

A Brief History of the Friends of Friendless Churches

by

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This year 2007 is the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Friendless Churches, who now own thirty-eight former places of worship which they have saved from demolition, decay or unsympathetic conversion. This article looks at the factors leading to their establishment, and then at their early work, including their special agreement with Cadw and the Church in Wales, to care for redundant Welsh churches. Details of all the churches and chapels owned by the Friends, are given at Appendices One and Two.

THE GENESIS OF THE FRIENDS

It was not until after the Second World War, with the decline in regular worship, and neglect of all but the most essential repairs, that publicity for the plight of historic, but neglected, churches, or those struggling with small congregations, gained significant momentum. Such neglect was almost certainly due in part to the lack of a single Measure by which churches could be closed, their historic character assessed, and the buildings then appropriately conserved or reused. Prior to 1968, a church could be closed under the *Union of Benefices Measures* (1923-52) and the *Pastoral Reorganisation Measure* (1949), by a Procedure under the *Reorganisation Areas Measures* (1944-54) (essentially to deal with war-damaged areas, especially in the City of London) and also under the Faculty Jurisdiction.¹ These are set out in detail in the *Report of the Archbishops' Commission on Redundant Churches* (1958-60).

In fact churches were most commonly demolished under a Faculty, because demolition under either of the other two Measures required the scheme to 'be laid before both Houses of Parliament for two months'.² However only persons 'having an interest'³ such as members of the parish, the incumbent or the archdeacon, could oppose a Faculty – conservation societies and other learned bodies were excluded (even though the opinions of the general public and the Royal Fine Art Commission were considered as a matter of course under the two other Measures). In addition there was no limited period within

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which the decision on what to do with the church had to be made.⁴ Churches could simply linger, indefinitely, thus falling into ruin.

In 1949, a committee of the Church Assembly chaired by the Bishop of Norwich compiled a short report on 'disused and derelict' churches,⁵ supplemented by statistics provided by the Council for the Care of Churches (founded in 1921 to co-ordinate the work of Diocesan Advisory Committees). Following this, in 1953, the *Union of Benefices (Disused Churches) Measure* received Royal Assent, making:

provision for the use of certain church buildings for non-ecclesiastical purposes, and ... enabling a transfer to be made to the Ministry of Works for safe custody under conditions which would allow the Church to resume control if local conditions made this desirable.⁶

However, lack of State aid to carry out these plans put pressure on the Church of England to implement appropriate measures. Its primary focus then, as now, was to keep churches in use. To this end, in 1951, the Church Assembly appointed a commission chaired by Ivor Bulmer-Thomas:

to consider afresh the whole question of the structural care of churches, feeling that the problem was getting beyond what the parishes could tackle themselves. The Commission ... recommended among other things the regular quinquennial inspection of all churches

by an experienced architect ... [and also] underlined the grave severity of the financial burthen of the upkeep of a large and valuable ancient church upon small parishes, and recommended the launching of a public appeal for four million pounds.⁷



Fig. 1

Ivor Bulmer-Thomas (1905-93),
pictured in 1954, founder and driving force
behind the Friends of Friendless Churches
Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society,
Volume 38, 1994

As a direct result, the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (HCPT) was founded in 1952 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, on the recommendation of the Church Assembly, and the *Inspection of Churches Measure* gained Royal Assent in 1955.

The aim of the HCPT was to raise funds for the repair of historic churches and to represent county trusts which could raise funds and grant aid churches in need, which it still does today. It was chaired by the first Chairman of the Friends of Friendless Churches, Ivor Bulmer-Thomas (Fig. 1), and its formation reflected broad support for the preservation of historic churches – under the patronage of the Queen, and with the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Governor of the Bank of

England and Nonconformists such as Lord Ammon all accepting invitations to become trustees.⁸ By 1953 the HCPT had raised some £300,000 from private funds, but – with an anticipated shortfall in the estimated cost of repairs required of some £3,700,000 – it was perhaps unsurprising that, after only four years, the Trust took the decision to concentrate funds on ‘those churches which were in use, or would be brought back into use when repairs were carried out’.⁹

Ivor Bulmer-Thomas objected strongly to this decision, ‘taken by a majority of eight to three, with most of those present abstaining’¹⁰ and reportedly stormed out of the meeting. Bulmer-Thomas, a respected lay member of the General Synod, acting Deputy Editor of *The Daily Telegraph* and Secretary of the Ancient Monuments Society (as well as a learned Classics scholar, mathematician, athlete, and former politician), felt strongly that pastoral considerations should not influence decisions about grant aid, and particularly that churches should not be excluded because of predicted high costs of repair, or indeed a dwindling congregation. It was this ‘very public row ... with Archbishop Fisher’¹¹ and his passion for historic churches, which spurred him to action, and led, directly:

to the formation in 1957 of the Friends of Friendless Churches with the object of saving “churches and chapels of architectural or historical interest irrespective of pastoral considerations”, sometimes alternatively described as “churches and chapels of architectural or historic interest falling outside the scope or policy of other organisations”.¹²

THE EARLY WORK OF THE FRIENDS

The Friends of Friendless Churches (FFC) was established as a registered charity and their Constitution was adopted at their first meeting on 3 July 1957, held in Committee Room 13 of the House of Commons. The principal objects of the Society were, and remain today:

- a) To secure the preservation of churches and chapels, or of any part thereof, in the United Kingdom, whether belonging to or formerly used by the Church of England or by any other religious body, as places of public worship; to secure the preservation of monuments, fittings, fixtures, stained glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in such churches or chapels; and to secure the preservation of the churchyard or burial ground belonging to or formerly belonging to any such church or chapel ...[and]
- b) To secure the preservation of buildings of historic interest or architectural merit or beauty, or of any part thereof, in the British Islands, used or formerly used as places of worship, for public access and the benefit of the nation ...[and]
- c) To furnish or equip any such church, chapel or building, or any part thereof, as aforesaid, and to use it for the advancement of the Christian religion or such other charitable purpose as the Society shall from time to time determine.¹³

The Minute Book (1957-77) records that Ivor Bulmer-Thomas was elected Chairman and Honorary Director of the Friends ‘for the time being’ and that the Executive Committee comprised an influential group of individuals, including the architect H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, the philanthropist Samuel Gurney, the politician Roy Jenkins, Lady Mander (owner of Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton), the artist John Piper, the banker and politician John Smith, and the architectural historian John Summerson. John Betjeman was elected Honorary Editor, Lawrence E. Jones Honorary Secretary, and

the architect Sir Albert Richardson a Vice President. Membership was by subscription at one guinea per annum, £10 for life membership and a corporate membership of £3 per annum.

The Friends' Constitution was sufficiently broad to enable them to pursue their objects by a number of means – campaigning, grant-aiding and eventually, where there was no other option, the direct acquisition of historic churches facing imminent ruin, demolition or what they felt was unsympathetic conversion.

The first church the Committee was concerned with was St Mary at the Quay, Ipswich (Fig. 2), on which:

The Hon. Director was asked to write to the Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich offering the help of the Society in finding such money as was needed above the War Damage Payment.¹⁴



Fig. 2

St Mary at the Quay, Ipswich

Vested with the Redundant Churches Fund (now the Churches Conservation Trust) in 1972 and pictured with boards protecting the columns during hygroscopic salt monitoring as part of a recent conservation campaign

© *The Churches Conservation Trust*

Subsequent entries show that the Society used a range of means to pursue their object of 'preservation'. This involved offers to provide emergency funds to make the church safe and thus prevent imminent demolition (Deptford, Holy Trinity), to obtaining an architect's report for repairs (Tiverton St George, Devon), to negotiating with third parties about the re-use of redundant churches (with the Boys Brigade at St Mary at the Quay), to contacting Bishops and diocesan authorities to make the society's views known (London City churches; Wolfhamcote, St Peter, Warwickshire) and to giving evidence at a Consistory Court (Holnest, Dorset) against un-roofing the church and 'making it a tidy ruin'. Indeed the Society was all too aware that churches which had previously been made into 'graceful ruins' – as at Faxton, Northants, in 1952-3 – could then easily be demolished, even though they

'had been scheduled as an ancient monument'.¹⁵

The first church to be repaired with FFC funds was Willingale St Andrew (Essex) (Fig. 3), which, as with many of these early cases, is now owned by the Churches Conservation Trust (the renamed Redundant Churches Fund). 'Preservation' to the Friends meant 'in situ' – and while the Committee was willing to organise an appeal to preserve the church at Wolfhamcote 'on the spot' they would not contribute to the £40,000 cost of its removal to nearby Nuneaton. Watching briefs were kept over churches likely to need support in the future, and at their third meeting the Committee passed a Resolution:

That any church or chapel listed under Section 30 of the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947, among buildings of special architectural or historic interest shall be regarded *prima facie* as worthy of preservation and eligible for help from the Society.¹⁶

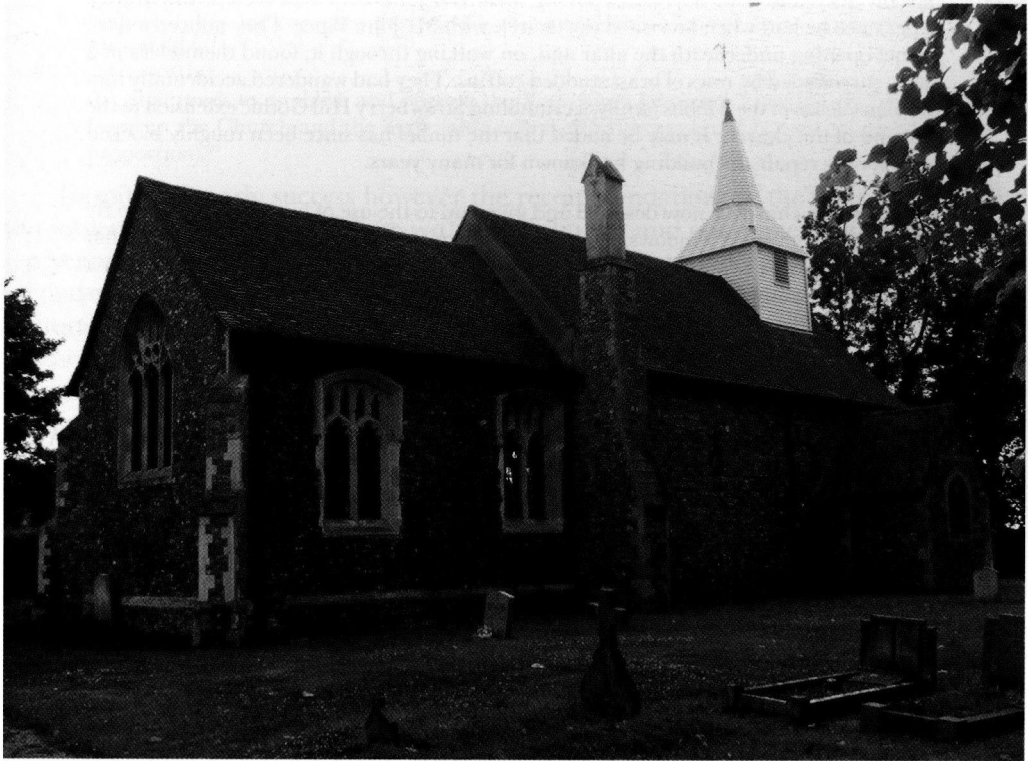


Fig. 3

Willingale, St Andrew (Essex), now owned by the Churches Conservation Trust

At the second meeting it had been resolved 'to have a correspondent in each county'¹⁷ and by December 1957 eighteen counties were covered by members. The Friends were keen to foster local support ('present[ing] copies of the Hon. Secretary's book, *What to See in a Country Church*, to three boys who had tidied the Tonbridge Church and so led to its re-opening'),¹⁸ and as such were also instrumental in establishing groups of local

'friends', for example at Wolfhamcote. The responses to the Honorary Director's letters on this particular church continue over a period of thirty years and demonstrate his absolute determination to save the church against the advice of the Diocese, the rector (who wrote four times to that effect in one year), local people and even a member of the Friends' own Executive Committee – J. H. Cordingley – who after a visit to the church regarded it as 'An almost impossible problem to solve' (19 April 1960).

The Society was of course also eager – and very well-placed – to publicise their cause, issuing Press Statements, writing letters to *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*, and preparing Appeal Leaflets for each new cause. The draft appeal leaflet for Wolfhamcote records:

[this] church has long been disused and stands in a graveyard which contains several charming and elaborately carved rococo tombstones; but most of these have sunk deep into the grass and cows now graze among them. Mr John Betjeman records the strange experience he had when he visited the church with Mr John Piper. They noticed a dark tunnel opening underneath the altar and, on walking through it; found themselves in a vault, surrounded by rows of brass studded coffins. They had wandered accidentally into the mausoleum of the Tibbits family, a crumbling Strawberry Hill Gothic extension to the east end of the church. It may be added that the tunnel has since been roughly blocked up, the only repair the building has known for many years.

Wolfhamcote church is now deserted and given up to the use of birds and bats, who fly in through its glassless windows. The roof and floor are also in a sad state of decay; but it is none the less a beautiful building, which certainly merits restoration ... [it sits] in a parish which has never grown rich enough to restore or 'improve' it and in surroundings almost as rural as when it was built.

Such churches are not so easy to find, and surely this one should be restored to its former glory and not allowed to fall into ruin.¹⁹

Despite a repair campaign at Wolfhamcote in the 1960s, supervised by AMS Trustee Anthony Swaine RIBA, in 1970 the Friends were moved to issue another appeal in response to the 'first annual report of the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches ... [which] contains the disturbing revelation that the Board has made a 'preliminary recommendation' to the Church Commissioners that the chancel of St Peters should be demolished, the nave and aisles unroofed, the contents removed and the building left as a 'tidy ruin'. The Friends of Wolfhamcote Church was established under the chairmanship of John Betjeman, and finally in 1972 the church was taken into the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

In addition to their vital campaigning and grant-aiding role the Friends were also, through Ivor Bulmer-Thomas's membership of the General Synod, concerned with policy. In 1958 they submitted evidence to a Commission, also formed as a result of the HCPT decision of 1956, to consider:

the problems arising in connexion with churches regarded as redundant but having a claim to preservation on historic or architectural grounds, and to make recommendations as to the procedures for handling such matters and the financial problems involved.²⁰

The Friends' evidence to the Archbishops' Commission on Redundant Churches (known as the Bridges Commission, after its Chairman, Lord Bridges) included 'an

appendix of churches that had come to the notice of the Society²¹ and in 1960, when the Commission published its findings, the Society was pleased to report that they 'went a long way towards the acceptance of the Society's point of view, and probably as far as the Church Assembly and Parliament could be persuaded to go'.²²

In essence, the Commission recommended:

- a) the establishment of a new independent body of experts (the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches) charged with examining 'the claims of redundant churches to be preserved on the grounds of their architectural, historical or archaeological interest';²³
- b) a particular procedure, of publicity, research and consultation, which must be followed by the Diocese and the Church Commissioners prior to the demolition of a church being approved;
- c) the formation of a new organisation (the Redundant Churches Fund) with specific responsibility for the care and repair of redundant churches deemed worthy of preservation;
- d) that funds to establish and operate the Redundant Churches Fund should be split between the Church and the State (although the Commission did not specify in what proportion).²⁴

Despite this early success however the recommendations of the Commission were the subject of much heated debate within the church, and not implemented for another ten years. However the delay enabled the new Measure to incorporate the finding of a second commission, under Lord Ilford, charged with examining 'all measures relating to pastoral re-organisation'.²⁵ The findings of both were united in the *Pastoral Measure* (1968) (revised 1983), designed 'to make better provision for the cure of souls'²⁶ and enable the Church of England to redeploy its resources more effectively. The ability for the state to grant aid the Redundant Churches Fund was contained in the *Redundant Churches and other Religious Buildings Act* (1969).

THE FRIENDS AFTER 1968

Ivor Bulmer-Thomas hoped that there would no longer be a role for the Friends following the establishment of the Redundant Churches Fund and indeed, as the Fund's first Chairman, he no doubt had a vested interest in its success. However a Friends' *Interim Report* to December 1971 demonstrates how, instead, they perceived their role developing:

As foreshadowed in our last report, the Society has now moved into a new phase of existence in which its continued existence as a permanent part of the machinery for the preservation of churches of architectural or historic interest is accepted. We have not sought this position, and with the passage of the Pastoral Measure would have preferred to say *Nunc Dimittis* and quietly to have dissolved ourselves. But as the Pastoral Measure is being operated, the continued existence of the Society is now more necessary than ever.²⁷

The principal reason for this stance was that the Society felt strongly that listed churches good enough to be vested with the Redundant Churches Fund were being turned down by the Church Commissioners. Three particular churches are mentioned in the *Interim Report*: Wickham Bishops St Peter (Essex) (Fig. 4), Lightcliffe St Matthew

Old Church (West Yorkshire) (Fig. 5), and Wolfhamcote St Peter (Warwickshire). The Report stresses:

It is the Society's strong view that such churches should always be vested in the Fund, which has been created for this very purpose, and we have made formal representations to the Church Commissioners to this effect, but rather than see them demolished, we are prepared to accept the freehold or a leasehold, preferably the former.²⁸

In addition, as the *Interim Report* of six months before describes, the Friends also felt that the Measure still left unsatisfactory options open to Dioceses and the Church Commissioners. At Wickham Bishops St Peter (Fig. 4) a member's offer 'to accept the appropriation [of the church] as a place of prayer and pilgrimage' was rejected, and at Mundon St Mary (Essex), although an initial application to the local planning authority for conversion to a house had been refused, 'the county council would be prepared to consider a new application if certain objections were overcome'.²⁹ Both of these churches are now owned by the Friends. The Friends were particularly concerned about the church at Gayton-le-Marsh (Lincolnshire) where the Diocese had recently obtained a faculty,



Fig. 4

Wickham Bishop St Peter (Essex), pictured in 1972 before the Friends' intervention. Eventually vested in the care of the Friends in 1975 after lying empty and subject to vandal attack for nearly twenty years

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‘on the ground that it was dangerous, [and proposed] to demolish the whole building, tower included’.³⁰

As a result, in 1972 the Friends amended their Constitution and established a company, The Friendless Churches Trust Ltd, enabling them to take direct ownership of buildings, under the *Pastoral Measure*, by freehold or by lease, which they felt were too important to be demolished, converted or left to decay. Wolfhamcote Church was eventually taken into the care of the Redundant Churches Fund, and the residual tower at Lightcliffe was the first building conveyed to the Friends.



Fig. 5

Lightcliffe St Matthew, near Halifax (West Yorkshire)

The body of the church was demolished at the expense of the Diocese following a declaration of redundancy in 1969. The tower was kept at the insistence of FFC, and vested with them in 1974

THE FRIENDS IN WALES

The minutes of the Friends of Friendless Churches show that they were from the outset concerned with Wales. In 1978, the Executive Committee decided to set aside £1,000 each year ‘for repairs to redundant churches in Wales’³¹ and by then Ivor Bulmer-Thomas had nearly ten years experience of running the Redundant Churches Fund. Through his parliamentary and Synod connections, and FFC Trustees such as the Marquess of Anglesey (who was also Chairman of the Historic Buildings Council for Wales), he was in a prime position to campaign for change. Letters and reports in the Friends archive

demonstrate his vision of how the new system should work. It was initially envisaged that a separate body would need to be established to manage the 'Mechanism' in Wales, but in fact because the Friends' Constitution was sufficiently broad it was already able to take conveyances from the Church in Wales. Instead it was the statutory basis for grant aiding redundant churches that caused the delay in Bulmer-Thomas's proposals coming to fruition.

In 1992 the Welsh Affairs Committee undertook an inquiry into the *Preservation of Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments in Wales*, and after consultation with CADW, the Church in Wales, the amenity societies and other bodies, recommended:

The establishment of a Redundant Churches and Chapels Fund for Wales, on a similar basis to that in England (i.e. 70 per cent funded by Government, 30 per cent by the churches).³²

The importance of Nonconformity to Welsh culture was evidenced by the recommendations of the Committee to 'encourage the inclusion of chapels'³³ (and in 1996, the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust was founded) but the result for historic churches was more immediate. On 10 October 1993 (just three days after Ivor Bulmer-Thomas's death), the new Honorary Director, Matthew Saunders, received a letter from Cadw confirming their agreement to fund 70% of the costs of repairing what their Historic Buildings Advisory Council deemed to be 'outstanding' redundant churches in Wales. The Friends had already taken ownership of four churches in Wales: Llantrisant (Anglesey, vested 1978), Bayvil St Andrew (Pembrokeshire, vested 1983), Llanfair Kilgeddin St Mary (Monmouthshire, vested 1989), Llanfaglan St Baglan (Gwynedd, vested 1991), and a £10,000 bloc grant was awarded by Cadw to cover minor repairs,

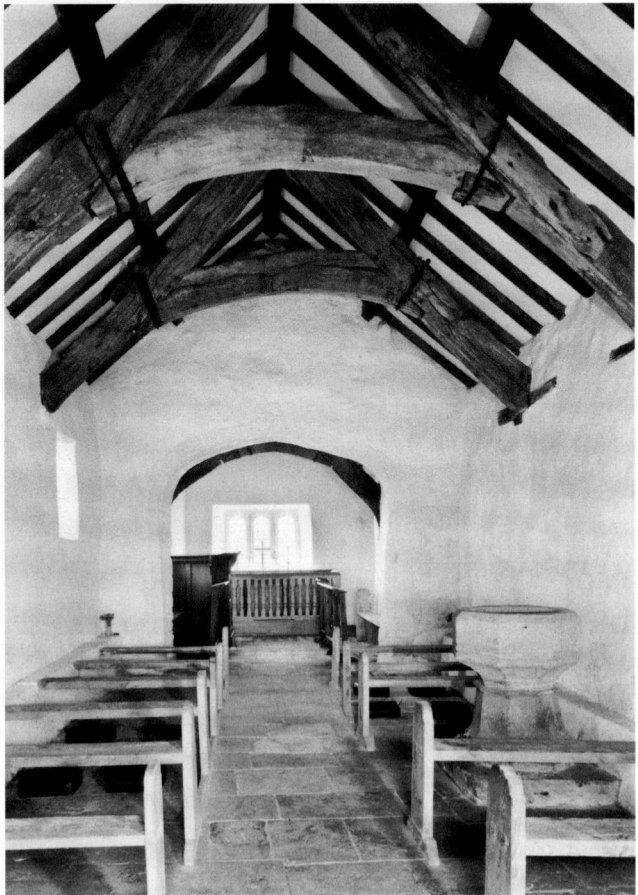


Fig. 6
Tal-y-Llyn St Mary (Anglesey).
Vested in the care of the Friends under
the New Mechanism in 1999
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maintenance and administration to these.

The actual agreement between both the Church in Wales and Cadw to fund the so-called New Mechanism (again by exchange of letters) was further delayed until 1999 as a result of protracted discussion with the Church in Wales over the legal aspects of conveyance. Once established however the New Mechanism met all the costs associated with running the future work of the Friends in Wales. The budget for the first year of operation was £100,000, 70% met by Cadw and 30% by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales and after a delay of six years since the initial agreement with Cadw there was a rush of four new vestings in 1999: Llanelieu St Ellyw (Powys) (Fig. 7), Llangeview St David (Monmouthshire), Penmorfa St Beuno (Gwynedd) and Tal-y-Llyn St Mary (Anglesey) (Fig. 6).

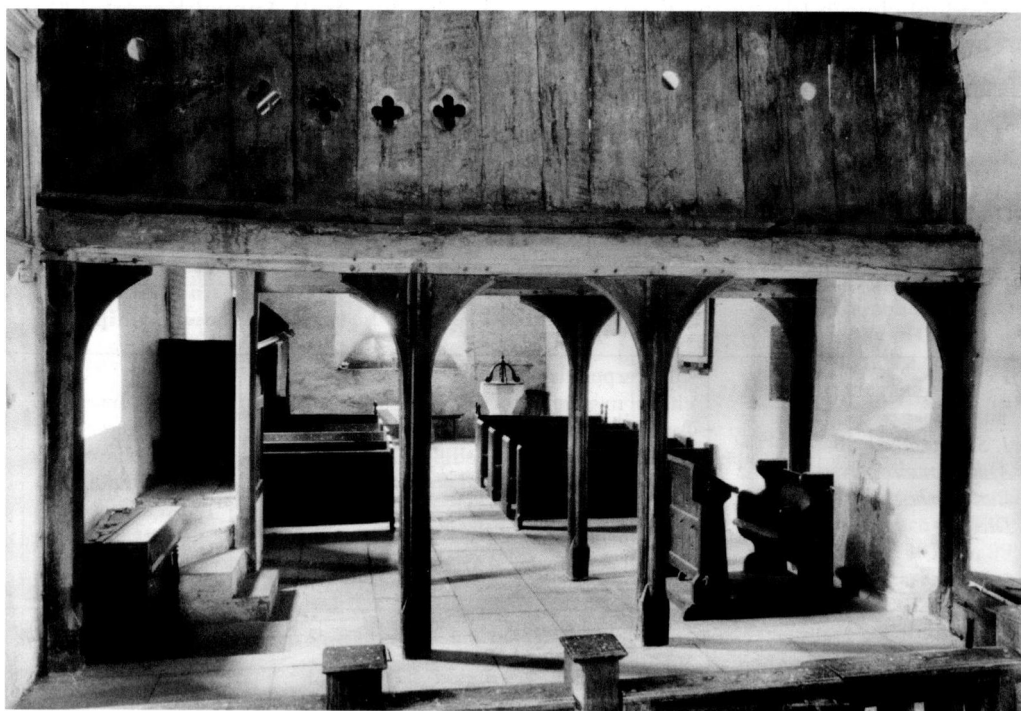


Fig. 7

Llanelieu, St Ellyw (Powys)

Vested in the care of the Friends under the New Mechanism in 1999

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THE FRIENDS IN 2007

Since 1993 the Friends have worked in partnership with the Ancient Monuments Society (sharing an office and operating a joint membership scheme) and today the Friends own thirty-eight churches, half in England, half in Wales (detailed at Appendices One and Two). However, The Friends of Friendless Churches still operate with no directly salaried staff in England, and with the increasing decline of regular worship, the freeze

in Government grant aid to their sister body, the Churches Conservation Trust and to English Heritage, the call on their resources is ever-present. The Friends intend to use the fiftieth anniversary to celebrate their success, raise their profile and increase their income. We will continue to campaign and to take direct action to ensure that friendless, historic churches are appropriately conserved in the memory of those who once worshipped there, for the local community and for future generations to enjoy.

APPENDIX ONE

Redundant Churches and Chapels owned by the Friends of Friendless Churches in England.

(Data taken from <http://www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk/> (July 2006), individual church files in the Friends office, the Friends' draft Annual Report 2005-6 archive appeal leaflets.)

Dedication & Location	Listing Grade (date)	Brief Description and special features etc	Reason for Redundancy	Fate proposed by the Church Commissioners where known (or other) date vested with FFC and nature of ownership.
<i>1. St Michael, Ayshford, near Burlacombe, Devon</i>	I (1966)	C15 Perpendicular private chapel in grounds of Ayshford Court (manor house). Medieval cusped screen, C15 roof bosses & elaborate C17 wall monuments. Striking stained glass by local artist of 1848.	Sanford family (descendants of founder) no longer had sufficient funds to keep in good repair.	Private conveyance. Vested in 2000 on 125 year lease.
<i>2. Boveney, St Mary Magdalene. Near Eton, Bucks.</i>	I (1955)	C14 timber-framed weather-boarded bell tower with exterior flint galleting. Simple single cell interior with medieval pews & C18 & C19 fittings.	Decline of congregation.	Vested 1983 on 999 year lease.
<i>3. Caldecote, St Mary Magdalene. Near Baldock, Herts</i>	II* (1968)	Simple single cell interior with crocketed holy water stoup. C18 repairs to chunch in red brick.	Decline of congregation.	Vested freehold in 1982.

<p>4. <i>Corpusty, St Peter. Near Holt, Norfolk.</i></p>	<p>II* (1960)</p>	<p>C15, restored 1891. Interior largely empty but retains cusped-headed piscina, C17 communion rails (un-fixed) and medieval font. Landscape value.</p>	<p>Decline of congregation.</p>	<p>FFC first funded repairs in 1966 – eventually vested 1982 on 99 year lease.</p>
<p>5. <i>Eastwell, St Mary. Near Ashford, Kent.</i></p>	<p>II (1957) & Scheduled Ancient Monument.</p>	<p>Partial ruin with intact tower and C19 south mortuary chapel.</p>	<p>Partially destroyed in WWII, subsequent dereliction.</p>	<p>Vested freehold in 1980.</p>
<p>6. <i>Hardmead the Assumption. Near Milton Keynes, Bucks</i></p>	<p>I (1966)</p>	<p>Medieval church; settlement disappeared. C13-C15, restored C19. Medieval font and fragments of C14 stained glass, Georgian organ and important wall monument to Francis Catesby of 1636.</p>	<p>Decline of congregation.</p>	<p>Conversion to house proposed; rejected for vesting in Redundant Churches Fund. Vested with FFC 1982 on 99 year lease.</p>
<p>7. <i>Lightcliffe Old St Matthew. Near Brighouse, West Yorkshire.</i></p>	<p>II (1967)</p>	<p>Residual Tower only. One of three churches to serve the area; built 1775 and closed 1885. Georgian preaching box with early cast iron columns.</p>	<p>Decline of congregation.</p>	<p>Demolition. Body of Church demolished at expense of Diocese following declaration of redundancy in 1969; tower kept at insistence of FFC. Vested 1974 on 99 year lease.</p>
<p>8. <i>Matlock Bath, St John the Baptist, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire</i></p>	<p>II* (1972)</p>	<p>Private Chapel. Arts & Crafts by Sir Guy Dawber of 1897. Ornate plasterwork by Bankart, screen by Dawber and stained glass by Louis Davis.</p>	<p>Trust set up by founder to look after chapel dissolved.</p>	<p>Private conveyance. Vested freehold in 2002.</p>
<p>9. <i>Milland (also known as Tuxlith) Chapel. Near Liphook, Sussex</i></p>	<p>II (1959)</p>	<p>Former medieval parish church (then Sunday School). Recently dated Norman fabric; box pews. Closed in 1950s.</p>	<p>Replaced by new Church in 1880; use as Sunday School declined.</p>	<p>Long running FFC case; rejected for Redundant Churches Fund and proposed for demolition. Vested 1974 on 99 year lease.</p>

<p>10. <i>Mundon St Mary.</i> Near Maldon, Essex.</p>	<p>I (1953)</p>	<p>C16 with timber-framed, weather-boarded tower and attractive timber-framed porch. C12 font, complete set of C18 box pews; naïve trompe l'oeil 'theatre' mural over chancel arch.</p>	<p>Decline of congregation.</p>	<p>Residential conversion proposed by Commissioners. Vested 1975 on 999 year lease.</p>
<p>11. <i>Papworth St Agnes, St John the Baptist.</i> Near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.</p>	<p>II* (1962)</p>	<p>C15 but almost wholly rebuilt in 1852 by noted Ecclesiologist Rev'd J. H. Sperling. Distinctive chequer-work stone and flint; no fittings.</p>	<p>Decline of congregation.</p>	<p>Demolition. Vested freehold in 1979.</p>
<p>12. <i>Saltfleetby, Old St Peter.</i> Near Louth, Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>I (1967)</p>	<p>C15 tower only survives. Attractive 3-stage coursed greenstone rubble tower with buttresses and traceried windows.</p>	<p>Tower only since mid-C19 when body of church was moved to more stable land.</p>	<p>Vested in 1976 on 999 year lease.</p>
<p>13. <i>South Huish St Andrew.</i> Near Kingsbridge, South Devon.</p>	<p>II* (1967) & Scheduled Ancient Monument.</p>	<p>Parish church, now a ruin, dating from C13 with C14 & C15 additions. Flue of small fireplace visible on outer doorway; fragments of important alabaster reredos found in 1869 (displayed nearby).</p>	<p>Dismantled in 1869 when it was replaced by new church in nearby hamlet; ruin by late C19.</p>	<p>Vested in 1976 on 999 year lease.</p>
<p>14. <i>Spernall, St Leonard.</i> Near Alcester, Warwickshire.</p>	<p>II* (1967)</p>	<p>Medieval church of local limestone dating from 1240; north door of 1535. Repaired and partly rebuilt in C18 in brick. Chancel 1884.</p>	<p>Decline of congregation.</p>	<p>Diocese applied to convert to house, when planning permission refused. Church Commissioners proposed demolition. Vested in 1980 (with the Ancient Monuments Society, due to lack of FFC funds). Leased to artist Nicholas Jones.</p>
<p>15. <i>Sutterby, St John the Baptist.</i> Near Alford, Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>II (1967)</p>	<p>C15 parish church with Norman or transitional north doorway; porch of 1743.</p>	<p>Decline of congregation.</p>	<p>Vested freehold in 1981.</p>

<p>16. <i>Urishay.</i> <i>Near Peterchurch,</i> <i>Herefordshire.</i></p>	<p>II* (1949) & Scheduled Ancient Monument.</p>	<p>C12 former chapel of Urishay Castle; preserved as a part-ruin. Medieval altar slab with five consecration crosses.</p>	<p>Private sale.</p>	<p>Previously owned privately. Vested freehold in 1978.</p>
<p>17. <i>Waddesdon,</i> <i>Strict &</i> <i>Particular</i> <i>Baptist Chapel</i> <i>Buckinghamshire.</i></p>	<p>II* (1967)</p>	<p>Baptist Chapel of 1792 founded by Francis Cox. Retains simple Non-Conformist fittings including pulpit, total immersion baptistery and ladies' fireplace.</p>	<p>Private Sale. The Friends had to raise £6,000 to purchase (which went to local Baptist group) and as a result FFC campaigned and won named beneficiary status enabling charities to give future vestings to FFC as a gift.</p>	<p>Conversion which would have destroyed features of interest. Vested freehold in 1986.</p>
<p>18. <i>Wickham</i> <i>Bishops, Old St</i> <i>Peter.</i> <i>Near Witham,</i> <i>Essex.</i></p>	<p>II* (1985)</p>	<p>Chancel and nave date from C11; modified in C15 or C16. Patterned wall paintings recently discovered in chancel; no fittings remain.</p>	<p>Replaced by a new church in centre of nearby village in 1850 when it closed. Heavily vandalised and used for witchcraft.</p>	<p>Residential conversion / demolition. Long running case; dilapidated in 1950s but not vested until 1975 (999 year lease). Leased from FFC to stained glass artist Ben Finn.</p>
<p>19. <i>Woodwalton,</i> <i>St Andrew.</i> <i>Near</i> <i>Cambridgeshire</i></p>	<p>II* (1958)</p>	<p>Dates from mid C13; with additions in C16 and rebuilding in 1855- 60. Early stone coffin lids and Neo-Classical monuments.</p>	<p>Decline of congregation; de facto shut since WWII and heavily vandalised.</p>	<p>Vested 1979 on 999 year lease.</p>

APPENDIX TWO (see table pp. 148-9)

Redundant Churches owned by the Friends of Friendless Churches in Wales.

(Data taken from <http://www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk/> (July 2006), individual church files in the Friends office, the Friends' draft Annual Report 2005-6 and archive appeal leaflets.) Shaded rows denote churches not included in the New Mechanism.)

Dedication & Location	Listing Grade	Brief Description and special features, etc.	Date vested with FFC and nature of ownership
<i>1. Bayvil, St Andrew Near Nevern, Dyfed.</i>	II*	Small single-cell, early C19 rebuilding of a medieval church; Gothick widows and intact Georgian Anglican interior, with tall painted and panelled pulpit and reading desk, complete set of box pews and elaborate memorial tablet of 1840. Modest C12 font.	(Pre-New Mechanism Vesting) 999 year lease from 1983.
<i>2. Brithdir, St Mark.. Near Dolgellau, Gwynedd..</i>	I	Important Arts & Crafts survival, built 1895-8 by Henry Wilson. Ochre walls to the nave and a rich blue ceiling; fittings including beaten copper reredos and pulpit with foliage detailing and carved choir stalls in Spanish chestnut.	999 year lease from 2002.
<i>3. Derwen, St Mary. Near Corwen, Clwyd.</i>	I	Medieval church which retains its rood screen and its arched-braced roof. Font (1665) and two good Victorian stained glass windows.	999 year lease from 2002.
<i>4. Hodgeston. Near Lamphey, Pembrokeshire.</i>	II*	Medieval church re-ordered in C19 but retains elaborate carved C14 piscina and sedilia. Norman font.	999 year lease from 2000
<i>5. Llanbeulan, St Peulan. Anglesey.</i>	II*	Medieval church with important font dating from early C11.	999 year lease from 2005.
<i>6. Llandawke, St Odoceus. Near Laugharne, Carmarthenshire.</i>	II	C13 church, remodelled C14 by Sir Guy de Brian, the Lord Marcher of Laugharne. Restored 1882. C14 effigy placed in the church in 1902; also Early Christian carved stone slab (formerly door-step) with Ogham and Roman inscriptions, probably C5/6.	999 year lease from 2006.
<i>7. Llandeloy, St Eloi. Pembrokeshire.</i>	II	Arts and Crafts-influenced church by John Coates Carter, rebuilt in the local vernacular and materials from fragmentary medieval ruins in 1926-7, with rood loft, screen and pulpit.	999 year lease from 2005.
<i>8. Llanellieu, St Ellwy. Powys.</i>	I	C13 origins with huge fourteenth century screen with loft painted blood red. C17 altar rails and simple evocative monuments.	999 year lease from 1999
<i>9. Llanfaglan, St Baglan. Near Caernarfon, Gwynedd.</i>	I	Dates from C13, with early re-used carved stone of C5 or C6. Simple C18 interior with benches and box pews and a naive slate wall monument.	Freehold from 1991.

<p>10. <i>Llanfair Kilgeddin, St Mary. Near Usk, Monmouthshire.</i></p>	<p>I</p>	<p>Medieval church largely rebuilt 1875-6 by John Dando Sedding chiefly noted for large scraffito panels by Heywood Sumner (1889) depicting local pastoral scenes such as the Sugar Loaf mountain.</p>	<p>Freehold from 1989.</p>
<p>11. <i>Llanfrothen, St Brothen. Near Porthmadog, Merionethshire.</i></p>	<p>I</p>	<p>Medieval single-cell church with gently sloping floor and arch-braced roof with cusped wind braces. Noted for its woodwork including balustraded chancel stalls and screen. Two fonts, one with conical, oak cover.</p>	<p>999 year lease from 2005.</p>
<p>12. <i>Llangeview, St David. Monmouthshire.</i></p>	<p>I</p>	<p>Simple C15 church with windowless north wall. Medieval font and C18 fittings and monuments.</p>	<p>999 year lease from 1999.</p>
<p>13. <i>Llantrisant, SS Afan, Ieuan and Sannan. Near Holyhead, Anglesey.</i></p>	<p>II* (upgraded 2001)</p>	<p>Simple medieval church with a Norman font (though not original to church), benches (one with crude incised name) and a fine Classical wall monument of 1670.</p>	<p>999 year lease from 1978.</p>
<p>14. <i>Manordeifi, St David. Near Lechryd, Pembrokeshire.</i></p>	<p>II (1988)</p>	<p>Simple medieval church retaining C18 interior including box pews with fireplaces; and coracle to return worshippers to village in the event of flood. Elaborate wall monuments and important early C19 railings to tombs in churchyard.</p>	<p>999 year lease from 2000.</p>
<p>15. <i>Penmorfa, St Beuno. Near Porthmadog, Gwynedd.</i></p>	<p>II</p>	<p>Simple medieval church with elaborate interior including medieval stained glass, monuments and nineteenth century fittings associated with the William-Ellis family. Carved wooden lectern with an almost life-size angel.</p>	<p>999 year lease from 1999.</p>
<p>16. <i>Rhoscrowther. Near Angle, Pembrokeshire.</i></p>	<p>I</p>	<p>Large medieval church, tower with C18 obelisk finials; restored 1869-70 and in 1910 by W. D. Caroe. Recently identified hermitage in one of chapels.</p>	<p>999 year lease from 2005.</p>
<p>17. <i>Tal-y-Llyn St Mary. Anglesey.</i></p>	<p>II*</p>	<p>Small medieval church with C18 fittings. New pews commissioned by FFC and carved locally as former set were stolen.</p>	<p>999 year lease from 1999.</p>
<p>18. <i>Ynyscynhaearn, St Cynhaearn. Gwynedd.</i></p>	<p>II*</p>	<p>Origins in C12 and C16 with intact late Georgian interior of 1832 including chamber organ set in its west gallery and the three-decker pulpit. Stained glass windows of 1899 and 1906 by Powell and Sons.</p>	<p>999 year lease from 2002.</p>

The Friends' 2005-2006 Annual Report records that negotiations on the vesting of Llancillo church, Herefordshire, are continuing and a formal Redundancy Scheme providing for its vesting with the Friends was published by the Church Commissioners in February 2006. This will bring the total number of vestings to thirty-eight.

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