



Window by C.E. Kempe

St Cadog, an important sixth-century Welsh monastic saint, and reputed founder of a widely influential Christian community at Llanccarfan in Glamorgan, has a scatter of churches named in his honour in northern Monmouthshire, probably established by his disciples. “Llangatwg Feibion Afel” – the holy place of Cadog given by the sons of Afel (an approximate translation) – is one of them. Nothing remains of this early foundation, but after the Norman settlement of Gwent in the eleventh century, the church became the property of the Benedictine priory at Monmouth, which it remained until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the sixteenth century. St Cadoc’s was no doubt rebuilt by the priory, but today only the impressive south-western tower of c.1300, which also serves as a porch and principal entrance, dates from these years.



Artisan carving

The Victorian church

Almost all of the church was rebuilt in the nineteenth century on the initiative of the Rolls family, the principal landowners in the parish, and especially that of John Etherington Rolls, and his son, the 1st Lord Llangattock. In 1852–3 John Rolls employed T.H. Wyatt to restore and enlarge the church, and in 1875 Lord Llangattock again called on Wyatt for further major work, including the building of the north aisle. No expense was spared, and as a result today the church is a treasure-house of Victorian design and craftsmanship. For example, in 1866 the interior was lavishly decorated by Cox & Sons, but Wyatt evidently had second thoughts, and in 1875 much of this work was covered over. However, as compensation, we have Thomas Earp’s alabaster reredos and chancel screen, and stained glass by leading Victorian artists and firms at the height of their powers; the east window of the Crucifixion, from Lavers & Barraud, and the magnificent west window by C.E. Kempe, depicting an orchestra of angels, each playing a different instrument. There are also windows by Heaton, Butler & Bayne (1866), and later work by Kempe, and Powells of Whitefriars. Overall the impression given by the interior is of a church embodying the principles of the Oxford Movement and the Ecclesiological Society. Also, not to be missed by the visitor, is the carefully conserved collection of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century artisan headstones in the porch and vestry, of astonishing variety in design and execution.



Window by Heaton, Butler & Bayne



Window by Powell of Whitefriars

Charles Stewart Rolls

One memorial in the chancel in particular is of historic importance. It records the death in 1910 of the Hon. Charles Stewart Rolls, son of Lord Llangattock, and founder with Henry Royce of the firm of Rolls-Royce, whose first motor car was produced in 1902. Rolls was a pioneer aviator, the first man to make a non-stop double flight over the English Channel. He was also the first British aviator to be killed in a crash, during an air show in July, 1910, when the tail-plane of his craft broke off. He is buried, with other members of the family, here in Llangattock churchyard, their graves marked by Celtic crosses.



Grave of C.S. Rolls

Other Friends churches near St Cadoc, Llangattock Vibon Avel

St Mary, Llanfair Kilgeddin Famous for its colourful 1885 sgraffiti panels illustrating the Benedicite set in the local landscape, by Heywood Sumner. Our most popular church. Attracts hundreds of visitors every year (for access please ring the office).

St David, Llangeview Not far from Usk. Largely 15th century, with screen and rood loft. Pews, pulpit and large squire's pew are grand 18th-century work. Remote and tranquil (open daily).



St Michael & All Angels, Gwernesney A Grade 1 listed church from the 13th century. Inside, a 15th-century screen dominates the interior that was lightly restored by J.P. Seddon. Said to house the oldest bells in Monmouthshire (open daily).

St Jerome, Llangwm Uchaf A substantially medieval church restored by J.P. Seddon 1863–9. Important for the spectacular screen of c.1500, its Arts and Crafts glass and the elaborate floortiles (open daily).



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*Church of St Cadoc
Llangattock
Vibon Avel*

a guide to its history