

A campaign has been launched to save Llandyfeisant Church in Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo, from ruin.

# Fundraisers hold concert to save medieval church

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save a medieval Towy Valley church from ruin are holding a fundraising concert next month.

Llandyfeisant Church is tucked away in Castle Woods within Dinefwr Park in Llandeilo, but has not seen services held there since 1961.

Dating back to pre-Christian times, the church at the beauty spot was last used as a visitor centre in the 1980s by the Welsh Wildlife Trust for the nearby nature reserve.

Initial talks were held in 2011 by the trust to see if the church could be brought back into use, but ultimately nothing happened.

For just over a year now fresh efforts from campaigners have been underway to save the church for future generations and possibly opened as a visitor centre again.

Ownership by the

IAN LEWIS

Church In Wales up until 2009 was on a long term lease basis to The Welsh Wildlife Trust.

That lease expired 10 years ago and since then the church has been kept on by The Welsh Wildlife Trust - this is on a rolling basis until its future can be determined.

Beth Davies, who lives in Llanwrda, is behind the campaign named Friends of Llandyfeisant Church.

Work done over the past year has seen some repairs and undergrowth cleared, as well as an open day for the public to see what is being done.

Next up is a fundraising concert on October 12 at Newton House on the Dinefwr Park estate.

Mrs Davies said: "I am arranging the concert to raise funds to repair the section of floor so we can then

open the doors to hold events at Llandyfeisant Church."

Performing at the concert will be choir Friendz Aloud and singer / songwriter Begw.

There will also be an auction and raffle with prizes donated from local businesses.

Mrs Davies said: "When I started the campaign of saving Llandyfeisant last summer by firstly doing a petition and then the Facebook group, it soon became apparent just how many people wanted to see Llandyfeisant repaired and integrated back into our community once more."

"The Facebook group now has well over 600 members."

She added: "We recently held a very successful open day at the church allowing people to come and see the interior of the church which is in a remark-

able condition overall, however we do have some repair work to do on a section of the floor.

"We had approximately 350 members of the public, many local but some from as far afield as Germany, who were touring the area."

As for formulating ongoing improvement works for the church, Mrs Davies added: "We had an ideas board enabling people to share ideas about what they would like to see Llandyfeisant used for in the future and we have formed a committee of proactive individuals who now meet regularly to look at ways of bringing the church back to life again."

■ Tickets for the concert, which starts at 6.30pm are available from Beth Davies on 07788 810464 or by contacting Andrew Gardener, a committee member on 07759 272668.