

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

<b>LISTED BUILDING</b>	Church of St Teilo, Church Lane, Bishopston, Swansea
<b>Grade:-</b>	II
<b>Date of Notification:-</b>	06.03.64 amended 29.09.99
<b>National Grid Reference:-</b>	SS5779089360
<b>O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-</b>	S558NE
<b>CADW Reference No.:-</b>	11520
<b>C &amp; C of S Reference No.:-</b>	LB:025

### **Notes:-**

#### ***Location:-***

Situated in a large rectangular churchyard which slopes down to the Bishopston Valley towards the W and is surrounded by trees.

#### ***History:-***

The site is one of the earliest Christian foundations in Wales, dating back to the late C5. The church belonged to the Bishops of Llandaff from 1130 until 1920. Although hard to date, the fabric of the current church is probably late C12 or C13. A round-headed N door (now blocked) may be one of the original features. The tower is thought to have been defensive; to protect Anglo-Normans against the Welsh. Small lancets in the chancel are Early English, and a blocked priest's door may be contemporary. A decorated lancet in the nave is a little later, whilst the arch-braced roof may be C15. Remains of a medieval churchyard cross to S of porch; a square limestone block with base of polygonal shaft containing a large square socket.

The porch was added in 1851, along with a new W door. This was part of a restoration by Thomas Penrice of Kilvrough. The church furnishings were replaced by the Rev. Peter Potter in 1896, including new pulpit, lectern pews. Many of the windows are mid-late C19 and of yellow stone. The tower parapets were probably battlement in the C19. In 1927, a major restoration and refurbishing was undertaken by W D Caroe at a cost of £2,600, including new choir stalls, pulpit and alter rail, and installation of an organ by Blakett and Howden of Newcastle.

#### ***Exterior:-***

Nave, chancel. S porch, W tower. Constructed of rubble stone under stone tile roofs, of no discernible style probably C12-13. Massive square unbuttressed tower with corbel table and embattled parapets, enclosing a pyramidal roof with cupola. Narrow W doorway under pointed arch of voussoirs containing C19 studded and panelled double doors under overlight with quarries. Early round-headed lancet to S side at ground level. Narrow slits to upper level, all probably C19, except that to N which is earlier. Large clock on W wall below parapets.

Long narrow nave with steeply pitched roof and splayed walls. Two rake buttresses added to N wall and one to SW angle. Gabled S porch added to L of nave, with round headed

opening of voussoirs bearing a keystone with inscription 'David Jones/Rector/Thomas Edwards/David Daniels/Churchwardens, 1851/G William, Mason'. The S doorway is round headed and contains studded and panelled double doors, R of porch, a 2 light window under 4-centred head with hoodmould ending with head-bosses, and beyond, a 3-light Tudor window, both probably mid-late C19. The N wall of the nave has a Dec. trefoil-headed lancet to the far LA blocked round-headed N doorway is now butted by one of the buttresses, and flanked by C19 windows like that in centre of S wall. Late C20 square window opening to far R.

The S side of the chancel has a blocked priest's door with 2 centred head L of centre. To its L, a small round-headed lancet, and to R, a pair of is milar lancets. Three-light Perpendicular –style E window, mid-late C19, with head –bosses to hoodmould. Single lancet to N side with shallow pointed head.

### ***Interior:-***

Seven-bay-arch-braced roof to nave, probably C15. The shallow-pointed chancel arch is slightly asymmetrical and there is evidence of a former rood loft. Panelled roof to chancel. Short round tower arch with stone steps to L leading to W gallery with panelled front. This provides access to organ and 1<sup>st</sup> floor of tower which has 2 large spine beams. Massive square medieval font on round stem. Most of the church finishing are early C20, of pale wood with Gothic and openwork detail. On S wall of chancel is a marble tablet with pilasters bearing an entablature with foliate decoration in relief in memory of Rev. Edward Davies (d. 1831), rector of the parish, who wrote 'Celtic Researches' and 'The Mythology and Rite of the Ancient Druids'. To the L is a piscina, now with wooden door. Two early C20 brass plaques; one to Margaret Elborough, wife of Ivor James who was the 1<sup>st</sup> register at the University of Wales. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is inscribed with an arcade and a cross and is to Lance Corp. Stephen Jones who died in the Boer War. To SE of nave, a memorial to Margaret Peacock (d.1984), in form of praying hands on a free-standing post.

Stained glass to E window, the Crucifixion, in memory of those who died in the Great War (1914-18) and dedicated in 1920. Other windows contain C20 stained glass, including a candle, in memory of Brian Evason (d.1993), and the N wall, a depiction of Iudocus, patron saint of the countryside.

### ***Listed:-***

Listed grade II\* as a fine Gower Church retaining substantial medieval fabric, and with historical association with the Bishops of Llandaff.

### ***Reference:-***

Newman, John 1995. The Buildings of Wales series: Glamorgan, p 154;  
Orrin, Geoffrey 1982. A history of Bishopston pp 43-52;  
GGAT Welsh Historic Churches Project.