

**Merthyr Mawr, St Teilo** (SS 8828 7751 [CF32 0LS](#))



There was a church at Merthyr Mawr before the Normans - behind the church is a collection of carved stones that date from the 5th century onwards. The present church was built in 1849-51, a fine example of Victorian Early English

style (architect Benjamin Ferry).

Open 17th September, daylight hours.

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



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 recently. The north aisle and porch are post-medieval. There is a medieval screen in the crossing and a collection of carved stones. Open Sat 17th September, 9.30am - 5.30pm

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



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 17th September, 9.30am - 5.30pm

**Coychurch, St Crallo** (SS 9396 7969 [CF35 5HG](#))



One of the largest and finest medieval churches in Glamorgan. This was a pre-Norman foundation, as can be seen from the two carved stones which are displayed inside. Most of the surviving architecture is Decorated style, although parts of

the building were reconstructed in 1877 by the architect F R Kempson after the tower had collapsed, demolishing the south transept.

Open Sat 17th September, 2.00 - 5.00pm

**Llandow, Holy Trinity**, (SS 9422 7332 [CF71 7NW](#))



This church has a Norman doorway, but its most unusual feature is its tripartite chancel arch with two unusual large squints, all enclosed within a superarch. A Latin tablet on the south wall of the chancel tells us that it was rebuilt in 1713 by the

rector: the southwest window dates from this restoration.

Open Sat 17th September, during daylight hours

**Colwinston, St Michael & All Angels** (SS 9435 7550

[CF71 7NL](#))



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. A medieval wall-painting depicts St Nicholas.

Open Sat 17th September, during daylight hours

**Lllysworney, St Tydfil** (SS 9618 7410 [CF71 7NQ](#))



Lllysworney 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 17th September, during daylight hours

**Llantrithyd, St Illtyd** (ST 0439 7280 [CF71 7UB](#))



Herringbone masonry in the north wall of the nave suggests that this church may have originally been built in the Norman period, but the earliest definitely datable architecture is the windows in the nave and the chancel arch, of the

14th century. The chancel was rebuilt in 1656. There are some fine monuments, including a medieval effigy and a magnificent tomb of 1597.

Open Sat 17th September, 10.00 - 4.00pm

**Llancarfan, St Cadoc's** (ST 0512 7020 [CF62 3AD](#))



One of the largest churches in the Vale of Glamorgan, Llancarfan was a pre-Norman monastic site or *clas*. The nave and large south aisle were originally built in Early English style, and were later fitted with Decorated windows. The

Perpendicular is represented by a large window in the chancel. The remains of the medieval reredos survive, and recently discovered wall paintings.

Open Sat 17th September, 9.00am - 6.00pm

**Penmark, St Mary's** (ST 0585 6885 [CF62 3BP](#))



The earliest architectural feature at Penmark is the Transitional chancel arch, pointed in the new Early English style but decorated with Norman style carving including two bearded heads. The southeast window of the nave was added in the 14th century, and the porch and tower in the 15th/16th century. The church retains an 18th century pulpit, altar rails and communion table.

Open Sat 17th September, 9.00am - 6.00pm

**St Athan, St Tathan** ST 0171 6804 [CF62 4LW](#)



Unusually for a Welsh village church, St Athan is cruciform. The earliest datable parts of the building are Early English. Later in the 14th century the transepts were added, the south transept forming a magnificent burial chapel for the

Berkerolles family whose monuments can still be seen under their carved canopies. A squint allowed the chantry priest to synchronise his mass with the one at the high altar. The church was restored in 1888.

Open Sat 17th September, 10am - 4pm

**Penarth, St Augustine** (ST 1883 7205; [CF64 1BJ](#) - [Map](#))



In 1865-66 the architect William Butterfield created a Victorian masterpiece to replace the medieval parish church at Penarth. The saddleback tower of the old church had been an important seamark for sailors approaching

Cardiff, so Butterfield recreated it on a larger scale. Inside, polychrome brickwork is used to stunning effect.

Open Sat 17th September, 11.00am - 5.00pm

**Roath (Cardiff), St Margaret** ([CF23 5AD](#), ST 1993 7774)



The old parish church of Roath was rebuilt in 1869-70 by the third Marquess of Bute, architect John Prichard. The plan is cruciform, with the magnificent Bute family mausoleum between the north transept and the north side of the

chancel replacing the original mausoleum of 1800.  
Open Sat 17th 1.00 - 5.30pm, Sun 18th 2.00 - 5.30pm.

**Llandaff Cathedral** (ST 1555 7810 [CF5 2LA Map](#))



The present building was begun by Bishop Urban (1107-33), from which survive the arch behind the high altar, and the north and south doors. There is an Early English nave, west front, south tower and chapter house, a later 13th century Lady Chapel, and a Tudor north tower. It was restored from the

1840s by Prichard and Seddon who added the south-west tower. Further restoration by George Pace followed WWII damage, involving the reconstruction of the nave.  
Open Sat 25th. Guided tour 1.30pm; tour of tower 4.30pm

**Canton, St John the Evangelist** (St John's Crescent; ST 1659 7640 [CF11 1NX](#))

The core of the church was designed by Prichard and Seddon and built in 1854-55; later additions were the steeple over the crossing, designed by W P James (1868-70), and an extension to the nave by G E Halliday (1902). The building features polychrome masonry and Geometric tracery.

Open Saturday 24th September 10am - 4 pm and Sunday 25th September 12 - 4pm

**Open Saturday 24th SEPTEMBER**

**Cardiff, St John** (The Hayes, city centre; ST 1827 7641)

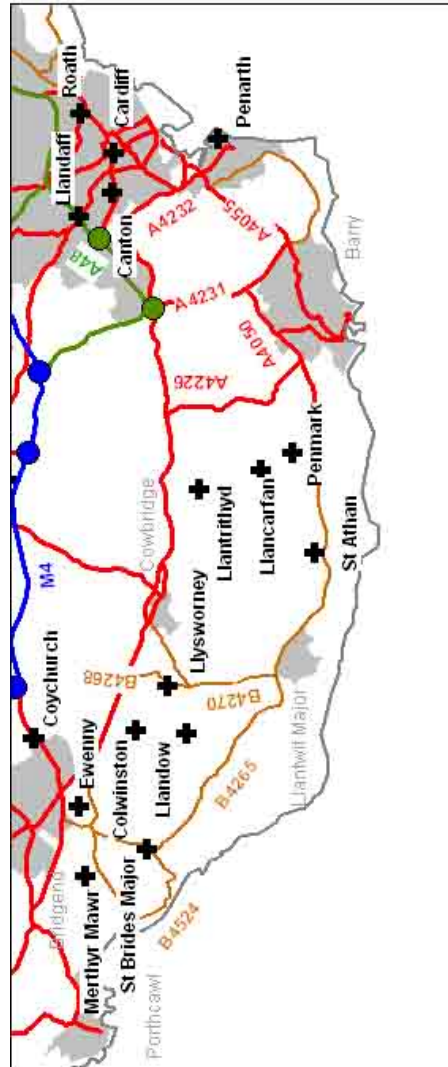


St John's was already in existence in 1173, but most of the medieval fabric that can still be seen in the nave and tower date to the 15th century: the Somerset-style west tower is the finest in Glamorgan. Although a rare Welsh example of a two-aisled church, it was still not large enough for the growing

Victorian population, and extra aisles were added 1889-91 by Kempson and Fowler. The Herbert Chapel has the Herbert tomb and a 16th century screen.

Open Sat 24th 10.00am - 4.00pm

Outside the Open Church weekend, **Llandaff Cathedral**, **Cardiff St John** and the churches at **Colwinston**, **Ewenny**, **Llandow**, **Lllysworney**, **Penmark** and **St Brides Major** are usually open during the day, and **Coychurch** is open weekdays.



**Diocese of Llandaff**  
**Churches to visit**  
**Southern Glamorgan**  
**2011**



*Family tomb at St Illtyd's Llantrithyd*

**These churches are open during September 2011 for**  
**Open Church Day (17th September) and other**  
**Open Doors events**