

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 17th 9am-5pm

St Mary's, Pennard (SS 5655 8874)



The ruined medieval church on the Burrows had to be abandoned in the 16th century 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 17th 9am-5pm

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 Sat 17th (10am-4pm) and Sun 18th (11am- 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 Sat 17th (10am-4pm) and Sun 18th (11am- 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 Sat 17th (10am-4pm) and Sun 18th (11am- 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 Sat 17th (10am-4pm) and Sun 18th (11am- 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 Sat 17th (10am-4pm) and Sun 18th (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 Sat 17th (10am-4pm) and Sun 18th (11am- 4pm)

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 11th and Sun 12th all day

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 17th (10am -4pm) and Sun 18th (11 am-4.pm)

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 11th and Sun 12th all day

Outside the Open House weekend, the churches at **Llangennith, Llanmadoc** and **Cheriton** are usually open daily all year round. **Pennard, Rhossili, Llanddewi,** and **Oystermouth** (SS 6166 8801) are usually open during the day in the summer. The key to **Oxwich** church is kept 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).

St Mary's church in Swansea city centre is also open every day. The ancient parish church here was rebuilt in the 1890s, and again after the Blitz.

Other churches to visit in Gower:

SS Illtyd and Rhidian, Llanrhidian (SS 4962 9223)



The church at Llanrhidian dates back to before the Norman conquest, as can be seen from the carved stone in the porch which probably depicts the desert hermits SS Paul and Anthony. The chancel has 13th-14th century windows in

its south wall: the east window has the only Perpendicular tracery in Gower. The tower may be post-Reformation. The nave and porch were completely rebuilt in 1856-8. Key at Llanrhidian Garage

St Teilo's, Bishopston (SS 5778 8935)



For over a thousand years this church was part of the diocese of Llandaff because of its connection with St Teilo. The chancel dates back to the 13th century: the nave could be even earlier because of its battered walls, but its windows are

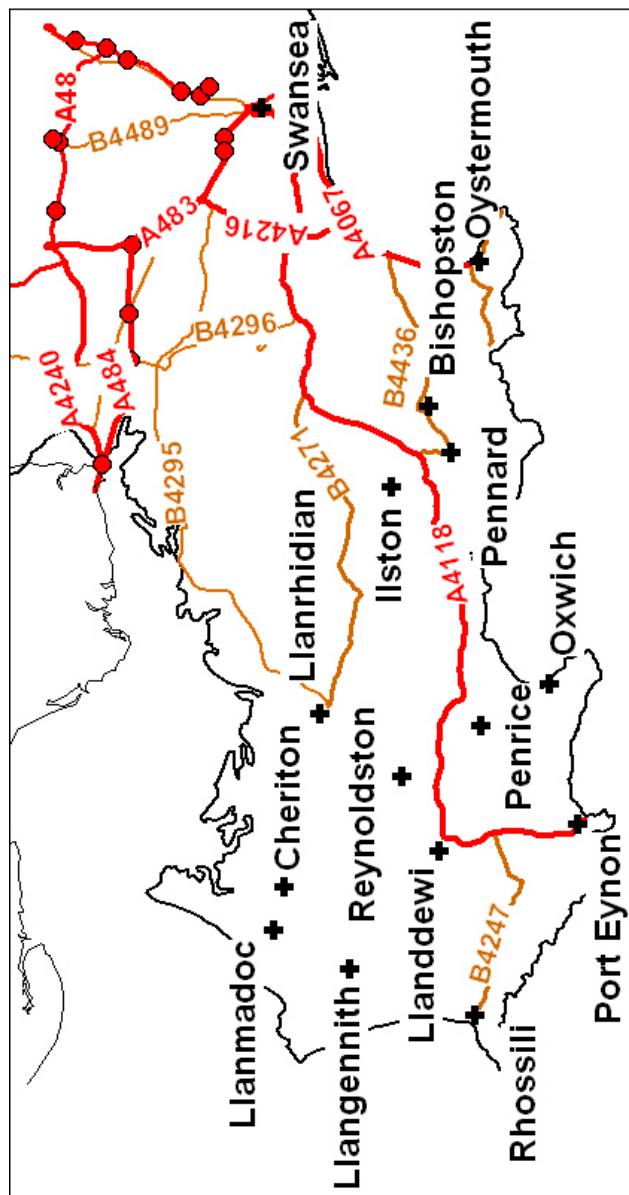
Victorian. Unusually, it preserves the west gallery. The tower is of the usual defensible Gower type. Key in the Lamp Lighter bookshop in Bishopston Road (not open on Sundays)

All Saints, Oystermouth (SS 6166 8801)



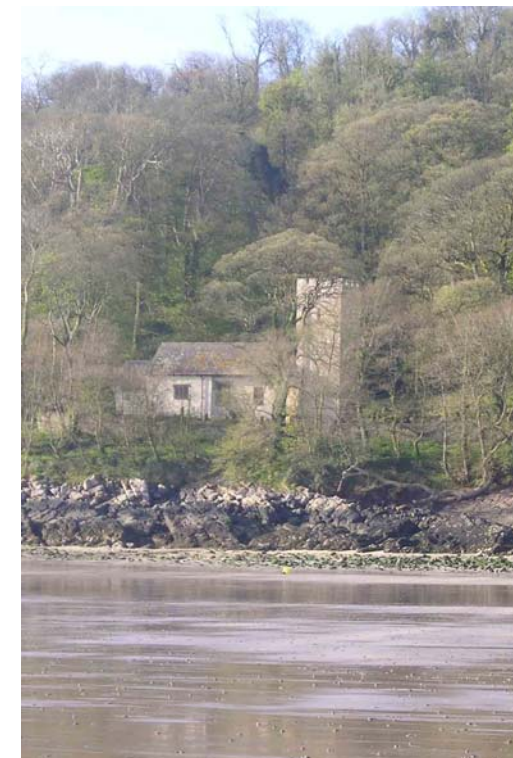
Oystermouth church was greatly enlarged in the 19th and early 20th century. The medieval church consisted only of what is now the south aisle and chapel (originally the nave and chancel) together with the tower. The new nave and

chancel were constructed in 1915 to replace a Victorian north aisle. The stair turret next to the tower was for a west gallery. Usually open during the day in the summer



Diocese of Swansea and Brecon

Churches to visit in Gower 2011



St Illtyd's church, Oxwich