to have them removed, restored and replaced. Some repairs to the roof are also planned.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Medium

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Good

Value of documentary evidence: Poor

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium to Good

Group value: Medium to Good



# Penley

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<b>Diocese</b>	St Asaph	<b>Dedication</b>	St Mary Magdalene
<b>PRN</b>	15845	<b>NGR</b>	SJ41324004

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## SUMMARY

The church of St Mary Magdalene was built in 1899, its predecessors going back to perhaps the 16thC. Little of pre-19thC date survives except for two 18thC brasses and an 18thC marble memorial, and a font bowl probably from the same century.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Built in 1899-1901.

## HISTORY

A chapel of ease to Ellesmere, Penley may have been established in the 16thC. There is a record of an earlier church constructed of lath and plaster which was taken down in 1793.

In 1794 a new church was built in a mix of Gothic and Georgian styles with a rectangular ground plan. Constructed in brick with stone floors, it consisted of a wide nave and square west tower with a pyramidal roof. The windows had wooden mullions and were square-headed, vernacular in style. Only the south-east window contained stained glass incorporating 15 heraldic shields and crests. The interior had oak box pews, the best of which were subsequently reused at Llanerch Panna Hall.

The accommodation was enlarged in 1819, through the addition of a gallery at the west end.

By 1887 the church was declared structurally unsound and plans for restoration were drawn up by a Mr Stringer. It was later decided that the siting of existing graves and the vaults and yew trees necessitated the construction of a new church to the north of the existing one on ground provided by the Dymock Estate.

The present church was constructed between 1899 and 1901 to the design of Charles Hodgson Fowler, Architect, of Durham. The old church was demolished in 1901 after the new church and burial ground had been consecrated.

Penley remained in the diocese of Lichfield until 1920 when it was transferred to St Asaph.

In 1923 the church was re-seated, electricity was installed in 1946 and the organ was replaced 1964.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave and chancel, a south porch and a north vestry with a bellcote at the west end of the nave. The church is aligned north-west to south-east but for the purpose of description 'ecclesiastical east' is used here.

Fabric 'A' is of generally medium blocks of fairly regularly coursed well-dressed red sandstone with dressings of the same fabric.

Roofs:- red clay tiles and plain ridge tiles. Cross finials on the east gable and on the porch.

Drainage:- guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. A hollow around the walls suggests a drainage trench.

The church was entirely rebuilt at the end of the 19thC and for that reason the following description is no more than a summary.

#### Exterior

General. A stone plinth, c.0.4m above ground level, is continuous around all the walls. There is also a drip moulding just beneath window sill level which is stepped up on the chancel walls and at the west end of the north side of the nave.

#### Nave

North wall:- two square-headed windows containing two cusped, ogee-headed lights with small tracery lights above, in Decorated style.

South wall:- to the east of the porch two windows as on the north side but with three lights. A straight buttress at the east end.

West wall:- there is a central, stepped buttress which separates two, two-centred windows with hoodmoulds and simple stops over pairs of cusped, ogee-headed lights with quatrefoils above. Small square-headed slits appear above both windows. The gable rises to a single bellcote with a two-centred aperture, its projecting face supported on the top of the buttress.

Vestry/organ chamber - General. Abuts the north wall of the chancel and part of the nave, but is set back slightly from the chancel at the east end. A subterranean boiler room with access via a flight of stone steps leading down alongside the north wall of the vestry.

North wall:- three, grouped, square-headed lights set directly into the stonework and a single square-headed light to the west.

East wall:- a pair of ogee-headed lights, but of a different design to the main church, are set directly into the wall. A blocked aperture at ground level to the boiler room.

West wall:- a shouldered arch above the panelled door.

Chancel - General. Inset slightly from the nave but only on the south side. A continuous plinth and string course as on the nave.

North wall:- obscured by vestry.

East wall:- the east window has a two-centred arch with hoodmould and three stepped, cinquefoiled lights with subsidiary lights. Above the window a stepped string course and a square-headed slit aperture in the gable.

South wall:- two two-centred windows, one with three ogee-headed lights, the other with two. A foundation stone in red sandstone at the south-east corner has a weathered inscription indicating it was laid by Lord Kenyon.



South porch - General. The small open porch is entered by a two-centred chamfered archway of two orders; the drip moulding is carried over the arch as a hoodmould; two steps into the porch.

## Interior

Porch - General. Red tiles on the floor, plastered walls and a roof of three close-set collar trusses.

North wall:- two-centred doorway of two orders with chamfered dressings, one hollow-moulded, the other convex; bar stops to the chamfers.

Nave - General. Red tiles on the floor with flush woodblock floors under the benches; heating vent grilles, now superseded by pipes along the walls. Plastered and painted walls with dressed stonework exposed in apertures. Panelled wagon roof painted blue with white ribs; 77 main panels and small panels above the moulded wallplates. Three metal tie-rods span the nave.

North wall:- shouldered arch to vestry. Marble tablets of 1784 and 1843.

East wall:- a wooden chancel arch supported on red sandstone corbels and chamfered jambs with broach stops. To the north of the arch is a photograph of the church from 1901.

South wall:- segmental reveal to the south door. Brass of 1782/1804 with an accompanying brass plate indicating that the former is no longer above the burial spot of those memorialised. Another brass of 1908.

West wall:- windows and a bell pull from the roof.

Chancel - General. Two steps up from the nave to a red tiled floor, carpetted; patterned tiles in the sanctuary; woodblocks under the choir stalls, plastered and painted walls. Roof as in the nave but narrower and with 25 panels, but those over the sanctuary sub-divided into fours.

North wall:- organ set in a recess under a segmental arch.

East wall:- wooden reredos. The window aperture has engaged pillars supporting an inner arch.

South wall:- a trefoiled two-centred piscina in the sanctuary wall, all in pink sandstone. Also a brass of 1725 with a plate referring to its reinstatement in 1911.

West wall:- nothing to note.

Vestry - General. Located behind the organ. Woodblock floor, plastered and painted walls, sloping planked ceiling.

West wall:- door.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Font: a small but deep alabaster bowl, decorated with putti; unused and sited at west end of nave. 18thC?

Monuments: two white marble tablets on grey marble to Edward Dymock of Penley Hall (d.1784) with Latin inscription; and to Edward Dymock (d.1843); the Dymock crest is set beneath both monuments.

Brasses: i) a small brass with Latin inscription to Rev. John Jones (d.1725). ii) to Mary Meeson (d.1782) and Roger Meeson (d.1804).

Plate: includes a 1716 pewter paten and a 1726 silver chalice, as well as 19thC and 20thC pieces.

19thC and 20thC furnishings and fittings include:

Chancel rails: former altar rails from the earlier church, which were re-located when the present altar rails were donated in 1913.

Font: octagonal stone font from 1901.

Pulpit: believed to be the top deck of a three-decker pulpit from the old church, with carved panels which were inserted in 1914.

Stained glass: west wall windows by T.F.Curtis, Ward and Ward, London in 1916. The east window from 1905 depicts scenes from the Resurrection.

## CHURCHYARD

The original churchyard was extended northwards when the new church was built at the end of the 19thC, and this creates the present rectangular plot. It occupies level ground and is reasonably well maintained. In 1968 graves and monuments were moved to facilitate roadworks. An additional burial ground was added to the north side in 1973.

Boundary:- a red brick wall on the south and southern part of the eastern side, which may have been constructed at the same time as the 1794 red brick church. Hedges on the east, and also on the north and west sides, the latter accompanied by a wire fence, the former with a wooden fence.

Monuments:- the south side contains a mix of 18thC to mid 19thC graves, a few chest tombs and crosses; the earliest slab noted was of 1768 near the south wall of the churchyard. On the north-west side of the churchyard, the graves are mainly those of Polish soldiers and their dependents. In 1946, two Polish Hospitals were established at Penley Hall and Llanerch Panna. More recent burials located on the north side of the church.

Furniture:- the square granite pillar of a sundial minus its gnomon is sited on a grave to the north of the church.

Ancillary features:- the main, wooden entrance gates are set in the south wall, and there are well laid concrete paths leading to the south porch and all around the church.

Earthworks:- undulations in the ground surface mark the location of the earlier church.

Vegetation:- five mature yews line the side of the east wall and may be contemporary with the building of an earlier church in the 17thC or 18thC. A single yew near the west wall.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visits: 12 July 1996 and 15 January 1999

CPAT SMR

Flintshire County Record Office: D/DM/295/1 (1899) Building plans

Hubbard 1986, 415

Pratt 1980

Quinquennial Report 1996



**CONDITION**

Church in good state of repair; well laid out and maintained churchyard, adequate drainage. Some natural weathering to sandstone.

**ASSESSMENT RATINGS**

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Poor

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Poor

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Very Good

Architectural potential: Very Poor

Group value: Medium

# Ruabon

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<b>Diocese</b>	St Asaph	<b>Dedication</b>	St Mary
<b>PRN</b>	16950	<b>NGR</b>	SJ30384380
		<b>Previous dedication</b>	St Collen

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## SUMMARY

St Mary's church in Ruabon, which almost certainly had its origin in the early medieval period, is a large structure some of which is 14thC, but displays several phases of construction particularly in its aisles. Internally it was heavily restored between 1870 and 1872, but it retains several Wynn family monuments, a tomb chest with 16thC effigies and a late 15thC wall painting which was uncovered during the restoration. Its churchyard, probably once more circular than it is today, has been largely cleared of gravestones.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

The tower has been attributed to the 14thC on the basis of its overall design - a Cheshire type according to Hubbard - and its west door, as have the nave and aisles though without any architectural justification other than a blocked doorway. The chancel is believed to have been extended eastwards at a later date within the Middle Ages. Perpendicular fenestration was introduced into most walls of the church, though most of it was renewed or replaced in the 19thC restoration.

However, this may be a simplification for the north aisle shows two extensions. As a hypothesis we can suggest that there was a nave, chancel, south aisle and shorter north aisle, perhaps from the late 13thC. The chancel was extended eastwards, and possibly concurrently the north aisle was also enlarged so that it mirrored the south aisle.

Chapels were added to the east end of the south aisle in 1755 and to the north aisle in 1769.

1870 restoration by Ferrey included replacement of all doors and windows and the opening up of east walls of the chapels to insert windows.

## HISTORY

The church is believed to have been established in the late 6thC by St Mabon. Certainly its siting and churchyard form suggest an early medieval foundation.

In 1253 it was recorded as being dedicated to St Collen and it appears in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 as 'Ecca Sci Colyem' at a value of £2, while in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 it is recorded as 'Ecclia de Rywvabon' at £16 6s 8d. A new church was built by the monks of Valle Crucis Abbey sometime between 1272 and 1304 and dedicated to St Mary.

The late medieval church consisted of a nave with north and south aisles and the tower. At an unknown date the chancel was extended to the east.

A depiction of the church in 1684 by Thomas Dineley appeared in his manuscript notebook of that year. It depicts a dormer window in the south aisle roof.



A chapel was added to the east end of the south aisle in 1755, and a similar extension was made to the north aisle in 1769. At this time a restoration was undertaken by T.F. Pritchard of Shrewsbury, including raising the nave roof, setting up the Wynnstay gallery, and introducing semi-circular arches to the arcades and circular clerestorey windows.

In 1819, a fire damaged the 1768 organ which was repaired at the expense of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn. The reredos was introduced in 1845, and open seats were substituted for the pews in 1846. About this time the north chancel arch was re-opened and new altar rails inserted. Further restoration work by public subscription took place in 1858.

In 1869-72 restoration work by Benjamin Ferrey for Sir Watkin Williams Wynn included the replacement of all the roofs and the window dressings, taking up the defective wooden floors, and removing some of the old seating. The nave walls were heightened and clerestorey windows were added; the aisle arcades which seem to have been of brick were rebuilt in stone, and the chancel arch and tower arch renewed; some paving was replaced and old plaster was removed from the walls. The Wynnstay gallery at the west end was removed and the tower opened up. Buttresses were either built or rebuilt. Glynne visited the church at least three times, the last two occasions during this restoration. Significantly perhaps, his earliest (pre-restoration) statement indicates that the original arches and piers of the arcades had been replaced by plain pillars but he did not specify they were of brick. The original east window had been replaced at the beginning of the restoration in 1869 and other changes were noted.

A north porch was added in 1877.

The tower was repaired in 1901-2.

In 1980 a scheme was launched whereby St Mary's became a 'shared' church, used by the Roman Catholic Church as well as the Church in Wales. The former north porch was dismantled and its masonry reused as an east-facing porch for a new extension.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church comprises a high nave with clerestory, a chancel, north and south aisles, which together form a large rectangle; a tower abuts the nave, and there is a south porch and a new church room on the north side of the church.

It is oriented west-south-west/east-north-east but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted for descriptions here.

Fabrics: 'A' is of small to medium-sized irregularly shaped blocks and slabs of sandstone, mainly buff-yellow in colour, and some quartz blocks and river pebbles; randomly coursed; heavily mortared and remnant limewash.

'B' of fine-grained, regularly cut sandstone in medium-sized rectangular blocks; coursed; some limewash residues.

'C' is of sandstone ashlar.

'D' is of small to medium blocks of roughly dressed sandstone, buff yellow in colour and coursed.

'E' is of well-dressed blocks of sandstone, buff-yellow in colour and coursed. Very similar to 'B' but seemingly better dressed.

'F' is of blocks and slabs of relatively well-dressed buff-yellow sandstone; random coursing.

'A' is original, perhaps 13thC or 14thC. 'B' and 'E' are of uncertain date but probably late medieval. 'C' is 18thC but also used for modern repairs; 'D' is 20thC; 'F' is from the 19thC restoration work.

Roofs: slates with grey clay ridge tiles. Cross finials to the east ends of the aisles and chancel, and to the south porch.

Drainage:- guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. No obvious drainage trench around the walls, except perhaps along the north side of the north aisle.



## Exterior

**Tower - General.** In 'E'. A double basal plinth at c.0.8m above ground level, the top with a hollowed chamfer to the coping. The plinth is continuous around the buttresses, diagonal stepped buttresses at the west corners, straight stepped buttresses at the east corners, all rising to about half way up the top stage of the tower. Three stages with chamfered string courses above the first and second stages, and a third string course with a hollowed soffit and gargoyles at the angles, below the battlemented parapet which is in 'C' and is probably 19thC. A flat roof with a flag pole which is topped with a weathervane.

**North wall:-** the second stage has a round-headed window, the third stage a louvred belfry window with a two-centred almost round-headed arch of two orders over a pair of trefoiled lights with a cusped tracery light above. The chamfered dressings appear to be original. In the north-eastern corner the projecting tower stair rises to the full height of the tower and has square-headed slit windows, one in the north face, one in the west. Also on the west side a square-headed doorway approached by four steps.

**East wall:-** visible above the nave is a standard louvred belfry window and above this a square blue clock face. Also one further slit window to the tower stair.

**South wall:-** some exceptionally large blocks of sandstone employed in this wall. Standard second and belfry stage windows. Centrally placed between the gargoyles is another projecting element, perhaps an angel holding a shield.

**West wall:-** the west doorway shows a wide, two-centred, chamfered arch, effectively of three orders, with wave moulding; the pair of panelled doors holds two two-centred lights. The upper part of the first stage contains a window with a two-centred arch over three stepped, cinquefoiled, two-centred lights with panel tracery and a crenellated transom above the central light. The jambs and vousoired arch are of dressed sandstone blocks and the window must be 19thC in origin. The second stage has another clock face, the third stage a belfry window.

**Church room:-** in 'D'. Linked to the body of the church by a passage where previously was the north porch.

**North aisle - General.** Constructed in fabrics 'A', 'E', 'F' and 'C'.

**North wall:-** from the west: i) a north-west diagonal buttress perhaps of pre-19thC date. ii) the connecting passage to the church room. Walling at the west end is 'A', but the top 1m or so is 'F', as is the case for the whole wall length. iii) a window with a two-centred arch and hoodmould with floriate stops, three lights all foiled, the inner one two-centred, the outer ones ogee-headed; above these is a quatrefoil light. All the dressings are in Victorian buff sandstone. 'F' has been used as packing around the window. iv) window with a four-centred arch with three unadorned lights; all the dressings are renewed. Below this window the masonry changes to 'B' from the foundations upwards. v) a third window as iii). vi) a straight buttress which marks the change to the north chapel of 1769. The masonry beyond this is 'C', and there is a straight joint with 'B'. vii) a blind window with projecting keystones in its square head and alternating projecting jambstones. The quoins at the north-east angle also project.

**East wall:-** in 'C' with a window consisting of a roundel holding three trefoil lights, and over it a hoodmould with floriate stops. Mounted on the wall a white memorial slab with an illegible inscription.

**West wall:-** window with a four-centred arch over three cinquefoiled, two-centred lights with foiled, panel tracery; hoodmould with a grotesque head stop on one side and a stop resembling a bunch of fruit on the other; much of the window is 19thC but some of the jambstones could be original as no doubt are the stops and perhaps the hoodmould itself. The whole wall in 'A', except for the top of the gable where about 0.5m appears to be in 'F', further evidence of the roof being raised.

**Nave - General.** Clerestorey windows on north and south sides, but largely invisible because of the pitched



roofs of the aisles.

Chancel - General. High, pitched roof which looks out of proportion to the aisle roofs.

East wall:- at the base of the wall is a plinth with round-moulded coping and this runs around the two buttresses which define the chancel wall. The buttresses are crocketed and in Perpendicular style, but are reputedly of 18thC date. Yet they have blind arches as decoration at their heads and these are accompanied by what appear to be original medieval grotesques. Between the buttresses is a large window with a two-centred arch and hoodmould with floriate stops over five cinquefoiled, two-centred lights with hexafoils and sub-arches, inserted in 1870. Around and above this window the masonry is 'C', though the blocks below the window are larger. However, to either side are large blocks of sandstone which appear to be 'B' or 'B'-type and these are clearly earlier and probably original. They give way to 'C' below springer level.

South aisle - General. Similar in design to the north aisle.

East wall:- in 'C', with a plinthead, simply chamfered, at c.0.2m. A round window with three trefoils, and over it a hoodmould and floriate stops, parallels that in the north aisle east wall.

South wall:- two fabrics represent two major building phases. Much of the wall in 'A', although as with the north aisle the top one metre is in 'F'. The east end of the south aisle represents the 1755 addition of the south-east chapel in 'B'. Features from the west end are: i) a weathered diagonal pre-19thC south-west buttress. ii) the south porch. iii) blocked two-centred arch with chamfered dressings of a 13thC doorway. To the west of this doorway is a two-metre zone of masonry which comprises larger irregular blocks of sandstone and appears somewhat different from 'A'; but it is impossible to determine whether this represents no more than a variation in the fabric or is indicative of a structural change. iv) a 19thC buttress which partially disguises iii). v) and vi) two windows to the same pattern as those on the north side and both with 'F' packing around them. vii) 19thC buttress; the 'A' masonry stops behind it, giving way to 'C'. viii) another standard window and all the stonework around it replaced in 'F', leaving only 'C' at the extreme east end. However, the plinth seen at the base of the east wall continues around the south side, stopping just short of the buttress.

West wall:- adjoins tower. Constructed in 'A', except for its heightening in 'F', which has sealed one of the coping stones of the original gable. The window has a large two-centred arch with hoodmould and worn grotesque stops over four cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights with panel tracery above. Most of the tracery has been replaced but some of the jambs might be original, and the stops certainly are; a chimney breast rises at the north side of the aisle adjoining the tower buttress. At the base of the wall a below-ground boiler room.

South porch - General. Constructed in 'F' in c.1870. Buttressed at the south-east and south-west corners.

East wall:- small window with two-centred arch and simple chamfered dressings.

South wall:- doorway with a two-centred arch over a vertically planked door with wrought ironwork. Wall plinthead at 0.3m above ground level. An oval plaque with a cross set in the gable.

West wall:- as east wall.

## Interior

Porch - General. Same level as the churchyard. 19thC tiled floor, plastered and painted walls and a timber planked ceiling with moulded purlins.

North wall:- doorway to the church has a flat four-centred chamfered arch and moulded jambs, giving the



impression of a Tudor doorway; a couple of the jambstones renewed, as also are the basal stop stones.

East and west walls:- window apertures only.

**Tower - General.** The first stage is divided into two by an inserted floor and these are used as vestries. Ground floor has a tiled floor, plastered and painted walls and a flat ceiling. A flight of steps on the south side leads to the first floor. This has bare walls.

**East wall:-** a tall two-centred tower arch of two orders and with chamfered jambs opens onto the nave. Panelling across the opening at ground floor level includes a doorway. A gallery front to the first floor vestry.

**South wall:-** on the wall a framed 19thC list of church fees and details of the parish charities.

**West wall:-** disused western door.

**North aisle - General.** 19thC tiled floors, with raised planked floor under benches; walls plastered and painted. Roof of five bays formed by six arch-braced collars with arcing struts, and supported on stone corbels with additional corbels supporting the wall plate on the south side; purlins and rafters; all 19thC. A hatchment attached to the roof at the east end.

**North wall:-** the north door, formerly to the porch but now to the church room, has an almost flat-headed reveal; approached by two steps but now these are covered by a ramp. Marble memorials on the walls from 1712, 1760, 1803, 1807, 1825, 1828 and 1902, together with a brass set onto wood, of 1794.

**East wall:-** a high two-centred arch to the north chapel with moulded chamfers. Presumably 18thC but could be from the 19thC restoration. Also on the wall one 19thC brass.

**South wall:-** five-bay arcade consisting of chamfered two-centred arches of two orders, mounted on alternating circular and octagonal stone piers; all 19thC.

**West wall:-** marble memorials of 1824 and 1896, and against the wall the Nollekens monument to Henrietta Wynn made in 1773.

**North-east chapel - General.** Built in 1769 and contains both the Wynn monument and the Eyton effigies which were re-sited here, either at that date or when the arch was opened through to the chancel in 1845. One step up from the aisle, and a further step to the altar. Floor is carpetted, the walls as the north aisle. A 19thC planked roof with purlins.

**North wall:-** against the wall the monument of 1671 to Henry Wynn.

**East wall:-** pilasters at the north and south ends; a modern cross above the altar, and an icon to the south.

**South wall:-** a two-centred archway of two orders from 1845. In front a chest tomb with 16thC effigies.

**Nave - General.** Floor as the north aisle with one brass of 1770 set into it, and at the west end a stone slab to Richard Husketh (d.1761). Also, nearly opposite the fourth pier from the west, a large stone slab in the floor incised with 'The Chancel', presumably an indicator of the earlier layout of the church, and perhaps set there in the 19thC. Roof has six arch-braced collars springing from ornamented stone corbels, creating five bays; above the collars plates with hexafoil cut-outs; exposed rafters and purlins with windbraces.

**North wall:-** arcade as described under north aisle. Above are clerestorey lights: three windows with foiled ogee-headed lights with tracery above alternate with two windows with three trefoils.

**East wall:-** a tall two-centred chancel arch of two orders, the outer one with stopped chamfers, the inner with stiff-leaf capitals, short marble pillars and decorated corbels; a hoodmould with head stops. All 19thC. One



19thC brass refers to the east window.

South wall:- arcade comparable with that on the north side.

West wall:- a roof-line is visible just over the tower arch as a stone course set into the tower wall and interrupting one of the external string courses. Above this the wall is painted but not plastered. Presumably the pre-18thC roof line, though Hubbard thought it from the pre-Perpendicular phase. Also on the wall a brass records the donation of the clock in commemoration of one of the Wynn family (d.1883).

Chancel - General. Three steps up to the sanctuary and altar, carpeted throughout. Walls as the nave. Panelled roof - 15 panels in total - and decorated stone cornices on the north and south walls.

North wall:- two-centred archway to chapel.

East wall:- trefoil-headed niches with foliate designs to either side of the east window in Perpendicular style. The niches are original but the corbelled bases are 19thC.

South wall:- two-centred archway to chapel.

South aisle - General. Floor, wall and roof as north aisle.

North wall:- arcade (see nave above).

East wall:- two-centred archway to chapel of similar form to that on the north side. Now partially blocked by the organ. Metal railing across the entrance to the chapel.

South wall:- west of the organ is a late medieval wall painting in front of which is a raised platform supporting two effigies and a carved stone. The wall has marble monuments of 1843, 1899 and 1903, a fine brass of 1871, a metal plaque of 1915, Royal Arms of 1780 and war memorials.

West wall:- internal buttress at north end of the wall. One marble memorial of 1900.

South-east chapel - General. One step up; carpeted floor. Walls plastered and painted. Modern roof of purlins and rafters.

North wall:- arch curtained off.

East wall:- Rysbrack's memorial to Sir Watkin William Wynn from 1749. Also an oval marble plaque of 1763, and another marble memorial of 1856.

South wall: two paintings either side of the window.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Based on Hubbard with additions.

Sepulchral slab: i) fragment of an early 14thC shield and sword heraldic slab, commemorating Llywelyn ap .... Carved on this is 'E D 1825'.

Effigies: i) the effigy of Iorwerth ab Awr ab Ieuf, from the early 14thC; the shield bears the inscription and there is a sword. Formerly in the churchyard. ii) effigy of Hywel, also early 14thC, with an inscription on the shield; also formerly in the churchyard. iii) John ab Ellis Eyton (d.1526) and his wife, Elizabeth Caffrey (d.1524). An alabaster tomb chest with recumbent effigies re-sited in the chapel. Cushions below the heads, Eyton in armour, an animal at his feet and gauntlets at his side. Around the sides angel weepers, under

elaborate canopies, bearing shields. Inscription around the lid of the chest invites the reader to pray for their souls.

Wall painting: early 15thC depicting Seven Works of Mercy. Nearly 5m long, it shows five of the seven works of mercy with part of another. 'A different person performs each deed, one of them a woman. Each is inspired by an angel. Bent ribbon ornament. A border and Welsh inscription were added after the discovery of the painting in 1870. It can perhaps be associated with the poet Maredudd ap Rhys who was vicar from 1430, and who wrote a poem on the subject of the Works of Mercy' (Hubbard). Illustrated in Thomas 1913.

Chests: i) oak plank-built chest of c.1637, the gift of William Eyton, with a brass plate recording Eyton's gift to the poor; two locks. ii) from 1709 and encased in iron, inscribed 'Ruabon Parish David Lloyd Robert Roberts Wardens'.

Monuments: i) Cartouche with drapery, putti and flowers to Ellis Lloyd (d.1712). ii) Wynn memorial by Robert Wynne of Ruthin, 1719, depicts arms which are a combination of the Wynn and Williams families at the head. Displays three life-size effigies. Henry Wynn (d.1671), his son, Sir John (d.1718), and daughter-in-law Jane (d.1675), an heiress who brought Wynnstay into the family. A surround of Corinthian pilasters and a big semi-circular canopy, with drapery in folds. Latin inscriptions. iii) Sir Watkin William Wynn, third baronet (d.1749), by Rysbrack, with a date of 1754. 'Sarcophagus, pyramid, and reclining effigy. An angel holds a medallion showing a female figure with an upturned vessel and in the background a circular temple'. The monument cost £450. iv) memorial to Edward Lloyd of Plas Madoc (d.1760). v) white marble memorial to William Watkin W. Wynn (d.1763), probably by Robert Adam. vi) statue by Joseph Nollekens, which formerly stood in the centre of the north aisle chapel, depicts Lady Henrietta Williams Wynn (d.1769) as a 'free-standing life-size figure of Hope holding an anchor, [leaning] against an excellent draped urn'. Made in 1773.

Brasses: i) to Randle Jones (d.1754), mounted on wood. ii) to Lewis Jones (d.1770).

Royal Arms: painted on wood, 1780.

Hatchment: Mrs Sarah Youde of Plas Madoc.

Font: a small marble bowl and a wooden cover in the form of an urn; a wooden tripod stand. Designed by Robert Adam and given by Sir Watkin William Wynn in 1772, on the baptism of his son.

Pulpit: Hexagonal stem and rich carving. Transferred from the chapel at Wynnstay in 1819 and like the reredos in the present chapel there, probably by Francis Smith from the late 1730s.

Chandeliers: both with six branches. One was a gift of 1781 from Sir Watkin Williams Wynn and the Rev Thomas Trevor. The second, originally of 1678 was redesigned in 1781 and carries the churchwardens' names.

Bells: a ring of six, cast by Thomas Rudhall and dated 1768.

Plate: 1679 flagon and two patens and cups, all remade in 1776; a 1753 cup.

Registers: from 1559.

19thC furnishings and fittings:

Altar rails: fluted columns in the style of the pulpit. Designed and made by William Davies of Cefn Mawr, from 1845.

Bow pew: at west end of the nave.

Stained glass: windows by Gibbs, from 1872; by Ward and Hughes, from 1884; by H. Hughes of Ward and Hughes, 1888; and by T.F. Curtis of Ward and Hughes, from 1898.



Monuments; i) white marble with heraldry and drapery to Anne Rowland (d.1803) and Edward Rowland (d.1815) by Franceys and Spence, London. ii) a white marble memorial to Edward Lloyd Rowland (d.1828) by W. Spence. iii) a poor relief in marble to Edward Lloyd Kenyon of Pen y llan (d.1843) by Edward Boserling Stephens. iv) marble to Sir Henry Watkin Williams Wynn (d.1856) by Bedford and Co, London. v) white scrolled marble on black to Robert Lloyd. (d.1896) by Taylor of Ruabon. vi) Charlotte Edwards (d.1899), by Gaffin of London.

Brass: inlaid brass in Gothic style by Chevalier Lloyd from 1871 in memory of Jenkin Lloyd of Plas Madoc (d.1766), with armorial shields.

Fee board: 19thC.

## CHURCHYARD

Originally a sub-oval churchyard but now with a straight western boundary wall, beyond which is part of the earlier churchyard perimeter. The churchyard was reputedly enlarged in 1828. In 1984 a church hall was built on the north side of the church with a large car parking area to either side of it. Graveyard clearance occurred in 1962 and again in 1972.

Boundary:- a revetment wall. On the north a low stone wall is surmounted by iron railings; on the east and south a high revetment wall, and on the west an extension of this though lower.

Monuments:- only a few memorials remain: there are 19thC re-sited slabs along the west boundary wall and a few slabs of 19thC date along the south wall. The earliest seen, of 1794, on the west side.

Furniture:- a sundial on a column pedestal, set on a square base. The large dial and gnomon are intact, but the dial is too weathered to read.

Earthworks:- raised by around 3m on the south, less so elsewhere.

Ancillary features:- a lychgate forms the eastern entrance, erected in 1919 as a war memorial; stone plinths support an open timber frame below a slated roof.

Vegetation:- 19thC yews to either side of lychgate and one to south of the church. Some deciduous trees along the south and west boundaries.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visits: 8 November 1996 and 17 February 1999

CPAT SMR

Denbighshire County Record Office: DB/PD/89/1/68 (1769-71) restoration accounts

Denbighshire County Record Office: DB/PD/89/1/79 (1828) enlargement of churchyard

Denbighshire County Record Office: DB/PD/89/1/69 (1867) restoration

Denbighshire County Record Office: DB/PD/89/1/58 (1901/2) repairs to tower

Dineley 1888, 51

Glynne 1885, 128

Gresham 1968, 152, 179

Hubbard 1986, 268

Neaverson 1953-54, 18

Quinquennial Report 1993

Thomas 1913, 275

## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Very Good

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Good

Architectural potential: Good

Group value: Good



# Whitewell

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**Diocese** Chester

**Dedication** St Mary

**PRN** 16974

**NGR** SJ49494139

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## SUMMARY

St Mary's is a whitewashed brick church which was a former chapel of ease to Malpas in Cheshire, and it remains the only Welsh church in the diocese of Chester. The present structure of 1830 replaced a timber-framed building and retains some re-used panelling and timbers in the west end gallery. There is a memorial tablet of 1782 by Van der Hagen and another of 1696 which was brought from a church at Whitchurch in 1841.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Brick built church of 1830.

## HISTORY

This was formerly the site of a chapel of ease in the Parish of Malpas, Cheshire, and as such is known to have been in use by 1570. The present church, however, is not necessarily on the same site, and it has been claimed that two wells to the south of the church site mark the original location.

The present structure replaced a timber-framed church with a west bell turret and square-headed windows which was demolished in 1830, the benefactor being Miss Marianne Congreve of Iscoed Park. A monument to her father, who was buried in the grounds of the Hall, dates to 1782.

Stone windows were introduced, possibly in 1872 and by R. Dodson.

Whitewell was elevated to the status of parish church in 1885.

A spire and clock were added in 1898.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church is of cruciform plan with a tower at the west end of the nave. It is oriented fractionally south of due west.

Fabric: 'A' is red brick, but whitewashed; the dressings are painted.

Roof:- slates with lead along the ridges.

Drainage:- modern guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. There is a narrow drainage trench around the church, interrupted only by tramac paths.

As this is a wholly 19thC structure the following report is a summary only.

## Exterior

**Tower - General.** Three-stage tower with a string course which is no more than a square-sectioned projection between the second and third stages. Stepped, diagonal north-west and south-west buttresses. The second stage contains the clock chamber, the third the belfry. Shingled splay-footed spire over the tower rising to a ball finial and a wrought iron weathervane which was added in 1898.

**North wall:-** a square-headed slit window lights the porch. Belfry window with a two-centred arch turned in brick and with louvred lights.

**East wall:-** standard belfry window.

**South wall:** the tower's spiral staircase protrudes from this wall. There is a standard belfry window and a clock face.

**West wall:-** main entrance to the church through a four-centred arch and jambs with wave moulding. In the second stage is a two-light wooden-framed window to the gallery. Standard belfry window.

**Nave - General.** A basal plinth of three to four courses of brickwork, projecting in places, is painted black and is continuous around all the walls. A dentilation course below the eaves.

**North wall:-** two two-light windows with sills in stone and brick voussoirs from 1872, but retaining Y-tracery wooden windows. Flanked by stepped buttresses.

**South wall:-** as north wall.

**North transept - General.** Diagonal buttresses at the north-east and north-west angles. In the north wall one squat four-centred window with three short lights to the organ gallery. In the east wall a standard two-light window. Cobblestones are laid outside the north door which has a four-centred arch and a planked door with a boarded tympanum above.

**West wall:-** two standard windows separated by a stepped buttress.

**Vestry - General.** In the angle of the north wall of the chancel and the east wall of the north transept. In the east wall is the doorway with a square-headed frame. A small square window with segmental head is set in the north wall. A stepped buttress in the angle between the north wall and the east wall of the transept.

**Chancel - General.** The east wall has a window with three lights in intersecting Y-tracery, a hoodmould and floriate stops, all in stone. The south wall has a two-light window with hoodmould and floriated stops. A low brick boiler house with corrugated roof is set into the angle formed by the south wall of the chancel and the east wall of the south transept. Stepped buttress against the north wall and the side of the vestry.

**South transept - General.** The south wall has a three-light window with hoodmould and floriate stops, again all in stone. Nothing in the east and west walls.

## Interior

**Tower - General.** Encaustic tiled entrance porch in bottom stage of tower. Walls plastered and painted.



Spiral staircase in south wall gives access to the west gallery and an iron-runged ladder from this leads to the bells. Ceiling of joists and rafters.

Nave - General. One step down from the tower to a decorated tile floor; benches on raised wooden planking. Plastered and painted walls. Roof to all parts has braced collar trusses supported on stone corbels, purlins, rafters and, in most places, windbraces.

North wall:- one 20thC brass and one 20thC marble memorial.

South wall:- marble memorial of 1696.

West wall:- the tower arch has wave moulding on both faces; a commemorative brass of 1898 refers to the clock and bell; one 20thC brass. Above these is a west gallery supported on a tie-beam and accessed from the tower staircase; box pews in the gallery.

Crossing - General. Four two-centred arches spring from the walls to support the roof, and there is a large decorative central boss.

North transept - General. Floor, walls and roof as nave. The transept contains the organ gallery which is supported on tie-beams and two cast iron columns. Access via a dog-leg staircase at the north end of the transept. A 20thC slate memorial on the east wall.

Chancel - General. Encaustic tiled floor, longitudinal choir stalls on wooden planking, and carpeted sanctuary; one step up to the chancel and a further one to the sanctuary. Walls as nave and panelling that incorporates material from the earlier chapel. A rib-vaulted ceiling at the junction of the transepts.

North wall:- doorway to the vestry and one 20thC marble memorial and a 20thC brass on the north wall.

East wall:- memorials of 1782 and 1809.

South wall:- a window brass of the 19thC and wooden memorial of the 20thC.

Vestry - General. One step down from the chancel. Sketches of the chapel taken down in 1829 or 1830 on the west wall, and also a First World War memorial.

South transept - General. Floor, walls and roof as nave.

East wall:- marble memorial of 1927.

South wall:- two 20thC window brasses, and a 20thC marble memorial.

West wall:- marble memorials of 1852 and 1855 and two 19thC brasses.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Panelling: from the earlier church, re-used as a reredos in the sanctuary, and some too in the west gallery.

Monuments:- i) white marble tablet with Latin script to Philip Henry, theologian and minister of Worthenbury, (d.1696). Brought from the church at Whitchurch in 1841. ii) Marble tablet with obelisk and a draped urn to Rev. Richard Congreve (d.1782) by Van der Hagen of Shrewsbury

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Communion table: carved by John Woolam in 1830.

Chair: of unknown date in the sanctuary.

Stained glass:- window on the south side of the chancel by O'Connor, 1871.

Monuments: marble tablets to: i) John Parsons (d.1800) and his wife Grace (d.1855) by Harrison of Chester. ii) Joseph Lee of Redbrook (d.1852) by Dodson, Salop. iii) Grace Godsal of Iscoyd Park (d.1868) by O'Connor of London in 1871.

## CHURCHYARD

An elongated churchyard, broadly rectilinear, extended on the east side, probably in the late 1880s.

Boundary:- a fence on the south with a gully beyond it. Metal fence on the north and a hedge on the west.

Monuments:- modern burials in the eastern extension. A slab on the east side is of 1812, the earliest memorial seen.

Earthworks:- a scarp curving round to the east of the church may mark the original east boundary. On the south side a drop of 1.5m to the field beyond.

Ancillary features:- main entrance through a pair of panelled oak gates, from 1958. A tarmac path leads up to the tower and continues to the new burial ground. Another wooden gate in the north-west corner.

Vegetation:- yews to the north, south and east of the church. The earlier churchyard is defined by mature yews on the north and east.

## SOURCES

CPAT Field Visits: 29 June 1996 and 12 February 1999

CPAT SMR

Flintshire County Record Office: 1820 sketch of chapel

Flintshire County Record Office: D/IP/208 (1887) plan of proposed churchyard extension

Hubbard 1986, 379

Lee 1876a

RCAHMW 1912, 110

Winchester 1985



## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair.

## 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 to Medium

# Worthenbury

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**Diocese** St Asaph

**Dedication** St Deiniol

**PRN** 16976

**NGR** SJ41894623

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## SUMMARY

St Deiniol's church was completely rebuilt in 1736-9, and is reputedly the best example of a complete Georgian church in Wales. It retains box pews, a triple-decker pulpit and a font, together with other 18thC furnishings, the only earlier features being a little stained glass and a stoup. It has a small rectangular churchyard from which most of the earlier memorials have been cleared.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Large Georgian church from 1736-9 with apsidal chancel and a three-storey western tower constructed in red brick. A west gallery was added in 1830.

## HISTORY

The church is dedicated to St Deiniol, the son of Dunawd, the first Abbot at Bangor, who died in AD 544. It was originally a chapel attached to Bangor Is-y-coed. The date of the original establishment here is not known but there is no certain evidence of an early medieval foundation.

A chapel is mentioned here in 1388, and it is known that a brick and timber structure was constructed in 1557. Thomas, however, recorded that a new chapel was built here in 1658.

In 1689 the parish of Worthenbury was carved out of Bangor Is-y-coed.

The present building was built by Richard Trubshaw with financial assistance from the Puleston family in 1736-9.

In 1849 Worthenbury was transferred from the Diocese of Chester to that of St Asaph.

The church underwent large-scale repairs in 1951 which included re-roofing.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church consists of a nave with a narrower chancel and semi-circular apse, and a western tower. It is oriented fractionally north of due west, but 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted here for descriptive purposes.

Fabric: 'A' consists of red brick in header and stretcher bond; sandstone dressings.

'B' is medium to large blocks of yellow to grey sandstone used for the foundations and dressings.

Roofs:- slates with black ceramic ridge tiles over the nave. Flat roofs to the chancel, apse and tower.



Drainage:- guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. No obvious drainage trench on the south, but there could be one, albeit narrow, on the north and west.

## Exterior

General. Wholly in 'A' with a plinth in 'B'.

Tower - General. A square three-stage tower with three courses of stonework forming the basal plinth which has chamfered coping. Above this the three stages are divided by stone string courses, the first of slabs, the second one of more standard form with a hollowed underside, and the third a more complex moulded course. Above this is a balustraded parapet with corner urn pinnacles topped by wrought ironwork weathervanes and a central flag post. There are crosses midway along the parapet sides. The sides have clasping buttresses in 'B'.

North wall:- boiler house at ground floor level and then higher in this stage a round-headed window with four radiating keystones. The second stage lacks features while the third stage has a round-headed belfry window with two rectangular wooden lights and a tympanum, all louvred, and a keystone.

East wall:- abuts nave, the roof of which reaches to just below the second string course. Above this is a standard belfry window only.

South wall:- the first stage has a round window on the north, the second stage a round-headed niche with a corbelled support for the sill but no statue, and the third stage a standard belfry window, the bottom half of which holds a blue clock face.

West wall:- the first stage round-headed window contains small rectangular leaded lights, but is otherwise the same as the belfry windows. The second stage has a standard round window with small coloured leaded lights, and the third stage a standard belfry window.

Boiler house - General. The north-west boiler house is a more recent addition set in the angle between the tower north wall and the nave west wall. Constructed in red brick with a slate roof sloping to the north. A single square-headed wooden planked door is located in the west wall.

Nave - General. Plinth of three to four courses in 'B'. At eaves level is a moulded string course below what appears to be a plain parapet

North wall:- a doorway at the west end has square pilaster jambs, moulded capitals and arch and a projecting keystone; it contains a pair of panelled doors with solid wood in the tympanum. To the east are three tall round-headed windows, similar in design to the door. Pilaster buttresses at the corners.

East wall:- visible to either side of the narrower chancel but no features.

South wall:- as north side with pilaster buttresses at the corners. The south door is in the same style as the north door and is used as the main entrance to church.

West wall:- visible to either side of the tower but no features.

Chancel - General. Narrower than the nave and with a semi-circular apse. Stone plinth and eaves string course as the nave. As the apse is narrower than the chancel there are pilaster buttresses of a sort where they meet.

North wall:- a flight of six stone steps with an iron handrail lead up to a priest's door with a round-headed arch, a smaller version of the north and south doorways but lacking the moulded capitals and keystone; a

single heavy panelled door. A round window above with radiating keystones, immediately above the doorway.

East wall:- a window of standard form to the apse except that overlying the keystone is a large cusped 'plaque' in pale sandstone. Above this the plain parapet gives way to one with three balustraded openings.

South wall:- a round-headed window of standard form with stained glass.

#### Interior

Tower - General. Used as a vestry. Carpetted floor, brick walls which are plastered and limewashed, and a boarded ceiling with one main visible joist. The next floor has the ringing chamber with an oak planked floor, limewashed walls and plastered ceiling. Above this is the bell chamber.

North wall:- possibly a former fireplace in the north-east angle.

East wall:- giving on to the nave is a square-headed door and blocked tympanum in a round-headed tower arch.

South wall:- nothing to note.

West wall:- splayed window aperture and below this a brass memorial plate of 1786/1813.

Nave - General. Floor carpetted with box pews on raised planked floors; midway along the length of the aisle there is one step up. Walls plastered and painted. The windows have alcoves beneath them in which are ledges or seats. Floor of sandstone slabs, carpetted central aisle and box pews. A plastered ceiling which rises in an arch along the centre and this has a moulded frieze along its base. To the sides of this the ceiling is flat and there is a cornice at the wall tops resting on decorative, paired corbels.

North wall:- the north door, blocked by a large cupboard or wardrobe of 1726, has a square-headed frame. On the wall marble memorials of 1824 and 1893 and brasses of 1910 and 1946.

East wall:- three steps up to the chancel. There is no chancel arch, just the inset chancel walls with pilaster columns rising to the ceiling. Marble memorial of 1734 to the north, another of 1799 to the south.

South wall:- window alcoves as north side. Marble memorials of 1833 (referring to a vault beneath), 1836 and 1865; brasses of 1899 and 1905 and a brass First World War memorial.

West wall:- at the west end is a gallery inserted in 1830 and supported by a front tie-beam and six cast-iron columns, four in two pairs centrally placed to the aisle, and two at the front of the gallery. It is accessed via a spiral staircase, through a low round-headed doorway in the south wall of the tower arch reveal.

The gallery extends the full width of the nave and its floor drops from west to east. Its panelled front has short balusters and centrally placed is a grimy painting of a royal coat-of-arms. In the gallery is the organ. On the west wall below the gallery are three hatchments and a 1796 list of the church holdings.

Chancel - General. Three steps up to the chancel from the nave. Stone slabs for the floor with carpet over. Plastered and painted walls as the nave. The ceiling with rococo plasterwork and a cornice which shows corbels and flower heads. Two large box pews to the north and south of the aisle.

North wall:- square-headed reveal to priest's door. Brasses of 1860, 1896, 1915 and 1916; marble memorials of 1801 and 1843.

South wall:- a marble memorial of 1840 and a brass of 1894.



Sanctuary - General. In the apse. Carpetted and one step up from the chancel. Wall separated into bays by Ionic and Corinthian pilaster columns and the ceiling displays a gilded dove and a sunburst, and small grey clouds, all in plaster.

East wall:- four wooden panels around the walls display the Lord's Prayer, the Decalogue (two boards) and the Creed.

West side:- balustrade altar rails.

## FURNISHING and FITTINGS

Taken from Hubbard with additions.

Stained glass: the east window by Betton and Evans is largely made up of medieval fragments. Some are reputedly from a Jesse window of 1393 at Winchester College which Betton and Evans replaced with a copy in 1822-3. However the fragments are also recorded as being found at Emral Hall and donated to the church by Lady Puleston in her will (see Harrison). Betton and Evans of Shrewsbury may have installed them. The stained glass is added to the inside of the original glass.

Emral Cross: an ancient oak cross which stood in Emral Park after the chapel at Emral was demolished in the 18thC; later given to the church as a memorial to Edith Summers. Located in front of the priests' door in the north wall of the chancel.

Stoup(?): circular, in worn sandstone, with a drain hole; on the north side of the chancel.

Box pews:- a full set, including square squirearchical ones in the chancel, with cast iron fireplaces and chairs. Heraldry on the doors of these relate to the Puleston and Broughton Hall families. Some of the pews towards the front of the nave have small-scale balustrading, a feature which appears also on the gallery front. Some of the nave pews were not inserted until 1810. Several brass plates remain in place e.g. 'Half of this seat to Nath. Spakeman 1791', 'Edward Lloyd Esq. of Pengwern', Robert Wynne Esq, Garthenin, 1787', and 'Jane Bevan 1813'. One has a carving in the wood 'F. Price 1744'.

Font: with stone baluster stem and a small marble bowl from c.1745, mounted on a large circular plinth.

Pulpit: three-decker pulpit with backdrop and a heavy tester; panels with some blind Gothic arches but otherwise plain.

Board: a large painted board records the details of land and property holdings extracted from the Public Episcopal Registry at Chester in 1778 and presented in this form in 1796.

Wardrobe: inscribed 'P R I 1726' in low relief at the top; introduced into the church in 1962.

Altar table: a Georgian bow legged altar table from Emral Hall.

Chest: planked, with wrought iron fittings located on the south side of chancel.

Monuments: i) marble with armorial apron, fluted pilasters and an urn in a broken pediment records Broughton Whitehall (d.1734). ii) white on black marble to Watkin Hayman (d.1749). iii) white on black marble to Watkin Hayman (d.1799).

Brass: to Thomas Bennion of Wallington (d.1786) and his wife Mary (d.1813) and bearing a statement that he was buried underneath the centre of the vestry.

Hatchments: three, undated, relating to the Puleston family. One in poor condition.

Bells:- four bells, originally cast in Gloucester in 1746; recast and hung in 1958.

Registers: from 1597.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Chandeliers: a two-tiered brass example bearing the inscription 'The Gift of William Lea, Halghton, 1816' and another two-tiered example from 1893.

Monuments: i) white marble on black background to Whitehall Davies (d.1824) and others, by Blayney of Chester. ii) a large white veined marble tablet on grey background, with drapery arranged over a segmental entablature, and volutes and foliation at the base, to Sir Richard Puleston (d.1840), by John Carline III. iii) a large white marble memorial with triangular pediment to Ellen Matthie (d.1836) and her husband Hugh, a former rector, (d.1843), by Blayney of Chester. iv) mable to Mary Bailey (d.1865) by W Haswell, Chester. v) a white marble on a grey background to Sir Richard Price Puleston (d.1893), by Gaffin of Regent St, London.

## CHURCHYARD

A well maintained almost rectangular enclosure on flat ground. The church was originally sited in an almost square enclosure which was extended westwards in 1900.

Boundary:- a red brick wall with sandstone coping.

Monuments:- the earliest graves are located around the apse; 18th and 19thC sandstone tablets, chests and table tombs randomly placed in close proximity - a chest tomb of 1768 appears to be the earliest, but there are slabs that are largely illegible. Chests and table tombs of 19thC date line the church side of the south path. Four brass memorial plates are affixed to the south wall of the church, all 19thC. The more recent burials are located in the western extension where the graves are regularly placed. The ground on the south side of the church is clear of markers, except along the edge of the churchyard, where a long mound of material appears to be of broken memorials and earth.

Furniture:- a wrought iron lamp-post located beside the south path.

Earthworks:- the original churchyard is marked by a drop of 0.6m in ground level immediately to the west of the tower. The churchyard is raised by 0.4m on the east, 1-1.5m on the south and up to 1m on the north.

Ancillary features:- a pair of iron gates form the eastern entrance which is approached by three steps. A tarmac path leads up to the south door and a single gate in the north boundary wall gives access via a grass path to the north door at the chancel end.

Vegetation:- deciduous trees of 18thC or 19thC date line the boundary.

## SOURCES

Church guide n.d.

CPAT Field Visits: 29 June 1996 and 5 February 1999

CPAT SMR

Faculty: St Asaph 1900 (NLW) addition to churchyard

Faculty: St Asaph 1919 (NLW) removal of two yew trees

Faculty: St Asaph 1951 (NLW) temporary closure of church

Harrison 1990

Hubbard 1986, 457

RCAHMW 1912, 116

Thomas 1908, 462



## CONDITION

Church generally in good state of repair. Plaster peeling off around the apse and chancel south wall.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Very Good

Value of documentary evidence: Medium

Archaeological potential: Medium to Good

Architectural potential: Poor

Group value: Medium

# Wrexham

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<b>Diocese</b>	St Asaph	<b>Dedication</b>	St Giles
<b>PRN</b>	106012	<b>NGR</b>	SJ33555012
		<b>Previous dedication</b>	St Aegidius

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## SUMMARY

St Giles's church incorporates portions of a 14thC Decorated building with later additions in Perpendicular style, in part a result of a major fire in 1463. An elaborate tower was added between c.1506 and 1520. Furnishings and fittings of high quality include a 1524 brass eagle lectern, a wall painting of the Last Judgement, 14th and 15thC effigies, 17thC brasses by Sylvanus Crue and a good collection of 17-19thC memorials. The irregularly shaped churchyard includes the tomb of Elihu Yale, wrought iron gates by Davies Bros and a 1809 sundial.

## ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

14thC Decorated style for the arcades, perhaps from c.1330-1. Some of the south aisle may also be of this date.

15th-16thC remodelling occurred after a fire of 1463, creating the current Perpendicular appearance in which the only intrusive element is the south porch. However, Hubbard noted the disparities in the window designs on the south side, and suggested that here 14thC features survived the later 15thC remodelling,

Subsequently the nave was extended westwards, creating an ante-nave with its different clerestorey lights., presumably in the second half of the 15thC. Finally the tower was erected between c.1506 and 1520. The chancel was also added around this time, and there were changes to the east end of the south aisle, for all the post-remodelling windows have two-centred arches, as opposed to the four-centred arches of the mid-15thC.

South porch added in 1822 in Perpendicular style.

## HISTORY

A chapel in this area, probably at Brynyffynon, is believed to have been founded by St Silin. At a later date unknown, a church was constructed on the present site with the dedication to St Aegidius, the Latin equivalent of St Silin. It was subsequently re-dedicated to St Giles.

There are early references to Bishop Reyner, Bishop of St Asaph between 1186 and 1225, granting a moiety of the rectory of Wrexham to the Abbot and Convent of Valle Crucis for the use of the abbey in 1220. In 1247, Madog ap Gruffydd, Prince of Powys Fadog, who had given lands to the monks at Valle Crucis for them to build their house on sometime prior to 1202, further granted them the patronage of the church at Wrexham.

The church is recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 as 'Ecca de Gwresam' with a value of £8. Tithes to the Abbot at Valle Crucis appear to have been paid in full until Bishop Anian II (1268-93) was given the throne at St Asaph in 1268; he appointed a vicar at Wrexham, an appointment which Valle Crucis successfully contested (by a papal judgement in 1274) on the grounds that Wrexham was still a chapelry to



## Valle Crucis.

By the time of Pope Nicholas's Taxation in 1291, a vicar had again been appointed. By then the value of 'Ecclia de Gwregsam' was put at £33 6s 8d.

Contemporary records refer to the steeple of the early church blowing down in 1330. The rest of the structure was taken down soon afterwards and a new church was built in Decorated style. The present church contains a large number of mason's marks relating to various building periods and also faint scratch marks on the nave arcade which suggests that the plan of the 14thC church was similar to the present one, except for the present chancel. The two easternmost bays of the present south aisle appear to date from the 14th-century church.

In 1463 a serious fire in Wrexham caused severe damage to the church. It was reconstructed later in the 15thC, presumably on the foundations of the earlier church. Like its predecessor the new church had no structural chancel, but there were chantry chapels which were screened off. The south door was sited in the second bay from the west and a north porch was constructed. The aisles were rebuilt and the clerestory added at this time; a flat panelled ceiling replaced the high pitched one in the nave, though the stone corbels were retained: many were renewed in 1867. Lean-to roofs were inserted in the aisles. The reconstruction was completed by 1480, except for the tower which at that time had a wooden steeple.

Considerable restoration work was undertaken at the beginning of the 16thC. By 1506, the steeple had been pulled down and the first stage of the new tower was erected. A stone on a level with the capital of the western arch is inscribed 'This steeple was finished 1506' - indicating building work to that level. In 1518, a Chester citizen made a bequest for finishing the steeple and the design was ascribed to Hart of Bristol.

Also about this time a new chancel was constructed. The east window was removed, its frame was opened to the ground to form the existing chancel arch and a new five-sided chancel was built to the east with a crypt below it. The chancel fabric bears masons' marks with 'NH' or 'N' initials and a 'XV' which appear to be specific to the chancel. The great wall painting above the chancel arch probably dates to the construction of the chancel. Palmer (1886) suggested that a rood screen and loft were constructed at this time. There was apparently evidence of a staircase in the fabric of the wall between the east ends of the nave and south aisle, which must have led to a loft. The round-headed arch of a blocked doorway is visible high on the north wall of the south aisle at this location and this doorway was used as access to the gallery occupying the east end of the nave in 1707, but was presumably sited there because of the pre-existence of a rood loft.

In November 1643, the fittings in the church were damaged or destroyed by Parliamentarians. During the Commonwealth period, the church was used as a prison and a stable.

In 1662, the rood loft was taken down and the old chancel flagged. Windows were repaired, the tower floor levelled, roof reroofed and the four weathercocks repaired. The ground floor of the tower was utilised as a consistory court. The interior of the church was part whitened and the arcades were coloured green. Church accounts mention the pulpit, reading desk, brass eagle, peal of four bells and a priest's bell, a replacement apparently cast in 1678. In this 17thC church, the east end of south aisle chantry was called 'The Isgoed Chancel', and the other side 'The Llwyn Onn Chancel'. The chantry at the east end of the north aisle belonged to the Puleston family. In 1684 Thomas Dineley sketched the tower and the western end of the church.

In 1707, a gallery was erected at the east end of the nave by Elihu Yale of Plas Gronw; this gallery was moved to the west end in 1715. A wrought iron chancel screen was erected at the same time by Yale, who also donated a painting of the Last Supper though this was sold in 1843 to defray the repair costs of the chancel. Yale gifts also included a wooden reredos with Corinthian columns and three panels depicting the Decalogue, Moses and Creed, though these were also removed in 1843 and the present stone reredos introduced.

In 1726, a peal of ten bells by Rudhalls of Gloucester were inserted into the tower. In 1735 the clock and chimes were donated by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn. And in 1779 an organ by Green of London was introduced; to accommodate it, a new gallery was erected which occupied the space between the tower and the west end of the nave.



Restoration work in 1789-90 included levelling the floor, making the pews more regular and introducing a new pulpit and desk.

The windows in the church were reglazed in 1810. In 1814, the south aisle roof was renewed. In 1820-21, two large galleries were erected running the entire length of the north and south aisles; the south aisle was extended westwards to accommodate the staircase leading into the south gallery. The former south door was blocked and a new window inserted. A new south door was inserted in the extended bay. Access to the north gallery was by a staircase in the north porch to a doorway in the upper part of the west wall of the aisle.

The old organ was sold in 1827, and in 1853 a new organ by Bewsher and Fleetwood of Liverpool was constructed in the west gallery, exposing a west window through to the tower. To accommodate the new organ, the old gallery was removed and a new one reconstructed uniform in height to the side galleries. A three-decker pulpit was introduced at the same period.

Between 1833 and 1841, repairs were undertaken to the exterior. The chancel appears to have been 'embellished'; stained glass by Evans of Shrewsbury was put into three windows in the chancel and a stone reredos replaced the old wooden one. The ancient stone font, located in the garden of Acton Hall, was restored. Extensive repairs were undertaken on the tower turrets and parapets; some were wholly rebuilt.

Glynne visited the church at some unknown date though presumably in the middle of the 19thC and completed an enthusiastic description.

Major restoration work by Benjamin Ferrey in 1867 included removing the north and south galleries; replacing box pews with open oak seating, reflooring the aisles in red, black and buff tiles by Messrs. Denney, Hargreaves and Co, and encaustic tiles by Maws in the chancel. Old sepulchral slabs were presumably broken up and used as a base. The Myddelton monument was re-sited in the north aisle, the interior walls were cleaned of all paintwork and repairs were made to the stonework; a new pulpit, carved oak altar table, corona for the chancel, a new prayer desk, and a heating system were introduced. The restoration cost £4,345 and was executed by Yates of Shifnal.

In 1894 the organ and gallery were removed from the west end and the organ was re-sited in the south chapel. The west window was filled with stained glass by Clayton and Bell.

In 1901, the Yale alumni restored the north porch to commemorate their bicentenary; they made further contributions in 1929 to restoring the roof of the north aisle and in 1968 contributions to restoring the Yale tomb.

Restoration work in 1902-3 was undertaken by Prothero, which included a thorough restoration of the fabric of the church. The external stonework was crumbling and in need of refacing and repointing work. The tracery of the windows in the tower was replaced, and the 27 statues on the tower needed refixing and securing. Fenestration in general needed repairing and the church was re-roofed and releaded.

The chancel was partially refurbished by Sir Thomas Graham Jackson in 1914. The reredos, rails and marble flooring are his. In 1918-19 he fitted the east end of the north aisle as a War Memorial Chapel, and he also intended that statues, of which only three materialised, be placed on the disused corbels of the nave.

Remodelling of the area under the tower took place in 1952 and the inner porch was constructed. There was further repair work to the tower in 1954. The floor of the ante nave was refloored with York stone in 1959, the font was moved and cleaned and fitted with a modern oak cover and the 17thC oak table was set against the north wall.

The organ was restored 1987. General repairs were undertaken between 1987-91 on stonework in tower, including the rebuilding of the corner turrets, and renewing the lead covering on the tower and the north porch. Interior floor tiling was much renewed in 1991, including the black and white marble tiles in the sanctuary and chancel and the red, black and yellow tiles in the aisles.



## ARCHITECTURE

The church comprises a nave and chancel, north and south aisles, a west tower and north and south porches which are integral parts of the aisles. It is oriented east to west.

Fabrics: 'A' consists of sandstone ashlar. The older sandstone remains weathered and discoloured and recent repair work in fine grained yellow ashlar is clearly visible. Medium to large linear blocks with large rectangular blocks in the lower stage of the tower; irregular coursing.

'B' is similar to 'A' but the individual blocks are more regular.

'A' is 15thC/16thC. 'B' is from 1822.

Roofs:- leaded roofs, their visibility masked by battlemented parapets

Drainage:- 19thC guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. Slabs around the western end. A surface drain around much of the south, east and north sides might disguise a sub-surface drainage trench.

### Exterior

Tower - General. Perpendicular west tower, c.45m high. A basal plinth at c.0.7m above ground level is double stepped and topped by a roll moulding above the hollow-chamfered coping. Almost immediately above this is a much worn string course at 1m. Six stages are separated by string courses and in some places friezes of quatrefoil decoration. There is a battlemented parapet with sixteen crocketed pinnacles and set behind these four hexagonal corner turrets surmounted by crocketed pinnacles with weathervanes. Clasp buttresses incorporating canopied niches at regular intervals, change to diagonal buttresses in the topmost stage. Gargoyles, usually one to each side. Some of the ashlar of the wall faces has been renewed.

The tower faces display large blind panels and a total of thirty niches surmounted by a crocketed pinnacle and founded on a corbel carved with a grotesque or some other motif; twenty-seven still contain sculptures, though some at least of these must be much restored. The central statue of the nine on the west side is a Virgin and Child.

North wall:- the lowest stage constructed of large rectangular blocks of ashlar include one carved 'A...B...76'. The top of this first stage has a chamfered string course with several worn grotesques protruding from it. Two stages of blind foiled ogee-headed panelling with quatrefoils in spandrels. Next three stages with pairs of four-centred windows separated by a central column, effectively a pilaster buttress. The windows contain different numbers of foiled, ogee-headed lights, four or six in two rows divided by transoms. Many of these windows are blind, but the belfry windows have louvred lights, six to each window. All the windows including the bell openings have crocketed ogee hoodmoulds, usually with decorative stops. The central buttress contains five of the niches for statues and there are subsidiary columns of three niches on either side in the fourth, fifth and sixth stages. A clock face is affixed to the central buttress in the fifth stage. Built into the north-west corner is the tower stair, lit by small windows.

East wall:- visible above the nave roofline. The windows in the fourth to sixth stages are much as on the north wall. There is, however, no central niche in the fourth stage. A clock face is set on the fifth stage.

South wall:- similar to but not the same as the north wall for in some of its features it is not so elaborate. There is for instance only one statue and this in a diagonal niche on the south-east corner buttress. The central buttress has ogee-headed panelling rather than niches, and there are additional blind windows in the fourth stage. The windows in the fifth stage are not symmetrical though there is no obvious reason for this. As elsewhere a clock face at the fifth stage.

West wall:- the tower has a west door with a square-headed frame and a label with simple stops, over a two-centred arch with carved spandrels, one an animal the other perhaps a rose. The doors are panelled with wooden tracery holding glass lights and below decorative ironwork plaques. The double plinth and the small string course immediately above it are stepped down to either side of the doorway. In this first stage a small two-centred window with a label lights the tower stair. Above the doorway the quatrefoil frieze contains a



much worn figure, perhaps Christ, and the string course above it has grotesques. A large west window spans two stages of the wall; it has five cinquefoiled, ogee-headed lights with a transom and panel tracery; and a hoodmould with grotesque stops. The fourth, fifth and sixth stages are as the north wall. All the niches have statues.

North aisle - General. Roof slopes down from nave wall below its clerestorey. The walls have the double plinth at the base, but unlike the tower there is no roll moulding and no string course immediately above it.

North wall:- a clasping buttress at the north-west corner, a diagonal north-east buttress and five stepped straight buttresses, all the straight buttresses rising to crocketed pinnacles; six bays. Five bays have windows with rather angular four-centred arches with four foiled, ogee-headed lights with tracery above; hoodmoulds with simple stops. There is a battlemented parapet with a string course below it and under this a frieze of floriate motifs mixed with occasional masks and grotesques. The most westerly bay is occupied by the two-storey north porch which projects by no more than 0.4m beyond the aisle wall. The battlemented parapet and the string course with frieze continue across this, but in addition there are gargoyles. The north door has a two-centred arch of two orders with rib and hollow moulding to the chamfers, and a hoodmould; several of the arch and jamb stones are renewed. Above the doorway a figure of the Virgin Mary and Child in a heavily decorated, ogee-canopied niche. To the west of this is a new square-headed window over a pair of four-centred lights.

East wall:- a two-tier plinth rises to c.2.5m above ground level. The east window has a two-centred arch with hoodmould over four ogee-headed lights with panel tracery above. It is similar to but more elaborate than the north wall windows.

West wall:- the west wall of the porch. A plain string course below the crenellated parapet but the frieze is not carried round to this side. Two square-headed windows with four-centred lights, both with modern dressings and probably of modern origin.

Nave - General. All that is visible is the seven-bay clerestory.

North wall:- seven three-centred clerestorey windows with hoodmoulds and head-stops, over paired cusped two-centred lights. Above, a battlemented parapet with crocketed pinnacles and a moulded string course with another frieze of decorative motifs as on the north wall of the north aisle. One gargoyle at the west end and between the first and second bays a stair turret continues above the clerestory level.

East wall:- gargoyles at the north and south ends of this wall but otherwise it is not possible to discern the nature of the nave from ground level.

South wall:- appears to be similar to the north clerestorey though no stair turret and perhaps no gargoyle either.

Chancel - General. Chancel with polygonal apsidal end, a 16thC addition to the earlier church plan. Walls added to the eastern buttresses of the earlier building. A moulded basal plinth varying in height from 0.5m on the south side to 1.5m on the east, and above this a heavily moulded string course which mirrors the stepped plinth. The plinth is not continuous with those of the aisles. Buttresses at each angle. A battlemented parapet with floriate and grotesque frieze as on the aisles. Stepped buttresses terminate in crocketed pinnacles. The lower niches contain 19thC memorial statues. Some renewal of the stonework.

North wall:- large window with two-centred arch over four foiled lights with transom and panel tracery above; hoodmould with decorative carvings and animal stops.

North-east wall:- window with two-centred arch with hoodmould as north wall, and three foiled ogee-headed lights with panel tracery. One gargoyle on this side.

East wall:- window with four-centred arch, five ogee-headed lights, sub-arches, transoms and panel tracery; hoodmould with head stops. Below this window is a three-centred doorway to the crypt; hoodmould, and all



completely modern. Two gargoyles.

South-east wall:- as north-east wall but no gargoyle. The window has been completely renewed though not the hoodmould with its stops.

South wall: as north wall, with much renewal of stonework to the window and the wall. One gargoyle.

South aisle - General. Two-tier plinth, and beneath this in the two most easterly bays a third, flat-topped plinth. Battlemented parapet with a moulded string course below which is a frieze similar to that on the north aisle.

East wall:- parapet not battlemented. Window with a two-centred arch over four foiled, ogee-headed lights with panel tracery above; hoodmould with simple stops. The frieze of carvings continues for only half the length of the wall, and it is evident that the string course has been renewed for part of its length.

South wall;- six-bay aisle of 15thC date with the 19thC south porch forming a seventh bay at the west end, but showing a continuous alignment. Clasp buttresses at the south-east (15thC) and south-west (19thC) corners with five straight 15thC buttresses and one 19thC buttress dividing the south wall into seven bays. The 15thC buttresses rise to crocketed pinnacles, but the 19thC buttress lacks this sophistication. The six bays each contain a window with a four-centred arch with a hoodmould over four foiled, ogee-headed lights with panel tracery. The easternmost window, however, is two-centred, has sub-arches and has cinquefoiled two-centred lights. It also has head-stops to the hoodmould, one of large proportions which looks out of place. To the east of it the buttress is different too from the others on this wall for it has blind traceried panels beneath the pinnacle. And the frieze beneath the top string course is different. The mix of grotesques and floriate motifs is replaced by animals. All in all it appears that the design and probably the date of this bay of the south aisle is different from the rest.

The most westerly bay is in 'B' and contains a doorway with a hollow-chamfered, two-centred arch over a pair of studded, panelled doors; a hoodmould with square stops completes the doorway. Above the arch is an 1822 datestone.

West wall:- all in 'B'. A double basal plinth c.0.6m above ground level, and moulded string course below the battlemented parapet. The wall houses a window with a two-centred arch with hoodmould and square stops over three multifoiled lights with tracery above; 19thC in date. At the south-west corner a gargoyle projects over the buttress.

## Interior

Tower - General. Carpeted ground floor; exposed stonework to the walls. A vaulted ribbed ceiling rising from four figured corbels to above the height of the large west window. The tower was the original chapel of the Royal Welch Fusiliers (RWF) and retains many of its memorials.

North wall:- several large marble memorials from the Boer War and 1900 China Expedition, several brass plates and a 19thC inscription carved into the stonework - all RWF tributes.

East wall:- a high four-centred arch of perhaps five orders with moulded and fluted jambs and arch.

South wall:- up to 43 brasses on the wall.

West wall:- stone flagged western stepped entrance from west door set under a two-centred arched reveal. The western doorway is enclosed by a modern oak panelled inner porch with traceried lights in the upper panels. Two marble memorials on the wall to the south of the porch.

North porch - General. Modern tiled floor, stone benches along south and west walls. A vaulted ceiling by Prothero from 1901 with floriate bosses and a central boss of St Giles with a deer, arrow and crozier.



North wall:- a high four-centred reveal to the north door.

East wall:- wooden screen with panelled entrance doors and traceried panels filled with glass fill the wide four-centred arch that separates the porch from the west end of the north aisle.

South wall:- an extremely faded wall painting of the Crucifixion, discovered in 1867. Also a commemorative brass of 1901 referring to the restoration of the porch.

West wall:- various wooden boards listing vicars, parish funds etc.

North aisle - General. Red, black and buff tiled floor throughout the north aisle with iron heating grilles; flush planked floor under benches. Exposed stonework to the walls; there are masons' marks on the north wall and also two consecration crosses. Roof of six bays defined by principals supported on arch bracing with tracery in the spandrels; short wall posts supported on head corbels; all this was replaced in the 19thC except perhaps for the tracery. Nine panels to each bay with decorative bosses at the intersections. Corbels from an earlier roof at a lower level, some perhaps original. An altar at the east end with a marble floor surround.

North wall:- a large number of marble memorials from 1730, 1751/2, 1759, 1766, 1776, 1802, 1804, 1813, and 1866. Brasses of 1736, 1745, 1746, 1769, 1786, 1797 and 1809, plus two of the 20thC. At the extreme east end beside the altar is a 14thC effigy and also a War memorial.

East wall:- a marble reredos of the 19thC or later.

South wall:- at the extreme east end are marble memorials of 1817 and 1829/30, and on the west face of the arcade reveal a brass of 1743. Otherwise a 14thC six-bay arcade of six, chamfered, two-centred arches of two orders rising from five octagonal sandstone piers with octagonal bases mounted on square plinths; no responds for the arches spring directly from the walls. One pier carries a brass of 1673/4.

West wall:- four-centred archway with panelling, and some changes in the masonry visible above the archway. Also two 20thC brasses and four commemorative brasses relating to works in the church, also of the 20thC. Finally Royal Arms from the early 18thC.

Ante-nave - General. Between the tower and the nave proper is an ante-nave with porches to the north and south of it. Stone flagged floor; bare walls. Roof a continuation of that in the nave.

North wall:- the masonry of the 14thC wall terminates in a butt joint with the later work on this wall, despite the fact that corbels from an early roof line have been simulated here by the 19thC restorers. The clerestorey over the ante-nave has four lights, rather than the two in the windows over the nave. In the wall is a doorway, approached by two steps, with a four-centred arch and chamfered jambs giving access to the tower. Above this is a wooden memorial board of 1692, and to the west of it are plans of the church and a Buck print, and to the east 19thC and 20thC memorials.

East wall:- no division from the nave.

South wall:- clerestorey as north wall, but most of the wall have been used for the Cunliffe monument of 1834; one other 19thC marble memorial and a brass of late 19thC date.

West wall:- tower arch as described above.

Nave - General. Floor and walls as north aisle. A camberbeam roof of seven bays with 24 panels to each bay. The camberbeams have traceried arch bracing and rest on short wall posts and stone corbels with armorial shields which may be original (Hubbard); the outer cusps support richly painted wooden figures of angels playing musical instruments; the panels of the roof have decorative bosses and diagonal moulded ribs across the panels. At the east end of the nave is a carpetted platform, supporting an altar which is in



use for most services.

Lower than the present roof corbels are large corbels, disused, from the the 14thC roof. Most were renewed in the 19thC, and Hubbard believed that some of those renewed were not original, and that it was at this time that the redundant corbels were carried across the walling of the ante-nave. At least two may be original with one on the south side representing a mermaid with a comb and a glass.

North wall:- arcade to north aisle as noted above. Above the piers of the arcade are corbels from the earlier roof; one is used as a support for a statue. A clerestory of six bays with paired multifoil lights set in round-headed splayed apertures (with a seventh bay over the ante-nave). Brasses of 1673, 1687 and 1902 attached to piers.

East wall:- a two-centred chancel arch with hollow chamfers, formerly the east window of the church. It retains fragments of its original tracery which hang down like stalactites. The chancel is closed off by a wrought iron screen. To each side of this at the base of the arch are canopied niches with ogee heads and tracery. Above and around the arch a wall painting of the Day of Judgement.

South wall:- arcade and disused corbels, two with statues. Attached to the piers are brasses of 1860 and 1888, and at the extreme east end marble memorials of 1698, 1743 and 1799. High up above these in the wall is a blocked doorway, seemingly square-headed with no trace of any dressings (see south arcade below).

West wall:- attached to the reveal at the west end of the arcade are marble memorials of 1668, 1735 and 1696, and one of the 20thC.

Chancel - General. Black and white marble floor, and two steps up to the sanctuary, two to the altar. Walls as nave and there are raised longitudinal oak benches with open traceried panels. The 19thC roof is plain compared with that of the nave and consists of three moulded tie-beams with moulded purlins and rafters.

Note: below the chancel a crypt with both internal and external entrances.

North wall:- immured in the wall at the extreme west end of the wall is the original stepped buttress that supported the east wall of the church. marble memorial of 1754/1756 and below this a brass of 1822 recording the burial of Danvers Gartside and others in a vault in the new burial ground. Another marble memorial of 1784. Also a four-centred doorway to the crypt approached by two steps.

North-east wall:- one 20thC brass.

East wall:- carved stone reredos below the east window. To either side of the window are richly carved, medieval, vaulted and canopied niches culminating in crocketed pinnacles; each niche has two platforms supporting statues.

South-east wall:- an ornate triple sedilia (medieval), with vaulting and 'nodding ogees' (Hubbard), carved foliage in the spandrels through which heads, some of green men, appear.

South wall:- immured buttress as in the north wall. On the sill of the south window is the life-size effigy of Hugh Ballot with a large inscription stone of later date set below it. The wall also supports a marble memorial of 1770.

South aisle - General. Floor and walls as north aisle. Roof of six and a half bays with seven camberbeams on stone corbels with carved heads, some of which have been renewed. Oak panelling of the roof restored or replaced and the bosses are less highly decorated than those in the north aisle. The easternmost bay of the aisle was formerly the chantry of St Mary. It is now occupied by the organ. The west end is panelled off to form a utility room and a locked vestry.

North wall:- six bay arcade (see above) . A blocked doorway high in the wall may have belonged to either or perhaps both the rood loft and the 1707 gallery; certainly Crossley was happy that this functioned as an



access to the rood loft. On the walls brasses of 1665 and 1679; marble memorials of 1748/9 and one each from the 19thC and 20thC.

East wall:- a vaulted and canopied niche in the corner, thought perhaps to be 14thC, and a monument of 1676, both largely hidden by the organ.

South wall:- the upper part of a 14thC piscina within a canopied niche is located at the east end. Marble monuments of 1703/5, 1740, 1746, 1749, 1756, 1784, 1793, 1797, four of the 19thC and one of the 20thC; brasses of 1729, 1751, 1797, 1799, 3 of the 19thC and 3 of the 20thC. On the wall above the south door, four benefaction boards, probably but not certainly of the 19thC.

West wall:- this is not accessible (locked vestry), but there is at least one monument on the wall.

## FURNISHINGS and FITTINGS

Taken from Hubbard with additions.

Effigies: i) worn recumbent effigy of an early 14thC knight with shield and sword. The shield bears an epitaph referring to Cyneurig ap Hywel. Previously in the churchyard, but now on a modern plinth in the chapel at the east end of the north aisle. ii) Hugh Ballot, Bishop of Chester (d.1596). A worn and fragmentary effigy, located on the south window sill in chancel.

Font: octagonal stone font located in ante nave. The early bowl was retooled when re-introduced into the church in 1843, having been recovered from the garden of Acton Hall.

Lectern: brass eagle lectern with moulded stem, and three lions at the base. It is probably of East Anglian workmanship, and is among forty or so surviving pre-Reformation lecterns. A gift of John ap Gryffyd in 1524.

Wall painting: of the Day of Judgement, located above the chancel arch, and thus perhaps early 16thC. Figures rise from their coffins in front of Our Lord in Majesty (head and bust missing) with the Virgin and St John. Uncovered in 1867.

Chests: i) iron-bound plank chest with three locks; located in north porch. ii) a small plank-built chest with three locks and with carrying handles at both ends. At the west end of the nave. iii) chest with carved front and a brass plate set in the top commemorating a gift in 1960.

Altar table: carved flanges to the sides and bulbous legs. No date.

Screen: 'iron chancel screen with gates. Scrollwork, twisted bars and vine trail, foliage, orange trees growing from urns etc. Two cherub masks. Said to have been given by Elihu Yale, and thus possibly dating from around 1707, i.e. from the same time as his gallery. The work has been attributed to Hugh Davies, who died in 1702, and, more convincingly, to Robert Davies, his son' (Hubbard).

Royal Arms: a rare version of the Royal Arms of Queen Anne, only in use between c.1707 and 1714.

Plate: includes a plate of 1689, a flagon of 1698, a cup and paten of 1711, and from 1709 a cup and paten and a large silver chalice and paten.

Wooden memorial plaque: from 1692 but difficult to read.

Monuments: all marble except where stated. i) cartouche to Daniel Clark (d.1668), his son and grandson. ii) to Sir Richard Lloyd of Esclus, Governor of Holt Castle (d.1676), erected in his lifetime, but with the inscription dating only from 1877. iii) cartouche to David Yale (d.1690). iv) tablet to Gilbert Fownes, Gent (d.1703), with heraldry. v) Owen Bold (d.1703) and his wife Margaret (d.1705) by Stanton of London; 'twisted Corinthian columns, gadrooning, side volutes and garlands, an urn in a broken scrolly pediment' (Hubbard). vi) White marble cartouche to Ursula Lloyd of Halghton, (d.1730). i) William Jones (d.1735). i)



John Jones (d.1740) and family. vii) square stone tablet to William Poynton (d.1746). viii) cartouche to Rev. William Lewis (d.1743) in Latin. ix) Jane Ellis (d.1748/9), erected by permission of Sir Thomas Longueville, Bart. x) White marble to Mary James (d.1749). xi) Mary Myddelton of Croes Newydd (d.1747), in white marble by Roubiliac, 1751-2; trumpeting angel and falling pyramid. xii) to Thomas Myddelton (d.1754) and his wife Arabella (d.1756) in neo-classical style; overlapping medallion portraits by Roubiliac under a draped canopy. xiii) Ann Wilkinson (d.1756), first wife of the ironmaster John Wilkinson, by T. F. Pritchard; pedimented tablet. xiv) white marble cartouche to Edward Smith, Collector of Excise, (d.1759). xv) White and grey marble tablet to Edward Wettnall, timber merchant and carpenter (d.1766). xvi) Rev Thomas Edwards (d.1770), erected by permission of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart. xvii) Philip Puleston (d.1776) by C. Bromfield, with heraldry against an obelisk. xviii) Mary Fitzhugh (d.1784), with a draped urn. xix) William Lloyd of Plas Power (d.1793), by R Westmacott, London. xx) Thomas Jones (d.1799)

Brasses: i) Elizabeth Thelwall (d.1665). ii) Elizabeth Lloyd (d.1665). iii) Joseph Critchley (d.1673/4). iv) Richard Edwards, mercer (d.1673), possibly by Sylvanus Crue. v) Humphrey Lloyd of Bersham (d.1673) by Sylvanus Crue. vi) Richard Edwards (d.1674). vii) Alice Bradshaw (d.1687). viii) Johnathan Price (d.1729) and his wife Mary (d.1729). ix) Dorothy Davies of Ifton (d.1736). x) Vincent Bradley (d.1743) xi) John Williams of Tanyrallt (d.1746). xii) Mrs Christian Jones (d.1747). xiii) Mrs Ellis Evans (d.1751). xiv) Joseph Crichley, churchwarden, (d.1764). xv) John Wynn of Frondeg (d.1769). xvi) Clementina Ellis (d.1786). xvii) Elizabeth Moore (d.1797). xviii) John Jones (d.1797). xix) John Jones (d.1797). xx) J. Jones (d.1799).

Bells: 10 bells cast by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester in 1726.

Registers: from 1618.

19thC furnishings and fittings include:

Pulpit: High Victorian Decorated style in Mansfield stone, mounted on red granite and Devonshire marble ring shafts. Arcaded panels include figures of the Good Shepherd and the Evangelists. By Ferrey, 1867.

Benefaction boards: four, probably 19thC but not easily accessible.

Alma stone: stone inscribed to Royal Welch Fusiliers who lost their lives in 1854 in the Crimea.

Stained Glass: medallions from Evans's 1841 east window are reused in the chancel north window. South aisle easternmost window by A. Gibbs from 1867. The tower west window by Clayton and Bell, 1895. Further south aisle windows by Kempe and the firm of Kempe and Tower, with commemoration dates from 1892 to 1920. Three apse windows are by James Powell and Sons, 1914.

Monuments: all in marble to i) Mary Puleston (d.1802) by Peter Vangelder with draped urn. ii) Frances Puleston (d.1804) by Vangelder with a small urn against a large background and columns. iii) Rev S Norman (d.1813), by E Baker, Liverpool. iv) The Lloyd monument by Sir Richard Westmacott, from 1816, with an inscription on a convex bow, female figures to either side, one with two children, the other holding a chalice; the latest commemoration date on the monument of 1797. v) Ann Fryer (d.1817) by Sir Richard Westmacott. vi) William Johnson Edensor (d.1829) and his daughter Joana (d.1830) by Millers and Derome of Manchester, with a sarcophagus against an obelisk. vii) Sir Foster Cunliffe (d.1834) and his wife Harriet (d.1830), by John Davies of Wrexham; a large monument. viii) Mary Ellen Peel by Thomas Woolner, 1866-7. ix) Thomas Parry (d.1845) by Seddon and Macbride of Liverpool. x) members of the Twenty-third Royal Welch Fusiliers who died in the 1873-4 Ashanti Campaign; by Gaffin and Co, 1874. xi) Sir Evan Morris (d.1890), an ostentatious monument by Jones and Willis.

## CHURCHYARD

The church is centrally placed in an irregularly shaped churchyard, which has been encroached on by the 19thC development of the town centre. In 1784 Sir Watkin Williams Wynn gave three acres of land for a burial ground and it was consecrated with a chapel in 1793; it forms the present municipal cemetery. Various features within the churchyard form part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (De 158).



**Boundary:-** stone wall on all sides, showing as a revetment surmounted by iron railings on the north and east sides, a low wall with railings on the south, and an ordinary wall for some of the west side.

**Monuments:-** the churchyard was levelled in 1904 leaving only a few marked graves other than the large collection of chest and table tombs to the north and south sides of the church. The oldest recorded gravestone is of 1695, but there is also a slab sited in the south path with 'ME RE 1672'. The Yale Tomb (Elihu Yale, 1648 - 1721) is a chest tomb with angle pilasters on a raised base, reputedly restored in 1820, again in 1874, and in 1968 by Yale alumni (SAM De158 but also Grade II\* listed). Other chest tombs of c.1720, 1726 and 1790, and several are listed.

**Furniture:-** the octagonal sandstone sundial was donated by Edward Ravenscroft in 1809; an octagonal plinth with traceried panels, a large copper plate and gnomon with Roman numerals. A weathered date on the stone rim below the plate. (De158; Grade II listed).

**Earthworks:-** the ground to the south of the church falls away steeply to lower ground, and there is a lesser slope to the east.

**Ancillary features:-** the highly decorative wrought iron gates have central double-arched gates with lower flanking arched side gates, and were made in 1720 by the Davies Brothers of Bersham. Hollow square wrought iron piers separate the main gates from the side entrances. Outer stone piers are surmounted by urn finials. All the gates have scrolled overthrows with leaf and flower designs (Listed Grade II\*). A wide stone-flagged walkway to the west door and flagstone paths continue all round the church.

**Vegetation:-** a single yew tree is located on the east side of the entrance gates. Also hollies, laurels, and beeches, probably of 19thC, throughout the churchyard.

## SOURCES

Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings 1994

CPAT Field Visits: 9 January 1997 and 25 February 1999

CPAT SMR

Crossley 1946, 42

Denbighshire Record Office: PD/101/1/206 (1776): alteration to gallery

Denbighshire Record Office: PD/101/1/207 (1819): erection of two galleries

Denbighshire Record Office: PD/101/1/208 (1865): dismantling galleries etc

Denbighshire Record Office: PD/101/1/211 (1899): erection of vestries and porch

Denbighshire Record Office: PD/101/1/561 (1954): repair work to tower

Dineley 1888, 56

Faculty: St Asaph 1865 (NLW) restoration of church

Faculty: St Asaph 1914 (NLW) restoration of interior of chancel

Glynne 1885, 130

Gresham 1968, 178

Hubbard 1986, 298

Lloyd Williams and Underhill 1872. pls 32

Palmer 1886

Petition: St Asaph 1793 (NLW) new burial ground

Quinquennial Report 1995

Smith 1988

Thomas 1913, 290



## CONDITION

Church in good state of repair all round, apart from general weathering of sandstone fabric.

## ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Survival of pre-19thC structure: Very Good

Survival of pre-19thC fittings: Good

Value of documentary evidence: Very Good

Archaeological potential: Medium

Architectural potential: Medium

Group value: Medium

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