## New climbing centre plans at town's church given approval

A CLIMBING centre will IAN LEWIS bring a Carmarthen church back into use for the first time in almost two decades.

Planning permission has been given for St David's Ghurch to be used as a dedicated climbing attraction - the first of its kind in the town.

Carmarthenshire Coun-

Pembrokeshire-based firm Overhang Tenby Climbing Centre is behind the scheme.

A cafe will also form part of the project along with parking plus two disabled spaces and bicycle storage.

A mezzanine level is also part of the plans.

The church in Picton cil approved the plans and Terrace, which is a grade it means the church will two listed building, has be open to the public once been closed since 2003 after a storm saw its roof partially cave in and subsequent repair costs spiral for the then-owners, Church In Wales.

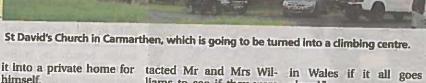
with former owner Aaron Hill, a North Wales propdeveloper bought it from Church in

Wales for just £1.

A crowdfunding bid to raise £30,000 towards the project was set up by Tenby Overhang Climbing Centre owners John and Helena Williams, but plans did not come to fruition and in January last year Mr Hill sold the church, walking away by Overhang Tenby for a venture "could be one of from his dream of turning climbing centre and con-

himself

Plans for a climbing centre were first drawn up three years ago by Overhang Tenby and talks held



The new church owner, still interested in opening John Trowbridge, from at the church. Burry Port, then read Mr Trowbridge said about the previous plans back in January that the by Overhang Tenby for a venture "could be one of

liams to see if they were ahead."

Mr and Mrs Williams have since been hard at work in recent months cleaning up the church and doing repairs.

The couple posted a time of going to press.

Picture: Robert Me

granting of planning per

them for comment bu

they had not replied at the

The Journal contacted



mission.