

= St Nidan 's Church , Llanidan =

St Nidan 's Church , Llanidan is a 19th @-@ century parish church near the village of Brynsiencyn , in Anglesey , north Wales . Built between 1839 and 1843 , it replaced the Old Church of St Nidan , Llanidan , which needed significant repair , providing a place of Anglican worship nearer to the village than the old church . Some items were moved here from the old church , including the 13th @-@ century font , two bells from the 14th and 15th century , and a reliquary thought to hold the remains of St Nidan . The tower at the west end has been described as " top heavy " and looking like " a water tower " .

The church is still used for worship by the Church in Wales , one of five in a group of parishes in the south of Anglesey . 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 regarded as " a distinctive example of pre @-@ archaeological gothic revival work . " The 19th @-@ century clergyman and antiquarian Harry Longueville Jones said that it had been built in a " debased barbarous style , showing neither architectural science nor taste " .

= = History and location = =

St Nidan 's Church was built between 1839 and 1843 , replacing its medieval predecessor . The architect was John Welch , who also designed St Ffinan 's Church , Llanffinan , in central Anglesey , which was built in 1841 . St Nidan 's was originally intended to have a spire on the west tower , but this was not added . The chancel was built in 1882 , and a vestry and organ chamber added later . The battlements on the tower were added in 1933 , replacing the original gabling . St Nidan 's is set within a walled churchyard on the north of the A4080 road , in the south of Anglesey , Wales . The village of Brynsiencyn is about 500 metres ( about one @-@ third of a mile ) to the south @-@ west , and the old church of St Nidan is about 750 metres ( about half a mile ) to the south @-@ east .

A new church was needed because the old church needed significant repair and also because the growth of Brynsiencyn meant that more people lived there than in Llanidan itself . Like its predecessor , it is dedicated to Nidan , a 7th @-@ century Welsh saint who was the confessor of the monastery at Penmon , on the eastern tip of Anglesey .

St Nidan 's is still used for worship by the Church in Wales . It is one of five churches in the combined benefice ( parishes combined under one priest ) of Newborough with Llanidan with Llangeinwen and Llanfair @-@ yn @-@ y @-@ Cymwd . The parish is within the deanery of Tindaethwy and Menai , the archdeaconry of Bangor and the Diocese of Bangor . As of 2012 , the priest in charge is E. Roberts .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

St Nidan 's is built mainly from red gritstone rubble , dressed with sandstone , with buttresses at the corners ; the roof , which is made from slate , has stone copings with a cross at the east end . The church is built in a cross @-@ shape , in Early English style . There is a tower at the west end , which has battlements at the top along with a clock on the east and west sides , a belfry in the middle , and an entrance porch with an arched doorway at the bottom . There are two transepts leading from the nave , one to the north and one to the south , and a chancel at the east end . There are four " equal and bold " arches at the crossing where nave , transepts and chancel meet . The quadrant @-@ shaped organ room and vestry are built into the eastern external angles of the chancel and transepts , one on each side of the church .

The gallery at the west end of the nave , supported by octagonal columns , is reached from the entrance porch ; it has its pews set at an angle . A step leads up from the nave into the chancel , with a further two steps up from the chancel into the sanctuary . The floor of the chancel and the sanctuary are made from encaustic tiles . The internal walls have been plastered . The nave has two bays , each lit with a lancet window ; the transepts have groups of three large lancet windows , as does the east end of the building . The chancel window depicts " Faith , Hope and Charity " , by

Heaton , Butler and Bayne ( 1877 ) ; it is dedicated to the 5th Lord Boston who died in 1897 . One transept set of windows by Shrigley and Hunt depicts the Ascension , in memory of Anna Maria Evans ( died 1929 , wife of the vicar Richard Evans ) .

A sandstone chest with a glass front was moved here from the old church ; local tradition maintains that it holds the relics of St Nidan . It was discovered under the altar of the old church , and may date from the 16th century . The church also has pews made of pine , and a semi @-@ octagonal pulpit with decorated panels .

A survey by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire in 1937 noted which of the church 's contents had come from the old church . The report listed the font , which has carved decoration and dates from the early 13th century ; two bells , one from the first half of the 14th century ( inscribed " + E : D : A : N " ) and another from the latter part of the 15th century ( inscribed " THOMAS AP MEREDITH " ) ; and a carved oak chair from the time of Charles II .

In 1906 , a survey of church plate within the Bangor diocese recorded that St Nidan 's had a silver chalice and alms dish . These were donated probably in 1701 and remade in 1871 ? 72 . It also had a silver paten and two cruets with silver handles , all marked with the date 1871 ? 72 . Records from the 19th century indicated that two tankards ( one silver , one pewter ) and a silver chalice had been lost .

The churchyard contains the grave of Sir Ellis Ellis @-@ Griffith , 1st Baronet , who was MP for Anglesey for 25 years . The grave , by the church 's north wall , has a bust of the politician wearing a wing collar . Other people buried here include the Presbyterian minister and theologian J. E. Hughes , who died in 1959 . There are four Commonwealth war graves , of a British Army soldier of World War I and three soldiers of World War II .

= = Assessment = =

The church 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 as " a small early 19th @-@ century church " . Cadw ( the Welsh Assembly Government body responsible for the built heritage of Wales and the inclusion of Welsh buildings on the statutory lists ) describes the church as " a distinctive example of pre @-@ archaeological gothic revival work . "

Writing in 1846 , the clergyman and antiquarian Harry Longueville Jones condemned the treatment of the old church , which he said was " one of the largest and most important in the island of Anglesey " , given its architecture , contents and traditions . He said that the new church had been built " in a debased barbarous style , showing neither architectural science nor taste , and without any example or analogy amongst the ecclesiastical edifices of any age , except the present . " He also described it in 1863 as " that hideous pile ... a painfully impressive example of architectural bad taste . " He said that the font was " one of the most interesting as a work of art ( not later than the thirteenth century ) extent in Anglesey " , and although he did not consider that its design or execution matched that of the font at St Ceinwen 's Church , Llangeinwen , it was " a highly valuable specimen of medieval taste . " The reliquary , he added , was " unique , so far as Wales is concerned " .

The 19th @-@ century writer Samuel Lewis said that the new church was " apparently of substantial construction , but is much inferior in style to the old building . " The historian and clergyman Edmund Tyrrell Green , writing a survey of Anglesey church architecture and contents in 1929 , described the church as " hideous " , although he said that the font was " remarkable " for its " very graceful patterns in relief showing influence of Greek classical design . "

A 2006 guide to the churches of Anglesey says that it is " of fairly unusual appearance , not at all typical of Anglesey churches in its stonework or the shape of the castelled tower " . It comments that the organ and vestry were in " unusually @-@ shaped rooms " , and notes the " ornate stained glass " of the Ascension . A 2009 guide to the buildings of the region says that the church is " bolder " than

John Welch 's similarly designed church at Llandudno . It describes the tower as " top @-@ heavy with battlements ... like a water tower " , and adds that the seating is " crowded " .