

= St Twrog 's Church , Bodwrog =

St Twrog 's Church is a small rural church at Bodwrog in Anglesey , North Wales . Built in the late 15th century in a medieval style , some alterations have been made but much of the original structure still remains . It has two 15th @-@ century doorways (one later converted into a window) and some 15th @-@ century windows . The bull 's head decoration used on the church denotes a connection with the Bulkeleys of Beaumaris , a prominent north Wales family over several centuries . Set in a remote part of the countryside in the middle of Anglesey , it is dedicated to St Twrog , who was active in the late 5th and early 6th centuries . The church 's tithes were paid for at least two hundred years to Jesus College , Oxford , which has historically strong links with Wales , and the college at one point built a house for the priest who served St Twrog 's and a neighbouring parish .

The church is still used for worship by the Church in Wales , as one of seven churches in a Ministry Area . It is a Grade II * listed building , a national designation given to " particularly important buildings of more than special interest " , in particular because it is regarded as " a good rural late Medieval church " . It is built from rubble masonry with a slate roof . The interior is lit by gas lamps .

= = History and location = =

The church is in a churchyard in " a remote rural location " on Anglesey , Wales , about 4 miles (6 @. @ 4 km) from the county town of Llangefni , at the side of a small road between Gwalchmai and Llynfaes . The date of first construction of a Christian building at this location is unknown . The parish takes its name from Twrog , a saint who lived in the late 5th and early 6th centuries , to whom the church is dedicated : the Welsh word bod means " abode " or " dwelling " , and " -wrog " is a modified form of the saint 's name ? i.e. " Twrog 's dwelling " . One of his brothers , St Gredifael , is commemorated in another Anglesey church , St Gredifael 's Church , Penmynydd .

The present church dates from the time of King Henry VII (ruled 1485 ? 1509) , when a significant amount of building work took place in Wales . Some more windows were added in the 17th or 18th century , and the church was restored in the mid to late 19th century . The writer Samuel Lewis recorded in 1849 that St Twrog 's was attached to St Trygarn 's Church , Llandrygarn , with the priest serving the two parishes residing in Llandrygarn . The church tithes had been paid to Jesus College , Oxford (who had built a " neat parsonage @-@ house " in Llandrygarn) since 1648 , Lewis said , subject to a small deduction for distribution to the poor of the parish . The tithes were given to the college (which has had strong connections with Wales since its foundation in 1571) by a Dr Wynne , Chancellor of Llandaff Cathedral .

St Twrog 's is still in use for worship by the Church in Wales . It is one of seven churches in a group of parishes served by the same priest (Llandrygarn with Bodwrog with Heneglwys with Trewalchmai with Llannerch @-@ y @-@ medd) . Other churches in the combined parishes include St Cwyllog , Llangwyllog and St Mary , Llannerch @-@ y @-@ medd . It is within the deanery of Malltraeth , the archdeaconry of Bangor and the Diocese of Bangor . As of 2012 , the parish does not have a rector , and the position has been vacant since December 2000 .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

The church is built from rubble masonry , dressed with limestone ; the roof is made from slate , with a stone bellcote at the west end and a bell dating from 1668 . There is no structural division between the nave and chancel , although there is a step and a rail denoting the sanctuary , and overall the church measures about 46 by 13 feet (14 @. @ 0 by 4 @. @ 0 m) . On the south side of the church , there are two windows and a 15th @-@ century square @-@ framed entrance door , which is at the west end ; there are three windows on the north side . The east window and the two eastern @-@ most windows on the north and south sides date from the late 15th century . Like the rest of the windows , these are made wholly or mainly from clear glass ; none of the windows is made entirely of stained glass . The east window has three long narrow lights (sections of window separated by mullions or tracery) each with an ogee (double arc shaped) curve at the top , topped

with eight smaller lights arranged with four in the centre . The other two 15th @-@ century windows are set in square frames and have pairs of lights headed with cinquefoils (a five leaf pattern) . The rectangular windows in the middle of the north and south walls were added in the 17th or 18th century , and have pairs of lights . The western @-@ most window on the north side is a converted 15th @-@ century door ; it bears designs of a leaf pattern on one side and three bull 's heads on the other . The three bull 's heads pattern is associated with the Bulkeley family of Beaumaris , who were prominent and influential landowners , in Anglesey and elsewhere in north Wales , from the 15th to the 19th centuries . In 1500 , about the time that the church was rebuilt , Richard Bulkeley was Archdeacon of Anglesey and so would have been involved in the work here , and is likely to have contributed towards the cost . A bull 's head is carved into a stone above the doorway .

The roof dates from the 19th century and the supporting woodwork structure can be seen from inside the church . The church , which is lit by gas lamps , contains box pews in the nave , and a panelled reading desk with a matching pulpit , one on each side in the sanctuary . Cream paint has been used for the pews , pulpit and reading desk . There are some 18th @-@ century memorial tablets on the south wall of the nave . A 1937 survey by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire noted an oak collecting shovel dated 1733 , a silver cup dated 1773 and a font of uncertain date .

= = Assessment = =

The church has national recognition and statutory protection from alteration as it has been designated as a Grade II * listed building ? the second @-@ highest of the three grades of listing , designating " particularly important buildings of more than special interest " . It was given this status on 5 April 1971 , and has been listed because it is regarded as " a good rural late Medieval church " . Cadw (the Welsh Assembly Government body responsible for the built heritage of Wales and the inclusion of Welsh buildings on the statutory lists) also notes that the church has " a simple traditional character " , and that it retains " many original features . "

Writing in 1862 , the clergyman and antiquarian Harry Longueville Jones said that the east window was similar to windows in the south aisle of St Cybi 's Church , Holyhead . A 2009 guide to the buildings of the region also comments upon the east window , saying that it was " surprisingly grand " . A 2006 guide to the churches of Anglesey says that St Twrog 's is in " an elevated spot in a remote rural location . " It notes that the east window was " much weathered " , but that overall the building " appears to be in fairly good condition . "