

= St Ceinwen 's Church , Cerrigceinwen =

St Ceinwen 's Church , Cerrigceinwen , is a former parish church in the countryside of central Anglesey , north Wales . The present building dates from 1860 , although the site has been used for worship since at least the 7th century . The doorway reuses some old carved gravestones , one from the 9th to 11th centuries , and another from the 12th century . The church grounds contain a well , once thought to have healing properties . The church and the well are both named after St Ceinwen , an early Celtic female saint .

The church is closed and no longer used for worship by the Church in Wales and , as of July 2012 , was for sale . It is a Grade II listed building , a national designation given to " buildings of special interest , which warrant every effort being made to preserve them " , in particular because it is a " simple rural church " from the 19th century that reuses older carved stonework .

= = History and location = =

St Ceinwen 's Church is in a rural location in the middle of Anglesey , north Wales . It is set in a hollow at the side of the road near the village of Cerrigceinwen , about 2 miles (3 @. @ 2 km) to the south @-@ west of Llangefni , the county town of Anglesey . The date of establishment of the first church on this site is uncertain . According to a 2006 guide to the churches of Anglesey , worship began here in the 7th century . The 19th @-@ century writer Samuel Lewis , however , stated that it was supposed that a church was founded at the site in 450 . Some repair work was carried out to a medieval church on this site in 1839 (although the date of its original construction is unknown) and the current structure was erected in 1860 . The architects were Henry Kennedy (architect of the Diocese of Bangor) and Frederick Rogers .

The dedication is to St Ceinwen , known elsewhere in Wales and in Cornwall as Cain or Keyne (in Welsh , Cain means " fair " or " beautiful " , and Ceinwen means " Blessed Cain ") . She was the daughter of King Brychan Brycheiniog ; her siblings St Dwynwen and St Dyfnan are commemorated elsewhere on Anglesey , at St Dwynwen 's Church , Llanddwyn and St Dyfnan 's Church , Llanddyfnan respectively . A spring in the south of the churchyard is known as " St Ceinwen 's Well " ; according to the 19th @-@ century clergyman and antiquarian Harry Longueville Jones , it was " once much resorted to as a spring that could cure many diseases . "

The church is no longer used for worship by the Church in Wales and , as of July 2012 , it was being offered for sale at £ 65 @, @ 000 . Some of the surrounding land is included in the sale , but the graveyards to the front and rear of the church are not .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

The church , which is built in the Decorated style , has a nave at the west end and a chancel at the east end . It is built from rubble masonry dressed with freestone ; the roof is made of slate and edged with stone . There is a porch at the west end of the south wall of the nave and a vestry at the west end of the north wall of the chancel , abutting the nave . The nave measures approximately 39 feet 8 inches by 20 feet 8 inches (12.10m by 6 @. @ 30 m) and the chancel is shorter and narrower at approximately 18 feet by 14 feet 1 inch (5 @. @ 50 by 4 @. @ 30 m) . The total floor space of the church is approximately 1 @, @ 076 square feet (100 m2) . There is a large bellcote at the west end of the nave , containing one bell .

The arched doorway in the porch reuses two old carved gravestones . One from the 12th century is cut at its head with a circle containing a rough cross of petals and has a decorated key design on the shaft . It is used as the lintel of the doorway . Part of another gravestone , dating from the 9th to the 11th centuries and with a cross in a circle , is set to the right of the door . Inside , three steps lead up from the nave to the chancel through a decorated chancel arch . A further two steps lead up from the chancel to the sanctuary . The internal woodwork of the roof is exposed . The window in the east wall of the chancel is a pointed arch and has three lights (sections of window separated by mullions) topped with trefoils (a pattern of three overlapping circles) . The nave windows are also

pointed arches and variously have one , two or three lights topped with trefoils . The windows contain coloured leaded glass rather than stained glass pictures .

The circular stone font dates from the 12th century but is set on a modern base . It has five panels , four of which are decorated with interlacing carvings of crosses and knots while the fifth is blank . The other fittings of the church date from the 19th century and include an octagonal pulpit with decorated panels . The west wall of the nave has a stone memorial to a Reverend William Griffith who died in 1752 , the south wall has a war memorial to the dead of the First World War , and the north wall has an inscribed stone commemorating a Morris Lloyd (or Llwyd) , a Royalist who was killed by Cromwell 's troops in 1647 .

A survey of church plate within the Bangor diocese in 1906 recorded a chalice and a paten dating from 1823 . It recorded that a pewter flagon , known from church records to have been owned by the church from 1739 to 1834 , was lost .

The churchyard contains a Commonwealth War Grave of a Royal Army Medical Corps sergeant of World War II .

= = Assessment = =

The church has national recognition and statutory protection from unauthorised alteration as it has been designated as a Grade II listed building , which is the lowest of the three grades of listing , designating " buildings of special interest , which warrant every effort being made to preserve them " . It was given this status on 30 January 1968 and has been listed as " a simple rural church of the 19th century " . Cadw , the Welsh Government body responsible for the built heritage of Wales and the inclusion of Welsh buildings on the statutory lists , also comments that the church is " particularly notable for retention of early carved stonework in the later fabric . "

Two writers in the 19th century described the old church . The antiquarian Angharad Llwyd described it (before the 1839 building work) as " a neat small edifice , and appropriately fitted @-@ up " . Writing in 1846 , after some rebuilding , Longueville Jones said that the east window was " one of the purest models , as to proportion and workmanship " , in Anglesey , and noted the " richly sculptured compartments " of the font .