

Trail of Discovery; Llandaff Cathedral.

Llandaff has long been a centre of Celtic Christianity. The Patrons of the Cathedral are St Dyfrig, the founder bishop, with fellow 6th century saints, St Teilo and St Euddogwy, St Peter and St Paul.

2020 marks the 900th anniversary of the building of the original Norman Cathedral at Llandaff. In 1941, during the Second World War, a German parachute mine landed in the graveyard on the south side and the resultant damage to the Cathedral led to its latest major restoration.

1. Entrance

On arrival the visitor's eyes are drawn to the full length of the Nave; the main body of the Church with benches (as open seating should be referred to). The **concrete pulpitum** dominates the interior and divides the Nave from the Choir, with Jacob Epstein's startling **aluminium figure, 'Christ in Majesty', ('Majestas')** mounted on the cylindrical organ case.

2. South Aisle Font

Water is poured into the font at a baptism. People are baptised with water as a sign that they have become a Christian and a member of the worldwide Church. The font's base shows scenes from the lives of **St Dyfrig** and **St Teilo**.

3. The Stained-glass Window

This was installed in 1951 and has 17th century stained glass panels originally housed in Hale Hall, Lancashire. In this window you can see **8 birds and 5 other animals**.

4. Bell and Life Belt

These can be found **hanging in the South Aisle** and are from **HMS Llandaff**, a frigate (a type of warship) that was launched on the Clyde in 1955. When the ship was decommissioned in 1976 a service was held at the Cathedral. During the service Capt. George Oxley handed over the ship's bell, lifebelt and ensign (a flag flown by a ship to indicate its nationality) to the Cathedral for safe keeping.

5. Celtic Cross

The Celtic Cross is a form of Christian Cross featuring a circle or ring. It signifies the presence of an early Christian church. Originating from the late 10th or early 11th century it was found by the **Bishop of Llandaff in 1870** in the grounds of what was then Bishop's Palace, and was placed in the Cathedral in 1939.

6. Picture

George Pace, who died at the age of **59**, was the architect of the postwar restoration. One of Pace's innovations was to maximise the light in the Cathedral, so the West windows, which were destroyed in 1941, were replaced by clear glass. Pace also maintained the Victorian tradition of incorporating works by contemporary artists into the Cathedral. Notable among these were Jacob Epstein (who created the 'Majestas'), and John Piper and Patrick Reyntiens, who designed and made the 'Supper at Emmaus' window above the Urban arch.

Additional changes were to the pulpitum where the decorative figures of the saints were removed, gilded and re-set. St David Chapel was added, and new altars were made for the St David and St Dyfrig Chapels. A wooden pulpit, in the nave, replaced the original Victorian carved-stone pulpit.

7. Chapel

The Chapel is dedicated to **St Teilo**. The St Teilo Chapel was originally furnished in 1960 (the bird is a **pelican**) but refurbished by Donald Buttres in 1996. The refurbishment included regilding two of the Victorian pelicans. It was believed that the pelican pierced her breast to feed her young with her blood, and so the bird is used as a symbol of the shedding of Christ's blood for mankind.

8. The Lady Chapel

This Chapel is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus. In the 18th century it was known as the Welsh Chapel, as services were held in Welsh. Below the East window is the original high altar of the Victorian Cathedral. The reredos (a fixed backing to an altar) retains some 15th century carvings. Each niche contains flora associated with the Virgin Mary by Penarth artist Frank Roper. **Foxglove=Gwniadur Mair, Marigold=Gold Mair, Snowdrop=Tapr Mair, Buttercup=Chwys Mair.**

9. Altar

In the Sanctuary, the area between the altar rails and the East wall, stands the altar. Here there are **three flying angels** playing musical instruments. These originally adorned the pre-war organ case but were repositioned by Pace into the new roof over the Sanctuary. The other **two angels** are holding a **hat (mitre)** which is the traditional ceremonial headdress worn by a bishop.

10. St Dyfrig Chapel

'The Virgin of the Goldfinches', completed in 2009, was painted by Welsh artist **Clive Hicks-Jenkins**. The painting shows an angel announcing to Mary that she is going to be the mother of Jesus. The cliffs at the top of the painting are those of Cardigan Bay. The goldfinch frequently appears in religious art because of its love of thistle seeds which links it to Christ's Crown of Thorns, which He wore at His crucifixion. In the reredos of this altar are tiles depicting the 'Six Days of Creation' made by Harold Rathbone between 1893-1906, from an original design by Edward Burne-Jones. In the North wall is a funeral monument, probably 15th century, depicting a mutilated cadaver or skeleton; one of the few examples in existence in Wales.

11. Tomb

The tomb is a 16th century alabaster tomb of Sir William Matthew and Lady Jenet; prominent Welsh gentry who lived in Llandaff. Two other alabaster tombs can be seen in the Lady Chapel and the St Dyfrig Chapel. The carving of a '**bedesman**' can be found at the bottom of **Sir William's right foot**. A 'bedesman' was an almsman who was employed to pray for the soul of his benefactor. Globes of bone, wood or amber (bedes) threaded onto a string were used to count the number of repetitions of prayers such as 'Our Father' or 'Hail Mary'. The 'bedesman' is holding a string of these 'bedes', which later became known as beads.

12. North Aisle Heraldry

The drawings will be completed by the children.

The Most Noble Order of the Garter is an order of chivalry founded by King Edward III, circa 1348. It is the most senior order of knighthood in Britain and appointment to the order is at the sole discretion of the Sovereign. Membership of the Order is limited to the Sovereign, the Prince of Wales and no more than 24 living members, or Companions. The current Garter Knights' banners hang in the Chapel of St George in Windsor Castle. After the death of a Knight their banners are returned to their families to be kept privately or displayed in public. The Garter Banners in this Cathedral are those of Sir Cennydd Traherne, former Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan and Lord James Callaghan, Prime Minister from 1976 to 1979.

13. St David Chapel (also known as Welch Regimental Memorial Chapel)

The brass floor tablets and pew ends commemorate officers of the Welch Regiment, and stones on the East wall the regimental battles from **1792 to 1969**.

The Chapel has been built of **stones recovered from four cottages originally built in Llandaff during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I**. Today they form the rounded walls of the Chapel which was completed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

14. St Illtyd Chapel (also known as the 53rd Welsh Infantry Division Chapel)

'The Seed of David' was painted between 1856 and 1864 by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. It is on three panels known as a Triptych. The left panel shows the young David preparing to fight Goliath, he is carrying a **sling and stone** in his right hand. The right panel shows David, as the King of Israel, playing a **musical instrument, a kinnor**, which resembles a small harp or lyre. It is an ancient musical instrument mentioned in the Old Testament.