

These churches are open during September 2009 for Open Church Day (19th September) and other Open Doors events promoted by Civic Trust for Wales

Bryncoch (Neath), St Matthew (Dyffryn; SS 7382 9985)
A Victorian estate church, designed by John Norton in Early English style and built in 1871, with a vestry added in 1900. Much of Norton's interior remains intact, including rare stencilled wall decorations and a decorated ceiling.
Open Sat 19th 10.30am - 2.00pm

Baglan, St Catharine ([SA12 8AY](#); SS 7528 9222)



This church was built in 1875-82 to replace the medieval church (whose ruins can be seen up the hill in the churchyard) that had become too small for the growing population. Griffith Llewellyn of Baglan Hall commissioned his cousin, John Prichard, as architect. The result was an outstanding example of the Geometrical Gothic style with a splendid polychrome interior, which is considered by some to be Prichard's masterpiece.
Open Sat 19th 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 pm

Aberavon, St Mary (Port Talbot, adjacent to bus station, [SA12 6BA](#) SS 7630 9013)



The early Christian monument shows that this church is a pre-Norman foundation, although it is not mentioned in the records until 1254. The medieval church was demolished when the present building was constructed by Prichard and Seddon in 1858-9. A new top to the tower was added in 1870, the chancel was refitted in 1890, and the north aisle built in 1899 incorporating some carved stone from the medieval church.
Open Sat 19th, 10.00am - 5.00pm

Port Talbot, St Agnes ([SA13 1US](#); SS 7676 9011)

This was the last church founded by Miss Emily Talbot of Margam, built in 1909-10. It was designed by F R Kempson, who produced a large plain building with pink and buff banded stonework and lancet windows.
Open Sat 19th 10.00am - 5.00pm

Port Talbot, St. Theodore (Talbot Road, [SA13 1LB](#); SS 7725 8909)

Built 1895-7 by Miss Emily Talbot as a memorial to her brother Theodore (hence the dedication) and her sister Olive, and to serve the rapidly growing population of Port Talbot. The architect was J L Pearson, who used his favourite Early English style to produce a magnificent but rather austere building. He had designed a west tower, which was never built; instead there is a bellcote over the chancel arch.
Open Sat 19th, 9.30 am - 5.00 pm

Margam Abbey (SS 8016 8630)

A Cistercian abbey was founded at Margam in 1147 by Robert, Earl of Gloucester on a pre-Norman church site. After the Dissolution, the nave was taken over by the parish. It had a makeover in Neo-Norman style in 1805-10, when the west front was remodelled to include two little towers, and large windows were inserted in the aisles. There is a fine collection of alabaster monuments to members of the Mansel family.
Open every day 10.00am - 4.00pm.



Ewenny Priory (Abbey Road, [CF35 5BW](#); SS 9120 7780)

The Benedictine priory of Ewenny was founded in 1141 on the site of a pre-Norman church. The nave was used as the parish church in the Middle Ages, and still continues as such. Most of the architecture is Norman, including the fine vaulted chancel where paintings were found after recent repairs. The north aisle and porch are post-medieval. There is a medieval screen in the crossing and a collection of carved stones.
Open Sat 19th and Sun 20th, 9.30am - 5.30pm



Refreshments will be available at Aberavon, Baglan, Bryncoch, Port Talbot St Agnes and St Theodore. There will be exhibitions at Baglan, Margam and Port Talbot St Agnes, and registers will be available to view at Aberavon, Bryncoch and Port Talbot St Agnes. Music will also be provided for part of the day at Bryncoch, and children's events at Baglan.

St Brides Major, St Bridget ([CF32 0TB](#); SS 8942 7501)



The chancel arch and the batter on the north and south walls show that the present building is Norman in origin. However, the chancel was rebuilt in the 14th century, and the tower is Perpendicular in style. The church was restored in 1851 by Egbert Moxham, who inserted the windows into the nave. It contains some fine monuments from the Middle Ages and later, and a delightful statue of a female saint carrying the palm of martyrdom.
Open Sat 19th and Sun 20th 9.30am - 5.30pm

Colwinston, St Michael & All Angels ([CF71 7NL](#); SS 9435 7550)



The first record of Colwinston Church is 1141, and there is a Norman chancel arch. There are niches in the Decorated style for images, a Perpendicular east window, a Tudor west door and post-medieval windows in the south wall of the nave and the rood stair, which is on the north side as is usual for Glamorgan. There was a restoration in 1879. A medieval wall-painting depicts St Nicholas.
Open Sat 19th and Sun 20th 9.30am - 5.30pm



Llysworney, St Tydfil ([CF71 7NQ](#); SS 9618 7410)
Llysworney was an important centre in the Vale of Glamorgan before the Norman Conquest, as shown from the carved stone built into the south wall. The tower stands between the nave and chancel, and all three parts are on different alignments showing that they were built at different times. Most of the openings and internal fittings date to the Victorian restoration of 1893-4, but there is a post-medieval altar rail.
Open Sat 19th and Sun 20th 9.30am - 5.30pm

Please note that postcodes are as provided by the individual churches. Those using in-car GPS should note that postal districts can be quite large, especially in rural areas.

STOP PRESS:

The following churches have also registered for Open Churches Day:

Coychurch, St Crallo ([CF35 5HG](#); SS 9396 7969)
One of the finest medieval Decorated style churches in Glamorgan.
Open Sat 19th 2.00 - 5.00pm



Llangan, St Canna (SS 9576 7784)
Has pre-Norman sculptures and a complete medieval churchyard cross.
Open Sat 19th 2.00 - 5.00pm

St Mary Hill, St Mary ([CF35 5DR](#); SS 9578 7934)
Victorian restoration but preserves some medieval features.
Complete medieval churchyard cross.
Open Sat 19th 2.00 - 5.00pm

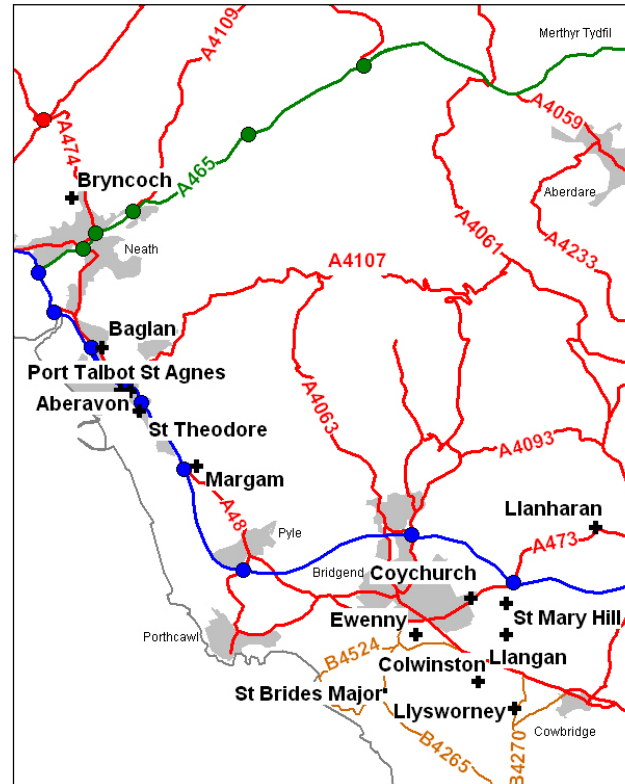
Why not also visit

Llanharan, Saints Julius and Aaron, (Church Terrace, [CF72.9QE](#); ST 0025 8320)



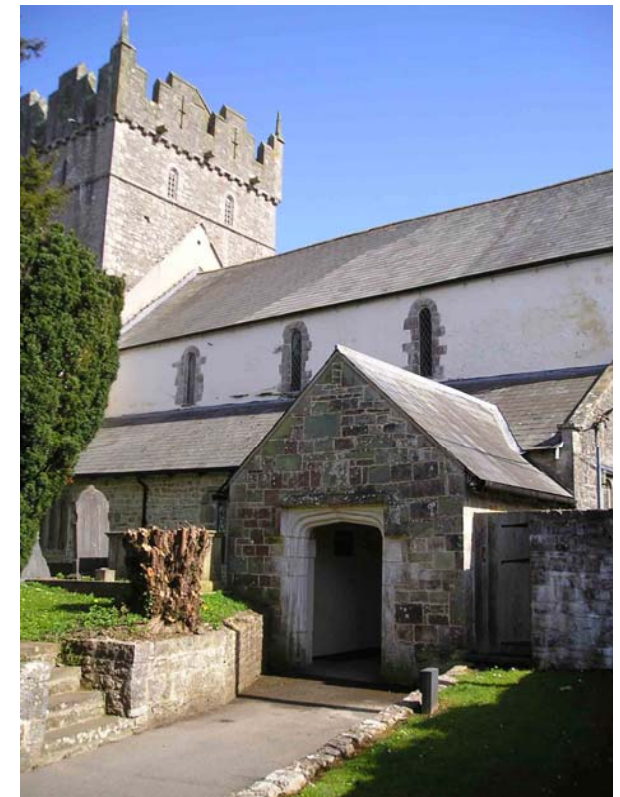
This is a medieval church that was entirely replaced in Victorian times because the old church had fallen into such disrepair. It was built in 1858-9, designed by John Prichard who produced a very fine building on a budget of just over £1,000. It is in Decorated style with an unusual bellcote crowned by a spire.
Open Sundays 10.30am, Wednesdays 10.00am - 2.00pm

Outside the Open Church weekend, the churches at **Colwinston, Ewenny, Llysworney** and **St Brides Major** are usually open during the day. **Margam Abbey** is open every day 10.00am -4.00pm from Easter to September.



Diocese of Llandaff

Churches to visit Central Glamorgan



Ewenny Priory Church

Some of the churches in this leaflet are registered with Churches Tourism Network Wales

<http://www.ctnw.co.uk/ocd08/databased/>