

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

<b>LISTED BUILDING</b>	Church of St. David and St. Cyfelach, Swansea Road, Llangyfelach Swansea
<b>Grade:-</b>	II*
<b>Date of Notification:-</b>	28.02.02
<b>National Grid Reference:-</b>	SS 6461098970
<b>O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-</b>	SS 69 NW
<b>CADW Reference No.:-</b>	26235
<b>C &amp; C of S Reference No.:-</b>	LB:465

Notes:-

### ***Location:-***

Situated near the centre of Llangyfelach just west of B4489 (Swansea Road) and south of A48.

### ***History:-***

Anglican parish church, earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century nave with later 19<sup>th</sup> century chancel. The present church is in the churchyard of the medieval church but further down the slope. The plain and unecclesiological nave looks of 1820 to 1840 but it is alternately said to have been a tithe barn remodelled, which seems implausible, or to have been built 1850 to 1860 which seems very late. Unusual earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century Gothic Price family chapel at nave north east corner. The chancel is said to have been added in 1850 or 1891 by E. M. Bruce Vaughan, the latter seems more likely. Nave restored with new windows and porch, by W. D. Caroe in 1913 – 1914, one of the most inventive of his restorations in South West Wales. The broad stepped buttresses clasping the angles and on the north wall are said to be also added by Caroe, but appear to be of earlier date.

### ***Exterior:-***

Anglican parish church, rubble stone with ashlar dressings. Nave with remodelled or added south porch, north east and added chancel. Nave of thin coursed rubble stone with low pitched eaves roof of greenish slates with paired brackets to eaves and coped shouldered gables. Angles have big and unmedieval stepped buttresses clasping corners, in square tooled sandstone on rubble plinth. Four steps with chamfered copings. South side has centre door in porch with large Tudor –arched window each side, north side has three similar windows. Windows have fine moulded three light ogee tracery in red sandstone, presumably inserted in earlier openings. Porch has greenish slates carried

down each side over tops of side piers, front has finely moulded four centred arched doorway and statue niche above, in red sandstone, and red stone moulded eaves. Small ashlar statue of St. David in niche. Ornate 20<sup>th</sup> century metal gates. Arch braced collar trusses within finely moulded south doorway in red sandstone, with segmental pointed moulded head, the mouldings dying into piers. Fine panelled double doors, probably of 1914.

Nave north side of three bays divided by broad stepped buttresses, has windows clearly inserted into wall (perhaps originally blank), and a small square headed red stone traceried two light windows set low to right. West end is rendered between buttresses, above rubble stone plinth. Large 19<sup>th</sup> century Perp style four light Bath stone west window with hoodmould over a narrow pointed door with hood, the door reached by outside stone steps with rock faced rubble stone parapet. Against north east corner of nave is early 19<sup>th</sup> century funeral chapel with hipped slate eaves roof. North front has pointed window each side of pointed door, all with stone voussoirs and keystone. Timber Y tracery glazing with leaded lights, plank door.

Chancel has conventional 19<sup>th</sup> century Gothic detail, steeper pitched roof, coped shouldered gable, rock faced coursed square stone, ashlar flush quoins and windows with ogee tracery, chamfered plinth. East big three light window with hoodmould, single light to north, door and two light to south both set to left. South window has hoodmould, chamfered pointed doorway has plank door with strap hinges.

The stone voussoirs of a very broad nave east window are visible over the chancel roof.

### ***Interior:-***

Nave has Arts and Crafts interior character from the work of 1913 – 14. Broad eleven bay collar truss roof with king post and curved angle struts above, possibly original, with added arched braces with blind tracery spandrels and tapering wall posts. Cambered headed red sandstone reveals to windows. West end divided off by panelled timber screen of nine panels each with two light blind tracery, outer three panels each side under a divided organ with gallery between the cases which are plain panelled. Upper gallery, plague recording restoration 1912 – 14 by W. D. Caroe, with Collins and Godfrey as contractors, and screen on north to vestry with Tudor arched entry. Vestry lit by two light traceried window.

Moulded aslar chancel arch with column shafts. Chancel five sided rafter roof. Broad four centred arch on north side into funeral chapel. South side segmental pointed recess.

Fittings: Fine screen by Caroe 1914 in memory of Charlotte Thomas (died 1912, oak, late medieval style with three bays each side of centre broad opening, deep

covered top extended out to nave walls. Side bays have ogee crocketed arches within pointed arches with elaborate tracery infill to heads, similar infill to two arches over broad centre opening. Panelled coved, vine trail carved top cornice with cresting, and rood cross above. Pulpit: later 19<sup>th</sup> century, oak with traceried panels to five sides, angle column shafts, scroll with inscription in cornice, on big octagonal ashlar base with square squat shaft, moulded cornice and chamfered plinth. Stone steps up. Font, later 19<sup>th</sup> century, ashlar octagonal with four carved panels of Ezekiel Isaiah, Joel and Zachariah. Octagonal stem and moulded base. Oak carved reredos presumably by Caroe, three panel with rich cresting over, between two crested taller side panels. Centre panel is carved with the Supper of Emmaus. Oak alter rails possibly late 19<sup>th</sup> century or by Caroe with pierced quatrefoils in band under top rail. Chancel stalls, possibly late 19<sup>th</sup> century with quatrefoils in band under top rail. Pine later 19<sup>th</sup> century pews. Early Christian stone: Nave north wall 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century incised stone with Celtic cross, ring cross with interlaced terminals and eroded letters to left. In Price chapel, painted wood benefaction boards, earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Memorials: In the funeral chapel a fine set of monuments to the Price and Llewelyn-Price family. On west wall: Mary Price (died 1784) by Benjamin Palmer, marble in grey frame scrolled above. On north wall Mary and Ann Price (died 1782 and 1769) with twin draped urns, white marble. Fine Adamesque marble memorial to Gryfydd Price, barrister (died 1787), with long encomiastic inscription, urn on pedestal above, and husk drop motif on side piers, by King of Bath. On south wall: open pedimented marble memorial to Jane Price (died 1758), large sarcophagus shaped slate plaque to John Llewelyn (died 1817) and a pair to it to Fanny Llewelyn (died 1832) and a plaque between to William Dillwyn (died 1819). In church itself: nave west end Rachel and Thomas Gladbrook (died 1783 and 1784). North wall: fine bolection moulded frame plaque to Lt. J. C. Gladstone Davies ARIBA of Tanyrallt (died 11918), marble plaque of c 1920's to Howell and Thomas families from 1821. South wall plaque to Mary Johns (died 1899). Oval plaque with draped urn to Dr. R Jenkins of Glais (died 1866) by J. Williams of Llandeilo. Chancel north plaque in grey stone frame to Ellen Mathew (died 1771). Brass plaque to Mathew Johns and wife (died 1631), with incised kneeling figures. Chancel south sarcophagus shaped plaque to Elizabeth Walker (died 1856) and fine plaque with urn to Elizabeth Bevan (died 1807) signed H. Wood of Bristol.

Stained Glass: Nave north 2: exceptional window to J. D. Clive Evans (drowned 1961) of Swansea College of Art, made by stained glass department there, under Timothy Lewis: Christ figure dissolved in complex patterns of leading and subtle colours, to suggest water. Nave north 3: Good Shepherd and 2 panels each side, of parable of the sower, 1947 by Burlison and Grylls, old fashioned colours. Nave south 2: Christ and four scenes, later 20<sup>th</sup> century conventional, by A. K. Nicholaston, to Richard Jenkins of Gellyfeddan and children. Chancel north

window, St. Dubricius, 1916 by Kempe & Co. East window c 1920 also by Kempe and Co. the Crucifixion.

***Listed:-***

Graded II\* mainly for the earlier funeral chapel of the Price family and the quality of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century work by W. D. Caroe.

***Reference:-***

J. Newman, Buildings of Wales: Glamorgan, 1935, page 386.

Wyn Jones, Gorseinon, 1922 pages 11 and 12

Unpublished research by G. Orrin Esq.