

= St Ceidio 's Church , Rhodogeidio =

St Ceidio 's Church , Rhodogeidio is a rural 19th @-@ century church near Llannerch @-@ y @-@ medd , in Anglesey , north Wales . It was built using materials from the 14th @-@ century church that previously stood on the site , which has been used for Christian worship since some time in the 7th century . The present building , which contains an east window dating from the 14th century and a 15th @-@ century font , is no longer used for services , but has been looked after by local people .

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 " unusual in being built closely to the form and detail of its Medieval predecessor . " Two 19th @-@ century writers thought that the church was in a " dreary spot " , but a 2006 guide to Anglesey churches describes it as being in a pleasant location with good views .

= = History and location = =

The church is dedicated to St Ceidio , a 6th @-@ century British saint who established a number of churches in Wales . Geraint Jones , writing a guide to Anglesey churches in 2006 , said that the site of the church dates from the 7th century , and the 19th @-@ century antiquarian Angharad Llwyd wrote in her history of Anglesey that a church was thought to have been at this location since 630 . A 14th @-@ century church here was rebuilt in 1845 under the supervision of the then rector , Hugh Wynne Jones . The 19th @-@ century church reuses the foundations and materials of its predecessor .

At one time , the church on this site was used as a chapel of ease to Llantrisant church . In the 15th century , St Mary 's Church , Rhodogeidio , was built to serve as a chapel of ease for St Ceidio 's . In 2006 , one author noted that St Ceidio 's had not been regularly used for some years , but restoration work had been carried out by local people . St Mary 's , which is about 0 @.@ 75 miles (1 @.@ 25 km) to the west , is no longer used for services either , but is in ruins .

St Ceidio 's is by the side of a road in the countryside about 1 mile (1 @.@ 6 km) to the northwest of Llannerch @-@ y @-@ medd , and is set within a raised circular churchyard , known in Welsh as a llan . The area takes its name from the church : " Rhod- " is thought to be an abbreviation of Rhodwydd (" defended mound ") and " -geidio " is a modified form of the saint 's name ; i.e. , " the defended mound of Ceidio " .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

St Ceidio 's is constructed of rubble masonry , dressed with freestone . The roof is made of slate , and there is a stone 19th @-@ century bellcote at the west end . The roof trusses can be seen from the inside . Entrance is through a round @-@ headed doorway in the north wall at the west end . Cadw (the Welsh Assembly Government body responsible for the built heritage of Wales) says that this doorway is from the 14th century , but a 2009 guide to the buildings of north @-@ west Wales says that it may date from the 17th century . Inside , there is no internal structural division between the nave and the chancel apart from a single step . There are four windows , all with clear leaded glass : the east window is the oldest , dating from the 14th century . It has a single light (section of window) with some tracery at the top and an external hoodmould . The two windows in the south wall and the window in the north wall date from the 19th century , and are set in rectangular frames ; the windows are topped with trefoils .

The pews and the elevated pulpit date from the 19th century . The church has some marble memorials on the walls , dating from the 18th century , and a 15th @-@ century octagonal font . A 1937 survey by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire noted a bier from 1746 , an oak communion table from about 1700 , and an inscribed Elizabethan silver cup . Paraffin lamps are used to light the church , since there is no electricity connection .

= = 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 12 May 1970 , and has been listed because it is a " simple mid @-@ 19th century church , unusual in being built closely to the form and detail of its Medieval predecessor . " Cadw , which is responsible for the inclusion of Welsh buildings on the statutory lists , says that this means that St Ceidio 's retains " strong vernacular character . "

Angharad Llwyd , writing before St Ceidio 's was rebuilt , referred to it as a " small edifice " in a " dreary spot " . The 19th @-@ century writer Samuel Lewis , describing the rebuilt church , was more complimentary : " The expense of the re @-@ edification was very moderate ; the ancient foundations were preserved , the same stones were used , and though the present building is a much better one than the former , its style is strictly the same . " However , he too thought that the church was in a " dreary spot " . The Welsh politician and church historian Sir Stephen Glynne visited the church in 1851 . He said that the rebuilding of the church had been done " on the whole in a neat style " , with the inside " very fairly arranged " .

A 2009 guide to the buildings of the region says that it is a " tiny church in a raised llan in a hilltop circle of trees " , and calls this " the epitome of ancient siting " . The authors note that the east window is comparable to that in another Anglesey church , St Caean 's Church , Tregaeon (a comparison also made in the Royal Commission 's 1937 report) . A 2006 guide to the churches of Anglesey describes St Ceidio 's as standing " in a pleasant , quiet rural location " , with " good views in all directions " .