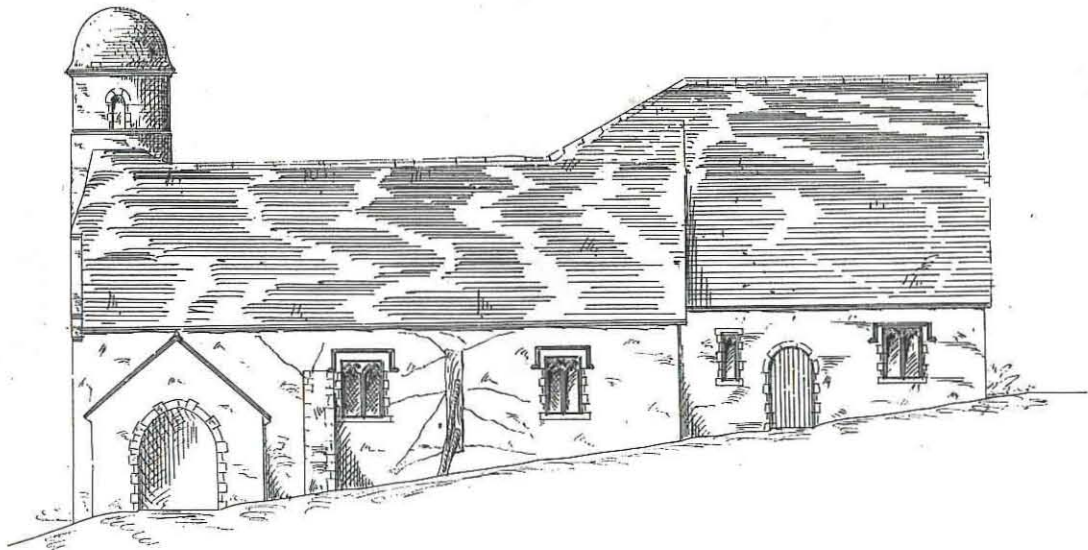


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

**THE HISTORIC CHURCHES OF BRECONSHIRE
AND RADNORSHIRE**



The old church at Llansantffraed-juxta-Usk, Breconshire

Report prepared for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

by Bob Silvester

CPAT Report No 255

CPAT Report No 255

WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

THE HISTORIC CHURCHES OF BRECONSHIRE AND RADNORSHIRE

CHURCH SURVEY

By BOB SILVESTER

February 1998

Report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL
Tel: 01938 553670; Fax: 01938 552179
Copyright CPAT 1997

WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

A REGIONAL OVERVIEW OF BRECONSHIRE AND RADNORSHIRE

1 INTRODUCTION	3
2 METHODOLOGY	3
3 THE RESOURCE	3
4 CHURCH SITES: ORIGINS	4
4.1 Pre-Norman ecclesiastical sites	4
4.2 Medieval ecclesiastical sites	6
4.3 Post-medieval ecclesiastical sites	6
5 MEDIEVAL AND LATER CHURCHES	6
5.1 Survival	6
5.2 Architectural styles	7
5.2.1 Norman (Romanesque)	7
5.2.2 Early English	8
5.2.3 Decorated	8
5.2.4 Perpendicular	8
5.2.5 Post-medieval era	10
5.2.6 19th/20th century	10
6 CHURCH BUILDINGS	11
6.1 Building materials	11
6.2 Church plans	11
6.2.1 Naves and chancels	11
6.2.2 Multi-cellular churches	12
6.2.3 Towers	13
6.2.4 Bellcotes and belfries	13
6.2.5 Porches	14
6.2.6 Other elements	14
6.3 Internal architectural features	14
6.3.1 Timber roof and ceilings	14
6.3.2 Rood screens, lofts and stairs	15
6.3.3 Galleries	15
6.4 Furnishings and fittings	16
6.4.1 Wall paintings	16
6.4.2 Stained glass	16
6.4.3 Fonts	16
6.4.4 Stoups	17
6.4.5 Piscinae	17
6.4.6 Squints	17
6.4.7 Altar stones	17
6.4.8 Altar tables	17
6.4.9 Altar rails	18
6.4.10 Pulpits	18
6.4.11 Chests	18
6.4.12 Seating	18
6.4.13 Organs	19
6.4.14 Benefaction boards	19
6.4.15 Medieval monuments	19
6.4.16 Post-medieval monuments	19
6.4.17 Bells	20

7 CHURCHYARDS	20
7.1.1 Shape	20
7.1.2 Relict boundaries	20
7.2 Churchyard features	21
7.2.1 Prehistoric and Early medieval stones	21
7.2.2 Wells	21
7.2.3 Crosses	21
7.2.4 Sundials	21
7.2.5 Gravestones	22
7.2.6 Lychgates	23
7.2.7 Yews	23
8 DEDICATIONS	
8.1.1 British dedications	23
8.1.2 Earlier dedications	23
9 POTENTIAL AND INTEREST	24
9.1 Archaeological Potential	24
9.1.1 Survival of deposits	24
9.1.2 External drainage	24
9.1.3 Underfloor heating	24
9.1.4 Underfloor vaults	25
9.1.5 Churches with 'lost' elements	25
9.1.6 Church complexity	26
9.2 Archaeological and architectural interest	26
9.2.1 Sub-regional church groups	26
9.2.2 Romanesque architecture	26
9.2.3 Porches	26
9.2.4 Church roofs	26
9.2.5 Undisturbed interiors	26
9.2.6 Screens	26
9.2.7 Wall paintings	27
9.2.8 Fonts	27
9.2.9 Wall memorials	27
Consolidated bibliography for Breconshire and Radnorshire	28

1 INTRODUCTION

The following report offers a summary and overview of the desk-top analysis and fieldwork on churches in Powys that were undertaken as part of the Cadw-funded Welsh Historic Churches Project during 1996-1997, with additional information incorporated in subsequent years.

The study covers the southern two-thirds of the modern county of Powys, that is the historic counties of Breconshire and Radnorshire, and its definition is determined solely by modern political boundaries though some of these have of course a history going back to the Act of Union in 1536 if not before (Rees 1967, pl.30). Ecclesiologically, the county boundaries have little if any significance, but almost all of the area falls within the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, the exception being a small group of parishes in eastern Radnorshire that come under Hereford (see below).

The scope of the project as defined by Cadw in their Project Brief of February 1995 was a survey of all pre-19th century churches vested in the Church in Wales but excluding nineteenth-century Anglican churches on greenfield sites, nonconformist chapels, Roman Catholic churches, cemeteries and monastic houses. To this list, cathedrals were added subsequently. Churches rebuilt in the 19th century were to be examined for the survival of earlier fabric and form. An overall aim was to achieve complete coverage of historic Welsh churches within a few years.

2 METHODOLOGY

The twin approach of desk-top analysis and fieldwork has created a body of evidence for each church which should allow the determination of the background history, the major visible constructional phases, the extent of surviving stonework of medieval and post-medieval origin, and the fixture and fittings that pre-date the 19th century.

The desk-top analysis utilised published sources including Richard Haslam's volume on Powys (1979) in the *Buildings of Wales* series which provides the authoritative base for the initial work, the 19th-century county histories for Radnorshire by Jonathan Williams (Davies 1905) and Breconshire by Theophilus Jones (Jones and Bailey 1909, 1911 & 1930), and the national and regional archaeological journals which in the past have published such valuable papers as Sir Stephen Glynne's 19th-century notes on churches throughout Wales, and Crossley and Ridgeway's descriptions of church screens. For unpublished documentary information, the National Library was used. Its collection of 19th and 20th-century church faculties and some parish records provide the major source of data, though for the diocese of Swansea and Brecon its records do not appear to be so full as for some other dioceses. The Royal Commission's records housed in the NMR were also consulted, as was the relevant SMR.

Fieldwork involved a single trip to each church and churchyard, the duration of the time spent on site dictated by the complexity of the church, a small, simple church such as Llanbadarn-y-garreg requiring no more than one hour, a larger church with rich fittings such as Old Radnor necessitating at least four hours and perhaps more. Pro forma sheets were used for recording the architectural and archaeological details of each cell of the building, both externally and internally, the fittings of pre-19th-century date, and various attributes of the churchyard. Those churches that were entirely rebuilt during the Victorian era were recorded in outline detail. An existing plan of the church was used for annotated notes, but if no such plan was available as was often the case, a sketch was prepared. Photography, both colour slides and monochrome prints, was taken where appropriate.

The results from fieldwork and the desk-top study were integrated in a database. Free-text memo fields were used to produce prose descriptions of the history, architecture, furnishings and fittings, churchyard, bibliographic references, and brief general and architectural summaries, which could then be output as individual church reports. Other non-memo fields in the database carried other information collected during the study. The individual church reports have or will be printed and circulated separately. The archive comprising the original sheets and any secondary documentation collected during the survey, together with the photography, is retained by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust at Welshpool.

The present overview was, of necessity, compiled after the individual church reports, and relied on a new and subsidiary database that held data on the significant attributes of each church.

3 THE RESOURCE

One hundred and nineteen churches have been included in the survey of Breconshire and Radnorshire. As noted above these were classed as historic on the basis that the church or its predecessor had been in existence in 1800. Of the

119, all except the redundant church of Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig (which at the time of preparing this report has just been leased for residential re-development) were still in use. One other historic church, Llanilltud, was demolished during the survey and is not included here.

Five churches - Discoed, Kinnerton, Michaelchurch-on-Arrow, Norton and Presteigne - elected to remain in the diocese of Hereford, and thus in the Church of England, at the time of disestablishment in 1920. The remaining 114 are in the diocese of Swansea and Brecon which was carved out of St Davids in 1923.

The full list in alphabetical order is:

Abbeycwmhir	Llananno	Llangynidr
Aberedw	Llanbadarn Fawr	Llanhamlach
Aberyscir	Llanbadarn Fynydd	Llanigon
Alltmawr	Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llanlleonfel
Battle	Llanbedr (B)	Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr
Beguildy	Llanbedr (R)	Llansantffraed in Elvel
Bettws Clyro	Llanbister	Llansantffraed juxta Usk
Bettws Disserth	Llanddetty	Llanspyddid
Bettws Penpont	Llanddew	Llanstephan
Bleddfa	Llanddewi Fach	Llanwrthwl
Boughrood	Llanddewi Ystradenni	Llanwrtyd
Brecon	Llanddewi'r Cwm	Llanynis
Bronllys	Llandefaelog Fach	Llanyre
Bryngwyn	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Llowes
Builth Wells	Llandefalle	Llyswen
Cantref	Llandegley	Llywel
Capel-y-ffin	Llandeilo Graban	Lower Chapel
Cascob	Llandeilo'r Fan	Maesmynis
Cathedine	Llandrindod	Merthyr Cynog
Cefnlllys	Llandulas	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow
Clyro	Llanelieu	Nantmel
Colva	Llanelwedd	New Radnor
Cregrina	Llanfaes	Newchurch
Crickadarn	Llanfaredd	Norton
Crickhowell	Llanfeugan	Old Radnor
Cwmdu	Llanfihangel Brynpabuan	Partrishow
Defynnog	Llanfihangel Helygen	Pilleth
Discoed	Llanfihangel Nant Bran	Presteigne
Disserth	Llanfihangel Nant Melan	Rhayader
Garthbrenny	Llanfihangel Rhydithon	Rhulen
Gladestry	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	St Harmon
Glaschw	Llanfilo	Talachddu
Gwenddwr	Llanfrynach	Talgarth
Hay	Llangammarch Wells	Trallong
Heyop	Llanganten	Tretower
Kinnerton	Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn	Upper Chapel
Knighton	Llangattock	Whitton
Llan-y-wern	Llangenny	Ystradfellte
Llanafan Fawr	Llangors	Ystradgynlais
Llanafan Fechan	Llangunllo	

4 CHURCH SITES: ORIGINS

4.1 Pre-Norman Ecclesiastical Sites

The identification of those churches whose origins, in whatever form, lie in the early medieval era depends largely on a combination of circumstantial evidence: the curvilinearity of churchyards (see section 7.1.1), dedications to British (i.e. Celtic) saints (see section 8.1.1) and specific topographic locations (see Edwards and Lane 1992, 3ff; and more specifically to this area Silvester 1997, 114ff, following Brooks 1992). Individually none of these criteria may be

significant, but collectively they assist in the determination of pre-Conquest (i.e. pre-1066) foundations. In 44 cases the evidence is reasonably convincing and in another 19 it is equivocal. Three churches - Cwmdu, Llanbedr (B) and Partrishow - can be added to the list because of their foundation (or ?re-foundation) at the very end of the pre-Conquest period on the basis of an entry in the Book of Llandaff for c.1060.

Probable

Aberyscir	Llandefaelog Fach	Llanigon
Battle	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Llansantffraed in Elvel
Boughrood	Llandefalle	Llanspyddid
Cwmdu	Llandegley	Llanwrthwl
Defynnog	Llandeilo'r Fan	Llanynis
Disserth	Llanelieu	Llanyre
Glascwm	Llanfeugan	Merthyr Cynog
Llan-y-wern	Llanfilo	Nantmel
Llanafan Fawr	Llangammarch Wells	Old Radnor
Llanafan Fechan	Llanganten	Partrishow
Llananno	Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn	Rhulen
Llanbadarn Fawr	Llangattock	St Harmon
Llanbedr(B)	Llangenny	Trallong
Llanddetty	Llangors	Ystradgynlais
Llanddewi Ystradenni	Llangynidr	
Llanddewi'r Cwm	Llanhamlach	

Possible

Alltmawr	Llanbedr (R)	Llanlleonfel
Beguildy	Llandeilo Graban	Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr
Bleddfa	Llanfaredd	Llansantffraed juxta Usk
Crickadarn	Llanfihangel Nant Melan	Llanwrtyd
Garthbrengy	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Ystradfellte
Llanbadarn Fynydd	Llanfrynach	
Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llangunllo	

There is a small number of churches - less than a dozen - which are believed to have originated as early monastic sites (*classau* or mother churches), on the basis of placenames or later documentary references. Some though not all appear in the list above. Again the documented evidence is stronger for places such as Glascwm and Llanafan Fawr than for others such as Llowes and Talgarth. With the exception of Llanbister where there is potentially significant terracing in the old churchyard, and Glascwm, Llanafan Fawr and perhaps Merthyr Cynog with their double enclosures, none of these sites reveal any possible traces of the early monastic establishments.

?Defynnog	Llanbister	Merthyr Cynog
Glascwm	Llanddew	St Harmon
Gwenddwr	Llangattock	?Talgarth
Llanafan Fawr	?Llowes	

More evidence may be provided by the presence of early medieval inscribed and incised stones. While it is not possible to assert categorically that a particular stone was originally erected at the site where the church later evolved, it can reasonably be assumed in some cases, as where several stones are found in the same church, or where one is immured in medieval masonry. Some uncertainty attaches to those prefixed by interrogation marks.

?Bryngwyn	Llandefaelog Fach	Llanlleonfel
?Cwmdu	Llanelieu	Llanspyddid
Defynnog	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Trallong
Llanafan Fawr	Llanfrynach	Ystradgynlais
?Llanddetty	?Llangammarch Wells	
Llanddew	Llangors	

Finally there are churches where either the fabric - walling at Presteigne or a window at Defynnog - or furnishings such as the fonts at Defynnog, Llywel, Newchurch, Old Radnor and Partrishow, appear to indicate a pre-Conquest (i.e.

pre-1066) origin for the church. However, it needs to be recorded that the dating of the Llywel and Newchurch fittings is far from watertight, and that the interpretation of the structural evidence at Presteigne and Defynnog is also open to question.

Defynnog
Llywel

Newchurch
Old Radnor

Partrishow
Presteigne

4.2 Medieval Ecclesiastical sites

Those churches that originated in the post-Conquest period are not always easy to define. For churches founded in newly established settlements such as Crickhowell and Brecon there can be no doubt, but they form only a small minority. Others may have begun as chapels (e.g. Bettws Clyro and probably Capel-y-ffin), but as with some of the parish churches, an early medieval origin cannot be ruled out entirely: they just appear less likely that those listed in section 4.1. Where a fair degree of uncertainty exists, question marks have been used in the list below.

Bettws Clyro	?Crickadarn	Llanfihangel Rhydithon
Bettws Disserth	Crickhowell	?Llanstephan
?Bleddfa	Discoed	Maesmynis
Brecon	Gladestry	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow
Bronllys	?Hay	New Radnor
?Bryngwyn	Heyop	?Newchurch
Builth Wells	Kinnerton	Norton
Cantref	Knighton	Pilleth
Capel-y-ffin	Llanddewi Fach	Rhayader
Cascob	?Llandrindod	Talachddu
Cathedine	Llanelwedd	Tretower
Cefnlllys	Llanfaes	Whitton
?Clyro	Llanfihangel Brynpabuan	
Colva	Llanfihangel Helygen	
Cregrina	Llanfihangel Nant Bran	

4.3 Post-medieval Ecclesiastical Sites

A small group of churches are known to have been built on new sites during the post-medieval centuries. Abbeycwmhir is the only 17th-century example, Upper Chapel appears to be a 19th-century foundation, though the possibility of a medieval chapel of ease there cannot be entirely dismissed, and the remaining three are of 18th-century origin.

Abbeycwmhir
Bettws Penpont

Llandulas
Lower Chapel

Upper Chapel

5 MEDIEVAL AND LATER CHURCHES

5.1 SURVIVAL

It has been noted above there are perhaps only two sites where pre-Conquest fabric survives. Medieval survival is, not surprisingly, very much better, though again it varies from church to church. No church in the region has remained unaltered since the medieval period, but there are a very few churches where the medieval building has survived largely intact with very little 19th-century or early 20th-century modification or replacement: the best examples are Llywel and Partrishow with Defynnog and Llanbedr(B) showing rather more changes. Listed below are all the churches where medieval fabric and architectural details survive to the extent that the building does appear to be an authentic medieval edifice. In some instances, however, there is perhaps only a single diagnostic feature surviving as at Aberyscir where the south door is 15th century or Battle where the roof has been re-used, or where there is undiagnostic masonry that is presumed to be medieval. In a number of instances only the tower survives, either totally or in part.

Aberedw	Gwenddwr	Llangenny
Beguildy	Llan-y-wern	Llangors
Bleddfa	Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llanigon
Brecon	Llanbedr (B)	Llanspyddid
Bronllys	Llanbedr (R)	Llanstephan
Bryngwyn	Llanbister	Llanwrtyd
Cascob	Llanddetty	Llanynis
Cefnlllys	Llanddew	Llyswen
Colva	Llanddewi'r Cwm	Llywel
Cregrina	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Merthyr Cynog
Crickadarn	Llandefalle	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow
Crickhowell	Llandeilo Graban	Old Radnor
Cwmdu	Llanelieu	Partrishow
Defynnog	Llanelwedd	Pilleth
Disserth	Llanfeugan	Presteigne
Garthbrengy	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Rhulen
Gladestry	Llanfilo	Talgarth
Glascwm	Llangattock	Ystradfellte

Churches with a single surviving medieval feature

Aberyscir (doorway)	Bettws Clyro (roof)	Llandegley (doorway)
Battle (roof)	Llanbadarn Fawr (doorway)	Llangunllo (window)

Church with medieval fabric but no features

Cathedine	Llandegley	Llansantffraed in Elvel
Discoed	Llandeilo'r Fan	Norton
Llanafan Fawr	Llanfaredd	Talachddu
Llanbadarn Fawr	Llanfihangel Brynpabuan	Trallong
Llanddewi Ystradenni	Llanganten	Whitton

Medieval tower surviving as an appendage to a Victorian church

Builth Wells	Llandefaelog Fach	Llanhamlach
Cantref	Llanfihangel Nant Bran	Llowes
Clyro	Llanfrynach	Norton
Hay	Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn	
Knighton	Llangunllo	

5.2 ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

5.2.1 Norman (or Romanesque) Architecture of this period is limited to no more than seven churches in Breconshire and Radnorshire. Llanbadarn Fawr retains its wonderful southern doorway and tympanum, integrated into an otherwise unprepossessing Victorian church; two decorated lintels remain at both Llanfilo and Llanddew, a Romanesque voussoir stone at Trallong, and solitary Romanesque capitals have survived at Brecon and Old Radnor. Only at Presteigne is there any substantial survival: several blocked early Norman windows and arch- and doorways, together with contemporary masonry, and also later, Romanesque arcade piers.

Brecon	Llanfilo	Trallong
Llanbadarn Fawr	Old Radnor	
Llanddew	Presteigne	

5.2.2 Early English The succeeding period is represented by architectural details in 20 churches. The majority are lancet windows, more often than not solitary survivals as at Colva where it is re-set in a later wall, Llanfilo with its hermit or leper window, and Llangunllo in a church largely rebuilt in the 19th century. In some cases lancet dressings have been completely renewed though on balance it seems that they represent genuine replacements, as at Bleddfa, Cregrina, Gladestry and Llanigon. But there may also be churches where the innate conservatism and simplicity of

design, exhibited widely throughout Breconshire and Radnorshire, led to the survival of lancet construction into later centuries - Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig is a possible example. And much the same is true of simple two-arched doorways where their attribution, by past commentators, to the 13th, 14th and even 15th century, seems to have depended very largely on their perceived association with other diagnostic architectural features or the ground plan of the building in which they are set. Thus the original south doorway at Llanstephan is placed in the 13th century, partly because the later chancel has been classed as 14th-century. Other architectural evidence of Early English date comes in the form of another of the piers at Brecon, and the eglwys y bedd at Partrishow.

There are a handful of other churches - Cefnlllys, Llanddetty, Llandefaelog Fach, Llanfeugan and Rhulen - where the tower or the body of the church has been considered to be 13th century, though without any diagnostic details to provide corroboration. These have not been included below.

Bleddfa	Llanbister	Llanigon
Brecon	Llanddew	Llanstephan
Bryngwyn	Llanddewi'r Cwm	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow
Cascob	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Partrishow
Colva	Llanfilo	Presteigne
Cegrina	Llangattock	Talgarth
Gladestry	Llangunllo	

5.2.3 Decorated This period, variously dated from c.1250 to 1275 through to 1350 or later, is represented at 24 churches. As with the preceding period, windows and particularly their tracery provide the most common guide. Foiled lancets (as at Aberedw, Llanbedr (R) and Merthyr Cynog), Y-tracery (Llanddewi'r Cwm, Llanfeugan, Llanigon, and Llanspyddid) and reticulated tracery (Old Radnor and Pilleth, where its presence may indicate English influence), are all represented but generally there are no more than two or three windows in a particular church rather than complete fenestration. And again as with the preceding period some windows (as at Llan-y-wern) have been completely renewed raising doubts about their original form.

The uncertainties of classifying two-centred doorways were referred to in the last section: for this period the priest's doors at Bronllys and Gwenddwr have both been claimed as 14th century, as has the west door at Glascwm. Some towers have been attributed to the 14th century and might thus fall within this phase - Disserth, Knighton (on the basis of its tower arch), Llandeilo Graban and Llywel, but only Bleddfa, where the tower was destroyed by Glendwr at the beginning of the 15th century, can be confidently assigned to the 14th century (or earlier).

	Gwenddwr	Llanspyddid
Aberedw	Knighton	Llanstephan
Bleddfa	Llan-y-wern	Llywel
Brecon	Llanbedr (R)	Merthyr Cynog
Bronllys	Llanddewi'r Cwm	Old Radnor
Builth Wells	Llandefalle	Pilleth
Crickhowell	Llandeilo Graban	Trallong
Disserth	Llanfeugan	
Glascwm	Llanigon	

Some plan elements of particular churches have been attributed to the 14th century, largely through an ecclesiological form of dead reckoning based on the perceived relationship to other better dated elements in the church: such is the nave and perhaps north aisle at Llangattock, and the nave and aisles at Presteigne.

Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llanfrynach	Rhulen
Llanbedr (B)	Llangattock	
Llanelwedd	Llanwrtyd	

5.2.4 Perpendicular The majority of churches in Breconshire and Radnorshire underwent some modification during the Perpendicular period that lasted from the later 14th century through to the early 16th century (see the list below). There is also, not surprisingly, a higher incidence of surviving masonry that can be attributed to this period, with churches such as Llanbedr (B), Llangenny, Presteigne and particularly Llywel exhibiting complete buildings, largely undisturbed by subsequent changes. The more specific lists below reveal that the more elaborate Perpendicular architecture - complex-moulded doorways, arcades, and some windows - is found in Breconshire and particularly the

region around the Usk Valley. Those churches in Radnorshire that are comparable tend to be those close to the border which are thought to reflect English influence, such as Old Radnor and Presteigne.

Aberedw	Gwenddwr	Llangors
Beguildy	Hay	Llanhamlach
Brecon	Llanbedr (B)	Llanstephan
Bronllys	Llanbedr (R)	Llanwrtyd
Bryngwyn	Llanbister	Llywel
Cascob	Llanddetty	Merthyr Cynog
Cefnlllys	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Old Radnor
Clyro	Llandefalle	Partrishow
Colva	Llandeilo Graban	Pilleth
Crickadarn	Llanelieu	Presteigne
Crickhowell	Llanfeugan	Talachddu
Cwmdu	Llanfihangel Nant Bran	Talgarth
Defynnog	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Trallong
Dissert	Llanfilo	Whitton
Garthbrenny	Llanfrynach	Ystradfellte
Gladestry	Llangattock	
Glascwm	Llangenny	

Windows Rectangular-headed and arch-headed windows are common, usually with panel tracery above, and there is a high survival of original dressings. Exceptional are the transom and panels in the east window at Brecon, and the three triangular-headed windows of c.1460 in the south aisle of Presteigne. A few other churches such as Llanigon, where the Perpendicular element is limited to a 15th-century window which has been moved from its original position and had all its dressings renewed, have not been listed above.

Doorways in Perpendicular style survive at:

Bryngwyn	Llandefalle	Old Radnor
Cascob	Llangattock	Partrishow
Colva	Llangenny	Presteigne
Cwmdu	Llangors	Talachddu
Llanbedr (B)	Llangunllo	Talgarth.
Llandetty	Llywel	

(That at Aberyscir has been attributed to both the 13th and 15th centuries).

Towers The tower at Brecon is documented to 1510-20, but there is also a group of churches in Breconshire, that have belfry windows of consistent appearance with foiled double lights under two or four-centred arches:

Cwmdu	Llanfeugan	Llangors
Dissert	Llanfihangel Nant Bran	Old Radnor
Hay	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Presteigne
Llanbedr(B)	Llanfrynach	Talgarth

Others of allied type are:

Llangattock (square head, foiled lights)
 Llanhamlach (ogee-headed lights and square frame)
 Llywel (square frame but no tracery)

Arcades Internally, arcades where they survive with their original stonework are almost certainly going to be of 15th-century date, though a very small number - e.g Crickhowell and Presteigne - could be earlier. Garthbrenny is included though it is no longer free-standing but immured in the north wall of the nave.

Crickhowell
Cwmdu
Garthbrengy
Gladestry
Llanbedr (B)

Llandefalle
Llanfeugan
Llangattock
Llangenny
Llangors

Old Radnor
Presteigne
Talgarth

5.2.5 Post-medieval era Thirty churches exhibit recognisable and sometimes documented alterations for the period from the later 16th through to the beginning of the 19th century. This figure, however, is certainly not a true reflection of the scale of rebuilding over more than two centuries. Some post-Reformation churches such as Abbeycwmhir and Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr were completely removed by the Victorian restorers, and in a few cases - the Georgian church at Knighton being one example listed below - only a small amount of the masonry was integrated into a later structure.

New churches of the period that have survived in part or in toto are Bettws Penpont (1789), Capel-y-ffin (1762), Llandulas (1716), Lower Chapel (c.1790), and perhaps Upper Chapel (undated), and Nantmel (1790s). Substantial rebuilding occurred at Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig (1710) and Knighton (1752), and possibly at Llanbister where the tower was reduced in height in 1701, and rectangular stone windows with two-centred lights were inserted, one bearing datestones of 1657 and 1732. Towers were either modified or rebuilt at Cantref (early 17thC), Garthbrengy in the 17th or 18th century, Gladestry (1719), Llandefalle (c.1661), Llanafan Fawr (1765), Llanddew (1629, with further restoration in c.1780), and Norton (17th century). The porch at Llanigon was raised in c.1670, and a new porch and bellcote added at Bleddfa in c.1711. Finally, the chancel at Llanfilo is thought to have been rebuilt in the late 17th or early 18th century.

Window replacements and insertions form the most readily identifiable post-Reformation features. Square windows in stone with round-headed lights could be later 16th century, though conventionally they are attributed to the next century, appearing at Llandefalle, Llanfilo and Ystradfellte. A wooden example at Rhulen, inscribed 1723, is the only one to carry a date, and a variation in wood - in the east wall at Disserth - has trefoiled lights and had been claimed as later 16th or 17th century.

Rectangular wooden windows with rectangular lights are generally classed as 18th-century, appearing at Alltmawr, Colva, Disserth, Llanbadarn-y-garreg and Llanfihangel Helygen. The stone examples and a comparable door at Llan-y-wern are also thought to be 18th-century. Round-headed windows at Defynnog, Llandulas and Llanigon, the round-headed doorway into the tower at Llandefaelog Fach, and the wooden and stone windows with Y-tracery at Llanynis also fall in this century.

Alltmawr
Bettws Penpont
Bleddfa
Cantref
Capel-y-ffin
Colva
Defynnog
Disserth
Garthbrengy
Gladestry

Knighton
Llan-y-wern
Llanafan Fawr
Llanbadarn-y-garreg
Llanbister
Llanddew
Llandefaelog Fach
Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig
Llandefalle
Llandulas

Llanfihangel Helygen
Llanfilo
Llanigon
Llanynis
Lower Chapel
Nantmel
Norton
Rhulen
Upper Chapel
Ystradfellte

Sites where the fabric is or could be post-medieval:

Alltmawr?
Bettws Penpont
Capel-y-ffin

Knighton (minimal)
Llandulas
Llanfihangel Helygen

Lower Chapel
Nantmel
Upper Chapel

5.2.6 19th/20th-century A significant number of churches - twenty - were completely rebuilt in the Victorian era, with the resultant loss of all the medieval details, though usually a few fittings survived the 'modernisation'. Two churches, Llangammarch Wells and Llangynidr, have been rebuilt in the 20th century.

Most of the listed churches were probably constructed on the foundations of their predecessors, but this can be confirmed in only four places: Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llanddewi Fach, Llandrindod and Llanyre.

Overall about 20% of the total number of churches in Radnorshire and Breconshire were completely rebuilt in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Abbeycwmhir
Bettws Disserth
Boughrood
Kinnerton
Heyop
Llanafan Fechan
Llananno
Llanbadarn Fynydd
Llanddewi Fach

Llandrindod
Llanfaes
Llanfihangel Nant Melan
Llanfihangel Rhydithon
Llangammarch Wells
Llangynidr
Llanlleonfel
Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr
Llansantffraed juxta Usk

Llanwrthwl
Llanyre
Llyswen
Maesmynis
New Radnor
Newchurch
Rhayader
Tretower
Ystradgynlais

6 CHURCH BUILDINGS

6.1 Building Materials

It can be anticipated that most churches in an area, particularly where there are few pretensions to grandiosity, will be constructed of local materials. During the survey an attempt was made to classify the masonry used in each church, though this was a subjective assessment without the benefit of geological training. Six churches - Capel-y-ffin, Cregrina, Lanbadarn-y-garreg, Llandulas, Llanynis and Rhulen had whitewashed exteriors which prevented an examination of the stonework.

Southern and eastern Breconshire is underlain by the Devonian sandstone beds, and it is not surprising that without exception the churches of the area are constructed of this material. Further north and west, Ordovician and Silurian shales, siltstones and mudstones are represented in the churches of north-western Breconshire and north-eastern Radnorshire. The only exception is Old Radnor where limestone from the adjacent outcrops has been utilised. Ashlar masonry of pre-Victorian date is a rarity. It appears at Presteigne, but virtually nowhere else.

6.2 Church Plans

The following lists cover only those churches with medieval fabric survivals. Victorian churches are not included, and where a wholly Victorian building is accompanied by a medieval or post-medieval tower, relevant details are included only in the tower section.

6.2.1 Naves and chancels

The basic simplicity of many of the churches in the area is reflected in the numerous single-cell structures that integrate nave and chancel, and are undifferentiated externally. Forty are listed below but the list takes no account of adjuncts such as porches and towers. Internally, there is usually a screen, a change in the seating pattern, or modifications to the form of the roof. Chancel arches have been introduced at Cantref, Llanganten and Ystradfellte, but the first two are certainly Victorian. In two places, Llan-y-wern and Ystradfellte, the external roof of the chancel is pitched at a lower level than the nave. Several post-Reformation foundations - Capel-y-ffin, Llandulas and Upper Chapel - are also included, but not incorporated in this list are multi-cellular churches such as Talgarth and Old Radnor where nave and chancel are of similar width.

Aberedw
Aberyscir
Beguildy
Bettws Clyro
Bettws Penpont
Cantref
Capel-y-ffin
Cefnlllys
Colva
Crickadarn
Disserth
Garthbrengey

Glascwm
Gwenddwr
Llan-y-wern
Llanafan Fawr
Llanafan Fechan
Llanbadarn-y-garreg
Llanbister
Llanddetty
Llanddewi Ystradenni
Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig
Llandeilo'r Fan
Llandulas

Llanelieu
Llanfared
Llanfihangel Brynpabuan
Llanfihangel Helygen
Llanganten
Llanhamlach
Llansantffraed in Elvel
Llanspyddid
Merthyr Cynog
Nantmel
Pilleth
Rhulen

Trallong
Upper Chapel

Whitton
Ystradfellte

Some unicellular churches, together with other more complex buildings, have the nave and chancel (though not usually the sanctuary and/or altar) at the same level.

Aberyscir
Bleddfa
Brecon
Capel-y-ffin
Casob
Cregina
Crickadarn

Disserth
Gladestry
Glascwm
Llanbadarn-y-garreg
Llanbedr (R)
Llanddewi'r Cwm
Llanfihangel Helygen

Llanfilo
Llangattock
Llanigon
Partrishow
Presteigne
Rhulen
Upper Chapel

Thirty-five churches have chancels which are separate and distinct from their naves. The 'weeping' chancel which adopts a slightly different alignment to the nave and traditionally memorialises Christ on the cross, appears to be relatively rare, though the writer did not inspect for examples as a matter of course. Separating these 'weeping chancels' that were deliberately constructed from others which were accidents of design is not possible. Clear examples are found at Llanbedr (R) and Llangors, though the latter is seemingly Victorian; possible examples occur at Garthbreny, Llanwrtyd and Llywel.

Alltmawr
Bleddfa
Brecon
Bronllys
Bryngwyn
Casob
Cregina
Crickhowell
Cwmdu
Discoed
Gladestry
Llan-y-wern

Llanbedr (B)
Llanbedr (R)
Llanddewi'r Cwm
Llandefalle
Llandegley
Llandeilo Graban
Llanelwedd
Llanfihangel Nant Bran
Llanfihangel Talyllyn
Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn
Llangattock
Llangors

Llangunllo
Llanigon
Llanwrtyd
Llanynis
Lowes
Llywel
Lower Chapel
Michaelchurch-on-Arrow
Partrishow
Presteigne
Talachddu

6.2.2 Multi-cellular churches

Aisles are found in 13 churches, sometimes singly (*), sometimes paired (**). Most are lean-to structures, or are individually roofed at the same height as the nave. Only Presteigne has a higher nave with clerestory lights. Most of the surviving arcades are 15th or early 16th-century, but Gladestry, and possibly Llandefalle, Llanfeugan and Llangattock, are 14th-century, and Brecon and Presteigne are 14th-century with 12th and 13th-century survivals respectively. Because of their regular outline Llangenny and Llangattock can be classed as double-naved churches, a phenomenon much commoner in north-east Wales.

Brecon**
Crickhowell**
Cwmdu*
Gladestry*
Llanbedr (B) *

Llandefalle*
Llanfeugan*
Llangattock*
Llangenny*
Llangors*

Old Radnor**
Presteigne**
Talgarth*

Transepts are found in only four churches, and Crickhowell and Llanddew both have central towers over their crossings. The single transept at Norton and probably that at Lower Chapel are of 19th-century build.

Crickhowell
Llanddew

Llangunllo (North transept)
Talgarth (North transept)

Chapels are found in only seven churches, and in their present form are usually 15thC or 16thC in date. Most are extensions to an aisle and in the case of Brecon where there is no physical separation but just an altar, the term 'chapel' is not used in a morphological sense.

Brecon	Llangattock	Presteigne
Defynnog	Llangenny	
Llanbedr (B)	Old Radnor	

6.2.3 Towers

Including the ruined tower at Bleddfa, 49 churches are listed below. Forty-five towers lie at the west ends of their churches (and in this total is Builth Wells which was at the west end of the medieval church but is now at the east end of its Victorian successor). Two are set centrally over crossings (see above), and one, Llanbister, is unique in southern Powys in being at the east end of the church. Finally, the bell tower at Bronllys is detached.

The chronology of many of the towers is imprecise: few have the precision of Brecon's documentation (1510-20) or the fine fenestration of Presteigne. The majority on the list are claimed as 15th or 16th century, but Gladestry, Knighton, Llanbedr (B), Llandeilo Graban, Llanfrynach, Llangattock, Llywel and Presteigne have all had 14th-century dates put on them in the past. Michaelchurch has been considered 13th century, and a Norman date has been mooted for Merthyr Cynog. At the other end of the range the round tower at Bettws Penpont is known to have been erected around 1789 but was largely replaced in the next century. A number have also had their upper stages rebuilt, usually by Victorian restorers, though sometimes in the 18th century. Clyro and Llowes are Victorian replacements, Gladestry and Knighton during the 18th century. And there are some such as Cefnlllys and Nantmel where only the battered base of the tower has survived from medieval times.

Most towers either have no superstructure or a pyramidal roof. Spires are rare, though there are occasional broach spires (e.g. Gladestry and Whitton), and the rather larger octagonal spire at Crickhowell. There are only two saddleback towers, at Michaelchurch and Pilleth, both close to the English border.

Projecting stair turrets are rare: four examples have been recorded at Defynnog, Llywel, Merthyr Cynog and Pilleth. And gargoyles appear only three times, at Defynnog, Llywel and, surprisingly, Llangasty Talyllyn.

Aberedw	Gladestry	Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn
Bettws Penpont	Gwenddwr	Llangattock
Bleddfa	Hay	Llangors
Brecon	Knighton	Llanhamlach
Bronllys	Llanafan Fawr	Llanstephan
Builth Wells	Llanbedr (B)	Llowes
Cantref	Llanbister	Llywel
Cascob	Llanddew	Merthyr Cynog
Cathedine	Llanddewi'r Cwm	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow
Cefnlllys	Llandefaelog Fach	Nantmel
Clyro	Llandefalle	Old Radnor
Crickadarn	Llandeilo Graban	Pilleth
Crickhowell	Llanfawr	Presteigne
Cwmdu	Llanfeugan	Talgarth
Defynnog	Llanfihangel Nant Bran	Whitton
Disserth	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Ystradfellte
Garthbrenny	Llanfrynach	

6.2.4 Bellcotes and belfries

Those churches without towers have bellcotes, or more rarely, belfries. The latter are listed below and it can be assumed that any church not appearing on that list or in the previous one has a bellcote. Almost all are, or appear to be 19th-century in date. Confirmed exceptions are the belfry at Bleddfa dating to 1711, the belfry above the porch at Llanigon (c.1670), and the bellcote at Partrishow which is thought to be 15th-century in origin.

Bleddfa	Bryngwyn	Colva
---------	----------	-------

Cregrina	Llanbadarn Fynydd	Llanelieu
Discoed	Llanddewi Ystradenni	Llanfared
Glascwm	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Llafihangel Helygen
Llan-y-wern	Llandeilo'r Fan	Rhulen

6.2.5 Porches

Some rather fine medieval porches survive in Breconshire and Radnorshire. Almost without exception they are on the south side of the church; many of the north porches are 19th-century structures though there are occasional exceptions, namely Aberedw, Llanhamlach (which may be a Victorian replacement of an earlier structure) and Llanspyddid (again rebuilt but with 16th-century details). West porches are rare: that at Llan-y-wern has no diagnostic features, Llandulas can be no earlier than the 18th century and might be later, and it is not clear whether the 1832 porch at Crickhowell had a predecessor.

The medieval porches are all attributable to the 15th or earlier 16th century, and this largely on their roof timberwork. Llanigon has been claimed as 14th century but for no substantive reason. Bleddfa's porch dates from 1711, Llanwrtyd's from 1698, and Lower Chapel's perhaps from c.1790. Rarely is there anything diagnostic and original within the porch, though a stoup incorporated in the porch wall may give cause for thought.

Aberedw	Llanbedr (B)	Llanspyddid
Bleddfa	Llanddett (?)	Llanwrtyd
Brecon	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Llanynis (?)
Bryngwyn	Llandefalle	Llywel
Cascob	Llandeilo Graban	Lower Chapel
Cefnlllys	Llanelieu (?)	Merthyr Cynog
Colva	Llanfared (?)	Old Radnor
Crickadarn	Llanfeugan	Partrishow
Defynnog	Llanfihangel Tallylyn	Presteigne
Disserth	Llanfilo	Rhulen
Gladestry	Llangenny	Talachddu
Gwenddwr	Llanhamlach (?)	Talgarth
Llan-y-wern	Llanigon	

6.2.6 Other elements

The only feature that should be mentioned under this heading is the eglwys a bedd at Partrishow.

6.3 Internal Architectural Features

6.3.1 Timber roofs and ceilings

Many of the surviving medieval roofs are of open type with arch-braced collars and/or tie beams, often with windbraces. Most are attributed to the 15th or 16th century, but rarely to an earlier date. The 14th-century roof at Bettws Clyro is an exception, and in this case as well as at Battle and Llanbadarn Fynydd the roof is the only feature to survive Victorian rebuilding. Inevitably some roofs such as Llangunllo have been heavily restored. Medieval porch roofs are listed above (see section 6.2.5).

Aberedw	Gladestry	Llanfeugan
Beguildy	Glascwm	Llanfihangel Brynpabuan
Bettws Clyro	Llanbadarn Fynydd	Llanfihangel Helygen
Bleddfa	Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llangunllo
Bryngwyn	Llanbedr (B)	Llanigon
Cascob	Llanddewi'r Cwm	Llanwrtyd
Colva	Llandeilo Graban	Merthyr Cynog
Cregrina	Llandeilo'r Fan	Old Radnor
Crickadarn	Llanelieu	Presteigne
Disserth	Llanfared	

Coved, wagon and barrel roofs are also well represented, and in particular attention should be drawn to Ystradfellte with its unpanelled wagon roof and Llanddewi'r Cwm which has a similar feature but only in the chancel. Flatter panelled roofs, heavily decorated, survive at Old Radnor and Presteigne.

Aberedw	Llandefalle	Old Radnor
Battle	Llanfilo	Partrishow
Glascwm	Llangattock	Presteigne
Llandeilo Graban	Llangenny	Talachddu
Llan-y-wern	Llangors	Ystradfellte
Llanbedr (B)	Llanigon	
Llanddewi'r Cwm	Llywel	

Finally, we may note that Llanbadarn-y-garreg is unusual for having an early scissor-truss roof though whether late medieval or post-Reformation is open to question.

6.3.2 Rood screens, lofts and stairs

Screens such as those at Llananno and Partrishow are amongst the glories of the Brecon and Radnor churches. Most of those listed below remain in their original position, but at Bronllys the screen has been moved to the back of the church as a partition for the vestry, in Llanfeugan a screen doorway and its surrounds are exhibited in the north aisle, and at Llywel part of the former screen now cordons off the tower entrance. Including these three there are 24 listed below. In addition to its main screen, Old Radnor retains medieval parclose screens.

Aberedw	Llananno	Llanwrtyd
Beguildy	Llanbister	Llywel
Bettws Clyro	Llandefalle	Merthyr Cynog
Bronllys	Llandegley	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow
Cascob	Llandeilo'r Fan	Old Radnor
Cefnlllys	Llanelieu	Partrishow
Cregrina	Llanfeugan	Presteigne
Heyop	Llanfilo	Ystradfellte

Rood lofts survive only at three churches

Llananno	Llanfilo	Partrishow
----------	----------	------------

The removal and destruction of rood screens and lofts was a feature of the post-medieval era and continued into the Victorian period. Carvings and timber were on occasions saved and re-used, sometimes as at Norton in a new screen. Eight churches retain fragments of their screen built into later furnishings

Cwmdu	Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn	Norton
Disserth	Llanspyddid	Talgarth
Llanbadarn Fynydd	New Radnor	

Rood stairs remain at seven locations

Llandefalle	Llywel	Ystradfellte
Llanfilo	Partrishow	
Llanwrtyd	Presteigne	

6.3.3 Galleries

A common feature of 18th-century churches, galleries have been retained in only two churches - Capel-y-ffin and Llanbister - though to these might be added the 19th-century galleries in Hay church.

6.4 Furnishings and Fittings

6.4.1 Wall paintings

Medieval wall paintings survive in a small number of churches (**), generally in a fragmentary and often unintelligible state. Post-medieval paintings, whether of texts, coat-of-arms and very occasionally figures, are more common. A few churches - Colva, Disserth, Llandefalle, Llanelieu, Partrishow - have series of paintings around their walls.

Colva	Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llanelieu **
Crickadarn	Llanbedr (B) **	Partrishow
Defynnog	Llanbister	Presteigne **
Disserth	Llanddetty	
Knighton	Llandefalle **	

6.4.2 Stained glass

Only three churches - Llandefalle, Old Radnor and Presteigne - retain medieval stained glass. A fourth - Gladestry - seems to have lost its remaining glass in the 1920s.

6.4.3 Fonts

The font is the most durable of fittings and on occasions the only one to have survived the wholesale Victorianisation of a church (e.g. Bettws Disserth?). A total of 87 medieval examples have been recorded in Brecon and Radnor churches. The majority are from the 13th, 14th and 15th century and of relatively plain design, but those of earlier date are of more interest: the rounded erratic boulder at Old Radnor which has been claimed as 8th-century though on no substantive evidence; the font with a Runic inscription at Defynnog; the mid 11th-century inscribed font at Partrishow; the Norman font at Llanfilo; and the three fonts with projecting heads, also considered to be 12th-century, from the adjacent parishes of Llanwrthwl, Rhayader and St Harmon, all incidentally wholly rebuilt in the Victorian era. Three post-medieval fonts have also been noted but are not listed below: Crickhowell, Llanelieu and Llangunllo.

Alltmawr	Llanbadarn Fawr	Llangammarch Wells
Beguildy	Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llanganten
Bettws Clyro	Llanbedr (B)	Llangenny
Bettws Disserth	Llanbedr (R)	Llangors
Bleddfa	Llanbister	Llangynidr
Bronllys	Llanddetty	Llanhamlach
Builth Wells	Llanddew	Llanigon
Cantref	Llanddewi Ystradenni	Llansantffraed in Elvel
Capel-y-ffin	Llanddewi'r Cwm	Llansantffraed juxta Usk
Cascob	Llandefaelog Fach	Llanspyddid
Cathedine	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Llanstephan
Cefnlllys	Llandefalle	Llanwrthwl
Colva	Llandegley	Llanwrtyd
Cregina	Llandeilo Graban	Llanynis
Crickadarn	Llandeilo'r Fan	Llanyre
Cwmdu	Llandrindod	Llowes
Defynnog	Llanelwedd	Llyswen
Disserth	Llanfaes	Llywel
Garthbrengy	Llanfared	Merthyr Cynog
Gladestry	Llanfeugan	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow
Glascwm	Llanfihangel Brynpabuan	Newchurch
Gwenddwr	Llanfihangel Helygen	Norton
Heyop	Llanfihangel Nant Melan	Old Radnor
Llan-y-wern	Llanfihangel Rhydithon	Partrishow
Llanafan Fawr	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Pilleth
Llanafan Fechan	Llanfilo	Presteigne
Llananno	Llanfrynach	Rhayader

Rhulen
St Harmon

Talachddu
Trallong

Whitton
Ystradfellte

6.4.4 *Stoups*

These remain in 30 churches, usually in the porch but occasionally in the church itself as at Llanfihangel Brynpabuan, Llangynidr and Merthyr Cynog. Amongst the more interesting examples are the putative Norman stoup at Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr, which has three heads engraved on it, the parish itself being next to the three with projecting-head fonts mentioned above (section 6.4.3), the square stoup at Defynnog which has been considered as pre-Norman; and that at Llanbister which has been fashioned from an Early English capital salvaged from Cwmhir Abbey.

Aberyscir
Battle
Beguildy
Brecon
Cascoob
Defynnog
Garthbrengy
Gladestry
Llan-y-wern
Llanafan Fawr

Llananno
Llanbedr (R)
Llanbister
Llanddew
Llandefaelog Fach
Llandefalle
Llandeilo'r Fan
Llanfeugan
Llanfihangel Brynpabuan
Llangenny

Llangynidr
Llanigon
Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr
Llansantffraed juxta Usk
Llanspyddid
Llywel
Merthyr Cynog
Pilleth
Talgarth
Whitton

6.4.5 *Piscinae*

Eighteen churches have surviving medieval piscinae. Interesting examples include those at Bryngwyn where a small window head has been re-used to arch the alcove and Gladestry which is formed from a Norman/Early English capital. Llanbister is also included here, but the piscina now residing in the church was found on the site of a chapel in the parish.

Bronllys
Bryngwyn
Cefnlllys
Clyro
Gladestry
Llanbedr (B)

Llanbister
Llandegley
Llandeilo Graban
Llanelieu
Llangenny
Llansantffraed in Elvel

Llanwrthwl
Merthyr Cynog
Nantmel
Old Radnor
Pilleth
Presteigne

6.4.6 *Squints*

Squints are found in only three churches: Llanddew, Llangenny and Presteigne. The first two both have two examples.

6.4.7 *Altar stones*

Mensae are known from only two churches: Llanfilo and Partrishow. Both have two of them.

6.4.8 *Altar Tables*

Only seven have been recorded and are generally attributable to the 17th century. That at Presteigne is, however, classed as a warden's table and bears a date of 1666.

Beguildy
Colva
Llanddewi Fach

Llandegley
Llywel
Newchurch

Presteigne

6.4.9 Altar rails

These survive in 18 churches and are attributed to the 17th and 18th centuries. The rails at Llanbadarn Fynydd are dated 1716.

Beguildy	Llanbedr (R)	Llanfeugan
Bleddfa	Llanddewi Fach	Llanfilo
Capel-y-ffin	Llandefalle	Llanigon
Disserth	Llandeilo Graban	Llansantffraed in Elvel
Llanbadarn Fynydd	Llanelieu	Llanynis
Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llanfareddd	Partrishow

6.4.10 Pulpits

Pulpits of the 17th and 18th centuries remain in 10 churches. That at Capel-y-ffin is inscribed 1780, the Dissert pulpit 1687 and that at Llanfilo of 1680. There are also 5 pulpits which incorporate earlier panels (*). In the case of Bleddfa the panels are 17th century and those in the Cefnlllys pulpit, possibly from pews, have dates of 1660 and 1661.

Alltmawr	Cefnlllys*	Llanfeugan*
Beguildy	Defynnog	Llanfihangel Helygen
Bleddfa*	Disserth	Llanfilo
Bronllys	Llanbadarn Fynydd*	Partrishow
Capel-y-ffin	Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Whitton*

6.4.11 Chests

As with the altar rails these are generally attributed to the 17th and 18th centuries. That at Gladestry carries the date 1692. The church at Llanddetty was noted by the RCAHMW in 1969 but had disappeared by the time of the writer's visit, and the same is true of the one at Rhulen which was recorded in 1950.

Beguildy	Llandeilo Graban	Nantmel
Bleddfa	Llanelieu	Norton
Boughrood	Llanelwedd	Old Radnor
Disserth	Llanfareddd	Partrishow
Gladestry	Llanfilo	Pilleth
Llananno	Llangenny	Presteigne
Llanbister	Llanspyddid	Rhulen
(Llanddetty)	Llanstephan	Talachddu
Llandefaelog Fach	Llanynis	

6.4.12 Seating

The only pre-Reformation seating are the 15th-century stalls at Old Radnor, one of which has an original book chain, and a 'poppy-head' bench end from Pilleth, now preserved in Whitton. Box pews, usually of 17th and 18th-century date (though unlisted ones at Llanigon are claimed as 19th-century) are preserved in four churches (*), that at Llananno dated to 1681. Dissert and Llanfihangel Helygen are exceptional for having box pews throughout. The earliest date on the former is 1666. The remaining churches have open benches and pews - one of those at Llanfilo carries the date 1630.

Alltmawr*	Llananno*	Llanfihangel Helygen*
Boughrood	Llanelieu	Llanfilo
Disserth*	Llanelwedd	Old Radnor
Llan-y-wern	Llanfeugan	Whitton

6.4.13 Organs

The organ case at Old Radnor, the earliest in the British Isles, is of national importance, dating to the early 16th century. That at Llangors is dated to 1764 but was imported from Cardiff in the late 19th century.

6.4.14 Benefaction boards

These are to be found in only ten churches. Those at Crickadarn and Gladestry are dated 1710 and 1744 respectively.

Bettws Penpont	Crickadarn	Llowes
Brecon	Defynnog	Trallong
Bronllys	Gladestry	
Builth Wells	Llandefalle	

6.4.15 Medieval monuments

Early medieval monuments housed in churches have been listed above (section 4.1). Medieval monuments remain, in one form or another, in 13 churches. There are effigies at Crickhowell (the Pauncefoots of the 14th century), Hay (fragmentary), Llanhamlach (Jane Stanley c.1325), and two at New Radnor both of which are badly worn. The remaining entries on the list are coffin lids.

Abbeycwmhir	Hay	New Radnor
Aberyscir	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Presteigne
Brecon	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Talgarth
Bryngwyn	Llanfilo	
Crickhowell	Llanhamlach	

6.4.16 Post-medieval monuments

Few churches have monumental sculpture as such, and only seven are listed below. Much more common are pre-19th century mural tablets, and 73 churches have examples.

Builth Wells	Llandulas	Ystradgynlais
Crickhowell	Llansantffraed juxta Usk	
Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Whitton	
Abbeycwmhir	Glascwm	Llanfihangel Nant Bran
Aberedw	Hay	Llanfihangel Nant Melan
Aberyscir	Heyop	Llanfihangel Rhydithon
Bleddfa	Knighton	Llanfihangel Talyllyn
Bronllys	Llan-y-wern	Llanfilo
Bryngwyn	Llanafan Fawr	Llanfrynach
Builth Wells	Llanafan Fechan	Llanganten
Capel-y-ffin	Llanbadarn Fawr	Llangattock
Cathedine	Llanbedr (B)	Llangenny
Cefnlllys	Llanbedr (R)	Llangors
Clyro	Llanbister	Llangunllo
Colva	Llanddewi Ystradenni	Llanigon
Crickadarn	Llanddewi'r Cwm	Llanlleonfel
Crickhowell	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Llansantffraed in Elvel
Cwmdu	Llandefalle	Llansantffraed juxta Usk
Defynnog	Llandegley	Llanspyddid
Discoed	Llandulas	Llanwrtyd
Disserth	Llanelieu	Llanyre
Garthbreny	Llanfaredd	Llywel
Gladestry	Llanfeugan	Lower Chapel

Maesmynis
Merthyr Cynog
Nantmel
Norton
Old Radnor

Partrishow
Presteigne
Rhulen
Talachddu
Talgarth

Trallong
Ystradfellte
Ystradgynlais

Brasses are noticeable through their rarity. Very occasionally examples are set in the floor as at Old Radnor (1796) and even less common are wall brasses such as that at Llandrindod (1761). Hatchments are only slightly more common, appearing in five churches. None is dated, and some at least are likely to be 19th-century.

Bettws Penpont
Llananno

Old Radnor
Talgarth

Ystradgynlais

6.4.17 Bells

Information on bells has been collected from a variety of sources, but has generally not been verified by fieldwork because of access and safety issues. Pre-19th-century bells have been registered in 41 churches. No less than eleven are claimed as medieval (*) though most of these claims require verification. Bryngwyn, Llanellieu and Llanfaredde reputedly have 13th-century bells, Disserth, Llanfihangel Talyllyn and Newchurch 14th-century examples.

Aberedw
Beguildy
Bleddfa
Bronllys
Bryngwyn*
Capel-y-ffin
Cascoob
Colva
Crickhowell
Cwmdu
Defynnog
Disserth*
Gladestry
Glascwm

Gwenddwr
Hay
Knighton
Llanafan Fawr
Llanbedr (B)
Llanbister
Llandefaelog Fach*
Llanellieu*
Llanfaredde*
Llanfihangel Talyllyn*
Llanfilo*
Llangattock
Llangors
Llangunllo

Llanigon
Llanlleonfel
Llanstephan*
Llyswen
Merthyr Cynog
Newchurch*
Old Radnor
Partrishow
Pilleth*
Presteigne
Rhulen*
Talgarth
Ystradgynlais

7 CHURCHYARDS

7.1.1 Shape

Churchyard shape has been referred to above (section 4.1) as an element in determining the likely early medieval origins of a particular church site. The list that follows ranges widely from those churchyards such as Merthyr Cynog and St Harmon that are almost perfectly curvilinear, through those with some degree of curvilinearity such as Alltmawr and Bryngwyn to those like Llanellieu that give an overall impression of curvilinearity despite the fact that the boundary itself adopts a series of relatively straight alignments.

Aberedw
Alltmawr
Boughrood
Bryngwyn
Crickadarn
Garthbrengy
Glascwm
Llan-y-Wern
Llanafan Fawr
Llanbadarn-y-garreg
Llanbedr (R)

Llanddetty
Llanddewi Ystradenni
Llanddewi'r Cwm
Llandefaelog Fach
Llandefalle
Llandegley
Llandeilo Graban
Llandeilo'r Fan
Llanellieu
Llanfaredde
Llanfihangel Talyllyn

Llanfilo
Llangattock
Llangenny
Llangynidr
Llanhamlach
Llanigon
Llanlleonfel
Llanspyddid
Llanstephan
Llanwrthwl
Llanwrtyd

Llanyre
Llowes
Llyswen
Llywel
Merthyr Cynog

Nantmel
Old Radnor
Partrishow
Rhulen
St Harmon

Trallong
Upper Chapel
Ystradgynlais

7.1.2 Relict boundaries

Some churchyards exhibit traces of earlier circuits, usually in the form of relict banks. In places such as Llanafan Fawr a complete perimeter is visible. Elsewhere as at Llangasty Talyllyn a short section of the boundary has been truncated when the boundary was relocated externally, or at Ystradgynlais where the early perimeter has been superseded as the churchyard expanded. And at places such as Gwenddwr and Llanspyddid the present churchyard extends over only a small part of its larger predecessor. Excluded from the list are those churchyard exhibiting changes that have resulted from 19th and 20th-century churchyard enlargement.

Battle
Beguildy
Bronllys
Defynnog
Discoed
Garthbrengy
Glascwm
Gwenddwr
Hay
Kinnerton
Llanafan Fawr
Llanafan Fechan

Llanbister
Llanddew
Llanddewi Ystradenni
Llanddewi'r Cwm
Llandefaelog Fach
Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig
Llandefalle
Llanfihangel Brynpabuan
Llanfihangel Nant Melan
Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn
Llangenny
Llangors

Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr
Llansantffraed in Elvel
Llanspyddid
Llanstephan
Llanwrtyd
Llanynis
Llanyre
Merthyr Cynog
Nantmel
Old Radnor
Rhulen
Ystradgynlais

7.2 Churchyard features

7.2.1 Prehistoric and Early medieval stones

Two churchyards have early medieval stones in them: Llanelieu and Llanspyddid. Llanwrthwl has what may be a prehistoric standing stone close to its south porch and Llanfihangel Talyllyn has another which is now housed within the porch.

7.2.2 Wells

Three churchyards have wells within the enclosure: Llandefalle, Llanstephan and Pilleth. Only St Mary's well at Pilleth is conventionally classed as a holy well.

7.2.3 Crosses

Churchyard crosses, or more usually the lower parts of them, remain in ten locations. Partrishow alone retains its complete churchyard cross of c.1300.

Capel-y-ffin
Cwmdu
Gladestry
Llanbedr (B)

Llanbedr (R)
Llanfeugan
Llanfilo
Llangattock

Llangynidr
Partrishow

7.2.4 Sundials

Seventeen churchyards have either complete sundials or the surviving columns from which the dials have been removed (e.g. Hay). At Cwmdy and Llanbedr (B) the sundial utilises the base or shaft of the former churchyard cross. Dated sundials are Llanbadarn Fynydd (1724), Llanstephan (1795), Nantmel (1773), Llowes (1810), while the shaft at Llanelieu carries the date 1718. Sundials engraved on the church wall are to be seen at Llanafan Fawr, Llanelieu (1686) and Llangors (a small scratch dial).

Boughrood	Llanbedr (B)	Llowes
Bryngwyn	Llanddewi Ystradenni	Merthyr Cynog
Clyro	Llanelieu	Nantmel
Cwmdy	Llanfilo	Talgarth
Hay	Llangenny	Ystradgynlais
Llanafan Fawr	Llangors	
Llanbadarn Fynydd	Llanstephan	

7.2.5 Gravestones

Gravemarkers in the churchyards of the region were not examined sufficiently closely to obtain a clear picture of the patterns of burial and monument survival, but an attempt was made to distinguish the earliest legible gravestone or slab. Almost certainly the details could be refined by consultation of existing churchyard records prepared by the local family history group. Ninety-four of the churches in the region have gravestones and slabs going back into the 18th century (listed below). In eight places (marked *) 17th-century markers survived though only from the 1690s. The exceptions were Llanfihangel Nant Bran and Llanigon, both with gravemarkers from the mid-17th century.

Abbeycwmhir	Llanafan Fechan	Llangynidr
Aberedw	Llananno	Llanhamlach
Aberyscir	Llanbadarn Fawr	Llanigon*
Alltmawr	Llanbadarn Fynydd	Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr
Battle	Llanbedr (B)	Llansantffraed in Elvel
Beguildy	Llanbedr (R)	Llansantffraed juxta Usk
Bettws Disserth	Llanbister	Llanspyddid
Bettws Penpont	Llanddettty*	Llanstephan
Boughrood	Llanddew	Llanwrthwl
Bryngwyn*	Llanddewi Fach*	Llanwrtyd
Builth Wells	Llanddewi Ystradenni	Llanynis
Cantref	Llanddewi'r Cwm	Llowes
Capel-y-ffin	Llandefaelog Fach	Llyswen
Cascob	Llandefalle*	Llywel
Cathedine	Llandegley	Maesmynis
Cefnlllys	Llandeilo Graban	Merthyr Cynog
Clyro	Llanelieu	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow*
Colva	Llanelwedd	Nantmel
Cregrina	Llanfaes	New Radnor
Crickadarn	Llanfaredd*	Norton
Crickhowell	Llanfeugan	Partrishow
Defynnog	Llanfihangel Nant Bran*	Pilleth
Discoed	Llanfihangel Rhydithon	Presteigne
Disserth	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Rhayader
Garthbrengy	Llanfilo	Rhulen
Gladestry	Llangammarch Wells	St Harmon
Glascwm	Llanganten	Talachddu
Gwenddwr	Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn	Talgarth
Hay	Llangattock	Ystradfellte
Heyop	Llangenny	Ystradgynlais
Knighton	Llangors	
Llanafan Fawr	Llangunllo	

7.2.6 Lychgates

Only three lychgates appear to pre-date the 19th century. Llangenny carries the date 1639, Llanfilo is thought to have been built around 1700 though it has seen considerable restoration, and Llanstephan, attributable to the 18th century, is interesting for its integral stable.

7.2.7 Yews

Mature and ancient yews were recorded in 77 churchyards.

8 DEDICATIONS

8.1.1 British Dedications

A total of 63 churches have dedications to British saints or to founders/missionaries who were broadly contemporaries of the early saints. Included in this total are three (*) with joint dedications to British and English saints. It is not proposed to summarise the details here, but it may be noted that there are 17 dedications to St David in the total, a reflection in part of the influence of the see.

Aberedw	Llanddewi Ystradenni	Llanigon
Aberyscir*	Llanddewi'r Cwm	Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr
Battle	Llandefaelog Fach	Llansantffraed in Elvel
Boughrood	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Llansantffraed juxta Usk
Colva	Llandegley	Llanspyddid
Cregina	Llandeilo Graban	Llanstephan
Defynnog	Llandeilo'r Fan	Llanwrthwl
Dissert	Llanelieu	Llanwrtyd
Garthbrengy	Llanfaes	Llanynis
Glascwm	Llanfeugan	Llanyre
Gwenddwr	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Llowes
Heyop	Llanfilo	Llyswen
Llanafan Fawr	Llanfrynach	Llywel
Llanafan Fechan	Llangammarch Wells	Maesmynis
Llananno	Llanganten	Merthyr Cynog
Llanbadarn Fawr	Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn	Nantmel
Llanbadarn Fynydd	Llangattock	Partrishow
Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llangenny	Rhulen
Llanbister	Llangors	St Harmon
Llanddetty	Llangunllo	Talgarth
Llanddew	Llangynidr*	Trallong
Llanddewi Fach	Llanhamlach*	Ystradgynlais

8.1.2 Earlier dedications

For 11 churches, including the post-Reformation foundation of Abbeycwmhir, there is some evidence, usually not very detailed, that the church had a different dedication at an earlier date. It must be assumed that amongst those medieval churches with English patron saints, which had their origins in the early medieval era, there were many whose original dedication was to a British saint (for example St Mary's, Llanfared). Unfortunately it is most unlikely that substantive evidence will be found to confirm the theory.

Abbeycwmhir	Llandefalle	Llanynis
Knighton	Llandrindod	Llywel
Llan-y-Wer"	Llanfilo	Rhayader
Llanddew	Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr	

9 POTENTIAL & INTEREST

9.1 Archaeological Potential

9.1.1 *Survival of deposits*

Establishing the degree of survival of the sub-surface deposits that are, or were, an inevitable component of the total archaeology of every historic church is, in the absence of full excavation, an impossible task. Externally the lowering of the ground surface and the digging of drainage trenches around the church footings can have a detrimental effect on vital stratigraphy relating to the building and later renovation and maintenance of the structure. Inside the church, the excavation of vaults, the insertion of burials beneath the floor, the lowering of floor levels, the introduction of heating systems involving boiler houses and sub-surface ducts, and any restoration work that necessitated disturbance below ground level, will all have been damaging archaeologically.

Some of these activities are more easy to recognise than others. Underfloor heating usually leaves visible signs, even if the scale of work cannot be gauged. On the other hand the deliberate raising or lowering of the ground level within a church may be very difficult to assess, and even mention of such work in a faculty petition is no guarantee that it was actually carried out.

9.1.2 *External drainage*

Many churches now have drainage trenches around their footings. The following list covers 43 churches (including Victorian rebuilds) where there is no *visible* evidence of such excavations.

Abbeycwmhir	Hay	Llanigon
Aberyscir	Kinnerton	Llanlleonfel
Bettws Clyro	Knighton	Llowes
Boughrood	Llananno	Llyswen
Bronllys	Llanddewi Ystradenni	Llywel
Bryngwyn	Llandefaelog Fach	Lower Chapel
Cantref	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow
Capel-y-ffin	Llanelwedd	New Radnor
Cascob	Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Newchurch
Cefnlllys	Llanfrynach	Old Radnor
Crickhowell	Llangattock	Pilleth
Discoed	Llangors	Tretower
Disserth	Llangunllo	Ystradfellte
Garthbrengy	Llangynidr	
Gladestry	Llanhamlach	

9.1.3 *Underfloor heating*

A reasonably high number of churches - 68 - appear not to have underfloor heating.

Abbeycwmhir	Colva	Llanddewi'r Cwm
Aberyscir	Cregina	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig
Alltmawr	Crickadarn	Llandegley
Battle	Cwmdu	Llandeilo Graban
Bettws Clyro	Discoed	Llandeilo'r Fan
Bettws Penpont	Disserth	Llandulas
Bleddfa	Gwenddwr	Llanelieu
Boughrood	Kinnerton	Llanelwedd
Bronllys	Llan-y-wern	Llanfared
Bryngwyn	Llanafan Fechan	Llanfihangel Brynpabuan
Cantref	Llananno	Llanfihangel Helygen
Capel-y-ffin	Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llanfihangel Nant Melan
Cascob	Llanddett	Llanfihangel Talyllyn
Cefnlllys	Llanddewi Fach	Llanfilo

Llanfrynach	Llanwrtyd	Partrishow
Llanganten	Llanynis	Pilleth
Llangattock	Llanyre	Rhayader
Llangors	Llowes	Rhulen
Llangunllo	Llyswen	Tretower
Llangynidr	Maesmynis	Upper Chapel
Llansantffraed in Elvel	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow	Whitton
Llanstephan	Norton	Ystradfellte
Llanwrthwl	Old Radnor	

Only 27 churches appear not to be affected by either external drains or internal ducting and many of those are wholly or largely Victorian buildings. Ten medieval churches are asterisked.

Aberyscir	Disserth*	Llangunllo
Bettws Clyro	Kinnerton	Llangynidr
Boughrood	Llananno	Llyswen
Bronllys	Llandefaelog Tre'r-graig*	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow*
Cantref	Llanelwedd	Old Radnor*
Capel-y-ffin	Llanfihangel Talyllyn*	Pilleth*
Cascob*	Llanfrynach	Rhayader
Cefnlllys	Llangattock*	Tretower
Discoed	Llangors*	Ystradfellte*

9.1.4 Underfloor vaults

Only two vaults can be listed, at Llanbister and Llywel. Others must certainly exist.

9.1.5 Churches with 'lost' elements

Documentary and fieldwork evidence highlights a number of sites where a part of the church has been demolished and not replaced. Aisles have gone from Garthbrenghy and Llanddewi Ystradenni, parts of chancels from Llanafan Fawr and Llanbister, and towers from Talachddu and Llanbedr (R).

Beguildy	Llanafan Fawr	Pilleth
Bleddfa	Llanbedr (R)	Talachddu
Cwmdu	Llanbister	Talgarth
Garthbrenghy	Llanddewi Ystradenni	

In six instances the new Victorian church was located not on the same site as its predecessor but in an adjacent part of the churchyard. Included is Abbeycwmhir where the church of 1680 was replaced in 1866, and Builth Wells where the west tower of the medieval church was retained as the new east tower attached to the south aisle.

Abbeycwmhir	Llanfaes	Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr
Builth Wells	Llangammarch Wells	Ystradgynlais

9.1.6 Church complexity

Most churches in the region display visible characteristics and anomalies which can be satisfactorily interpreted in terms of the building's development, even though it has to be excepted that virtually every church will have undergone changes and modifications in the past which have left no visible signature. There are, however, a small number of churches where the complexities of the sequence could not be resolved during the current programme of work.

Disserth	Llanigon	Presteigne
Llanfeugan	Pilleth	

9.2 Archaeological and architectural interest

Based on the lists given in sections 4, 5 and 6 certain facets and features stand out as being of particular interest in the churches of the region, and every effort should be made to ensure their continued survival. Some of these are long recognised and well known such as the remaining medieval screens in the two counties, others including the west Radnorshire fonts have emerged as this overview progressed. Brief comments are given below.

9.2.1 *Sub-regional church groups*

Though the 119 churches in Breconshire and Radnorshire have been treated as a group for the purposes of this synthesis, it is clear that smaller type-groups exist within it. Most obvious are the small, simple churches often comprising only a single cell, with a bellcote or belfry, a stone flagged floor and the occasional wooden fitting from around the 18th century. They are ubiquitous, spreading across the two counties and well beyond, definable in broad terms and typical of small dispersed communities throughout the hills.

The second group are those on the Herefordshire border showing English influence. Strictly speaking only Presteigne and Old Radnor can be included on the basis of their multi-celled form, Perpendicular architecture and rich fittings, but one or two others such as Gladestry and perhaps the pre-19th-century church at Knighton occupy the fringe of the group.

Thirdly there is a group of churches in or close to the Usk Valley from Llywel in the west to Llanbedr in the east. Most have west towers, 15th or 16th-century architecture including square-headed windows, aisles, chapels and arcades and wagon roofs. While each has its own individuality, there is general uniformity in their appearance.

9.2.2 *Romanesque architecture*

This is encountered only sporadically as the list of no more than seven churches makes clear. But four of them lie close to the Usk Valley around Brecon: St Mary's, Brecon, itself, Llanddew, Llanfilo and Trallong (see section 5.2.1).

9.2.3 *Porches*

Inherent conservatism and probably an absence of both wealth and motivation amongst the rural communities of the region have allowed the survival of a number of fine late medieval porches complete with their roof structures (section 6.2.5).

9.2.4 *Church roofs*

Open roofs of late medieval form survive in a significant number of the smaller churches, in some cases evidencing total re-use of the timberwork in a new building (see section 6.3.1).

9.2.5 *Undisturbed interiors*

Eighteenth-century church interiors with two or three decker pulpits, box pews, altar rails and the like, are a rarity. Radnorshire has two that escaped the attention of the Victorian restorers. Both Llanfihangel Helygen and Disserth are of significant interest, though some of the furniture in the former has been acquired from elsewhere.

9.2.6 *Screens*

The screens of Breconshire and Radnorshire, even where heavily restored as at Llananno, are a marvellous reminder of the skill that could be vested in the furnishings of even the smallest and most remote medieval church (see section 6.3.2).

9.2.7 *Wall paintings*

The number of churches now exhibiting wall paintings is small but, unlike most of the other elements that go to furnish and decorate a church, there is the potential for an increase in the total as new restoration work takes place (see section 6.4.1).

9.2.8 *Fonts*

Section 6.4.3 referred to a number of interesting early fonts in the region, their later medieval counterparts being of rather less consequence. The group of three projecting-head fonts in the Rhayader area together with the allied stoup at Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr represent an unusual and geographically tight group.

9.2.9 *Wall memorials*

A recurrent feature of the churches in Breconshire and to a lesser extent Radnorshire are the large number of 18th-century and early 19th-century wall tablets, some of them brilliantly coloured: Llanfilo has more than 30, the majority of them in stone. These represent a distinctive tradition in the region and are currently the subject of a separate study by the writer.

Consolidated Bibliography: Breconshire and Radnorshire

- Annatt, J, n.d. *Historical Notes on the Church of the Archangel Michael, Cwmdu*
- Biggetton-Evans, K A, 1922 *History and Description of Gladestry Church and Parish*
- Britnell, W J, 1990, Capel Maelog, Llandrindod Wells, Powys: excavations 1984-87, *Medieval Archaeol* 34, 27-96
- Brook, D, 1992, 'The Early Christian church east and west of Offa's Dyke', in Edwards and Lane (eds), 77-89
- Butler, L A S, 1962, The excavation of a mound at Bleddfa church, *Trans Radnorshire Soc* 32, 25-41
- Charters, A, 1993 *A Guide to the Church of St Cewydd, Aberedw*
- Clew, K R 1981, *Clyro and Bettws Clyro, Radnor, Powys. A Brief Guide* (Clyro)
- Crossley, F H and Ridgway, M H, 1949 Screens, lofts and stalls situated in Wales and Monmouthshire, Part VI, *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 100. 2, 207-251
- Crossley, F H and Ridgway, M H, 1952 Screens, lofts and stalls situated in Wales and Monmouthshire, Part VII, *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 102. 1, 48-82
- Davies, E., 1905 *A General History of the County of Radnor compiled from the manuscript of the late Reverend Jonathan Williams* (Brecon)
- Dawson, G.F., 1909, *The Churches of Breconshire* (Swansea)
- Dineley, T, 1684 *The account of the official progress of His Grace Henry the first Duke of Beaufort through Wales in 1684* (London 1684)
- Edwards, N (ed) 1997, *Landscape and Settlement in Medieval Wales* (Oxford)
- Edwards, N and Lane, A (eds) 1992, *The Early Church in Wales and the West* (Oxford)
- Fenn, R W D 1985, Sir Richard Green Price of Norton Manor, 1803-1887, *Trans Radnor Soc.* 55, 54-67
- Fenn, R W D and Sinclair, J B, 1988, Old Radnor parish church, *Trans Radnor Soc* 58, 78-91
- Glynne, S R 1886 'Notes on the older churches in the four Welsh dioceses', *Archaeol Cambrensis* 3,12, 270-281
- Glynne, S R, 1897, Notes on the older churches in the four Welsh dioceses, *Archaeol Cambrensis* 5th Series, 14, 45-51
- Haslam, R, 1979, *The Buildings of Wales: Powys* (London)
- Howse, W H 1949, *Radnorshire* (Hereford)
- Howse, W H, 1952, *Disserth*
- Hughes, H M, 1961 *St Cynog's Parish Church, Ystradgynlais*
- James, C G, 1995, *St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell* (Abertillery)
- Jones, F, 1992, *The Holy Wells of Wales* (Cardiff)
- Jones, N W, 1993, *Brecknock Borough Historic Settlements: Earthwork Survey*, CPAT Report No. 83: Welshpool
- Jones, T and Bailey, J R, 1909, 1911, 1930, *History of the County of Brecknock* 4 vols (Glanusk)
- Jones-Davies, J, 1975, Presidential Address, *Archaeol Cambrensis* 124, 1-14

- Knowles, D and Hadcock, R N, 1971, *Religious Houses of England and Wales* (London)
- Maddox, W C, 1975 *The Parish Church of Abbeycwmhir* (Llandrindod Wells)
- Martin, C H R and Walters, M J, 1993, *Brecknock Borough Historic Settlements* CPAT Report No 60, Welshpool
- Martin, H, n.d. *The Story of St Mary's, Ystradfellte* (Hirwaun)
- Morris, T E, 1919, The parish book of Cefnlllys, Radnorshire, *Archaeol Cambrensis* 6, 19
- Ottewill, D, 1994, *St Andrew's Church, Norton*
- Owens, A D, 1994, *St Mary's Church, Bronllys: a Guide for Visitors* (Bronllys)
- Price, D 1993 *Tales of Llanvillo* (Llanfilo)
- Redknap, M, 1993, The Llangorse Landscape Project, *Archaeology in Wales* 33, 36-37
- Rees, E H V, 1961 *Trallwng Church and People* (Llanidloes)
- Rees, G.N., 1972, *The Mother Church of North Radnor: St Cynllo's Church, Llanbister* (Llanbister)
- Rees, W 1967, *An Historical Atlas of Wales* (3rd edition, London)
- Rees, W 1986, *The Centenary of Llanyre Parish Church*
- Silvester, R J, 1994, *Radnorshire Historic Settlements*, CPAT Report no. 92: Welshpool
- Silvester, R J, 1997, Historic settlement surveys in Clwyd and Powys, in Edwards, N (ed), 113-122
- Silvester, R J and Dorling, P J, 1993 *Historic Settlements in the Brecon Beacons National Park*, CPAT Report No. 44: Welshpool
- Smith, E, n.d. *Spa Village in Brecknock: A Short History of Llangammarch Wells* (Llangammarch Wells)
- Taylor, H M and Taylor J, 1965 *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* (Cambridge)
- Thorpe L., (ed.) 1978 *Gerald of Wales. The Journey through Wales/The Description of Wales* (Penguin, London)
- Williams, D H, 1990, *Atlas of Cistercian Lands* (Cardiff)
- Williams, S W, 1874, Notes upon some Radnorshire churches, *Archaeol Cambrensis* 5, 4, 41-52
- Williams, S W, 1887, Llansantffraed, Llanhamlach and Llanfigan churches, *Archaeol Cambrensis* 4, 15, 202-213
- Wynn-Jones, W, 1989 *A Guide to the Church of Our Lady of Pilleth, Radnorshire, Powys* (Presteigne)