

= St Ffinan 's Church , Llanffinan =

St Ffinan 's Church , Llanffinan is a small 19th @-@ century parish church built in the Romanesque revival style , in Anglesey , north Wales . There has been a church in this area , even if not on this precise location , since at least 1254 , and 19th @-@ century writers state that St Ffinan established the first church here in the 7th century . The church was rebuilt in 1841 , reusing a 12th @-@ century font and 18th @-@ century memorials , as well as the cross at the eastern end of the roof .

The church is still used for worship by the Church in Wales , one of eight in a combined parish , and services are held weekly . 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 considered to be " a good essay in a simple Romanesque revival style " . The church is at the end of a gravel track in the countryside of central Anglesey , about 2 @.@ 5 kilometres (1 @.@ 6 mi) from Llangefni , the county town . It is also on a footpath to Plas Penmynydd , once home to Owen Tudor , founder of the Tudor dynasty .

= = History and location = =

St Ffinan 's Church is in the countryside in the centre of Anglesey , north Wales , near the village of Talwrn , and about 2 @.@ 5 kilometres (1 @.@ 6 mi) away from Llangefni , the county town of Anglesey . The parish church is at the end of a gravelled track , off a country lane between the lower part of Talwrn and the hamlet of Ceint to the south . It can also be accessed by public footpath from Plas Penmynydd , once home to Owen Tudor , grandfather of King Henry VII and founder of the Tudor dynasty . The parish takes its name from the church : the Welsh word llan originally meant " enclosure " and then " church " , with " -ffinan " denoting the saint .

The date of construction of the first church in this area is uncertain , although a church was recorded here in 1254 during the Norwich Taxation of churches . The 19th @-@ century writers and antiquarians Angharad Llwyd and Samuel Lewis said that St Ffinan , to whom the church is dedicated , established the first church here towards the beginning of the 7th century , possibly around 620 . Llwyd described the old church in 1833 as " a small neat edifice " . The current building was designed by the architect John Welch and erected in 1841 , with the first service held on 6 July of that year . Welch also designed the church of St Nidan , Llanidan , in the south of Anglesey , which was built between 1839 and 1843 .

St Ffinan 's is still used for worship by the Church in Wales . It is one of eight churches in a combined parish called Bro Cadwaladr . It is within the deanery of Synod Ynys Mon , the archdeaconry of Bangor and the Diocese of Bangor . As of 2016 , the vicar is Emlyn Williams , assisted by an associate priest , E. R. Roberts . Williams was appointed in 2007 ; before that , the position had been vacant for 20 years despite many attempts by the Church in Wales to fill it . Services are held at St Ffinan 's on the first to fourth Sundays of every month , either Cymun Bendigaid (Welsh : Holy Communion) or Foreol Weddi (Morning Prayer) ; on the fifth Sunday of the month , a service of Holy Communion is held at one of the churches in the parish . There are no midweek services .

John Jones , who was Dean of Bangor Cathedral from 1689 to 1727 , was also rector of St Ffinan 's during that time , as it was one of the benefices attached to the deanery . Jones is commemorated by a stone tablet on the wall of St Mary 's Church , Pentraeth , also in Anglesey . The antiquarian Nicholas Owen was perpetual curate here from 1790 until his death in 1811 ; he is buried at St Tyfrydog 's Church , Llandyfrydog , Anglesey .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

The church is small and rectangular , built from stone with a slate roof ; there is a bellcote at the west end of the roof . There is no internal structural division between the nave and the chancel . The style is Romanesque revival . There is a round @-@ headed window in each of the three bays of the church , and a three @-@ part window in the chancel . The doorway at the west end has small

windows on either side , and a window above ; a stone slab between the upper window and the doorway has " 1841 " upon it . Stained glass has been inserted into the windows in memory of parishioners .

A survey in 1937 by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire noted a number of items that had been preserved from the old church . The circular font , made of gritstone , dates from the 12th @-@ century ; it has a " very crude interlacing strap ornament " , and has been fitted upon a more modern base . There are two memorials from the 18th century , one dated 1705 to " Iohn Lloyd of Hirdre Faig " and one dated 1764 to " Hugh , son of Richard Hugh of Ty @-@ hen " . The churchyard contains one Commonwealth war grave from the First World War , of Private Evan Oswald Thomas , a Royal Welsh Fusiliers soldier from Talwrn .

= = Assessment = =

St Ffinan 's has national recognition and statutory protection from alteration as it has been designated as a Grade II listed building ? 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 because it is considered to be " a good essay in a simple Romanesque revival style " . Cadw (the Welsh Government body responsible for the built heritage of Wales and the inclusion of Welsh buildings on the statutory lists) describes it as " a small rural church " .

Samuel Lewis said that the new church was " a plain structure in the old English style , with strong buttresses , which have a good effect , being so well suited to the exposed situation of the building . " Writing in 1846 , the priest and antiquarian Harry Longueville Jones said that the church , " a modern erection of the Pseudo @-@ Norman style " , stood in " a highly picturesque situation . " He said that the cross at the east end of the roof came from the old church .

A 2009 guide to the buildings of the region describes the 1841 rebuilding work as " rectangular and harsh " . A 2006 guide to the churches of Anglesey says that it is " a good example of the small rural church " , set in a " well @-@ maintained churchyard " . It also notes that its style " is quite different to most Anglesey churches " .