

Items of Interest ~ AROUND THE CHURCH

THE PARISH STOCKS

Introduced by Edward III in 1376, the stocks, preserved on the North wall of the Nave once stood by the entrance to the Churchyard.



Offenders were brought into Matins to confess their misdeeds and were then set in the stocks for the remainder of the day.



Window depicting St. Catwg and Gwladys



SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

- Mosaic reredos commemorates Eleanor Harries d. 1971
- Brass effigy of Cannon G. C. F. Harries d. 1879
- Piscina with 17th century copper back plates to the memory of Sir William Lewis of Gilfach Fargoed Fawr.
- Above the Piscina, a tablet commemorates Edward Lewis, founder of the School and local charities.
- Oak panelling to the memory of parishioners who died in the 1939 - 1945 War.
- A note of the 15th century organ is given in the history. A later harmonium was replaced by a 19th century single manual instrument. The present organ was installed in 1935.

CELTIC CROSS

The stone preserved at the rear of the Nave, with its inscribed

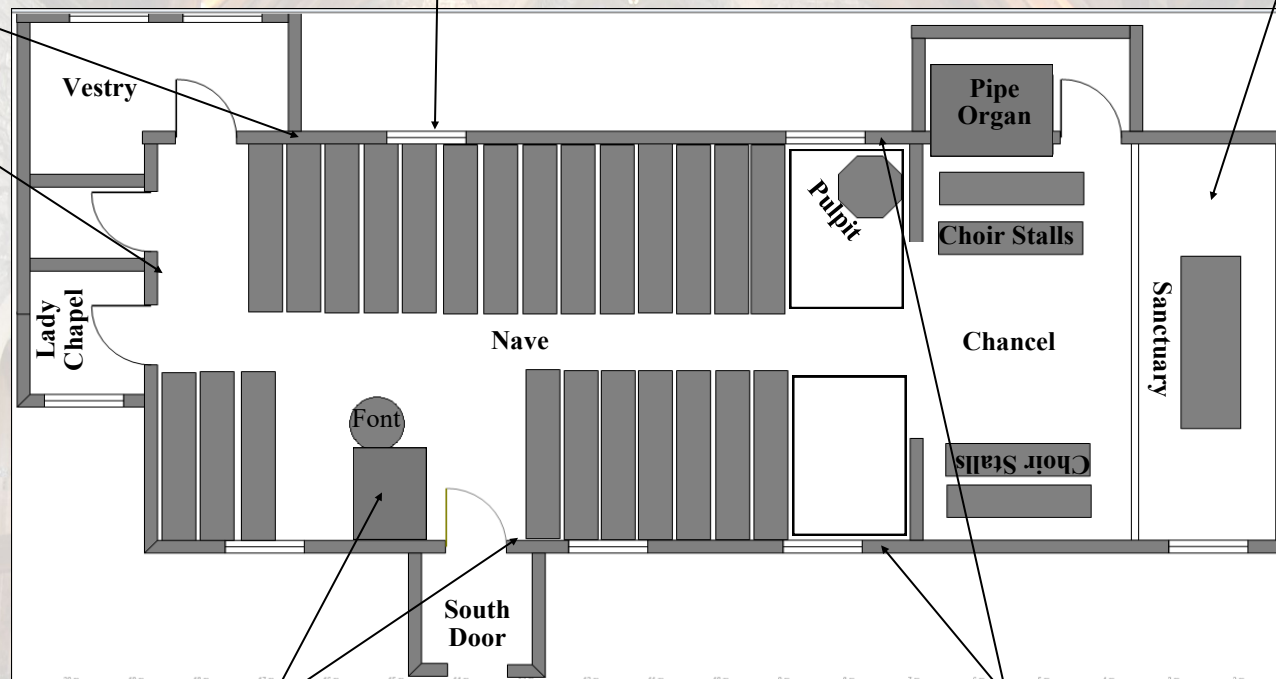


Celtic cross, was found on the site of Capel Gwladys in 1906. The type of cutting found on it dates to the 10th century.

THE BELL

Whilst it is known that a 15th century peal of bells would be followed by a single bell in 1688, as shown by the parish accounts of the time, the fate of the bells is to this date unknown. The present bell was hung in 1760 and is embossed:

E D POWEL & LEWIS
EDWARDS CHURCH
W DNS 1760.



THE BAPTISTRY

Near the South Door is to be seen a Baptistry, restored in 1866. Unique among Welsh Churches, it is a relic of the Commonwealth Church of the 17th century. On the East Side of the South Door is a Holy Water Stoup which is a relic of the Catholic era.



MINOR ALTERS

In the nave on either side of the Norman Arch is to be seen a Piscina, a relic from the Pre-Reformation times. On the Chancel side of the Arch is what must have been an access to the rood screen that has long disappeared.



THE PARISH CHEST

In 1538 Henry VIII decreed that all registers of all baptisms, marriages and burials be maintained and kept in one sure coffer with two locks and keys. Edward VI repeated this order in 1548 and also Elizabeth in 1559. In 1603, James I decided that all records should be kept in one parchment book, locked in a chest with three locks and keys. The keys were shared between the parson and the churchwardens and the number of locks ensured that one party could open the chest in the presence of the other two. Gelligaer's chest, with three locks and keys, was taken over by the District Council in 1895 and subsequently lost.

Should you wish to find further information about the history of S. Catwg's Church, please visit our website www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk and click the history link found in the contents panel.