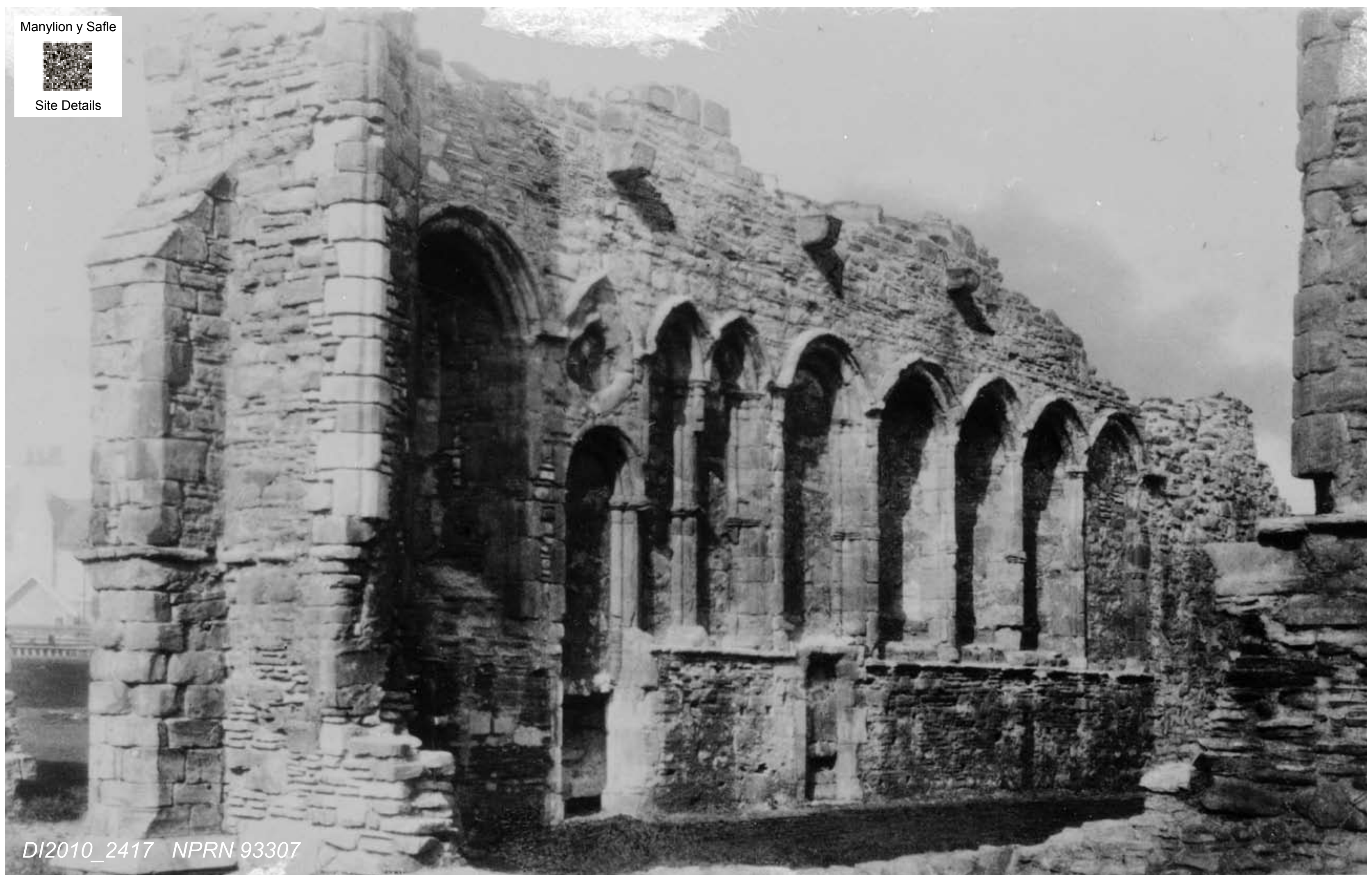
Eglwys Leicester: Eglwys Robert Dudley

St Peter's: Robert Dudley's Church



Uchod: Llun a dynnwyd ym 1949 o'r arcêd pengaead ym mhen dwyreiniol Eglwys Leicester.

Above: A view of the blind arcading at the east end of Leicester's Church, taken in 1949.

The church started by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, in 1578 was the largest in Britain built between the Reformation and the building of St Paul's Cathedral. As part of his ambitious plans for the town, it was envisaged that St David's would replace St Asaph's as the cathedral for the Bishop of North Wales.

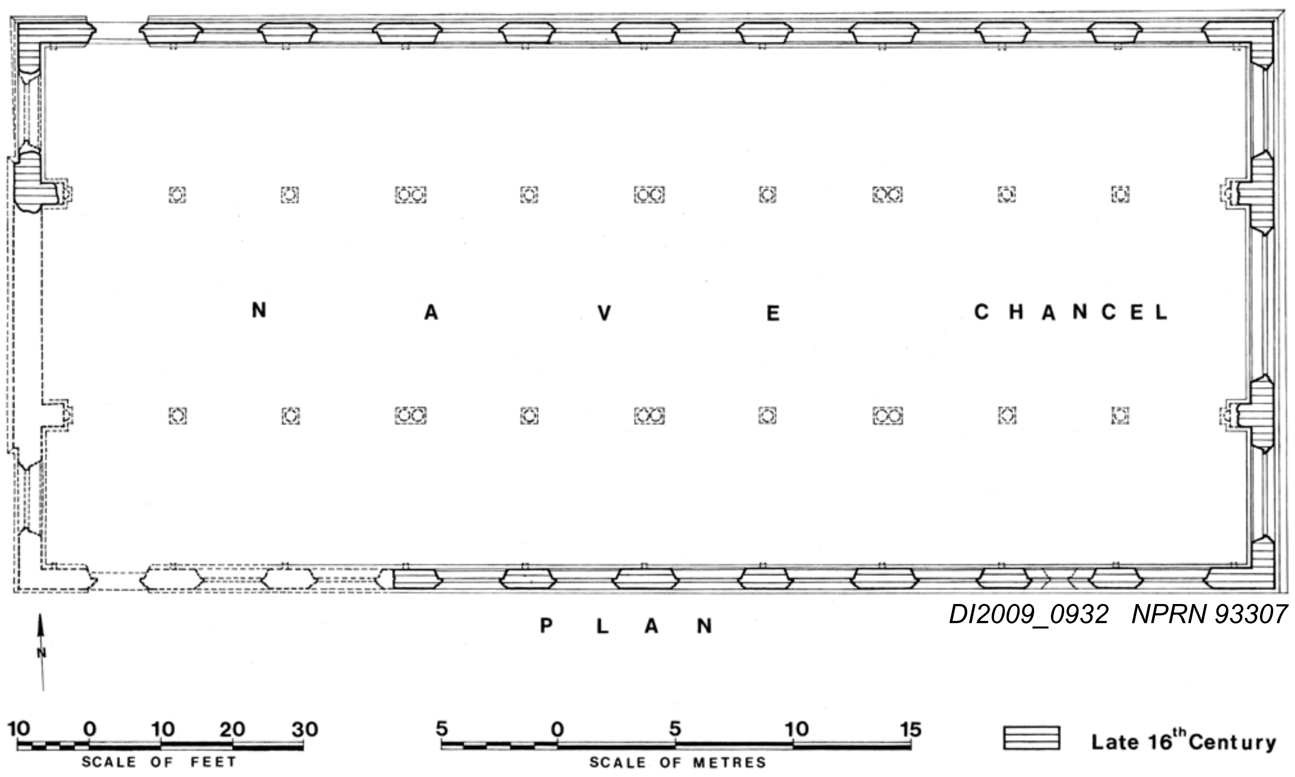
A leading figure in the Puritan reform movement, Dudley designed St Peters to take into account the changing nature of Protestant services, in which the preaching of the word, and therefore the pulpit, formed the main focus. A large open hall, it had no structural division between the nave and the chancel, allowing the altar to be moved into the end of the nave for communion, and maximising the view of the preacher for the congregation.

Work on the church was suspended in 1584 due to lack of funds, brought about by Dudley's expensive involvement in the ongoing wars in Ireland and his growing unpopularity in the town. Work was abandoned after his death in 1588, and much of the stone was removed for building projects elsewhere in the town.

Dechreuodd Robert Dudley, Iarll Caerlŷr, godi'r eglwys ym 1578 a hi oedd yr eglwys fwyaf a godwyd ym Mhrydain rhwng y Diwygiad Protestannaidd a chodi Eglwys Gadeiriol St Paul. Fel rhan o gynlluniau uchelgeisiol Dudley ar gyfer y dref, rhagwelwyd y byddai'r eglwys, a gysegrwyd i Ddewi Sant, yn disodli Eglwys Llanelwy yn eglwys gadeiriol Gogledd Cymru.

Ac yntau'n ffigur blaenllaw yn y mudiad diwygio Piwritanaidd, bwriadai Dudley i'r eglwys gymryd i ystyriaeth y newid yn natur gwasanaethau Protestannaidd a dyrchafu pregethu'r gair, ac felly'r pulpud, yn brif ganolbwynt sylw. Gan fod yr adeilad yn neuadd fawr agored, doedd dim rhaniad ynddo rhwng y corff a'r gangell. Bu hynny'n fodd i symud yr allor i ben pellaf corff yr eglwys ar gyfer y cymundeb a chynyddu hyd yr eithaf y gyfran o'r gynulleidfa a allai weld y pregethwr.

Ataliwyd y gwaith ar yr eglwys ym 1584 oherwydd diffyg arian yn sgil gwariant Dudley ar y rhyfela cyson yn Iwerddon a'i amhoblogrwydd cynyddol ef yn y dref. Rhoddwyd y gorau i'r gwaith ar ôl iddo farw ym 1588, a defnyddiwyd llawer o'r cerrig i godi adeiladau mewn mannau eraill yn y dref.



Uchod: Cynllun yr eglwys. Neuadd â 10 bae oedd hi ac yr oedd bwâu clasurol mawr yn gwahanu'r eiliau a chorff yr eglwys.

Above: A plan of the church. The church was a hall of 10 bays, with large classical arches separating the aisles from the nave.

Uchod: Llun cynnar o Eglwys Leicester, Dinbych.

Above: Early view of Leicester's Church, Denbigh.

De: Mae Eglwys Leicester (canol chwith) y tu mewn i furiau tref ganoloesol Dinbych ac yn ymyl y castell a'r farchnad.

Right:St Peter's (centre left) sits within the medieval town walls of Old Denbigh, close to the castle and the market place.

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