

THE EAST WINDOW

In the central panel, the window depicts the Ascension of Christ, with His Mother, Mary, and St John kneeling at His feet. At the right, St Peter is shown, carrying a large key. St James can be seen in the left panel, with the traditional pilgrim staff, hat, cloak, scrip and shell. The church is dedicated to St James the Great, the Apostle, who is also the patron saint of pilgrims. The dedication is not common in West Wales. There are only three others, one being at Walwyns Castle. (In Norman times, the Manor of Dale was a fief of the Lordship of Walwyns Castle). The association of the saint with fishing and scallop shell, may also have made the dedication attractive to our forbears. The window, made by A. Savell & Co. of London, was donated in 1893 by Mrs Lloyd Philipps, of Dale Castle, in memory of her son, Walter, who died in his teens. Decorative details in the window are evocative of contemporary artistic fashion.

ALL SEATS TO BE FREE

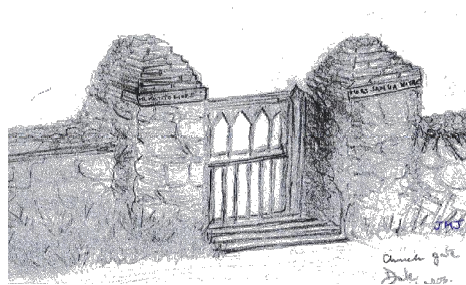
By 1903 the tower had developed more defects, possibly stemming from the earlier lightning strike, and a grant for its repair was obtained from the Incorporated Church Building Society on condition that all seats be free.

A GIFT FROM THE NAVY

The inverted ship's bell in the niche of the former doorway on the south wall was used as a font for the chapel of HMS Harrier, the former Royal Naval Radar and Meteorological Training Station at Kete, two miles to the south of Dale village. It was presented to Dale Church when the base closed in 1960.



THE CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY

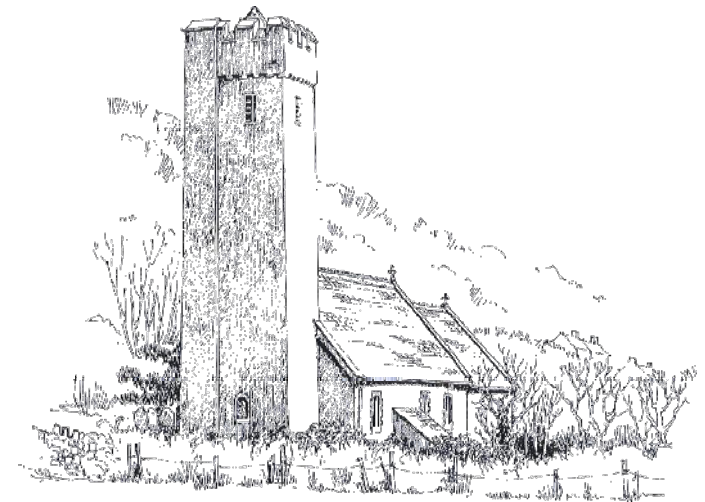


The brick-capped gateway has an interesting inscription, "MEMENTO MORI.....MORS IANUA VITAE". (Remember you are mortal.....death is the gateway to life). The south side of the church yard contains the unmarked graves of the many unknown victims of shipwreck who were washed up on the local beaches. Between 1820 and 1918, more than fifty burials of "unknowns" were recorded in the church register. Twelve of these perished in the Great Storm of November 1868, when there was a multiple shipwreck off Mill Bay. The churchyard had become too small by 1890, and a new cemetery was consecrated a little way to the south. Among its graves and memorials are several honouring those who died serving at local military bases or during the two world wars.

Do take time to look around the church and sit for a while. God is here and with you now: rest in Him and then ask Him to bless you and yours. Please pray for our congregation and community.

Vicar: The Reverend Dennis Wight B. Th.
The Vicarage, 172 Castle Way, Dale SA62 3RN

ST JAMES CHURCH DALE



FOUNDATION AND EARLY HISTORY

Although there may have been an earlier religious settlement here, it is probable that the Anglo Norman Lords of the Manor of Dale, the de Vale family, established a church, on the present site. The de Vales were recorded as landholders in the area from the 12th to late 13th centuries.

The earliest recorded mention of the church is as "Ecclesia de Valle" in 1291, when its status was a "Perpetual Curacy".

At some point in its early history, the church became part of the property of the Augustinian Priory of St Thomas, Haverfordwest, and remained so until the Reformation in 1538, when the Priory and its possessions came into the hands of the crown.