



The Celtic Circle

- In The Footsteps Of Saints And Princes -

6. St. Mary - Llangwyfan



Introduction

It may sound as a contradiction in terms, but if ever a church could be described as 'grand on a small scale' St. Mary's, Llangwyfan would fit the bill. Built in 1878 as a replacement for the ill-fated 'Church in the sea' (No. 5 on the trail) it stands rather proudly in its well tended churchyard.

Inside it actually feels older than its years, possibly because some of the features were transplanted from the original church, but also possibly because of the care lavished on it and the warmth of its welcome. This is a self-confident church and well worth a visit.

A Visit

There is a parking area in the field to right of the gate, on wet days it may be worth considering parking (with care) on the side of the road itself.

The current church was built by architects Henry Kennedy and Gustavus Hamilton O'Donoghue to replace St. Cwyfan which deteriorating badly due to coastal erosion. They were evidently 'playing safe' as the new church is over a mile inland! Entering the churchyard you are swept along a short curve of path to the Porch and through it's large door to the interior.



Inside, the Nave has the modest grandeur mentioned above. It's darkly varnished Victorian pews vie for attention with its wooden beamed roof and bright stained glass window above the altar. The whole effect set off by its spotless, warm, red carpeting and the flourish of fresh flowers.

The altar itself is fairly simply decorated wood and the altar rail likewise. Far from feeling austere this just adds to that feeling of confidence. Well worth noting are the inscriptions painted onto the North and South walls of the Chancel. These read: 'Fy ngwaed i sydd ddiod yn awr' (My blood is a drink now) and 'Fy nghnawd sydd fwyd yn wir' (My flesh is food indeed).

Turning back toward the door there is an plain, uncarved font with an ornate wooden cover which appears far older than than its setting. Set inside a small alcove nearby are an inscribed brass plaque and a carved stone dated 1602, presumably from the original church.

Back out to the churchyard it's well worth a stroll to admire the proportions of the building and its remote setting, and especially its views to the sea that was the ruin of its predecessor.



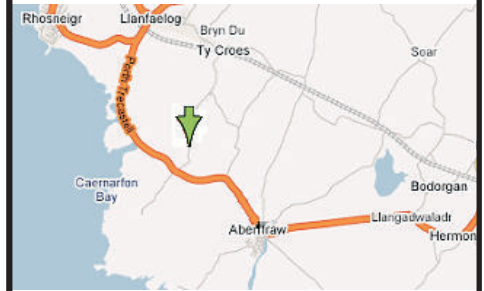
While you're in the area

Llys Llewelyn is a new community development with quality accommodation, cycle hire and local crafts for sale just off the A4080 in Aberffraw itself. The signboard at the church gate gives directions to the historic site of the royal court of the Princes nearby. Barclodiad y Gawres burial chamber is a short drive West. Famed for its ancient rock art it is one of the most important prehistoric monuments on Anglesey. Reached by a dramatic headland walk.



Llangwyfan

Location



NGR: SH 344 710: Turn right off the A4080 from Aberffraw at the crossroads with a large sign for 'Anglesey Circuit' racetrack. The church is approx. 1 mile on the right.

Access: Phone 01407 810412 Or 810448

Wheelchair access: Easy, although the path to the door does slope slightly upwards.

Service Times:

Local Amenities: Aberffraw has two well stocked and friendly village stores, one with a Post Office and free-to-use ATM. It also has a popular local pub, Y Goron- 'The Crown'. Cycle hire, a café, gift shop and accommodation available at the new Llys Llewelyn development in