

Fresh efforts are under way to save medieval church from ruin

EFFORTS are under way to save a medieval church from ruin in the heart of Carmarthenshire's Dinefwr Park.

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

Dating back to pre-

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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.

Now fresh efforts from campaigners want to see the church saved for future generations and possibly opened as a visitor centre again.

Beth Davies, who lives in Llanwrda, has launched a petition and Facebook group aimed at taking action.

She said: "It's an enchanting medieval church that we don't want to see lost to overgrowth or falling down. There is rot in the roof that needs looking at and I want to bring organisations together to discuss a way forward and see what can be done."

"I decided to set up a group Friends of Llandyfeisant Church Dinefwr Park Llandello to bring this, sadly forgotten little church dating back to medieval times back on the map, so to speak."

"It is owned by The Church in Wales and leased to The Welsh Wildlife Trust, who

own the land it is situated upon - Castle Woods, which is part of The Dinefwr Estate.

"A portion of The Dinefwr Estate is owned by The National Trust and the last Lord Dinefwr was buried in the graveyard of the church fairly recently in 2012 as well as many of the servants who worked at Newton House which is also owned by The National Trust."

"Sadly Llandyfeisant Church is in dire need of serious restoration work and to date there is no forthcoming funding."

Ownership by the Church in Wales up until 2009 was on a long term lease basis to The Welsh Wildlife Trust.

That lease expired nine 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.

Mrs Davies said: "Sadly, it's future hasn't been decided, but the National Trust

is supportive of the cause to save the church."

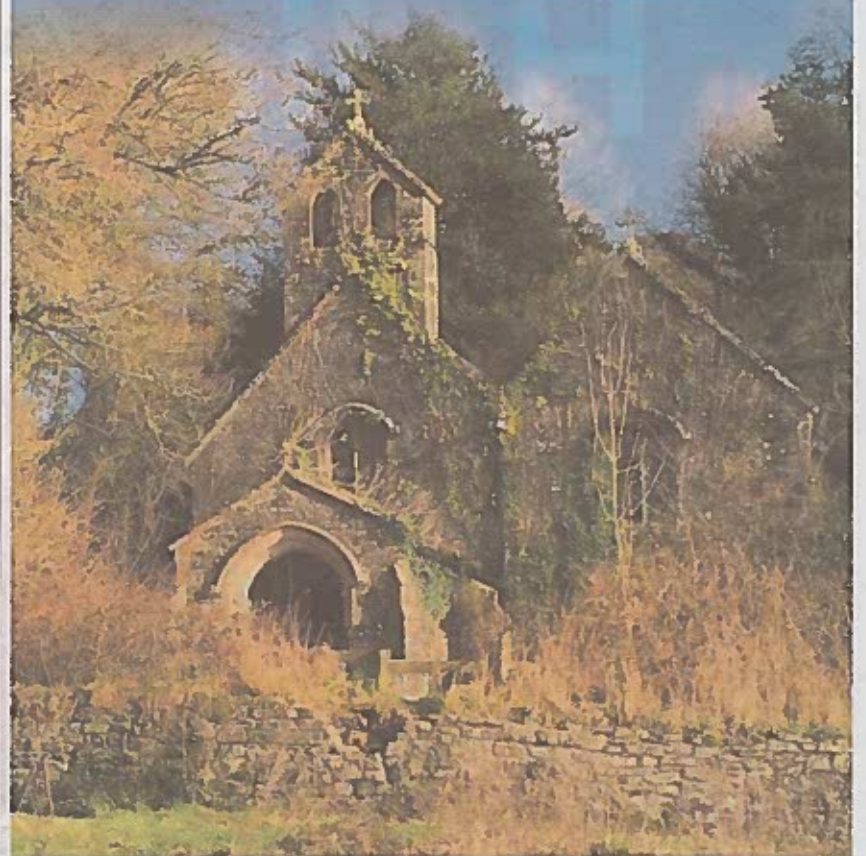
"I am planning a meeting between the Church in Wales, Welsh Wildlife Trust and National Trust to see if the church can be saved and accessed again by the public."

"The petition's aim is to draw public awareness so that organisations who may be able to supply funding for restoration work can see there is enough public interest in saving the church from ruin. We want future generations to enjoy it."

A private meeting is expected to be held on September 11 to discuss ideas for the church and a public meeting could then be scheduled at a later date.

The petition can be signed at Llandello Library and other businesses in the town.

The Facebook group can be found by searching for Friends of Llandyfeisant Church Dinefwr Park Llandello.



Llandyfeisant Church in Dinefwr Park, Llandello. A campaign has been launched to save the medieval church from ruin.