

Llanedwen - St Edwen/Santes Edwen

The church is situated about 1 miles (1.6 km) down a lane leading off the A4080 about 2 miles (3.2 km) south of Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll.

Grid Reference SH 517 683



St Edwen founded her cell in this tranquil spot in 640 AD. The present church was designed by Henry Kennedy and built in 1856, incorporating some masonry from the previous building in the lower part of the west wall. Repairs were undertaken in 1956.

Its tower and spire make it a landmark visible from a considerable distance, even from the mainland. An unusual feature is that the tower wall has slates on part of the south side. Inside the church are numerous memorials from the 17th and 18th centuries; the earliest (to Thomas Owen, Bolydon) is dated 1646. There are three 17th century chairs, a 19th century reading desk incorporating some 14th century features, and a pulpit containing a 17th century carved frieze. There is also a pair of oak dog tongs which are from the 19th century.

The church has always had close links with the nearby Plas Newydd estate and some of the Marquesses of Anglesey are buried in the churchyard, as are many of their former employees. Local cleric and historian Henry Rowlands (1655 - 1723) (author of *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*, published in 1723) is also buried here, as is William Bulkeley Hughes (1797 - 1882) of Plas Coch, landowner and High Sheriff of Anglesey in 1861.

Llanedwen church has the distinction of being one of only a few churches in Wales, in regular use, to be lit entirely by candles. It is also interesting to note that the only liturgy used at Llanedwen is the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

St Edwen's church is little changed since it was built; it is a good example of an unspoilt 19th century country church.

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