

= Nidan =

Nidan ( sometimes known as Midan or Idan ) was a Welsh priest and , according to some sources , a bishop , in the 6th and 7th centuries . He is now commemorated as a saint . He was the confessor for the monastery headed by St Seiriol at Penmon , and established a church at what is now known as Llanidan , which are both places on the Welsh island of Anglesey . He is the patron saint of two churches in Anglesey : St Nidan 's Church , Llanidan , built in the 19th century , and its medieval predecessor , the Old Church of St Nidan , Llanidan . Midmar Old Kirk in Aberdeenshire , Scotland , is also dedicated to him : Nidan is said to have helped to establish Christianity in that area as a companion of St Kentigern . St Nidan 's , Llanidan , has a reliquary dating from the 14th or 16th century , which is said to house his relics .

= = Life = =

Little is known in detail about Nidan 's life , and his year and place of birth are unknown . He is sometimes referred to as " Midan " or " Idan " . According to manuscript sources , such as Peniarth MS 45 ( which has been dated to the 14th century ) in the National Library of Wales , he was the son of Gwrtyw ab Pasgen ab Urien Rheged . He was a descendant of Urien Rheged , as was Saint Grwst of Llanrwst , a town on the north Wales mainland in present @-@ day Conwy County Borough . Urien was a " celebrated warrior " from the late 5th century , whose deeds were commemorated by the Welsh poet Taliesin .

Nidan was associated with St Seiriol 's monastery at Penmon , on the eastern tip of Anglesey in north Wales , and was the monastery 's confessor . He is also referred to as a bishop in one source . He founded a church in what is now known as Llanidan , also on Anglesey , near to the Menai Straits . According to tradition , this was established in 616 . He is reported to have lived at Cadair Idan , near the church , and a well about 200 yards ( 180 m ) away from the church is reputed to be his holy well .

Nidan is said to have been one of the 665 monks who travelled with St Kentigern , also known as St Mungo , and reputed to be a cousin of his , from Llanelwy , north Wales , to Scotland . Together with another of Kentigern 's companions , Finan or Ffinan , they are said to have established Christianity in Midmar , in what is now Aberdeenshire , in the 7th century . A church in Midmar was dedicated to Nidan . However , the existence of a link between Nidan and Kentigern has been doubted , with one author saying that " the whole idea that these people [ i.e. Nidan and Ffinan ] had any connection with Kentigern is without any real foundation . "

According to some sources , he died in about 610 , which would be inconsistent with the reported foundation date for the church at Llanidan of 616 .

= = Commemoration = =

The Old Church of St Nidan , Llanidan , was in use until the middle of the 19th century when it was replaced by St Nidan 's Church , Llanidan , nearer to the village of Brynsiencyn . This was for two reasons : the old church needed repair , and also because the population of Brynsiencyn needed a church . The old church was then partially demolished . The new church contains a sandstone reliquary , about 26 inches ( 66 cm ) long , which is said to contain Nidan 's relics . The reliquary 's date is uncertain : it has been described as being " probably " from the 14th century , but also , in a more recent description , as " probably 16th century " . It was found buried under the altar of the old church in 1700 .

His feast day in the Welsh calendar of saints is 30 September ; in the Scottish calendar of saints , it is 3 November . Nidan was venerated as a saint , although he was never canonized by a pope : as the historian Jane Cartwright notes , " In Wales sanctity was locally conferred and none of the medieval Welsh saints appears to have been canonized by the Roman Catholic Church " .