

Other Friends' sites near Bodwrog

We currently have over 70 places of worship in our care spread across England and Wales, **including six churches on Anglesey.**

A full list of our churches can be found on our website (fofc.org.uk/find-churches)

St Peulan's, Llanbeulan, Anglesey

A 12th-century church perched on a mound at the bottom of an ancient causeway.
LL63 5UR - **open daily**
[what3words](#): apartment.tunes.overdone

St Mary's, Tal-y-Llyn, Anglesey

Small but perfectly formed church in an ancient circular churchyard overlooking Llyn Padrig (Padrig's Lake).
LL63 5SQ - **open daily**
[what3words](#): humans.sheepish.elephant

St Bigail's, Llanfigael, Anglesey

An unassuming roadside church with a complete late Georgian interior.
LL65 4DB - **open daily**
[what3words](#): education.seriously.asterisk

Old Church of St Afran, St Ieuan & St Sannan, Llantrisant, Anglesey

With a 14th-century nave and chancel, and a 17th-century extension, this is the first church in Wales that we rescued.
LL65 4AP - **open daily**
[what3words](#): strikers.gosh.exhaling

St Tyfrydog's, Llandyfrydog, Anglesey

Associated with an intriguing local legend, St Tyfrydog's is charming Gothic church with surviving medieval features and characterful late Georgian furnishings.
LL71 8AG - **closed for repairs**
[what3words](#): apartment.tunes.overdone

FRIENDS OF FRIENDLESS CHURCHES

Who are the Friends?

We are a small charity, caring for over 70 historic places of worship across England and Wales. We receive no government funding in England and only a modest grant in Wales. Everything we do depends on people who care – **people like you.**

What do we do?

Since 1957, our mission has been the same: to save disused but beautiful old places of worship of architectural and historic interest from demolition, decay and unsympathetic conversion.
Today, our work is more important than ever, as more and more places of worship face closure and uncertain futures.

We rescue historic places of worship from wrecking balls, we carefully repair and re-open them, and we keep historic churches alive for local communities and visitors to enjoy.

How you can help

You can help our cause becoming a Friend, volunteering your time, donating, or remembering us in your Will. To find out more about our work and sites in our care, visit our website, follow us on social media or contact our team directly - by mail, email or a phone call.
With more support, we could do so much more - **will you join us?**

friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

-  @friendschurches
-  office@fofc.org.uk
-  @friendlesschurches
-  T: 020 4520 4458
-  Friends of Friendless Churches

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**St Twrog's, Bodwrog,
Anglesey**
a guide to its history

Raised on a granite outcrop amid the rolling fields of Anglesey, St Twrog's church is a lonely, windswept sanctuary and a powerfully defiant medieval survival.

History

The church is set in Bodwrog which was a medieval free township. The placename is thought to be a compound of 'Bod = dwelling or church' and 'Mwrog = personal name'. The church dedication is usually taken as St Twrog, who is credited with writing the Life of St Beuno; Beuno being one of the most important early Christian monks in North Wales. Whether our saint was Twrog, Mwrog, one saint or two, is part of a bigger discussion than this guide can contain.

An earlier church (or indeed churches) may have occupied this site, but the current building dates from the late 15th century, when Richard Bulkeley (d.1524) was Archdeacon of Anglesey. The Bulkeley family were major landowners on Anglesey and Richard Bulkeley in particular was a benefactor of St Twrog's and played a significant part in its medieval rebuilding. His influence is remembered by the bulls' heads carved into the lintel of the south doorway and spandrels of the north doorway. (The north doorway was truncated to a window several centuries ago). The bull was the Bulkeley family's heraldic device.

In 1648, St Twrog's was gifted to Jesus College, Oxford, which has strong historical ties to Wales. For over 200



years, the church's tithes went to Jesus College, until it was deemed 'a considerable distance from any human habitation'.

A restoration project was undertaken in the 19th century, which fortunately was quite gentle by Victorian standards. The church closed for regular worship in 2023 and was taken into the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches in 2024.

The Church

Set under a single slate roof, St Twrog's is a continuous nave and chancel built of rubble masonry with limestone dressings. At the west end is a simple, traditional bell-cote housing a single bell, which is inscribed with the date of 1688.

The church has remained very much as it was when it was constructed in the late 15th century. Changes in masonry suggest that there might have been some later rebuilding of the east end, but the overwhelming character here is medieval. The north and south doorway, east window and two easterly windows in the north and south walls are all of a similar, late 1400s, date.

The decoration of the stone south doorway is very worn but the carving in the east spandrel has been interpreted

as the arms of Llywarch ap Bran, a chevron between three choughs or crows. The west spandrel is a leaf pattern. A series of steps from the south doorway lead down into the church. A narrow aisle of flagstones is paved through two banks of tight painted box-pews. The interior is dominated by the three-light Perpendicular east window. It fills almost entirely the east gable and affords glorious views across green fields as far as the eye can see.

The chancel windows are both 15th-century pairs of cinquefoil tracery. The windows to the nave are latter, possibly 18th-century insertions. In the 19th century the church was refitted with timber panelling, a pulpit and reading desk, box pews (some of which have doors) and an elaborate fluted communion rail which was most likely recycled from a piece of furniture.

Set against the west wall is a timber cubicle created to form a vestry, and a plain cylindrical bowl font set on a chamfered base set on a short stout pedestal.

The date of this font is unknown.

