

= Caffo =

Caffo was a sixth @-@ century Christian in Anglesey , north Wales , who is venerated as a saint and martyr . The son of a king from northern Britain who took shelter in Anglesey , Caffo was a companion of St Cybi , and is mentioned as carrying a red @-@ hot coal in his clothes to Cybi without his clothes getting burnt . After leaving Cybi , Caffo was killed by shepherds in the south of Anglesey , possibly acting in retaliation for insults Caffo 's brother had paid to the local ruler . The area where he died has a village , Llangaffo , named after him , as well as the parish church of St Caffo , Llangaffo .

= = Life and martyrdom = =

Little is known for certain about Caffo ; his dates of birth and death are not given in the sources . He is said to have been one of the sons of St Caw , a king in northern Britain who lost his lands and sought safety with his family in Anglesey ; the ruler Maelgwn Gwynedd gave him land in the north @-@ east of the island , in the district known as Twrcelyn . Other relatives of Caffo included his uncles St Iestyn and St Cyngar (brothers of Caw) , his sister St Cwyllog and various brothers including St Gildas (although the number of his siblings varies from 10 to 21 in different manuscripts) .

Caffo was a companion and cousin of St Cybi , a Christian from Cornwall who was active in the mid @-@ 6th century . Cybi established himself in Anglesey within a disused Roman fort in what is now called Holyhead : the town 's Welsh name is Caergybi , or " Cybi 's fort ") . Caffo is mentioned in connection with Cybi in a manuscript written in about 1200 , which contains two accounts of Cybi 's life . Caffo is not mentioned in the accounts of Cybi 's life until an incident when he was sent to fetch fire from a blacksmith . He returned to Cybi carrying a red @-@ hot coal in his clothes , which were not burnt .

At some point , Cybi and Caffo parted company , possibly because of a disagreement between them , but possibly because his brother Gildas had insulted Maelgwn , who then forced Cybi to dismiss Caffo ? both versions appear in the manuscript accounts . Thereafter , Caffo moved towards the south of Anglesey , where he was killed by shepherds from the area now called Newborough , perhaps avenging the insult on their king .

= = Commemoration = =

The area of Caffo 's death became known at some point as Llangaffo , and a church was established there : the Welsh word " llan " originally meant " enclosure " and then " church " , and " -gaffo " is a modified form of the saint 's name . It is thought that there may have at one point been a monastery in this location , known as " Merthyr Caffo " (Merthyr being the Welsh word for " martyr ") . Caffo is 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 " .

It is uncertain when the name " Llangaffo " was first used or when the first church was established here , but it was before 1254 , when the church and community were recorded in the Norwich Taxation (a national survey of church names and property) . There is still a church dedicated to Caffo in the village , used for worship by the Church in Wales .

Caffo is reported to have had a bubbling " holy well " in the area , called Crochan Caffo (" Caffo 's cauldron ") or Ffynnon Caffo (" Caffo 's well ") . Parents would offer fowls to be eaten by the attendant priest , in order to stop their children from peevishness . A nearby farm is still named after the well , although the well itself has been lost .