

Historic Cardiff chapel becomes 'cornerstone' of community once again

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Tywysog Charles yn cwrdd â phlant ysgol tuallan i Cornerstone

Thanks to a £1.2million grant from National Lottery players, a 150-year-old former chapel in the centre of Cardiff has been given a new lease of life.

Now known as Cornerstone, the redeveloped chapel in the heart of the Welsh capital city was officially opened by HRH The Prince of Wales.

For the community

During his visit, The Prince had chance to meet members of the local community who will use the new facilities, as well as people involved in the chapel's restoration.

Now hosting a café run by award-winning caterers - creating several full and part-time jobs - Cornerstone will also become home to the Royal National Institute for the Blind as the charity develops the external gardens to be used as a dog training facility.

A new purpose

Originally built in 1855, the building was used for a range of purposes over the years. Most recently it was Welsh speaking independent chapel, Ebeneser, which at its peak was home to a thriving congregation of over 250 members. However as parishioners dwindled, the need for increasing repairs and maintenance to the building became apparent.

Now, thanks to extensive redevelopment made possible by HLF and National Lottery players, the Grade II listed chapel can again play a key role in its local community as a useful, profitable space fulfilling a variety of needs.

Keeping heritage safe

Many of the chapel's original elements are featured in the new renovation, including stained glass windows, high vaulted ceilings and gallery space, all retaining the chapel's rich historical links within a functional, beautiful space.

The history of Ebeneser Chapel will also be preserved through the memories and stories of its former congregation, which after being collected by students and volunteers will be accessible via interactive displays in Cornerstone itself and on the web.

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