

# Historic chapel could be taken over by a trust

**HEOL Dwr Chapel in Carmarthen could be taken over by a trust dedicated to safeguarding historic religious buildings in Wales.**

The chapel in Water Street faces closure due to a dwindling congregation and rising running costs.

Addoldai Cymru (Welsh Religious Buildings Trust) takes into ownership redundant chapels that are historically and architecturally significant to the story of chapel building and Nonconformity in Wales.

And those that are valuable to their local communities.

It's chairman David Lloyd has confirmed efforts are under way to take the chapel from Presbyterian ownership and safeguard its future.

"We would be looking at least six months to sort everything out but we are eager to see the

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**Huw Edwards.**

chapel saved and used by the community.

"That could be through worship or as a community venue for events and concerts.

"There are a wide range of uses it can be put to."

He added: "The important thing is that it is preserved and

remains part of the town.

"We have done it with other buildings across Wales."

Last week Carmarthenshire-born broadcaster Huw Edwards stepped in last week and argued the town should do all it can to save the chapel.

Mr Edwards, writing for the Journal said: "There are very few chapels of its size and quality left in Wales. Are the people of Carmarthen really prepared to see a cultural asset of this character and status disappear?"

"For my part, I don't even accept that the end of the cause is inevitable."

The congregation of Heol Dwr came together in the 1740s, led by Peter Williams — who produced the first Bible printed in Wales at a printer in Llanmas Street — and the current building dates from 1813.

With it's future in jeopardy, the Addoldai Cymru visited the



**Water Street Chapel (Heol Dwr) which is facing closure at the end of the year unless it can be saved.**

chapel and spoke to its only two remaining elders, deacons Martha Thomas and Molly Thomas.

Mr Lloyd praised them for diligently looking after the

chapel under such a difficult climate.

"They both care very much about the chapel and that's evident in their tireless efforts. We as Addoldai

Cymru want to ensure Heol Dwr is not lost and the coming months will see us speak further to the Presbyterians over taking it over."