

= Old Church of St Gwenllwyfo , Llanwenllwyfo =

The Old Church of St Gwenllwyfo , Llanwenllwyfo is a medieval ruined church near Dulas , in Anglesey , north Wales , perhaps built in the 15th century to replace another church from which only the 12th @-@ century font survived . Dedicated to Gwenllwyfo , a 7th @-@ century female saint about whom nothing else is known , it was used as a chapel of ease for the church in Amlwch , about 5 miles (8 km) away . Restored in 1610 and again in the 18th and 19th centuries , it contained an oak screen and pulpit from 1610 .

It was replaced in the middle of the 19th century by a larger church about two @-@ thirds of a mile (1 @. @ 1 km) away , to which some of the contents , including a memorial brass plaque from the early 17th century and the church bell , were removed ; other items were left behind . The disused church was noted to be in bad condition in 1937 , and the roof collapsed in 1950 . Little of the structure now remains , as the walls have been reduced to 5 feet (1 @. @ 5 m) in height .

= = History and location = =

The ruins of St Gwenllwyfo 's Church stand near Dulas , in the north @-@ east of Anglesey , Wales . The date of construction of the first church on the site is unknown . There was a church here in medieval times : one 19th @-@ century writer suggested that the present building dates from the 15th century and that the font , probably 12th century in date , was the only surviving part of an earlier church on the site . Restoration work was carried out in about 1610 and in the 18th century ; the latter changes eradicated the church 's historical details .

The church (dedicated to Gwenllwyfo , a 7th @-@ century woman about whom nothing else is known) was a chapel of ease attached to the parish of Amlwch , about 5 miles (8 km) away . The parish tithes , however , were divided between the Bishop of Bangor and the incumbent of St Eilian 's Church , Llanelian . The area takes its name from the church : the Welsh word llan originally meant " enclosure " and then " church " , and " ? wenllwfyo " is a modified form of the saint 's name .

In 1812 , the priest responsible for the church was Edward Hughes , whose wife was the niece of the owner of Llys Dulas , the landed estate in the area . He employed an architect to carry out some further restoration work , although the details are unknown . The church was in need of further repair by the middle of the 19th century , and the congregation needed a larger building . A new church was therefore built between 1854 and 1856 about two @-@ thirds of a mile (1 @. @ 1 km) away , financed largely by the widow of William Hughes , 1st Baron Dinorben (the son of Edward Hughes) . The old church , which was allowed to fall into ruins , stands in a disused cemetery surrounded by trees .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

The nave and chancel of the church were not structurally divided , and measure 39 feet 6 inches by 15 feet 9 inches (12 by 4 @. @ 8 m) . The walls are 3 feet (0 @. @ 9 m) thick . In 1844 , it was recorded as having a coved roof , doors in the north and south walls and windows in the east , north and west walls . It also had a pulpit and an oak screen , 7 feet (2 @. @ 1 m) high , both dated 1610 . The screen had inscriptions in Welsh and Latin , and a note that " Richard Williams of Rhodogeidio who married Marcelly Lloyd at his own charge caused all this worke to be don to the honor of God and his church " . A brass plaque , erected in 1609 by Williams in memory of his wife , was moved to the new church . Another screen was later added at the west end to stop the wind blowing into the nave , and two windows were added on opposite sides of the chancel . Two box pews were installed during the 18th century , and a bell (now used by the new church) was added .

At the time of a survey by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire in 1937 , although the building was in bad condition with an insecure roof , it still retained an 18th @-@ century oak communion table , a rectangular font dating from the 12th century , the 1610 screen (damaged) , the pulpit , fragments of an oak sounding board (also dated

1610) and some 18th @-@ century memorials . There were also stone benches along the north and south walls , and some wooden benches from the 18th or early 19th century . The medieval roof trusses were also still in place in 1937 , but the roof collapsed in 1950 . The walls have since been lowered to a height of 5 feet (1 @.@ 5 m) .

= = Assessment = =

The antiquarian Angharad Llwyd described the church in 1833 as " a small neat edifice , appropriately fitted up for the performance of divine service " . Samuel Lewis , writing in the middle of the 19th century , said that the church was " a conspicuous and interesting object " in a parish that " partakes much of the general character of dreary sterility by which the mining districts in the immediate vicinity are distinguished " . However , the clergyman and antiquarian Harry Longueville Jones , writing in 1859 about the church as it had been 15 years earlier , said that " the whole building was in bad repair " . One writer described the church in the 1970s as " a roofless , forgotten shell " .