

**These churches are open during September 2010 for
Open Church Day**

Bryncoch (Neath), St Matthew (Dyffryn; SS 7382 9985
[SA10 7AZ](#))

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 Saturday 17th September 10.00 - 12.30am

Neath, St David (St David Street, SS 7540 9750; [SA11 1DU](#))

With the growth of the town in the 19th century, there was insufficient space in Neath's medieval churches. St David's was therefore built in the 1860s to a design by John Norton, his finest church in Glamorgan. It is an impressive building in Early English style with a central tower and an apse. The interior is spacious and light, with polychrome brick decoration.
Open Saturday 17th September 10.30 - 12.30am

Aberdare, St Elvan (Church St; SO 0025 0259 [CF44 7NT](#))

The spacious new church of St Elvan was built in 1851-52 as a chapel of ease in the town centre to the old church of St John. The architect was Andrew Mosely, who produced a Gothic building the fashionable Decorated style, with aisles to the nave and a spire on its west tower. The interesting interior includes polychrome chancel decoration of the 1960s.
Open Saturday 17th September 10 - 12am

Maerdy, All Saints ([CF43 4DB](#) SS 9742 9846)

The little church of All Saints, much loved by its community, has recently been bought by them to save it from closure. It was built in 1914, designed by the architectural firm of W Morgan Lewis & Walters.
Open 17th September, all day

Eglwysilan, St Ilan (ST 1066 8901 [CF83 4JG](#))



This is an Early Christian site, as can be seen from the carved stone in the nave, but the earliest surviving fabric is in the long walls of the nave and chancel. Some of the windows in the nave are of 17th century type, and two were

added in the mid 18th century, as can be seen from the dates of 1751 and 1762 carved on them. Documentary evidence shows that the tower had been rebuilt in 1731.
Open Sat 17th September 10.00am - 5.00pm

Beddau, St Michael and All Angels (SS 0600 8494 [CF38 2BE](#) [Map](#))



Built 1936 at the expense of Lady Juliet Rhys-Williams and her husband, of Miskin Manor. We do not know who the architect was, but he provided an Expressionist design, at the cutting edge of architectural fashion for this period,

with an unusual plan that puts the tower at the east end.
Open Sat 17th September 12.00 noon - 2.00pm

Llantrisant Parish Church (historic town centre, access via Swan St ST 0465 8342 [CF72 8ED](#) [Map](#))



Llantrisant is a pre-Norman foundation, as seen from a 7th-9th century carved stone. The Norman building is represented by the battered walls of the chancel and north aisle. The tower was

probably built in the 16th or 17th century and the south aisle and south porch seem to have been added later. It was restored in 1874 by John Prichard who rebuilt the arcades and put in new windows, and again in 1894 by Seddon and Carter who restored the tower.
Open Sat 17th September 10.00am - 5.00pm

Miskin, St David (ST 0472 8087 [CF72 8JQ](#) [Map](#))

Built in 1906-7 at the expense of Emma Eleanor Williams of Miskin Manor, to replace a corrugated iron mission church put up in 1878. The architect was E M Bruce Vaughan, who used the Early English and Decorated styles to produce a handsome building. Pre-Raphaelite inspired stained glass.
Open Sat 17th September 12.00am - 4.00pm

Llanilid, St Iliid and St Curig (near Pencoed SS 9780 8130 [CF35 5LA](#))



The walls of this isolated little church are medieval, as is one of the south windows of the nave. Otherwise it is an excellent example of the type of vernacular architecture that was common in the centuries between the

Reformation and the Victorian rebuilding campaigns. The Venetian-style east window is identical to the one at Llantrithyd church which is dated to 1656.
Open Saturday 17th September 12 - 4 pm

St Mary the Virgin, Troedrhigarth (SS 8638 9040 [CF34 0NB](#))

This pretty little church was built in 1891 in the Perpendicular style, to a design by the architectural firm Halliday & Anderson. It has a rose window in the west wall of the nave, topped by a bellcote, and a half-timbered porch.
Open Saturday 17th September 10.30am - 4.00pm

Llangynwyd, St Cynwyd, Maesteg (SS 8573 8883 [CF34 9SB](#))



The ancient parish church of St Cynwyd was probably founded before the Norman conquest. The surviving medieval fabric includes unusual windows on either side of the chancel arch, possibly related to

the important shrine of the Holy Rood that existed here before the Reformation. The nave seems to have been lengthened before the tower was added in the later Middle Ages. Most of the windows were replaced in the 1890s during the restoration by the architect G E Halliday.
Open Saturday 17th September 10.30 am - 3.30 pm

The following churches are open on Sat 17th September
BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT ONLY

Pontlottyn, St Dyfaelog [CF81 9PS](#) between 10.00am and 4.00pm

Pentwyn Fochriw, St Mary & St Andrew between 10.00am and 4.00pm

Senghenydd, St Peter and St Cenydd (Commercial street, [CF83](#); ST 1183 9044)

Outside the Open Church weekend **Gelligaer** is open on Saturdays 10.00am - 12 noon.

Please note that postcode links 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.

OPEN OTHER DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Trecynon, St Fagan (Windsor St; SN 9927 0377 [CF44 8LN](#))

Built just a couple of years after St Fagan, the new church at Trecynon (architect T Talbot Bury) was much more modest in appearance, but there was enough room to provide it with a large churchyard. It had to be reconstructed in 1856 after it had been damaged by fire. G E Halliday extended it in 1909-10, and added a tower in the south-west corner.

Guided walk around the church on Saturday 10th September, 12.15pm

Gelligaer, St Catwg (Hengoed ST 1356 9693 [CF82 8FW](#))



The church was possibly built on the site of a Roman cemetery, since the Roman fort lies only a short distance to the north. The south wall dates back to the earlier part of the Middle Ages as can be seen from the internal batter, but most of

the architectural detail dates from 1867-8, when the church was heavily restored by Charles Buckeridge. There is an immersion baptistry.

Open Friday 9th and Sat 10th 10.00am - 4.00pm

Penderyn, St Cynog's Church (SN 9448 0855 [CF44 9JR](#))



Although worship on the site is believed to go back to the 6th century, most of what can be seen at the church today is the result of the complete restoration of 1895-96 (architect E M Bruce Vaughan).

Some of the fabric may go back to the Middle Ages (look at the battered walls of the nave); the bosses on the chancel ceiling are 15th century, and the stoup is also medieval - with almost identical patterns to the font at Llantrisant in the Rhondda. This church is in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon.

Open Friday 16th September, 2.00-4.00pm

Troedyrhiw, St John the Baptist (Cwmdy Rd, SO 0682 0210 [CF48 4HD](#))

This is one of the churches built to serve the industrial communities that grew up around Merthyr Tydfil in the 19th century. It was built in 1850-51, and was designed by John Prichard with a cruciform plan but only the south transept was built. The main architectural interest is the west front, with an elaborate west window surmounted by a bellcote.

Open Saturday 24th September 10am - 4 pm



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



Diocese of Llandaff Churches to visit Northern Glamorgan 2011



Llantrisant Parish Church

Some of the churches in this leaflet are registered with
Churches Tourism Network Wales
<http://www.ctnw.co.uk/ocd08/databased/>