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Medieval wall paintings uncovered in Llancarfan, Wales

Rare 15th-century paintings thought to be “beyond compare” are being uncovered on the walls of St. Cadoc’s Church of Llancarfan in the Vale of Glamorgan. The medieval artwork features St George and the Dragon, said to be one of the best examples of its kind in the UK, and a mural depicting Death and the Gallant, which is the only one of its kind found in Wales.

Sam Smith, the restoration committee’s chairman, said it had always been suspected that the walls’ lime wash hid something - now restorers are rediscovering images that have lain hidden under 21 layers of lime wash for 460 years, since the Reformation. Smith said the reason why the church may have had such elaborate artwork was because of its importance in the 15th century: “[St. Cadoc’s] was the church opposite the monastery. It [was] likely considered to be the local church in the area, that’s why they decorated it in this way.” He added that two wealthy families in the area were likely to have paid for the painter, probably explaining why their crests are in the designs. Professional conservators have been slowly revealing the art, using scalpels and spatulas to remove the layers of lime wash and injecting slaked lime putty behind the paintings to secure them for future display.

Read more at: http://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2013/12/medieval-wall-paintings-uncovered-in.html#.U8_eibHw_cs