



# WARREN

## ST MARY'S CHURCH



For more information and history  
please visit our website:  
[warren-church.org.uk](http://warren-church.org.uk)



## Directions to Warren

St Mary's Church, Warren is approximately 6 miles from Pembroke.

From Pembroke take the B4319 towards Castlemartin.

Just after the main entrance to Castlemartin Army Training camp, take the right turn towards Warren. Post Code : SA71 5HS

The Church is open daily,  
entrance is free.  
Donations are very welcome.



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## ST MARY'S CHURCH



An Architectural Gem &  
Unique Symbol of Peace  
& Reconciliation



This beautiful Church dating back to Norman times was in danger of collapsing having been declared redundant by the Church in Wales. It was saved in 1988 by a remarkable alliance of the British and German Armies during the period when German Tank Battalions were the major users of the ranges.

With the help of the Archbishop of Wales and the Welsh Historic Buildings Trust (CADW), the British and German Commandants formed an independent trust which raised about £150,000 for a full restoration so that it could be used by visiting Military units from home and abroad. It was re-opened by the Archbishop of Wales in October 1988.

Architecturally it is a spectacular building in a spectacular setting. Its spire, added by the Admiralty in Victorian times when the church was extensively restored, dominates the Angle Peninsula. Traces of its Norman past are still visible and the sanctuary leading up to the altar is offset slightly to the left, reflecting those images of Christ on the Cross whose head in death has fallen to the left.



The stone memorial to General Leach was carved by Eric Gill and there is an historic Celtic Cross adjacent to the South door.

The 1988 restoration was most sensitively carried out and contains many signs of the international co-operation that brought it about. For example, as the plates on them show, the font cover and altar are made from oak trees growing on the training area of Hohne, Germany, South of Hamburg, donated by the range staff there. Carved on the altar are the coats of arms of the dioceses of St Davids, the Military Chaplaincy of Germany, the badge of the Castlemartin/German Association and the cross of Christianity to complement the wonderful slate top donated by the parishioners of Rhoscrowther.



Perhaps the most special feature is the small chamber organ. This was reportedly owned by the German composer Felix Mendelssohn on visits to East Anglia before it was moved to Pembrokeshire by the Mirehouse family. Spoiled by age and neglect it was restored by Krauss-Maffei Munich, the company that built the tanks for the German Army.



Mendelssohn was greatly attracted to the UK as much of his music shows, so to have this connection to add to the subsequent story of the church's restoration makes this instrument a special symbol of the Anglo-German co-operation that our church represents.

The Trust is completely ecumenical. Anglican, Catholic and Methodist services are held in the church throughout the year supplemented by concerts and lectures. The Bishop of St David's is Patron of the Trust and there is an Anglican officiating Chaplain.

It stands as a unique symbol of reconciliation and co-operation between two former protagonists.

For the day-to-day running of the church we rely totally on voluntary contributions.

**Please help us by calling at this special piece of history in the peace of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and leaving a donation.**