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## Dublin Core

### Title

Paterchurch Tower and St Patrick | Tŵr Paterchurch a Sant Padrig

### Subject

Paterchurch Tower

Pembroke Dock

St Patrick

### Creator

Martin Crampin

### Publisher

Ports, Past and Present Project

### Date

2023

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### Relation

<https://perma.cc/6UVX-5SZC>

### Language

English

### Coverage

51.767206169654585, -4.927906395503525

## Curatescape Story Item Type Metadata

### Title (Welsh)

Tŵr Paterchurch a Sant Padrig

### Lede

A medieval tower located behind the dockyard wall in Pembroke Dock provides a link with the patron saint of Ireland. | Mae gan dŵr canoloesol y tu ôl i wal y doc yn Noc Penfro gysylltiad â nawddsant Iwerddon.

### Lede (Welsh)

Mae gan dŵr canoloesol y tu ôl i wal y doc yn Noc Penfro gysylltiad â nawddsant Iwerddon.

### Story

The oldest building in Pembroke Dock is the tower that stands behind the dockyard wall on Fort Road. Although the Anglican church in Pembroke Dock, dedicated to St John the Evangelist, appears to have a tall tower that is similar to other distinctive medieval Pembrokeshire church towers, the church was only built in the 1840s.

The Paterchurch family owned a large estate that stretched from Pennar Point east to Cosheston from around the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries, and the tower was probably attached to a church. A mansion on the site had been reduced to ruins by the nineteenth century. Although the history of the church is obscure, burials nearby indicate that there was a cemetery here.

The occupation of the site by David de Patrickchurch in the early fifteenth century suggests that Patrick was probably the patron of the medieval church. The surviving tower seems to have been used as a lookout post, and fireplaces in the rooms, arranged in three storeys, indicates that the tower was used domestically for many years.

The cult of St Patrick appears to have been quite strong in Pembrokeshire and a tradition that Patrick left Pembrokeshire for Ireland dates back to at least the eleventh century. The writer Rhygyfarch ap Sulien, in his Life of St David, tells us that Patrick was encouraged by an angel to leave in order to make way for St David, even though he would not be born for another thirty years. Geoffrey of Monmouth, in his twelfth-century history of the kings of Britain, stated that Patrick had founded the diocese of Menevia (St Davids) and foretold the birth of St David. His image was found on the shrine of St David at St Davids Cathedral in the late Middle Ages, and has been restored there in a new icon alongside the patrons of the cathedral, St Andrew and St David.

Other churches or chapels dedicated to Patrick were found to the north of Pembrokeshire near Nevern and at Whitesands near St Davids. The church at Whitesands has been lost to the sea although burials have been found there and continuing erosion of the site has necessitated recent archaeological investigation of the chapel site by Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the University of Sheffield.

In Pembroke Dock, Patrick is remembered in the dedication of another church in Pennar, built between 1893–5. Patrick and David are found together in the east window of the Catholic church in Pembroke Dock. The church was built mainly for the Irish Catholic community in the town and the east window was made in 1929 by the artist Paul Woodroffe. Both are shown as bishops, and Patrick has a long beard to emphasise his age. David is a younger figure and has a boy at his side, who is perhaps intended to represent one of his young disciples, although why the boy is naked is unclear.

### **Story (Welsh)**

Yr adeilad hynaf yn Noc Penfro yw'r tŵr sy'n sefyll y tu ôl i wal y doc ar Fort Road. Er ei bod yn ymddangos bod gan yr eglwys Anglicanaidd yn Noc Penfro, a gysegrwyd i Sant Ioan yr Efengylwr, dŵr tal sy'n debyg i dyrau eglwysig nodedig eraill yn Sir Benfro, dim ond yn y 1840au y cafodd yr eglwys ei hadeiladu.

Roedd teulu Paterchurch yn berchnogion ystâd fawr a ymestynnai o Drwyn Pennar tua'r dwyrain hyd at Coshaston o'r drydedd ganrif ar ddeg tan y bymthegfed ganrif yn fras, ac mae'n debyg bod y tŵr ynghlwm wrth eglwys. Roedd plasty ar y safle wedi dadfeilio erbyn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Er nad yw hanes yr eglwys yn eglur, mae claddedigaethau gerllaw yn dangos bod mynwent yma.

Mae'r ffaith bod y safle'n cael ei feddiannu gan David de Patrickchurch ar ddechrau'r bymthegfed ganrif yn awgrymu mai Padrig oedd nawddsant yr eglwys ganoloesol mae'n debyg. Mae'n ymddangos bod y tŵr sydd wedi goroesi wedi'i ddefnyddio fel man gwyllo, ac mae lleoedd tân yn yr ystafelloedd, sydd wedi'u trefnu ar dri llawr, yn dangos bod y tŵr wedi'i ddefnyddio'n ddomestig am flynyddoedd lawer.

Mae'n ymddangos bod cwlt Sant Padrig wedi bod yn eithaf cryf yn Sir Benfro ac mae'r traddodiad bod Padrig wedi gadael Sir Benfro am Iwerddon yn dyddio'n ôl i'r unfed ganrif ar ddeg o leiaf. Mae'r awdur Rhygyfarch ap Sulien, yn Buchedd Dewi, yn dweud bod Padrig wedi cael ei annog gan angel i adael er mwyn gwneud lle i Dewi Sant, er na fyddai hwnnw'n cael ei eni am ddeng mlynedd ar hugain arall. Dywedodd Sieffre o Fynwy, yn ei hanes o'r ddeuddegfed ganrif am frenhinoedd Prydain, fod Padrig wedi sefydlu esgobaeth Mynyw (Tyddewi) ac wedi rhag-weld geni Dewi Sant. Cafwyd hyd i'w ddelwedd ar gysegrfa Dewi Sant yng Nghadeirlan Tyddewi ar ddiwedd yr Oesoedd Canol, ac mae wedi ei hadfer yno mewn eicon newydd ochr yn ochr â nawddsaint yr eglwys gadeiriol, Sant Andreas a Dewi Sant.

Cafwyd hyd i eglwysi neu gapeli eraill a gysegrwyd i Padrig yng ngogledd Sir Benfro ger Nanhyfer ac yn y Traeth Mawr ger Tyddewi. Collwyd yr eglwys ar y Traeth Mawr i'r môr er bod claddedigaethau wedi eu canfod yno ac mae erydiad parhaus y safle yn golygu bod angen ymchwiliad archaeolegol diweddar ar safle'r capel gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed a Phrifysgol Sheffield.

Yn Noc Penfro, mae Padrig yn cael ei gofio mewn cysegriad arall ar eglwys ym Mhennar, a adeiladwyd rhwng 1893–5. Mae Padrig a Dewi i'w gweld gyda'i gilydd yn ffenestr ddwyreiniol yr eglwys Gatholig yn Noc Penfro. Adeiladwyd yr eglwys yn bennaf ar gyfer y gymuned Gatholig Wyddelig yn y dref a gwnaed y ffenestr ddwyreiniol ym 1929 gan yr arlunydd Paul Woodroffe. Dangosir y ddau fel esgobion, ac mae gan Badrig farf laes i bwysleisio ei oedran. Mae Dewi yn ffigur iau ac mae ganddo fachgen wrth ei ochr, sydd efallai wedi'i fwriadu i gynrychioli un o'i ddisgyblion ifanc, er nad yw'n eglur pam mae'r bachgen yn noeth.

## **Related Resources**

Gatehouse Gazetteer, <http://www.gatehouse-gazetteer.info/Welshsites/793.html>, archived at <https://perma.cc/MDR3-5DU9>

St Patrick's Chapel, Whitesands, St Davids, <https://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/wp/discovery/projects/st-patricks-chapel-whitesands-st-davids/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/Q2PA-QQM7>

Natasha de Chroustchhoff, 'Lost Souls in the Sand | Eneidiau Coll yn y Tywod,' Ports, Past and Present, <https://portspastpresent.eu/items/show/678>

Martin Crampin (ed.), Stained Glass in Wales Catalogue, University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, Aberystwyth, 2020, <http://stainedglass.llgc.org.uk/object/4125>, archived at <https://perma.cc/5GAP-JH6C>