

Future of valuable Johnes church secured thanks to £10,000 grant

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THE future of a Cwmystwyth church has been secured after it received a £10,000 grant for urgent re-roofing works.

Hafod Church, or Eglwys Newydd, which is dedicated to St Michael and All Angels, has been awarded a National Churches Trust Repair Grant, one of 70 churches and chapels in England, Wales and Scotland set to benefit from rescue funding totalling £522,241 from the trust.

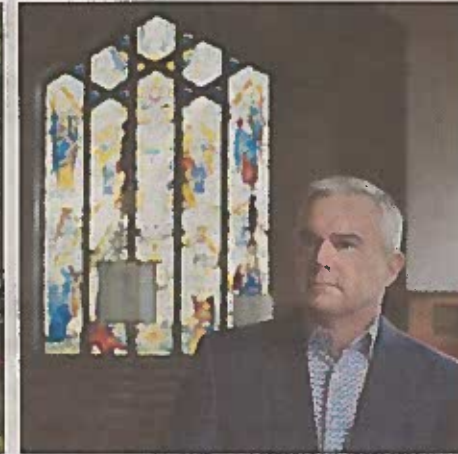
The church said it was "most grateful" for the financial support, which will allow it to carry out urgent re-roofing works in order to make the building structurally secure and weathertight.

It will ensure the church's valuable heritage, such as the stained and painted glass windows, lead work, and its limed oak timber roof and furnishings, will be conserved.

Huw Edwards, the broadcaster and journalist who is vice-president of the trust, said: "I'm delighted that



Above: Hafod Church, which has been awarded a vital grant for restoration work; above, right: broadcaster Huw Edwards, who has welcomed the news



St Michael and All Angels, Cwmystwyth is to be saved for the future with the help of a £10,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant.

"This will ensure that the church remains open and welcoming to the

many people who visit the area each year."

Hafod Church receives thousands of visitors, whether they are seeking their genealogy, interested in the heritage of the area, or walkers

exploring the Hafod Estate.

A spokesman for the church said: "Members and the local community of Eglwys Newydd/Hafod Church, Cwmystwyth, are most grateful for the generous support of the National

Churches Trust.

"This will enable our historical and much-loved church, which is situated within the beautiful Cambrian Mountains, to continue its services of worship and to welcome the many visitors who appreciate the heritage, both of paramount importance to the wellbeing of the local and wider community."

Thomas Johnes inherited the Hafod Estate in 1790 and built a mansion.

In 1803, Johnes commissioned James Wyatt to design an impressive new Gothic-style church with many unusual features, such as the 'east' window to face south-west, with sixteenth century Flemish stained glass brought over from the Low Countries.

Tragically, in April 1932, a fire destroyed much of the internal fittings and roof.

The restoration work was overseen by W D Caroe, who designed the new barrel-shaped limed-oak roof, and the furnishings and fittings which feature around some of the original treasures.