

The original church on this site was rebuilt in 1867 and this survey covers the period up to that date.

Christianity came to Gower from Ireland centuries before the Norman Conquest and it is to the early Celtic Saints such as Cenydd and Teilo that many Gower Churches were dedicated. But the traditional founder of Reynoldston Church was Reginald or Reynald de Breos who also gave his name to the village. The de Breos family were Normans. They acquired the Lordship of Gower from King John in about the year 1200. Reginald died in 1228 so if tradition is correct the original Church was erected in the early years of the 13th Century. By this time Gower had been under Norman rule for more than 100 years and the southern and western parts of the peninsula were peopled largely by English settlers.

The Dedication to St George

St George the Martyr to whom the Church is dedicated is believed to have been born in Cappadocia (eastern Turkey). According to tradition he served in the Roman Army and for his support of the Christian faith was put to death by the Emperor Diocletian in about 300AD.

The story of the slaying of the dragon, symbolising the triumph of good over evil, is a legend, which became connected with St George in early times. The Saint's fame in western Europe dates from the time of the Crusades. At the end of the 12th Century Richard 1 of England put himself and his army in Palestine under the protection of the Saint.

In 1222 St George's Day, April 23rd, was declared a public holiday in Britain. St George became the symbolic figure of the Christian soldier, the upholder of Chivalry and the Champion of the weak and oppressed.