

= St Fflewyn 's Church , Llanfflewyn =

St Fflewyn 's Church , Llanfflewyn ( sometimes referred to as St Fflewyn 's Church , Llanfflewyn ) is a small rural church , situated by a farm in Anglesey , north Wales . The first church on the site is said to have been built by St Fflewyn in 630 , but the present building has no structural features dating from before the 18th century , although the church has a font from the 14th or 15th century and part of an inscribed medieval gravestone has been reused in a window sill .

The church is still used for worship by the Church in Wales , and is one of five churches in a combined benefice . 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 " , because it is a " simple rural church built on Medieval foundations " . A 2006 guide to the churches of Anglesey said that it is a " typical , well @-@ preserved rural church and is well worth a visit . "

= = History and location = =

St Fflewyn , to whom the church is dedicated , was a Christian who was active in the 6th century . He is described as the son of Ithel Hael , who came to Britain from Armorica ( present @-@ day northern France ) towards the end of the 5th century . He established a Christian site at the location of the present church in 630 ( according to the Diocese of Bangor and a 2006 guide to the churches of Anglesey ) , although a 19th @-@ century guide to Wales by the writer Samuel Lewis says that it was sometime early in the 7th century . No part of a building from that period survives . There was a church here by 1254 , since it is recorded in the Norwich Taxation of that year . The present building is thought by Cadw ( the Welsh Assembly Government body responsible for the built heritage of Wales ) to be " probably built upon Medieval foundations " , albeit that the earliest dateable feature of the structure is from the late 18th century . After some repairs in the early part of the 19th century , St Fflewyn 's was partially rebuilt ( " judiciously " , says a 2009 guide to the buildings of north @-@ west Wales ) in 1864 and further restored during the 1930s . The Welsh poet and clergyman Morris Williams ( better known by his bardic name " Nicander " ) was rector here from 1859 until his death in 1874 ; he was buried at Llanrhuddlad , one of the other Anglesey churches for which he had responsibility .

The church is isolated , located in the countryside of north Anglesey by a farm , about 1 mile ( 1 @.@ 6 km ) from Llanrhuddlad , in an area of Anglesey known as Mynydd Mechell . Llanfflewyn takes its name from the church : the Welsh word llan originally meant " enclosure " and then " church " , so " Llanfflewyn " means " Church of Fflewyn " . It is set within a raised circular enclosure , with an arched lychgate ( possibly of 17th @-@ century date ) . It is still in use for worship , and belongs to the Church in Wales , as one of five churches in the combined benefice of Llanfechell with Bodewryd with Rhosbeirio with Llanfflewyn and Llanbadrig . It is within the deanery of Twrcelyn , the archdeaconry of Bangor and the Diocese of Bangor . As of 2012 , the rector is Canon G W Edwards .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

The church , which is small and rectangular , has no internal division between the nave and the chancel . It measures 47 feet 6 inches by 14 feet 9 inches ( 14 @.@ 5 by 4 @.@ 5 m ) . It is built of rubble masonry , and the roof is made of slate ; there is a gabled bellcote at the west end of the roof . The roof timbers can be seen from the inside . Entrance to the church is through a porch with a rounded arch at the west end of the south wall , and there is a vestry , with one window , at the west end of the north wall .

The windows in the south and north walls are rectangular pairs ; the window in the east wall is in the form of a rounded arch , with two lights ( sections of window separated by mullions ) . The sill of the window has a fragment of a medieval gravestone ( dating from some time after 1300 ) set into it , inscribed HIC IACET MADOCUS . The church has a " roughly dressed " font with nine sides , dating from the 14th or 15th century . There are a number of slate memorial tablets on the north and south

walls from the 18th century . A 1937 survey by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire also recorded a bier , with the initials " W.W. " and the date 1784 , and an Elizabethan silver cup with a cover @-@ paten , the paten having an engraved date of 1574 . It also noted a wooden pitch pipe and wooden shovel , both dating from the late 18th century .

= = Assessment = =

The church has national recognition and statutory protection from alteration as it has been designated by Cadw ( on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales ) 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 12 May 1970 , and has been listed because it is " a simple rural church built on Medieval foundations " . Cadw also notes that it retains " the vernacular character of a pre gothic revival church " .

Samuel Lewis said that the church , which he described as " a plain edifice " , was " beautifully situated near a small lake , and surrounded with pleasing scenery " . The Welsh politician and church historian Sir Stephen Glynne visited the church on 4 September 1867 . He said that the church " has been so completely modernised , that it is doubtful whether any original feature remains but the bell @-@ gable and one single light window in the north wall " . He said that the font was of " singular design " : " octagonal , swelling downwards and each face concave . " He also said that the site was " wild and striking . " A 2006 guide to the churches of Anglesey says that it is " a typical , well @-@ preserved rural church and is well worth a visit . "