

Full Report for Listed Buildings



Summary Description of a Listed Buildings

Reference Number	Building Number	Grade	Status	Date of Designation	Date of Amendment
7015		II*	Designated	16/01/1952	04/11/2005

Name of Property	Address
Church of St Mary	

Location

Unitary Authority	Community	Town	Locality	Easting	Northing
Powys	Brecon	Brecon		304525	228525

Street Side	Location
N	Prominently sited at centre of old town.

Description

Broad Class	Period
Religious, Ritual and Funerary	

History

The building was a chapel of ease to the Benedictine Priory, and became the parish church only in 1923 when the Priory was elevated to cathedral status. A scalloped capital in the nave indicates C12 origins. Extensions and enlargements continued until the C14. The S porch is of late C15 date. In the early C16, Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham paid for

the tower (cost £2000). The "Buildings of Wales" calls the tower "the finest in Powys", and remarks on its stylistic links to the Perpendicular towers of Somerset. There were repairs to the church in 1805, and 1831. In 1856/57, TH Wyatt carried out a restoration. In 1889 a new entrance was made from the High Street. From 1928, WD Caroe provided fixtures and fittings.

Exterior

Church with W tower, nave and chancel without division; side aisles with separate gabled roofs. The church is generally grey rubble stone with tiled roofs; the tower is in coursed red sandstone. Chancel window of five cinquefoil lights with transom and 4 lights above transom; each side wall has window of two cinquefoil headed lights. East end of S aisle with window of three trefoil headed lights; doorway to R. South wall of S aisle, from east to west, has restored window of two trefoil headed lights; restored window of three lancet-headed lights; two restored windows of two lancet-headed lights; a small gabled porch with stone arch and wood door with cover strips, studs and large hinges, with a square-headed window of two trefoil-headed lights above; a tall window of two trefoil headed lights and a similar window at west end of S aisle. West end of N aisle with two trefoil-headed lights. From west to east, N elevation of N aisle with gabled porch of 1889, and four windows of two trefoil-headed lights, some of them C19. East end of S aisle with a Decorated window of three lights. The battlemented W tower, of red sandstone, is of 3 stages with octagonal NW stair turret and diagonal buttresses; 3-light Perpendicular windows to upper 2 stages.

Interior

South porch has its C15 roof with arch-braces and quatrefoil ceiling. The church has mid C19 open-truss wagon roofs. Exposed stone walls. Nave and chancel in one, and aisles with arches of varied sizes and periods. One circular pier in N arcade has large scalloped C12 capital. Piscina in S aisle. Early C15 octagonal stoup with clustered shafts. Late C14 altar on W pilaster of S arcade. Near entrance from High Street, a coffin lid with foliate cross.

Reason for designation

Graded II* as medieval church at heart of historic centre of Brecon with particularly fine early C16 tower.

