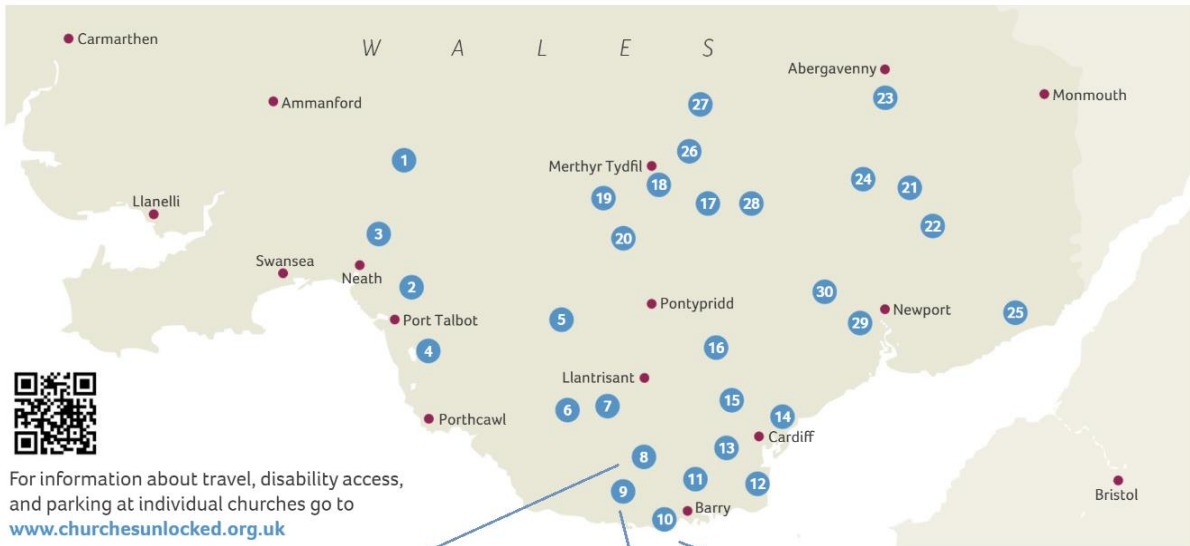


Church Trails

Churches Unlocked provides the opportunity to explore a wide range of buildings, from ancient to modern, hilltop beacons to village hubs, offering monastic simplicity to decorated splendour. Here we explore three gems in the Vale of Glamorgan. All are within 6 miles of each other, accessible by car, bicycle, foot or local transport.



For information about travel, disability access, and parking at individual churches go to www.churchesunlocked.org.uk



8 St Illtyd
Llantrithyd, CF71 7UB

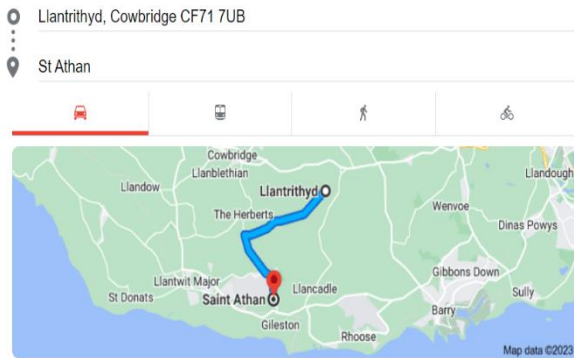


9 St Tathan
St Athan, CF62 4PF

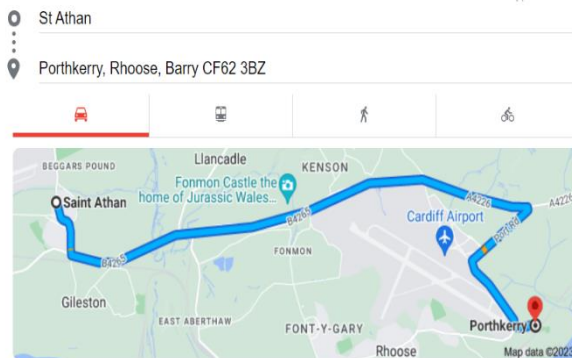


10 St Curig
Porthkerry, CF62 3BZ

The route



12 min (5.4 mi) via St Athan Rd



10 min (5.9 mi) via B4265



We begin our trail at the sleepy little hamlet of Llantrithyd, near Bonvilston, and the 12th century church of St Illtyd. This is, in many ways a quintessential medieval Welsh country church. Nestled in gently sloping fields and the imposing ruins of Llantrithyd Place. Home to many fine 17th and 19th century stained-glass windows, a 14th century rood screen as well as an outstanding renaissance style monument to the Bassett family, wealthy local landowners and patrons of the church, St Illtyd's is a treasure trove of local history and architectural styles.

After experiencing the rich history and peace of this ancient place, we head for our next stop.



Nestled in the heart of the Vale of Glamorgan village that bears its name, St Tathan, set back from the busy high street, and exuding an air of calm and tranquillity, is a fine example of a medieval church that has survived the centuries, largely unaltered. In spite of a Victorian restoration, the oldest parts of the building from the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries bear witness to its history and are home to a fine collection of medieval painted tombs to the de Berkerolles family as well as a highly unusual 13th century tulip-shaped font.

Having wandered around this fine old church, soaking up its rich history and architectural wonders, why not take a break and grab a snack at one of the village's several eateries, before we move on to our third and final destination.

Our final stop on the churches trail is the 13th century St Curig's church in Porthkerry.



Perched high on the clifftops overlooking the once bustling port and treacherous Glamorgan coast, this ancient sanctuary has borne silent witness to the prayers of pilgrims setting out to cross the stormy Bristol Channel and its churchyard the final resting place for many lost at sea. Within are to be found many fine stained-glass windows depicting, amongst others, Saint Curig himself, as well as an interesting 17th century incised grave slab.

And so, as our journey ends, why not take a moment to enjoy the tranquillity and the view from the clifftops before heading back to the hustle and bustle of the modern world.