

# £285k historic chapel revamp

AN historic chapel has been awarded £285,000 in grant funding for renovation, meaning it can finally be restored to its former glory.

Yr Hen Gapel in Llanfynydd, near Llandysul was first built in 1733 and was the first Arminian Chapel built in Wales.

The chapel is known as "the mother church of Unitarianism in Wales" and the Ceredigion Faith Trail describes it

as one of the most important chapels in Welsh religious history.

However, the two story building has fallen into disrepair and is no longer open to the public. The chapel opens one day a year for a special service on Christmas Eve.

The chapel was integral in the growth of the Unitarian movement across Ceredigion and the Teifi Valley, in what became known as the Smolyn

Du (Welsh for Black Spot).

The Smolyn Du was a large area, impenetrable for Methodists during the Great Revival, and at its heart was yr Hen Gapel.

The congregation was evicted from the chapel in 1876 by the landowner, John Davies Lloyd. He chained the chapel gates shut and worshippers were forced to build a new chapel nearby. Last month the chapel received

£84,000 from the Heritage Lottery, and the money has now raised to £285,000 thanks to a number of grants.

The money will be used to renovate the building, which is in desperate need of repair.

The funding includes £67,451 for the Digital Tourism Framework programme and £10,000 from Llandysul Council, which was described as integral in achieving further funding.