

= St Dona 's Church , Llanddona =

St Dona 's Church , Llanddona is a small 19th @-@ century parish church in the village of Llanddona , in Anglesey , north Wales . The first church on this site was built in 610 . The present building on the site dates from 1873 , and was designed by the rector at the time . It reuses earlier material including a decorated 15th @-@ century doorway and a 17th @-@ century bell .

The church is still used for worship by the Church in Wales , and is one of seven churches in a combined parish . 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 simple late 19th @-@ century essay in Gothic revival " .

= = History and location = =

St Dona 's Church is on a steep hill near the coast on the eastern side of Anglesey , about 1 mile (1 @.@ 6 km) from the village of Llanddona itself . The village takes its name from its parish church : the Welsh word *llan* originally meant " enclosure " and then " church " , and " ? ddona " is a modified form of the saint 's name . St Dona 's is surrounded by a churchyard , entered through a lychgate dated 1906 which bears a memorial to Henry Stanley , 3rd Baron Stanley of Alderley , " Patron and Benefactor of this church " .

According to the 19th @-@ century Anglesey historian Angharad Llwyd , a church was built here in 610 , dedicated to St Dona , who lived on the sea shore nearby . The presence of a church here was recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 . Repairs were carried out in the 1840s : one 19th @-@ century writer , Samuel Lewis , recorded that the internal state of St Dona 's was " wretched in the extreme " until the rural dean at the time put it " into a state of creditable repair " . In 1873 , the rector (Peter Jones) had the church entirely rebuilt to his own design .

St Dona 's is still in use for worship and belongs to the Church in Wales . It is one of seven churches in the combined benefice of Beaumaris with Llanddona and Llaniestyn . It is within the deanery of Tindaethwy and Menai , the archdeaconry of Bangor and the Diocese of Bangor . As of 2012 , the rector is the Reverend Neil Fairlamb .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

St Dona 's is built of rubble masonry , dressed with freestone . The roof is made from slate , and has a bellcote made from stone at the west end . There is a stone cross finial at the east end of the roof . The church is entered through a porch on the south side which leads to a doorway dating from the 15th century . The rounded doorway is decorated with figures of a bird , a dog and a human face on the left , and a cherub on the right . Inside , the nave is separated from the chancel by a step , and the sanctuary is itself raised one step above the chancel . The roof timbers can be seen from inside . The window at the east end has three lights (vertical sections separated by mullions) topped with ogee curves , and is set within a pointed arch with an external hoodmould . It contains stained glass added in 1963 , depicting Christ with sea in the background (centre) , St Curig (left) and St Dona (right) ; above them are images of a lion , dove , lamb and eagle . A stone bearing the date 1566 has been set upside down into the wall above the east window . The other windows are plain and smaller , with one or two lights . The glass in the other windows has been described as " unusual opaque leaded glass " .

The fittings are from the late 19th century , although the octagonal font (made of gritstone) is of uncertain date , possibly 14th century . The bell is dated 1647 . A survey in 1937 by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire recorded the presence of an 18th @-@ century communion table , an Elizabethan cover @-@ paten dated 1574 , and a silver cup dated 1769 ? 1772 .

= = Churchyard = =

The churchyard contains two Commonwealth war graves , of a Royal Welsh Fusiliers soldier of World War I and a RNVR officer of World War II .

= = Assessment = =

St Dona 's 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 because it is " a simple late 19th @-@ century essay in Gothic revival " . Cadw (the Welsh Government body responsible for the built heritage of Wales and the inclusion of Welsh buildings on the statutory lists) also notes that " its simple character " is " appropriate to its scale and site " . A 2009 guide to the buildings of the region described St Dona 's as " drably rebuilt " .