

DRAFT 3

Petition for Faculty
Removal of Choir Stalls
St Cadfan's Church, Tywyn

Ministry Area Council

The minutes of the meeting on 11th July 2023 include:-

The Council approved (WW/CB) a request to remove two choir pews from St Cadfan's Church, Tywyn, as they are no longer of practical use and the space created will allow greater flexibility and creativity in services and events; and submission of a faculty application for the purpose if required.

WW = William Williams-Wynne, Churchwarden of Llanegryn Church

CB = Charles Benedetto, Churchwarden of Tywyn Church

The word "pews" rather than "stalls" was used in discussion at the MAC meeting and in presentation beforehand to the congregation.

Statement of Significance

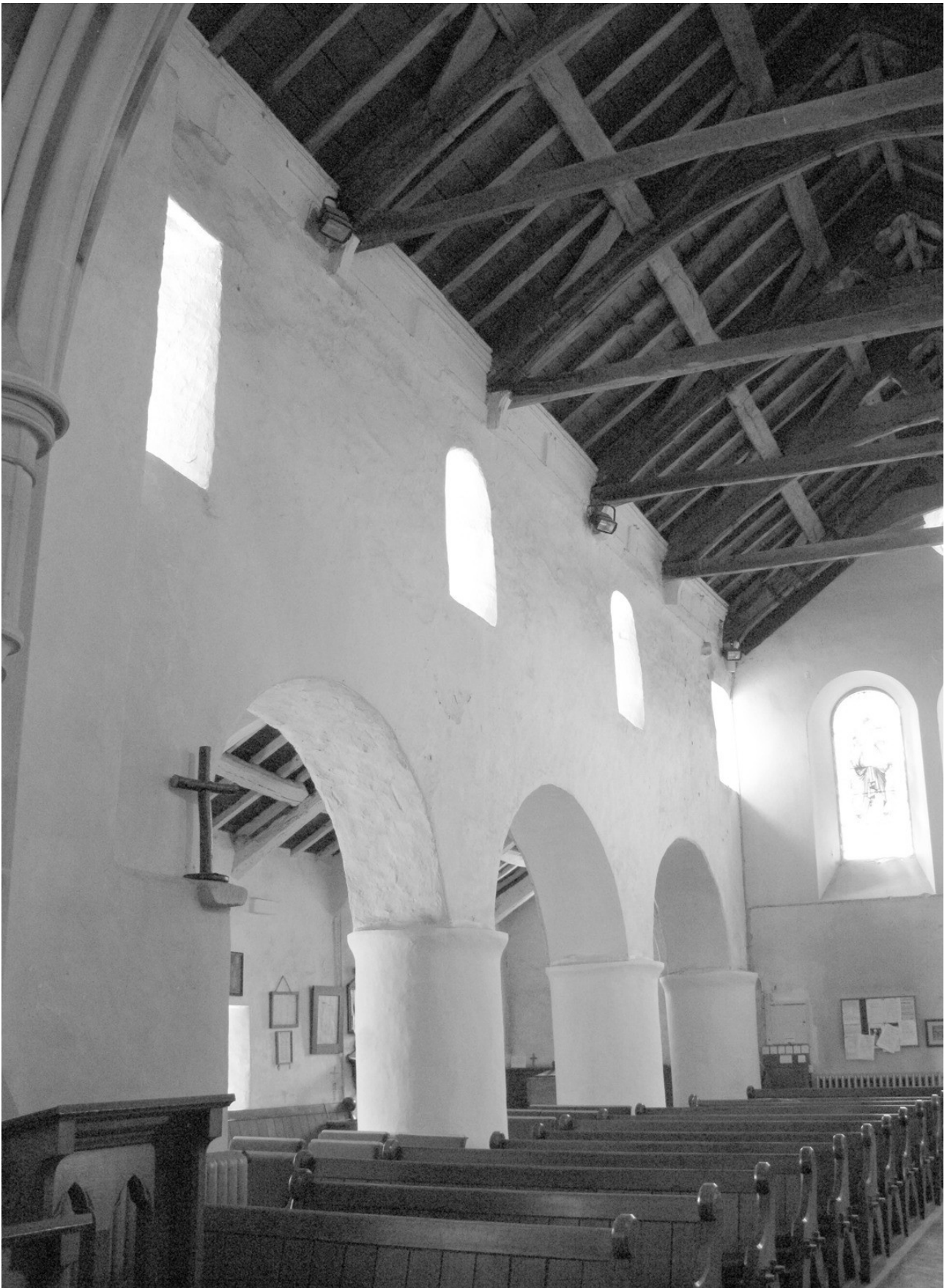
The history of St Cadfan's Church is available, both in print and electronically:-

Meryl Gover: Cadfan's Church, a History with Digressions

[ISBN 978 1784622 909 Troubador Publishing 2015]

Cadfan probably arrived in the area in the late 5th or early 6th century [Gover p 13], although hard evidence for this is lacking, as for construction of the first stone building in the 11th or 12th century [Gover pp 22-24].

The church is Grade I listed. The building [Gover Appendix A] is of varying date: the Nave is medieval [Gover p 23]:-

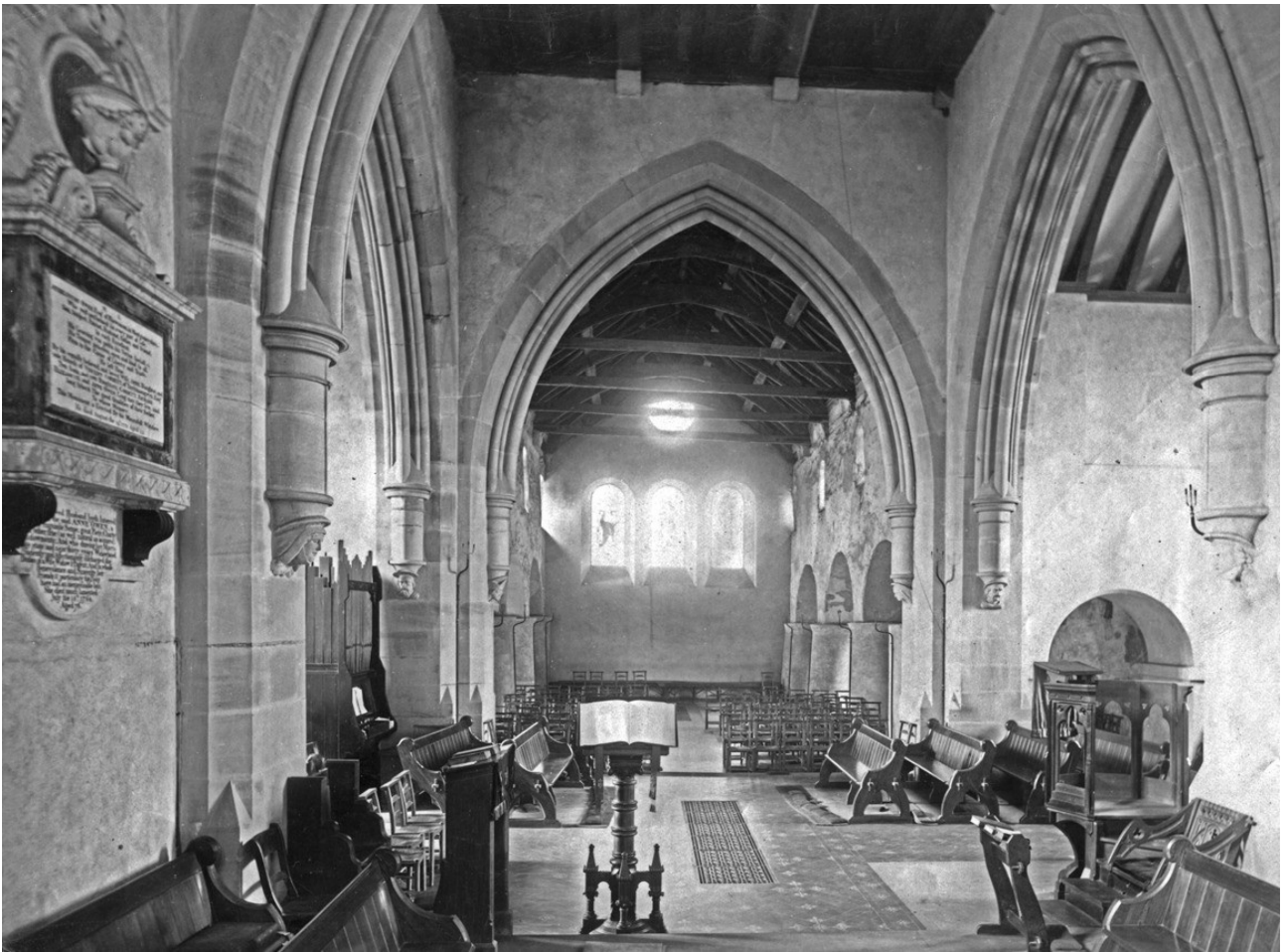


Nave facing west

The West Wall, Crossing, Transepts and Chancel are Victorian, dating from a restoration completed in 1884 [Gover chapter 13, photographs p 155].



Interior 1885 facing east



Interior 1885 facing west

A memorial porch was added in 1920 and a boiler house in 1911. The latter was rebuilt in 2010-11, to include a toilet, in conjunction with an enclosed separately heated meeting room (the "glass room") in the North Transept, in both cases to adapt the building to meet better the needs of a contemporary Christian community. Likewise, a Sacristy was added at the north-east corner in 2014, along with kitchen facilities in the adjacent Vestry.

The 1885 pictures show that the Victorian restoration included pews in the Chancel and Crossing, but chairs (which appear similar to those now in St Peter's, Aberdovey) in the Nave, and no choir stalls.

Choir stalls were placed in the Chancel in 1900 [Gover pp 163 & 313] and matching pews replaced the Nave chairs in 1902 [Gover p 163]. The following photograph in the possession of Meryl Gover, dated 1904, shows Choir stalls in the Chancel and pews in the Nave.



The earliest known written record of the choir stalls is a reference to "oak choir stalls" in handwriting (matching the earliest entries) added to the 1906 terrier.

13. FONT.

Character and condition. *Ancient Stone Font. Plain design.
in good condition*

Has it a cover? *No.*

Is it properly drained? *Yes.*

INVENTORY

A TRUE Inventory of all the Goods, Books, Documents, Ornaments, and Utensils belonging to the Parish and Parish Church and Chapel or Chapels of Ease—not included in the preceding Schedules.

1 large Alms Dish (brass) and four collecting plates (brass) 1930.
~~3 Brass Alms dishes~~, 1 Brass Cross, 2 Brass Candles/icks, 1 Brass book-rest.
 3 Bells hung in Tower, Communion Table (^{oak} ~~brass~~) Ordinance Table, Oak Envoi Table,
 Litany desk, Oak Pulpit & Lectern, 51 Dutch fine seats in iron seats & straw, and
 Chairs - rush-seated - 2 Manual Organ, and ¹⁹³⁰ ~~small~~ harmonium & oak cup-board
 for books for use of visitors. 1 Oak chest for ^{oak} ~~table~~ cloths, 2 Alms boxes ²⁸ attached to
 wall, 2 old alms boxes with handles. ~~2~~ ² ~~boxes in Vestry~~ ^{given to Country}
 20 benches. 2 iron safes in Vestry containing Communion plate & Registers
 5 Altar Cloths. 3 Clergy surplices. 1 set of Eucharistic vestments (linen) not in present use.
 5 stoles. 31 Choir surplices & cassocks. 6 Clergy & Choir cupboards.
 1 large painted Board with account of Charitable Donations for the benefit of the poor
 1 large Bible for Lectern. 1 Prayer book for Communion Table. 2 Prayer Books
 for reading desks. ⁵⁵ ~~2~~ English Hymn Books. ~~20~~ ²⁰ ~~Latin~~ Hymn Books.
⁵⁵ ~~76~~ Books (English, ~~Latin~~) and ⁵⁵ Cathedral Chant Books. 150 Prayers
 and Hymns for use of visitors.
 addendum - 1 small bronze (?) Sanctuary Bell (?) without handle or clapper found under the
 floor of the Church at the Restoration (D.R.P.)
 1. Vestry Desk and cupboard combined containing Thirty Registers of Services
 1 Banns book.

now kept in large iron safe in vestry 1930.
 Commutation Award & Registers ^{now kept in vestry safe (D.R.P.)} ~~kept at home~~ Tithes Map ^{kept D.R.P.} ~~kept by Vestry Clerk~~
 (now kept in vestry safe (D.R.P.)) ~~Subscribed~~
 1917.

Specify and describe all Vessels of Brass, Bells, Furniture, Altar Cloths, Surplices, Books, Documents, etc. etc. etc. Say also where the Commutation Award and Tithes Map are kept, and where the Parish Registers are kept.

The stalls were moved from Chancel to Crossing in 1911, following relocation of the organ. At an unrecorded date they were back in the Chancel, because it is remembered that they were again moved from the Chancel to their present location in the Crossing early in the incumbency (1978-2003, Gover p 272) of Rev. Martin Riley.

Their regular use ceased when the choir disbanded in 2019.

St Cadfan's Church is included in the "Stones Shout Out" project, covering the larger Grade I listed churches in the Diocese. St Cadfan's is now the start of the Llwybr Cadfan / Cadfan Way pilgrimage route. The project proposals for an extensive reordering seek to equip the church for this new role, and currently include removal of all pews (including the choir stalls) from the Nave and Crossing.