

= St Cwyllog 's Church , Llangwyllog =

St Cwyllog 's Church , Llangwyllog is a medieval church near Llangwyllog , in Anglesey , north Wales . St Cwyllog founded a church here in the 6th century , although the exact date is unknown . The existence of a church here was recorded in 1254 and parts of the present building may date from around 1200 . Other parts are from the 15th century , with an unusual annexe (possibly intended for use as a schoolroom) added in the 16th century . The church contains some 18th @-@ century fittings , including a rare Georgian three @-@ decker pulpit and reading desk .

The church is still in use for worship by the Church in Wales , as one of seven churches in a combined group of parishes . It is a Grade II * listed building , a national designation given to " particularly important buildings of more than special interest " , because it is regarded as a " good rural medieval church " with some features from the 15th century , as well as the 18th @-@ century fittings .

= = History and location = =

St Cwyllog 's Church is in a rural location in the middle of Anglesey , about 3 miles (5 km) north @-@ west of Llangefni , the county town , and a short distance from the small village of Llangwyllog . The village takes its name from the church : the Welsh word llan originally meant " enclosure " and then " church " , and " ? gwyllog " is a modified form of the saint 's name .

The first church on this site was established by Cwyllog , a female saint , in the 6th century , although the exact date is unknown . She was one of the daughters of St Caw , a king in northern Britain who lost his lands and sought safety with his family in Anglesey , where the ruler Maelgwn Gwynedd gave him land . There was a church here at the time of the Norwich Taxation in 1254 , and the present walls may date from around 1200 . In the 13th century , the church was under the control of the Augustinian canons of the priory at Penmon , on the east of Anglesey , with the priory gaining the income from the tithes paid to the church . The priory gradually diminished in size and importance , and in 1522 the prior and two canons (the entire community , at that stage) affixed their signature to the lease of Llangwyllog church to Richard Bulkeley (a member of a prominent family from the Anglesey town of Beaumaris) for the period of 100 years at an annual rent of £ 1 .

The north doorway and the east window are from the late 15th century . An annexe was added at the west end in the latter half of the 16th century . Some restoration work was carried out in 1812 , funded by Thomas Bulkeley , 7th Viscount Bulkeley , with further work in 1854 .

St Cwyllog 's , now part of the Church in Wales , is still used for services , although in 2011 a service was only scheduled on the third Sunday of each month in the afternoon . The church is one of three in the parish of Llannerch @-@ y @-@ medd , which is part of a combined benefice with four other parishes (Llandrygarn , Bodwrog , Heneglwys and Trewalchmai) which have seven churches in total . The parish is in the deanery of Malltraeth and the archdeaconry of Bangor , within the Diocese of Bangor . As of 2013 , the position of vicar is vacant .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

The church is built from rubble masonry with very large boulder quoins ; the roof is made from slate with stone copings . The main part of the church is 45 feet 6 inches long by 15 feet 3 inches wide (13 @. @ 87 by 4 @. @ 65 m) ; the annexe at the west end measures 20 feet 6 inches by 15 feet 6 inches (6 @. @ 25 by 4 @. @ 72 m) . At the west end of the roof of the nave , there is a bellcote with a single bell decorated with three bull heads , dated 1661 ; at the east end , there is a cross . There is no structural division between the nave and the chancel . The annexe at the west end is smaller and lower in height than the main building , and was built in line with it . It may have been built for use as a schoolroom . It has a 16th @-@ century doorway at the west end , converted into a window in the 19th century , and a modern door at the east end , as well as an 18th @-@ century fireplace . The main entrance into the church is on the north side of the nave , dating from the late 15th century . The doorway is pointed , in a square frame .

The east window in the chancel is from the 15th century . There are three lights , headed with trefoils , in a pointed arch . Stained glass by the Pre -@- Raphaelite artist Henry Holiday was added in 1882 . The windows in the north wall are from the late 16th century , and have square heads . The south wall has one similar window , and two copies from the 19th century .

The church has a cylindrical stone font dating from the 13th century , carved with decorations , particularly an elaborate leaf design and a knotwork pattern . The decoration , however , is incomplete and about one @-@ third of it was left unfinished . Other fittings date on the whole from the late 18th century , as St Cwyllog 's was refurbished in 1769 . They include a triple @-@ decker pulpit combined with a reading desk , with panelling to the front and sides and further panelling at the back of the pulpit . It bears an inscription " M T I I WARDENS 1769 " . The altar has communion rails on three sides , which are probably of similar date to the pulpit , and seats nearby in the chancel on the north and south walls . There are various 18th @-@ century memorials . To the east of the pulpit , one box pew dates from the 18th century , another from the 19th ; to the west , there are open benches . The church 's chest is dated 1804 , and there are hat pegs on the walls .

St Cwyllog 's has three chalices , made from silver , from the 16th century . The lid of one of them (dated 1578) was returned to the church in 2010 by an antiques dealer who had purchased it several years before , thinking it to be a Tudor sugar lid . Further investigations showed that it had once belonged to a nearby closed church that had transferred its silver to St Cwyllog 's . A chance conversation between the antiques dealer and a local clergyman at an archeology group led to the discovery that the lid had the same silversmith 's mark and fitted one of the chalices , and the dealer thereafter decided that she ought to return it to the church .

= = 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 three) grade of listing , designating " particularly important buildings of more than special interest " . It was given this status on 12 May 1970 , and has been listed as " a good rural medieval church which retains some C15 features and the original simple medieval plan " . 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 the 18th @-@ century fittings and memorials , and adds that the addition of a west annexe is unusual for Anglesey .

The 19th @-@ century antiquarian Angharad Llwyd described the church as " small , but remarkably well built " , and mentioned the " ancient and curious chapel at the west end of the nave . " Writing in 1859 , the clergyman and antiquarian Harry Longueville Jones said that St Cwyllog 's had " rather better architectural features about it than most of the small churches in Anglesey . " A 2009 guide to the buildings of the region describes the 1854 restoration as " tactful " , and notes the " rare surviving Georgian fittings " , including the pulpit . A 2011 guide to the religious buildings of Wales says that St Cwyllog 's has " the earliest and finest of several pre @-@ ecclesiological church interiors in Anglesey " .