



## St Peter's Church Llanwenarth Citra

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The village hall at Llanwenarth was built in the 1930s to serve the community of Llanwenarth Citra. The hall is situated on the A40 just beyond Nevill Hall Hospital and serves the very spread-out rural community extending from the River Usk to the other side of the Sugarloaf. It is a very simple hall. The main hall area is approximately 10m x 20m, at the end of which is a stage. Behind the stage there is a kitchen and two toilets, one of which is a disabled toilet.

The hall has been the only public meeting point for the whole area of Llanwenarth Citra for many decades. It is regularly used by a diverse number of groups. We have the Abergavenny Veteran Table Tennis Club at one end of the age spectrum, and several youth acting and music groups at the other. We are a regular rehearsal venue for AAODS and the Abergavenny Pantomime Company. It is the regular meeting point for the Sugarloaf Commoners Association, and is becoming increasingly popular for children's birthday parties and other celebrations. It has also been the Polling Station for the area of Llanwenarth for many years.

This is a significant change from a few years ago, when the Hall was only in sporadic use. We are already 80% booked in the evenings throughout 2024 and well into 2025. This means that the Village Hall has gone from being supported by St Peter's Church as a community asset, run at a loss, to paying its way. This has enabled us, with the help of many community fundraising events and successful grant applications, to improve the facilities at the Hall.

A more efficient heating system has been installed, and the old Crittall metal framed windows have all been replaced with modern double-glazed units. All the cavity walls have been insulated, as has the central roof space. The hall was completely redecorated 3 years ago, and this year we have replaced the old kitchen with a modern, much more usable kitchen, and replaced all the old lighting with much more efficient low energy lighting.

Unfortunately, just as the kitchen was being completed, we noticed that the ceiling was being discoloured by mould. We arranged for a contractor to remove the moss which was growing on the roof, in the hopes of remedying the problem. He reported that the issue was more with the roof, as the old asbestos fibre slates were becoming denatured and porous. This means that the building is no longer watertight, and roof urgently needs to be replaced.

We have had 3 quotations for repairs / replacements ranging from £17,300 to £24,00. We have an estimate of £2,500 for additional insulation during the construction of a new roof, and there is an as-yet unknown sum for potential repair of the timber roof structure, depending on what we find when the old roof has been removed. We would like the roof to be strong enough to support solar panels at a later date to improve its sustainability.

Having recently spent approximately £12,000 on the new kitchen, our funds are severely depleted. Unfortunately, this is work which needs to be done very quickly. If delayed the integral structure of the roof and internal decoration will further deteriorate. We are therefore exploring any and all avenues for grant funding, and hope that the council may be able to offer us help in meeting the costs of this urgent and essential work. We are exploring all possible sources of help with funding though sources do appear quite limited.

This is an extremely important facility for the community and many local groups. We are running this hall as volunteers, and have worked hard to make the hall a community asset, putting any profits we do make back into the hall, to improve it for future users. We would be extremely grateful for any monetary assistance that the council can offer us.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Hassall', written in a cursive style.

David Hassall