

### St Illtyd's, Ilston (SS 5566 9034)



This church has an unusual south tower. Its ground floor was once a chapel, as can be seen by the aumbrey for the consecrated bread and wine in its south wall. The west window, one of the finest in Gower, dates to the 14th century. The

other windows and the chancel arch date to 1847 when the church was restored (see date on porch gable).

Open Sat 12th and Sun 13th (9am - dusk)

### St Mary's, Pennard (SS 5655 8874)



The ruined medieval church on the Burrows had to be abandoned in the 16th because of moving sand. However, careful study of the present church at the crossroads shows that it too goes back to the Middle Ages. The beam supporting

the gallery under the diminutive west tower may have been the medieval rood beam. There is a Jacobean pulpit.

Open Sat 12th and Sun 13th (9am - dusk)

### St Illtyd's, Oxwich (SS 5042 8612)



This church retains its Norman chancel arch, but the nave was later lengthened, possibly in the 14th century when the tower (which doubles as the porch) seems to have been built. Also 14th century is the east window and the fine

effigy of a knight and his lady in the chancel. There are two other medieval grave slabs in the tower.

Open Sats 12th & 19th (10am-4pm) and Suns 13th & 20th (10.45am-4pm)

### St Andrew's, Penrice (SS 4930 8794)



The Norman chancel arch and a document referring to last quarter of the 12th century form the earliest evidence for this church. Two large transepts were added in the early 13th century to make it cruciform, but the tower is at the west end

rather than at a crossing. Penrice is the most easterly example of this church plan typical of West Wales.

Open Sats 12th & 19th (10am-4pm) and Suns 13th & 20th (12.15pm-4pm)

### St George's, Reynoldston (SS 4795 9003)



St George's was built in 1866-7 by Prichard and Seddon on the same site as the medieval church, but it was slightly longer and probably wider too. It has a transept on the north side, in accordance with the Gower tradition. The south window

of the chancel came from the medieval church.

Open Sats 12th & 19th (10am-4pm) and Suns 13th & 20th (10.30am-4pm)

### St David's, Llanddewi (SS 4600 8904)



The north-west window of the chancel and the south-west window of the nave date to the early 14th century. It is tempting to link these to Henry de Gower, Bishop of St Davids at this time, who is said to have built a palace next to the

church at Llanddewi, but there is no real evidence. There is an early 18th century altar rail.

Open Sats 12th & 19th (10am-4pm) and Suns 13th & 20th (10.30am-4pm)

### St Cattwg's, Port Eynon (SS 4670 8538)



A medieval church, remodeled by the Victorians who left one original window in the chancel, and a 16th century doorway. The north transept is the best surviving example in Gower. Unusually, there is no east window. There is

a memorial in the churchyard to the lifeboat crew who were shipwrecked in 1916.

Open Sats 12th & 19th (10am-4pm) and Sun s13th & 20th (10.45am-4pm)

### St Mary's, Rhossili (SS 4165 8809)



According to local tradition, this church replaced the original parish church on the Warren when the lower village was buried in sand. However, the circular churchyard suggests that St Mary's may be pre-Norman. The fine Norman

south door, with its scratch dial, has been carefully fitted into the porch. Inside is a monument to Edgar Evans who died on Scott's South Pole expedition.

Open Sats 12th & 19th (9am-5pm) and Suns 13th & 20th (12am-5pm)

### St Cennydd's, Llangennith (SS 4287 9143)



The present church is mainly 13th-14th century. A community of Benedictine monks was established here by 1115, but the fine Early Christian monument shows that it was a pre-Norman church site. The blocked archway where this stone is

mounted has only recently come to light. The battered effigy of a knight is also on display. There is an exhibition on Gower churches until the end of September.

Open Sat 12th and Sun 13th (10am-5pm)

### St Cadoc's, Cheriton (SS 4505 9319)



Cheriton means 'church settlement', and was probably so called because it was the finest church in Gower in the first half of the 13th century.

The carving in the interior may have been done by the same masons as Llandaff Cathedral. The tower

stands without transepts between the nave and chancel, a plan that occurs at a few other churches in South Wales.

Open Sat 12th and Sun 13th (10am-5pm)

### St Madoc's, Llanmadoc (SS 4389 9344)



Three Early Christian memorials from around the church show that it was already in existence before the Normans came. The earliest, with a written inscription, is built into the

south-east windowsill. The chancel arch is Norman, and above it is the door to the rood-loft. The carved woodwork is by J D Davies, local historian and rector here in the mid 19th century.

Open Sat 12th and Sun 13th (10am-5pm)

Outside the Open House weekend, the churches at **Pennard, Rhossili, Llanddewi, Llangennith, Llanmadoc** and **Oystermouth** (SS 6166 8801) are usually open during the day in the summer. The key to **Cheriton** church is kept at the pottery over the road, the key to **Oxwich** church at the Oxwich Bay Hotel, the key to **Llanrhidian** church (SS 4962 9223) at Llanrhidian Garage, and the key to **Bishopston** church (SS 5778 8935) at the Lamp Lighter bookshop in Bishopston Road (main street through the village; not open on Sunday).

**Historic churches open in Swansea City Centre**



**St Mary's, Swansea City Centre (SS 6560 9293)**

This church was in existence by 1291, but owes its appearance today to its rebuilding in the 1950s, after it was fire-bombed during WWII. None of the medieval fabric

now survives. The picture over the altar in St Anne's Chapel was painstakingly reconstructed from photographs and was placed here in 2008. It replaced a Ceri Richards which is now displayed in the chancel.

Always open during the day. Additional exhibitions for Open Doors

**St Matthew's, High Street Swansea (SS 6570 9376)**



Built in the Middle Ages and dedicated to St John the Baptist, this church was rebuilt in the Regency period, and given a makeover in 1880s when the dedication was changed to St Matthew. In 2004 the interior was

remodeled by the Cyrenians to provide a drop-in medical centre for the homeless in its west end.

The Cyrenians are opening their part of the building on Sunday 13th (11am-3pm)

*Why not visit these other buildings in Swansea and Gower taking part in the 2009 Open Doors event?*

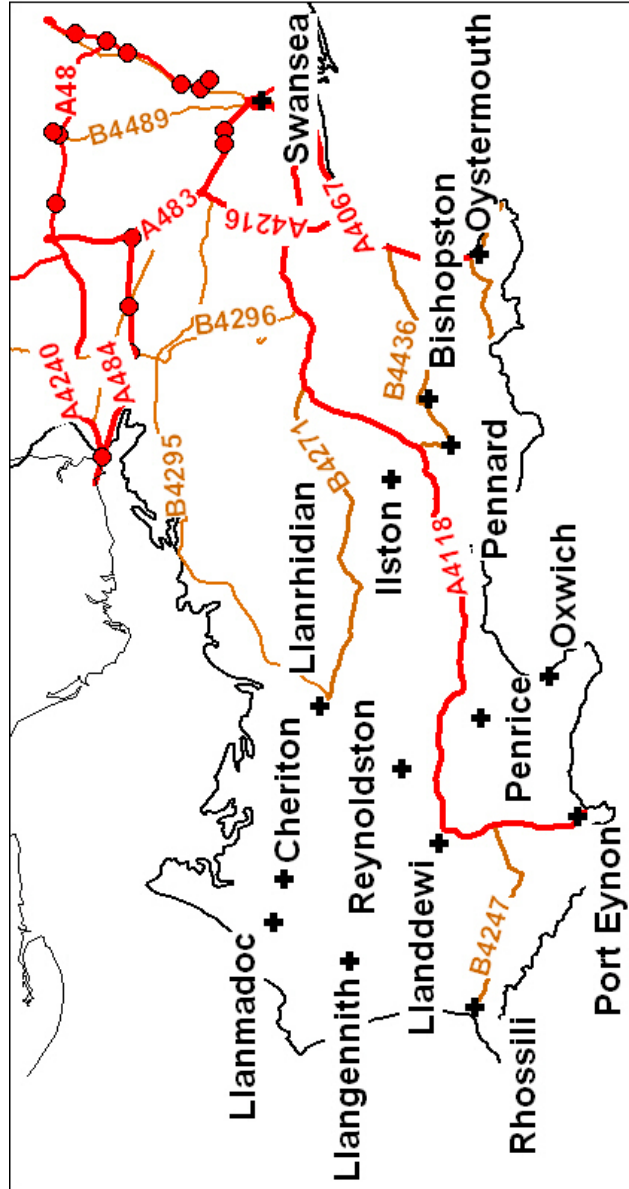
Capel y Crwys, Chapel Rd, Three Crosses (SS 5713 9413)  
A large Congregational chapel rebuilt in 1876 and enlarged in 1912.

Open Sat 12th (10am-4pm)

Norwegian Church SA1, Swansea (SS 6642 9302)

Built as a seamen's chapel at the entrance to the docks, but now moved, and in use as a jewelry studio and shop.

Open Sat 12th (10am-5.30pm) and Sun 13th (11am-4pm)



**Diocese of Swansea and Brecon**

**Churches to visit in Gower**



*St Madoc's, Llanmadoc*

Produced by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust  
ggat.org.uk

The churches illustrated in this leaflet are taking part in Ty Agored Abertawe Open House 2009  
**Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September**