



Ein Treftadaeth
Our Heritage



FOLLOW THE STORY: Discover other sites of interest in this area by visiting the wonderful ruins of **Castell y Bere** near Abergynolwyn or take a ride on the **Talyllyn Railway**.

Bibles and Monasteries

A 40 mile circular drive from the Quaker Town of Dolgellau past churches ancient and modern

Duration: 1 day

This itinerary circles the wonderful mountain of Cader Idris. If you spend a night on this mountain it is said that you will wake up either a poet or mad! We start in **Dolgellau (1)** where a thriving community of Quakers was established following a visit by George Fox in 1657. Many former Quaker homes survive in the area. A valuable woollen industry, specialising in flannel, flourished here in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Next visit **Cymer Abbey (2)**, the Cistercian abbey founded in 1198-9 under the patronage of Maredudd ap Cynan, a grandson of Owain Gwynedd. Leave Dolgellau by the A470 eastwards taking the turning to Brithdir where, on the right hand side, you'll find the hidden gem of **St Mark's Church (3)**, one of the finest, and most complete, 'Arts and Crafts' churches in Wales. Built in the 1890s, the church is now redundant and in the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches.

Returning to the main road follow signs for Machynlleth and go past Talyllyn to Abergynolwyn. From here it's only a short drive past Castell y Bere to the lovely church at **Llanfihangel y Pennant (4)**. Here there is an exhibition that

tells the story of Mary Jones, a girl who was born in a neighbouring cottage in 1784. She saved for six years to buy a Bible and walked 25 miles barefoot to purchase it from Thomas Charles of Bala - a journey that inspired the formation of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Return to the main road and back to Dolgellau via the A493.



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