

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

St Andrew's Church, Minera

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
IN ADVANCE OF REDUNDANCY**



CPAT Report No 988

CPAT Report No 988

St Andrew's Church, Minera

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT IN ADVANCE OF REDUNDANCY

R J Silvester
April 2009

Report for Diocese of St Asaph

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL
tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179
© CPAT 2009

St Andrew's Church, Minera (New Brighton)

Diocese of St Asaph

R J Silvester, March 2009

Location

The small church (at SJ 27955024) lies adjacent to the B5426 which skirts Minera Mountain. It is on the western side of the Clywedog Valley opposite Coedpoeth and south of Minera which also lies on the far bank of the river. The nearest settlement is in fact New Brighton, although the area in which the church is situated is known as The Wern.

Archaeological and Historical Importance

St Andrew's is a late 19th-century mission church which was constructed for the district of Esclusham Above which included New Brighton in 1892, and was designed to accommodate 150 according to Archdeacon Thomas. It is of a type known as a tin tabernacle, a reflection of the corrugated-iron cladding on a timber frame. This is the primary reason why the church has been listed, the citation stating that it is 'a particularly unaltered example of the corrugated-iron mission churches built in relatively large numbers in the period 1890-1914 but now becoming rare'.



Architectural History

Built at the end of the 19th century at a cost of £185 0s 1d, this small church measures no more than 12.8m by 6.0m externally. Much of what can be seen today is original, although the listed building inspector noted that the iron roof cladding had been renewed in box-profile metal sheet.

It is a simple rectangular structure, except for a projecting west porch and, at the south-east corner, a projecting vestry. Its wooden frame is set on a stone foundation which becomes increasingly deep towards the east end to compensate for the slight slope of the natural ground surface, and this is sufficient at the east end to allow for a boiler room or store to be set into it compete with a

doorway. Above the western end is a bell turret, a splayed base supporting a small, single-bell housing and above it a four-sided spirelet.

The porch, centrally placed on the west wall, is gabled and has a ledged door but no windows. The vestry, supported in part on the wall surrounding the yard matches the church in its materials and has one pointed window and a pointed ledged door on the south side giving access to the yard.



Internally, the roof is supported on three trusses with scissor supports and there is a panelled wooden floor, and walls of painted plyboard or similar. Each long wall has four two-light timber windows with Y-tracery and transoms, and there are two more at the west end, and a further one high up in the east wall.



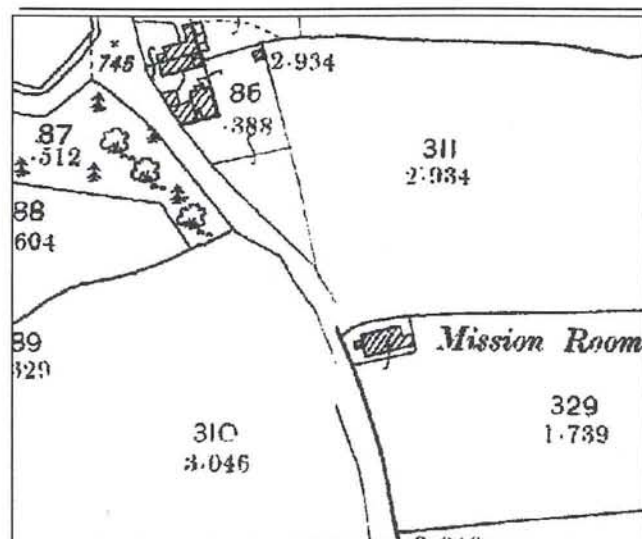
Furnishings and Fittings

There are no furnishings of any great significance that the writer could identify. They include: open-backed benches (nine to the north, eight to the south), a simple, unadorned stone font with a hexagonal bowl, a wooden chancel screen with a pulpit built into it, several choir benches on the south side, as well as a reading desk, and an organ on the north side (with a small organ in the nave), simple altar rails.

A wooden panel with blind-arcaded decoration leans against the organ, and its style appears to have been copied for the panels of the organ, although the appearance of the wood suggests that it may have been of an earlier date. This could be the only 'furnishing' that pre-dates the church, but is of limited historical interest.

The Churchyard

There is a small yard with a gravelled surface around the church, but it is not possible to walk the full perimeter of the church because of the protruding vestry. The yard serves no specific purpose and there are no burials here. A flight of steps leads down into it from the road.



Recommendations

- 1. A detailed report including a full photographic record of the interior of the church should be made by a competent specialist before any more of the furnishings and fittings are removed. The exterior of the building and the yard should also be included in the record. On completion this should be housed in an appropriate public repository such as the National Monument Record maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth and a copy retained by the diocese in an appropriate archive in St Asaph.*
- 2. There are no furnishings and fittings of any obvious significance in the church and no recommendations are made about those that are in the building.*

Sources

Cadw 1998 *Statutory listed building description*