



Welsh Religious Buildings Trust



Safeguarding religious built heritage in Wales

Designed for preaching, Welsh chapels have been at once powerhouses of belief and learning, places of social conscience and action. They provide a unique heritage, both cultural and historical as well as religious. As a result of falling attendance at public worship, many of these important historic religious buildings are now becoming redundant. Many are already vulnerable from lack of maintenance, but, once redundant, they often deteriorate rapidly. Their demolition or insensitive conversion represents an irretrievable loss of part of our national heritage.



Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Aberdare

The Welsh Religious Buildings Trust aims to:

- Acquire some of the best examples of redundant Welsh religious buildings (except Church in Wales)
- Preserve and protect their fabric
- Safeguard them for the benefit of the local community and the nation
- Ensure greatest possible public access
- Raise awareness of the religious built heritage of Wales
- Wherever possible, provide advice and information to those caring for the religious built heritage of Wales

Focal points

Our historic religious buildings are interwoven into both the rural and urban landscape of Wales, and often reflect the expertise of craftsmen and architects. They symbolise the everyday life of generations of Welsh people, from a time when these buildings were the focal point of social as well as religious activities.



A unique heritage

By accepting into ownership some of the best examples of religious buildings that have become redundant and by repairing and preserving them, we will help to ensure that future generations will be able to appreciate these examples of our unique heritage.

The buildings

We shall ensure that the Trust's buildings are as open and accessible to as many as possible so that they can be enjoyed, understood and appreciated by the public. We will also work closely with the local community wherever possible, to enable the use of the buildings for community events or occasional worship.



Most of the buildings coming into our ownership are in poor condition and large sums of money need to be raised for each building for necessary repairs. To care for its buildings the Trust receives grant aid from a variety of sources including Cadw, the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Architectural Heritage Fund, local authorities, The Pilgrim Trust and other charitable bodies, as well as donations from businesses and private individuals. ■

The Welsh Religious Buildings Trust is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. Its work is directed by the trustees and is enabled by a full-time trust manager and part-time administrative assistant employed by the Trust. Advice and expertise is sought from various individuals and organisations.

The Trust receives grant aid from Cadw to support a significant part of its day-to-day running costs.



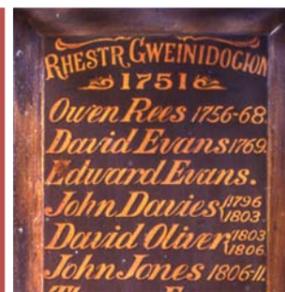
For further information on the Trust, or if you would like to make a donation, please contact the:

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Registered in Wales

*Cover picture: Libanus, Llansadwrn, Carmarthenshire
Pictures of acanthus leaf, ceiling decoration and memorial: Hen Dŷ Cwrdd*



Part of roll of ministers, Hen Dŷ Cwrdd



Window, Libanus



Beili Du Chapel, Sennybridge



Decorated panel, Libanus



Interior, towards front, Libanus