

= St Peter 's Church , Llanbedrgoch =

St Peter 's Church , Llanbedrgoch , is a small medieval parish church near the village of Llanbedrgoch in Anglesey , north Wales . The oldest parts of the building date from the 15th century ; it was extended in the 17th century and restored twice in the 19th century . The doorway is decorated with carvings of two human heads , one wearing a mitre . The church contains a reading desk made from 15th @-@ century bench ends , one carved with a mermaid holding a mirror and comb .

The church is still used for worship by the Church in Wales , as of 2013 , and is one of three in a group of parishes . It is a Grade II * listed building , a national designation given to " particularly important buildings of more than special interest " , because of its " substantial medieval fabric " .

= = History and location = =

St Peter 's Church is in a rural location along a narrow lane near the village of Llanbedrgoch in Anglesey , north Wales . The village itself is about 4 miles (6 @.@ 4 km) from Llangefni , the county town . Built on raised ground inside a churchyard , access to which is through a lychgate , the church is dedicated to St Peter . The village takes its name from the church ; the Welsh word llan originally meant " enclosure " and then " church " , and " ? bedr " is a modified form of the saint 's name , " Pedr " in Welsh .

The date of the earliest church on the site of St Peter 's is unknown . The chancel and the nave are thought to date from the 15th century , and a transept was added to the east end of the church probably in the 17th century , to form a cross groundplan . The church was restored twice in the 19th century , in 1840 and again in 1885 ; the 1840 restoration was partially funded by a grant of £ 20 from the Bangor Diocesan Church Building Society .

St Peter 's is still used for worship by the Church in Wales . It is one of three churches in the combined benefice of Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf with Llanbedrgoch with Pentraeth , and is within the deanery of Tindaethwy and Menai , the archdeaconry of Bangor and the Diocese of Bangor . As of 2013 , the rector is the Venerable R. P. Davies , who is also the Archdeacon of Bangor .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

St Peter 's is built from rubble masonry , with large stones at the corners of the transepts and sandstone dressings around some of the apertures . The roof is made of slate ; the stone bellcote at the west end has one bell and is topped with a cross . The nave and chancel are the oldest parts of the building . The nave measures 23 feet 6 inches by 14 feet (7 @.@ 16 by 4 @.@ 3 m) ; the chancel , which is separated from the nave by a single step , measures 14 feet 6 inches by 4 feet (4 @.@ 42 by 1 @.@ 2 m) . The sanctuary within the chancel is raised by a further step and has a rail around it . The vestry is at the west end of the nave . The transepts to the north and south of the chancel are square in plan , their sides and ends measuring approximately 14 feet 6 inches (4 @.@ 42 m) . The western end of the north wall of the nave has a 15th @-@ century pointed arch doorway set in a square frame , with decorative patterns in the stonework around the door and carved heads on either side of the frame ; the head to the left of the frame wears a mitre . A doorway in the opposite wall of the nave , probably also dating from the 15th century , was partially replaced in the 19th century with a window .

The window on the north wall of the nave is to the east of the door , and was added in the 19th century . It has two rounded lights (sections of window separated by mullions) , in similar style to the two @-@ light 17th @-@ century window in the north wall of the north transept . The second window in the transept , in the east wall , is from the 19th century . The two windows in the south transept , in the south and east walls , are both from the 17th century , and are square @-@ headed with two lights . The window in the east wall of the chancel is from the 19th @-@ century and has three lights topped with stonework trefoils . It has an external hoodmould (a decorative stone border) around the top . The glass of all the windows is patterned , and some is coloured ; the coloured

glass is used in the same way as in other Anglesey churches whose 19th @-@ century restorations were aided by Henry Stanley , 3rd Baron Stanley of Alderley , an Anglesey nobleman who converted to Islam .

The exposed roof timbers date from the 19th century . Most of the fittings date from the middle of the 19th century , with the exception of a reading desk made from two 15th @-@ century bench ends , one of which is carved with a mermaid holding a comb and a mirror . The desk had previously been in St Eilian 's Church , Llaneilian . A survey in 1937 by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire also noted the octagonal font of uncertain date , two 17th @-@ century memorials inside the church , and some memorials from the 17th and 18th centuries outside it .

A survey of church plate within the Bangor diocese in 1906 recorded an Elizabethan silver chalice from about 1575 , just over 6 inches (150 mm) tall , and a plain silver paten and a silver flagon both dated 1904 ? 05 . The mark " IL " within a shield on the chalice probably refers to John Lynglay , an Elizabethan goldsmith from Chester ; it was one of four chalices in the diocese to be marked in this way . The survey also noted that the church no longer had the pewter flagon and dish recorded in the church terriers between 1788 and 1821 .

= = Churchyard = =

The churchyard contains two Commonwealth war graves , of a Royal Navy sailor of World War I and an ATS officer of World War II .

= = Assessment = =

The church has statutory protection from unauthorised alteration as it was designated a Grade II * listed building ? the second @-@ highest of the three grades of listing , recognising " particularly important buildings of more than special interest " ? on 12 May 1970 . Cadw , the Welsh Government body responsible for the built heritage of Wales and the inclusion of Welsh buildings on the statutory lists , describes St Peter 's as " a good rural church retaining substantial medieval fabric " .

Writing in 1833 , before the 19th @-@ century restorations , the antiquarian Angharad Llwyd described St Peter 's as " a small beautiful cruciform structure , with a handsome east window , situated on a rocky eminence , in a distant and exposed part of the parish " . Writing in 1847 , in between the two restorations , the clergyman and antiquarian Harry Longueville Jones said that St Peter 's was the only old building in the parish , and that the " rude execution " of the north doorway " will not escape notice . " He said that the chancel window was of the same design as that in the Old Church of St Nidan , Llanidan . He also noted that the font was " anomalously placed near the entrance of the chancel " .

The Welsh politician and church historian Sir Stephen Glynne visited the church in December 1849 , and observed that the transepts were " as usual , awkward and sprawling " , and were " much out of proportion to the short chancel and insignificant nave . " He described the east window as a late example of the Middle Pointed style , " of a character very frequent in Anglesey . "