



Chancel Arch Corbel
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Lligwy Marble.

The corbels to the baptistry and chancel arches, the pillars on the reredos and tops of the altar and pulpit are all made from the beautiful dark grey Lligwy marble.

Lord Boston of Hedsor House, who was responsible for the extensive Victorian modifications to the church, provided the marble from the Lligwy Quarries on his estate in the parish of Penmon in Anglesey, North Wales.

The web-site *British History on Line* has the following entry for the parish:-

Penmon The only metallic mineral found is pyrites of iron; but the parish abounds with beautiful grey-coloured marble, clouded with an almost endless variety of shades, and susceptible of a high polish. This marble has been long in estimation for ornamental purposes, and for the

construction of mantel-pieces, tablets, &c., but its excellent qualities as a solid and durable material for buildings of superior strength and importance were only recently brought into notice, by its being selected for the construction of the piers and buttresses of the grand suspension bridge over the Menai strait. Some harbour works at Holyhead, the piers of the Conway suspension bridge, Penrhyn Castle, and many other public and private buildings, have been constructed of marble from the quarries here; and the town-hall of Birmingham, for the erection of which upon a magnificent scale the proprietor generously gave a sufficient quantity of marble, was built with this valuable



material.....

When the Boston family finally left Hedsor Parish, in the late 1930s, they re-located to Penmon and have farmed their Lligwy estate to the present day.

NOTES ON A VISIT TO LLIGWY QUARRY :: OCTOBER 2012

On a recent one day stop-over in Anglesey, on our way to Ireland, Meriel and I decided to try to locate the *Lligwy Quarries*, where all the marble in St Nicholas' came from. The dis-used quarry was not marked on our map but in the right area (Lligwy is a tiny hamlet around a minor cross-roads) we found someone who was able to direct us to it – slight problems - this quarry was not disused, was called *Aber Quarry* and was certainly for limestone rather than marble. An added difficulty was that it was the quarry equivalent of the Marie Celeste. Not a person in sight and yet some of the diesel engines on large and modern machines were running. However, this problem was soon solved. There is a smaller and hitherto unseen



quarry on the other side of the lane, complete with huts and 4 or 5 quarrymen having their tea break. But everything here also said *limestone* and even the first young quarryman that we spoke to said *just limestone*; however the oldest of the group reminded him of the old workings, which were for marble, and yes it used to be called *Lligwy Quarry*. We were then taken to see all that remained. The marble had been quarried in a deep pit-quarry which had been backfilled with rubble as soon as the seam was worked out to give access to the higher levels of excellent quality limestone; all that now remains of the marble workings is a small pond in a corner of the present limestone quarry.

John Rosewarne

