

= St Eurgad 's Church , Llaneugrad =

St Eurgad 's Church , Llaneugrad is an isolated church near the village of Marian @-@ glas , in Anglesey , north Wales . A church was supposedly founded here by St Eurgad in about 605 , although the earliest parts of the present structure are the nave , chancel and chancel arch , which date from the 12th century . A side chapel was added to the north in the 16th century , and some moderate restoration work was carried out in the 19th century . It contains a 12th @-@ century font , a 13th @-@ century carved stone depicting the crucifixion , and a memorial to one of the officers killed when the Royal Charter sank off Anglesey in 1859 .

The church is still used for worship by the Church in Wales , one of four in a combined parish ; one of the others is St Gallgo 's Church , Llanallgo , founded by Eurgad 's brother . As of 2012 , the parish does not have an incumbent priest . St Eurgad 's is a Grade II * listed building , a national designation given to " particularly important buildings of more than special interest " , in particular because it is regarded as a " simple rural church " and " characteristic of the island " , and because of the medieval fabric including the chancel arch , described as " a rare survivor of an early building date for the region . "

= = History and location = =

St Eurgad 's Church is in the countryside in the north @-@ east of Anglesey , north Wales , in the community of Llaneugrad . It is about half a mile (800 m) from the village of Marian @-@ glas and 5 miles (8 @. @ 0 km) from the county town of Llangefni . The isolated church , set within an oval churchyard , is located at the side of a lane leading to a house and farm . The community of Llaneugrad (a local government sub @-@ division equivalent to a parish council in England) takes its name from the church : the Welsh word llan originally meant " enclosure " and then " church " .

The 19th @-@ century writer Samuel Lewis said that the church was supposedly founded in about 605 by St Eurgad . Eurgad was one of the sons of St Caw (a king from northern Britain) and a brother of St Gildas . He was also brother of St Gallgo , who founded the nearby church now dedicated to him . St Gallgo 's and St Eurgad 's have been in the same parish since at least 1253 .

No part of any building from the early 7th century survives . The oldest parts of the church are the walls of the nave and the chancel , which are from the 12th century . The north and south doorways were added in the 14th and 15th centuries respectively . A chapel was added to the north side of the chancel in the 16th century . This was at a time when a second altar was added to many churches to allow expressions of devotion to St Mary , and side chapels from the late 15th and early 16th centuries can be found in many Anglesey churches . The 17th century saw the re @-@ roofing of the nave . A porch was added to the south @-@ west corner and a vestry to the north @-@ west in the middle of the 19th century ; Some restoration work (described as " conservative ") took place in the later part of the century .

St Eurgad 's is still used for worship by the Church in Wales . It is one of four churches in the combined benefice of Llaneugrad and Llanallgo with Penrhosllugwy with Llanfihangel Tre 'r Beirdd . It is within the deanery of Twrcelyn , the archdeaconry of Bangor and the Diocese of Bangor . As of 2012 , there is a vacancy for an incumbent priest . A service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer (in English) is held at the church most Sunday mornings .

The poet Dafydd Trefor is recorded in a list of clergy for the Bangor diocese of 1504 as being rector of St Gallgo 's and St Eurgad 's , and signed himself as such in a deed of 1524 . The poet and historian John Williams (better known by his bardic name " Glanmor ") was rector of the two churches from 1883 until his death in 1891 .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

St Eurgad 's is built in Decorated style using rubble masonry with gritstone dressings . The roof is made of slate and has stone coping . It has a 17th @-@ century bellcote at the west end containing one bell , and stone crosses at the tops of the gables . All of the church 's external walls have been

pebbledashed apart from the north and west wall of the chapel and the south porch . The vestry and the porch both have flat roofs and battlements .

The church is entered through the porch at the south @-@ west corner of the nave , which leads to a round @-@ arched 15th @-@ century doorway . Internally , the nave and chancel are separated by a 12th @-@ century arch , which is now covered in plaster . The nave is 18 feet 9 inches by 12 feet 6 inches (5 @. @ 7 by 3 @. @ 8 m) . A doorway on the north side of the nave , from the 14th century , leads into the 19th @-@ century vestry . Alongside the doorway there is a water stoup which shows signs of weathering , and a carved stone depicting the crucifixion . It shows a " crudely carved " figure on a wheel cross , and is probably from the 13th century . It was previously set in a recess above the south door . The plain baptismal font , thought to be from the 12th century , is at the west end of the nave .

The chancel measures 12 feet 9 inches by 10 feet 6 inches (3 @. @ 9 by 3 @. @ 2 m) . Its roof is from the 16th century and has its trusses closer together than the 17th @-@ century nave roof . The south wall of the chancel has a decorated wooden panel dated 1644 , which used to be part of a pulpit . The north wall was removed when the chapel was added , and a beam placed across the opening . The chapel measures 20 feet by 12 feet 9 inches (6 @. @ 1 by 3 @. @ 9 m) . Its roof is also from the 16th century and is similar to the nave roof . There is a blocked 16th @-@ century doorway with a pointed arch on the chapel 's west side .

The windows mainly date from the 19th century . The south wall of the nave has a blocked @-@ up round @-@ headed window from the 12th century . The 19th @-@ century east window has three lights (sections of window separated vertically by mullions) topped by tracery in trefoil shapes (decorative stonework in a three @-@ leaf circular pattern) . The chapel 's north and west window are similar . The north window in the vestry has details similar to those of the blocked nave window , and reuses some medieval material in the window sill . There is no stained glass in the church ; all the windows have clear glass .

The church furniture (pews , pulpit , reading desk and chancel rail) is from the 19th century ; all the items are all decorated with trefoil holes . A survey of church plate within the Bangor diocese in 1906 recorded some plain silver @-@ plated items (chalice , paten , flagon and alms dish) without inscriptions or dates .

There are various 18th @-@ century memorials , and some from the 19th and 20th centuries honouring members of the Williams family upon whose land the church stands . John Groome , the Fourth Officer of the Royal Charter (which sank off the east coast of Anglesey in 1859 with the loss of over 440 lives) is remembered with a stone memorial in Art Nouveau style .

= = 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 the three grades 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 simple rural church (characteristic of the island) " which is " substantially 12th @-@ century in character and fabric " . 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 chancel arch , commenting that it " represents a rare survivor of an early building date for the region " , the 13th @-@ century cruxifixion stone and the 16th @-@ century chancel roof and chapel .

The 19th @-@ century Anglesey historian Angharad Llwyd described the church in 1833 as " a small but stately edifice , of lofty proportions and venerable appearance . " The clergyman and antiquarian Harry Longueville Jones visited in 1844 , and later wrote that " this little edifice is one of the simplest in the island " , although he added that " the plan of the building has been rendered very anomalous " because of the erection of the chapel , " as large as the nave " , on the north side of the chancel . He noted the " rudely sculptured crucifical figure " , suggesting that it may have come from the churchyard cross . At the time of his visit , he said that the church " was in a state of great neglect " but deserved to be " carefully preserved " because of its " architectural peculiarities "

. A 2006 guide to the churches of Anglesey comments that the nave and chancel both have "considerable headroom" , and notes the "very large beam" between the chancel and chapel . It describes the porch as "unusual" because of its flat roof and castellation . A 2009 guide to the buildings of the region describes St Ewgrad 's as "very small" , adding that it is "small enough to have preserved its plan from the Early Christian Church" . It comments that the north and south doorways are "obscured" by the "clumsily battlemented" porch and vestry .