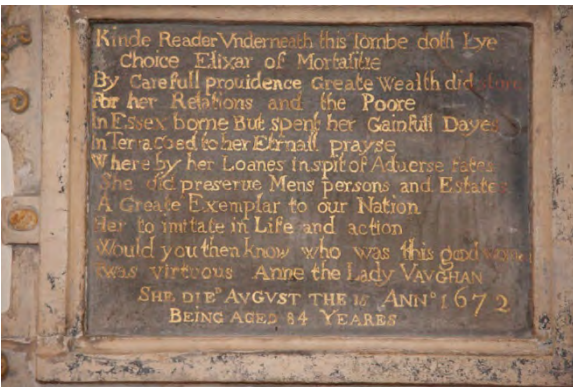


SWVP 2012 trip to Carmarthenshire
by Carol Osmond, accompanied by Judith and Tony Davies
 all photos by Carol Osmond and Tony Davies unless otherwise noted



Exterior view of St. Peter's Church in Carmarthen (left) and the old church gate; St. Peter's holds Lady Anne Vaughan's tomb with those of other 16th and 17th century Carmarthenshire residents



Anne Vaughan's memorial plaque in St. Peter's Church

The plaque reads (in modern use):

Kind Reader Underneath this tomb does lie
 Choice Elixir of Mortality
 By Careful providence Great Wealth did store
 For her Relations and the Poor
 In Essex born But spent her Gainful Days
 In TerraCoed to her Eternal praise
 Where by her Loans in spite of adverse fates
 She did preserve Mens' persons and Estates
 A Great Exemplar to our Nation
 Her to imitate in Life and action
 Would you then know who was this good woman
 was virtuous Anne the Lady Vaughan
 She died August the 15 Anno 1672
 Being Aged 84 Years



Aerial photo on display inside St. Peter's (left) showing the church surrounded by modernity



View out from the transept of St. Peter's Church



View in from the transept of St. Peter's Church



Carol Osmond at Lady Anne Vaughan's tomb



Close up of Lady Anne's statue



Carol Osmond and Judith Davies meet with Carmarthen's Mayor Phillip Grice at St. Peter's Church (left); the sign for St. Cyndeyrn's Church in Llangendeyrn (top right) and an outside view (bottom right)



St. Cyndeyrn's Church graveyard



East view from St. Cyndeyrn's toward Torycoed

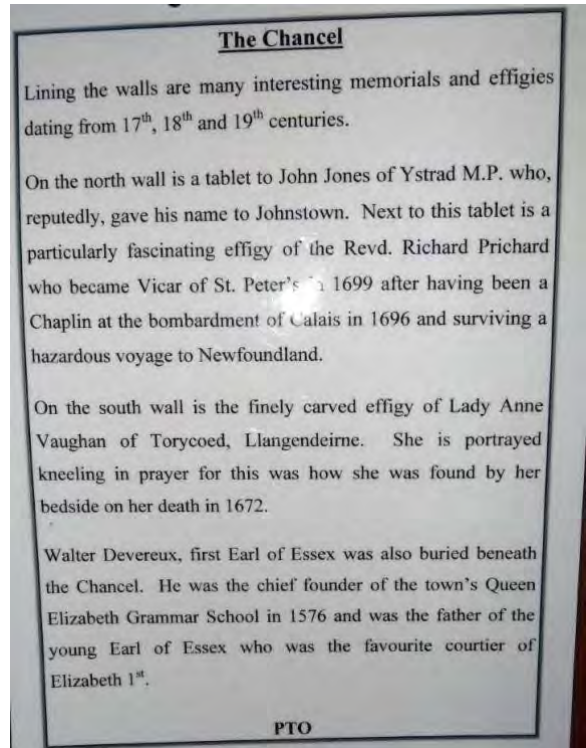


Richard Pritchard (1661-1731) was Vicar of St Peter's from 1699. His previous career was varied. After serving as a master in Dulwich College he became a naval chaplain on board the *New Castle* at the bombardment of Calais (1696). Later that year he transferred to the *Dreadnought* which sailed to Newfoundland guarding a fleet of merchant vessels. Fierce storms nearly destroyed the ship on her return voyage before she reached Kinsale on 29th Nov 1696, after encountering (in the words of her captain) 'the most Violent Weather that ever I saw'.



Lady Ann Vaughan (d.1672) was a native of Colchester who married Sir William Vaughan of Torycoed (1577-1641). Sir William was one of the ablest and most eccentric men of his generation, founding a Welsh colony in Newfoundland in 1617. The reference on the monument to Ann's loans which 'preserved men's estates' is no exaggeration: at the time of her death local gentry families owed her over £1000.

Excerpts from a St. Peter's Church poster gives more information on Richard Pritchard and Lady Vaughan than does the poster inside the Church (right); the complete poster follows next page, from stpeterscarmarthen.org/NoticeSheet/AroundStPeters.pdf



NOTES:
Rev. Pritchard (ap Richard) visited Newfoundland in 1696.
Walter Devereaux, founder of the local Grammar School and father to Robert, the Earl of Essex, is buried beneath the Chancel.

The tombstone of **Charlotte Dalton** (d.1832) was rediscovered during the restoration of 2000/1. This caused some excitement because of speculation that she was the granddaughter of King George III by an unacknowledged marriage to Hannah Lightfoot in 1757. Charlotte was supposedly related to the King through her mother, Catharine Augusta Ritso, believed by some to be the daughter of King George and Hannah, and who married James Dalton in India in 1801. It is a romantic idea, but Hannah would have been 51 when Catharine Ritso was born in 1781, and there is in any case some evidence that Hannah was dead well before Catharine's birth, probably in 1759.



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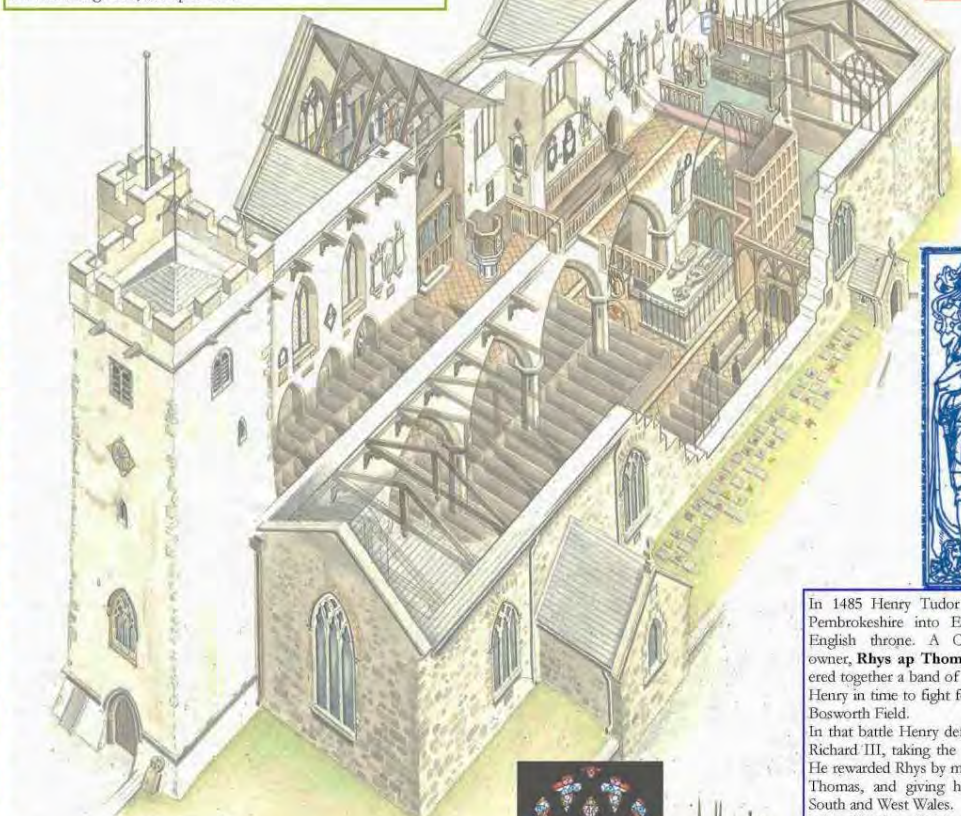


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Uniquely among Welsh parish churches, St Peter's includes the **Consistory Court** for the diocese. This court, presided over by the Chancellor of the diocese, heard matters of ecclesiastical law, including matrimonial and probate matters. Occasionally it dealt with more dramatic business, such as the trial of Bishop Ferrar for heresy in 1555. The Court has been in this church for centuries, but the present furnishings date from 1855.

The **North Transept** or Lady Chapel is sometimes also called the Mayor's Chapel, because before 1836 the Mayor and Corporation sat here for civic services (the pulpit was then facing this chapel, on the South wall). The chapel now houses a number of standards, including the Regimental Colours of the 15th and 24th Battalions of the Welsh Regiment, laid up in 1919.



In 1485 Henry Tudor took an army from Pembrokeshire into England to claim the English throne. A Carmarthenshire landowner, **Rhys ap Thomas of Dynevor**, gathered together a band of his tenants and joined Henry in time to fight for him at the battle of Bosworth Field.

In that battle Henry defeated and killed King Richard III, taking the title King Henry VII. He rewarded Rhys by making him *Sir Rhys ap Thomas*, and giving him valuable lands in South and West Wales.

When Sir Rhys died in 1525 he was buried in the Friary (where Greyfriars now is). In 1538 the tomb of Sir Rhys and of his wife, Lady Janet, was moved to St Peter's and placed at the East end of the church.

Sir Rhys' descendant, Lord Dynevor, rebuilt the tomb in 1866 and in 1886 it was moved to its present position. This monument is the largest and most striking in the church today.

The tower contains a ring of eight bells, of which four are still the original bells cast by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester in 1722. The original bells were each cast with a message inscribed. No.2 has the optimistic 'Prosperity to the Church and Parish. 1722', while No.6 has the more sombre 'I to the Church the living call, and to the grave doe summon all'.

This window by **David Petts** in memory of Dr Nest Crane is the most recent in the church (1982). The text is a reference to Proverbs 11.20



Around St Peter's