

A Walk around Llanrhos

Llanrhos, formerly known as Eglwys Rhos....church on the moor.

Starting point- **Lodge**, this house was built as a lodge at one of the drive entrances to Gloddaeth Hall in the 1890's, another Lodge can be seen to the south of the church. The A470 now cuts these entrances off from Gloddaeth Hall. With the Mostyn family motto 'Heb dduw heb ddim, Duw a digon' (Without God without anything, with God plenty) can be seen over the window.



The nearby **Gloddaeth Hall** was the home of Iorwerth Goch of Creuddyn and by 1460 it had become through marriage one of the homes of the Mostyn family. At the north side of the graveyard is the enclosed area for the Mostyn family.

Llanrhos parish church. The parish includes Deganwy, Craig-y-Don & Penrhyn Bay. Llanrhos Church was reputedly founded by Maelgwn Gwynedd in the early part of the sixth century. He is also said to have died there of the 'Fad Felen' or yellow pestilence. The church was originally dedicated to St. Hilary. The Cistercians of Aberconwy rebuilt the church about 1282 and re-dedicated it to St. Mary. The church was extensively restored in 1820, 1860 and 1865 mainly through the Mostyn family. The church is cruciform with nave, chancel, north and south transepts. The chancel accommodates the sanctuary, pulpit and clergy desk. The south transept, known as the Mostyn Chapel, contains many memorials to the Mostyn family. In 1908 a separate entrance was made to this chapel.

The north transept, the Penrhyn Chapel, contains the organ, a gift of Lady Augusta in 1891. The nave and chancel are almost certainly those erected by the Cistercians. During the 1865 restoration the encaustic tiles floor, sanctuary and east window (in memory of Lady Augusta Mostyn's husband) were laid.

The font was a gift of Frances Mostyn of Bodysgallen. Mounted on a board at the west end of the church are ancient bosses of carved wood from the former chancel roof. They depict St. Mark (Winged Lion of Judah), St. Luke (Winged Ox), St. John (Winged Man) and the Stigmata (the five wounds of Christ). There is a similar carving in St. Tudno's,

possibly by the same craftsman. An old collecting plate, bearing the date 1770, was found amongst some rubbish and now is in a case on the organ cover

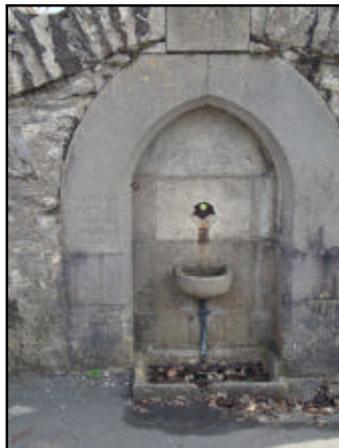


East Memorial Window, depicts the visit of the Holy women to the Tomb on Resurrection morning, instilled in 1865 by Lady Augusta Mostyn to the memory of her husband late Hon. Thomas Edward Mostyn Lloyd-Mostyn who died on 8th May 1861.
South side of Chancel, three light windows- Faith, Hope & Charity, given by Miss Mary Bridget Mostyn of Bodyscallen in 1853.
Window in Mostyn Chapel (south transept) was formerly the East window, moved when the new East Memorial window was installed. The original window was given by Miss Frances Mostyn of Bodyscallen. The painted window was underfired and much of the design has fallen off. Five medallions representing the life of Christ- Angel's Song, 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo', Shepherds at the cradle, Instruments of torture, The Crucifixion, The Ascension.
Window in north transept. Given in 1907 by Margaret Preston in memory of he uncle late William Moore Campbell. Subject is Resurrection.
West Window. Dated 1870. Subject is 'Presentation in the Temple' , in memory of Edward Mostyn.

Inside the church is an **inscribed stone** found near Tydden Holland, Bodafon and later moved to Llanrhos church in 1908 by the instigation of the North Wales Field Club. It is thought to be a natural boulder and the inscription has been read as SANCTANVS or SANTAGNVS FILIVS SACERDOTI[S]and is thought to commemorate Sanctinus the Bishop and is dated to the 5th or early 6th century

In the churchyard there are plenty of interesting monuments. (See Gwynedd Family History Soc. Guide to memorial inscriptions for St, Hilary's, www.gwyneddfhs , copy in Deganwy Library). Betty Mills' book 'A Record of the plants, flowers and trees in St. Hilary's Churchyard, Llanrhos' during 1999 is worth looking at!

The lynch gate probably dates from the middle of the 18 century and next to it is a well preserved mounting block. Across the car park is a fountain erected in 1889 in memory of a former vicar, Rev. John Davies of Llanrhos.



Until the end of the 19th C there were two **public houses** flanking Llanrhos church. The **Mostyn Arms**, including a lawn tennis court and tea gardens, was on the south side and the **Queen's Head** to the north. Due to their close proximity to the church, Lady Augusta Mostyn, decided they should be demolished. The Mostyn Arms was replaced in 1898 on a new site on Conwy Road nearer Llandudno and was named the Links Hotel.



The building directly across the road was originally built as the **Llanrhos Temperance Hotel** under the direction of Lady Mostyn in 1908 and was locally known as the 'Cocoa House'. Later part of it was used as a sub-post office for Llanrhos.

Also across the road, down the lane next to Llanrhos school is a footpath to **Ffynnon Santes Fair (St. Mary's Well)** which excavated and restored by Mr. Ken Davies in 1994, see his report in www.deganwyarchive.co.uk . The well may predate the church.



Back on the main road stands **Llanrhos School** which was built in 1822 at the expense of Frances Mostyn of Bodysgallen. It was planned to take 40 boys and 40 girls with a house for the schoolmaster and schoolmistress. The school closed in 1905 although many of the children already had transferred to St. James's school near the bottom of Ty Mawr Road, Deganwy which opened in 1898.

It has since been used as a Church House with Sunday school being held there as well as other Church groups meeting there. Over the past years the fabric of the building has deteriorated; the toilet and kitchen facilities are in need of wholesale modernization. The Old School is a listed building and an important part of the local history and development which without major investment will fall into disrepair and be lost to the community.

In October 2009, the Vicar, Rev. Prebendary Bob Griffiths brought together a group of volunteers, who started to research the availability of grant aid and other funding required to carry out this vital work costing **£200,000**. See www.llanrhosoldschool.co.uk for further details. In July 2011 work had started on the restoration of the building.

Further down the road are some black and white 'half timbered' houses of which the corner one, the Nooks bears the date 1897 and was named after its owner, a Mr James Nooks!

Fiona Richards June 2011

Refs: Pamphlet on Llanrhos Parish Church (available at the church)
Llandudno Countryside Historical Walk booklet
Llanrhos (Wikipedia entry)
Ffynnon Santes Fair by Ken Davies
Eglwys Rhos Parish Church; A Short History & Description.
By Stanley Edwards (1955)
Llandudno, a Portrait in Old Picture Postcards. By C.W. Roberts

