

The New Times

December 2015 / January 2016

The parish magazine of Penrhos, Llanvapley, Llantilio
Crossenny and Llanvetherine



Photo by daiphoto

**"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"**

Christmas 2015

From The Vicarage

‘And man at war with man hears not the love-song that they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.’

As I write, the world seems to be a very scary and frightening place. People live in fear of what will happen next, and we suddenly realise how much we have taken for granted our peaceful, even boring routines.

It is a time when many are questioning the place of God in society.

Yet God hasn't chosen to be in the centre of it all. He chose to come to us in the most vulnerable way possible, as a new born baby, in a far away barn, among people whom nobody much cared for.

Perhaps not the most savvy director of communications! And yet this child speaks to our hearts, and invites us to take him in our arms and hold him close.

As Christmas approaches let us recapture the simplicity of this holy time, and remember that our God appears in the most unlikely of places, to the most unsuspecting people, and in the most disarming of ways.

God of good news, as we celebrate the worldwide tidings of your birth, remind us that the great joy promised to all people starts with those who need it most, in places where they hide. Remind us, with all our seasonal cheer and tinsel, that some people are left out in the cold; that it is there, with them, that you are being born into the world again; that it is there, through them, that you will change the world.

God of good news, help us to find you again in the hidden place.
Amen.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas.
With every blessing,

Heidi

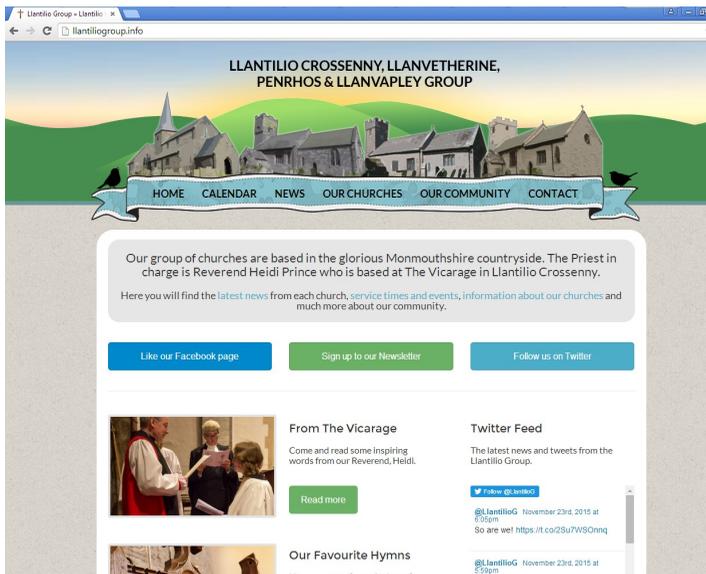
Llantilio Vicarage

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Our New Church Website

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Andy Meek and Miss Jessica Teague of GMP Webdesign for designing a fabulous new website for our group of parishes. Andy generously offered their skill and expertise to enable us to reach out to as many people as possible. Take a look at the fruits of their labour at:

www.llantiliogroup.info My thanks also to Mr. Les Taylor who has offered to manage the website for us. I am extremely grateful to all of them for using their skill, knowledge and time in this way.



Congratulations to Mr. Andrew Dawson.

I am thrilled to report that Mr. Andrew Dawson has recently heard that, having undertaken the discernment process, he will now start preparing and studying for local ordained ministry among us.

We have a barn and a donkey!

Following the appeal in last month's TNT our prayers have been answered. My thanks to Mrs. Clarissa Fonseca who has kindly offered the use of her barn and the company of a donkey for a carol service on Tuesday 22nd December at 6.30pm in White House Farm Llanvetherine. All are welcome to join us. Remember to wrap up warmly, and bring a torch.

Llantilio Crossenny News

A report from Lin Morris “Those who worked so hard to raise money for the Belarus Orphanage Project will be pleased to see the smile on the doctor’s face! Slava received a skeletal club foot, examples of plaster casting and rubber baby feet, all of which can be used for training purposes. He could not believe that he now had all he needs, to open his new training centre, in Minsk.”



Fibre broadband has arrived in Llantilio Crossenny. Someone has bought it and it seems to be working!

'O COME, O COME EMANUEL'

3 ADVENT REFLECTIONS WITH LORRAINE CAVANAGH
AT THE VICARAGE, LLANTILIO CROSSENY
THURSDAYS DECEMBER 3rd, 10th and 17th
7pm to 8pm
ALL WELCOME!

As many of you may know **Elsie Latham**, churchwarden at Llantilio, has been rather unwell for some time now. Elsie has such a lovely, bubbly personality and is always so welcoming. Both her and Des do so much for the church and all in Llantilio can't wait for her to recover and make us all smile again.

On Friday 20 November **Keith Lewis**, of Great Killough cottages, died in hospital. Keith had been unwell for sometime but his sudden death was a great shock. Keith was very well known in the area and spent many years working on the farm at Great Killough. In more recent years he has been less active but was a common sight riding around on his electric bike. Keith mowed the grass for some time in Llantilio churchyard before passing the work on to his brother David. Keith will be greatly missed by his family and friends and our thoughts are with them. His funeral is on Tuesday 8th December in Llantilio Crossenny church at 2pm

Bellringing News

Llantilio Crossenny Bell Ringers will be having their Christmas meal in The Foxhunter in Nant-y-Deri on Wednesday 1st December. The ringers will be celebrating another successful year's ringing. The ringers hold regular practices in the church and new and old ringers are always welcome.

Llanvapley News

The Church & Your Money - A Treasurer's View

These days every charity and voluntary organisation seems to be asking for your cash. Many of you already support a range of charities but have you considered giving financial support to your local church? The Church in Wales, especially in countryside areas like ours, is in need of financial support as we receive no outside funding and must stand on our own two feet as well as paying a parish quota to our Diocese. However I can't help thinking it's really quite ironic that on special occasions such as Christmas and Easter, and at christenings, weddings, funerals, etc our churches are very well attended, often even packed full, so it's certainly not true that nobody believes in God any more or that religion is finished - far from it. Yes, it's true that some of the standard fees for weddings and funerals have recently increased, but do those of us who rarely attend realise that a lack of money could put the continuity of the Church in our local community at risk? One of the best ways to help is to contact your church's treasurer or churchwarden and covenant a regular monthly amount, no matter how small, to go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the church fabric, particularly as it is so easy to reclaim the Gift Aid: any help will be enormously appreciated whether you are a regular churchgoer or not. Or why not consider leaving a bequest in your will. If only a small number of extra TNT readers joined the regulars we could have a brilliant result!

Lt. **Alistair Andrews** of the Old Manse in Llanvapley and Dr. **Rebecca Jackson** did the extreme run on the Gower in November. The weather was appalling, if not dangerous, Alistair thought that it should have been cancelled. As they were camping there they decided to have a go. Alistair (R.N.) and his friend Paul (Army) completed the run. Rebecca was timed out, mainly because she spent half an hour carrying for a girl who had a broken arm. Over 60% were either timed out or disqualified.

Congratulations to **Emily Taylor** of Llanvapley who will be 21 on 19 January. Emily went to school at Cross Ash and Monmouth Comp and is now in her final year of studies at Swansea Trinity St Davids.

Have you got fairies at the bottom of your garden? This fairy ring was spotted in a Llanvapley garden. The rings may grow to over 10 metres (33 ft) in diameter, and they become stable over time as the fungus grows and seeks food underground.



Penrhos News

Friday 4th & Saturday 5th December 10am - 6pm on both days.

At Maendy Cottage Studios, Penrhos.

Christmas Sale of Decorative Art, Handmade Ceramics and Home Accessories and Jewellery.

Bring a friend or two to enjoy champagne, mince pies, tea and cake.

Penrhos Carol Service at High House Barn

Sunday 20th December 6pm

followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

Everyone very welcome.

Back in September **Albie and Iggy Howes** took part in the Usk Tennis Club Mini Red Tournament. Both boys played really well; Iggy was the youngest to take part and was awarded a medal for effort, and Albie went on to win the tournament and was awarded a very shiny trophy!

Vickie Howes has just arrived back in Penrhos after spending nearly two weeks in Uganda. This is her report of her experiences. "During this time I was working in a small town called Mbale in the eastern part of the country delivering leadership training to leaders of very small local charities. It was a humbling and inspiring week working with very passionate and hardworking Ugandans who try to help the poorest in the area running social welfare projects, goat projects, tree planting projects and so much more. Our mission was to inspire and enable these leaders to have greater confidence in themselves as leaders in developing a sustainable future for the region. The work was sponsored by the Welsh Government and delivered by a team of volunteers working for the small Hereford charity Caplor Horizons. I was then lucky enough to then visit the Bwindi Inpenetrable Forest in the southwest of the country and track a family of mountain gorillas and learn all about the conservation of these critically endangers animals. The one thing I was asked to do was to promote Uganda as a country worth visiting and to put tracking the gorillas on people's 'to do list'. They asked me to help raise awareness of these magnificent and gentle great apes (only 800 alive in the world) as this can help towards their conservation and support the local communities who live alongside them."

Llanvetherine News
Christmas Bingo
Saturday 12 December
Eyes down at 7.30
Llanddewi Skirrid Hall

Great Line and Full House Prizes
for Children and Senior Specials
Raffle / Tea / Coffee and Biscuits
Proceeds to Llanvetherine Church and Llanddewi Skirrid Hall

WI News

On a rainy evening in November we visited Sessions House in Usk. A former Victorian Courthouse and well worth a visit. We looked around the library and were shown a painting of Sir Henry Mather Jackson once the owner of the Llantilio Crossenny Estate. We sat in the courtroom but declined an offer to go down to the cells below! Weddings and other social events are now held at Sessions House which has been beautifully restored. Members then all enjoyed supper at the Three Salmons. Many of us were up early the following day to go on a coach trip to Cardiff. After lunch everyone enjoyed a first class performance from the Birmingham Royal Ballet of Swan Lake. Our next meeting is being held on Wednesday 9th December when we will be making origami boxes and enjoying carol singing and some warming delights! New members are most welcome and we meet at Llanvapley Pavilion.

Coffee Mornings

Wednesday 9th December Llanvapley Pavilion at 10.30

Wednesday 2nd December Llanddewi Rhydderch 10.30
with a Christmas theme! Raffle too !

A Christmas Concert

Côr Caerdydd

St Thomas' Church Monmouth

Sunday 6 December 4pm

Proceeds to Monmouth Eisteddfod Appeal Committee

Tickets £10 from Robin Davies - 01594 563172 or **Nik Hoyal 780001**

Monmouth TIC - 01600 775257 Monmouth Library - 01600 775215

Includes tea and mince pie after the concert

Diwrnod Hwyl y Nadolig, Christmas Fun Day

at the Ysgol Gymraeg, Y Fenni 5th December, 10.00 - 12.30. Arts and
crafts, Stalls, performances and Siôn Corn!

Services in December and January

Thursday 3rd December

7pm The Vicarage
Advent Reflection led by Rev
Lorraine Cavanagh

Sunday 6th December Advent 2

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Thursday 10th

7pm The Vicarage
Advent Reflection

Sunday 13th Advent 3

9.30am Penrhos
4pm Llanvapley Carol Service
followed by drinks and mince pies
at the Old Rectory

Thursday 17th

7pm The Vicarage
Advent Reflection

Sunday 20th

11am Carol Service
Llantilio Crossenny
6pm Penrhos Carol Service
High House Barn

Tuesday 22nd 6.30pm

Carol service in the barn
with a donkey
By kind invitation of Mr and Mrs
Fonseca, White House Farm
Llanvetherine
Wrap up warmly and bring a
torch

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle Service for all
Llantilio Crossenny
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Llantilio Crossenny

Christmas Day

10am Llanvetherine

**There are no services on
Sunday 27th December**

Sunday 3rd January Christmas 2

9.30am Llanvetherine
11 am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 10th January Epiphany 1

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Sunday 17th January Epiphany 2

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny Family
Service

Wednesday 20th January

Meeting of all the churchwardens
in Llanvetherine

Sunday 24th January Epiphany 3

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Sunday 31st January

Joint Service at 11 am in
Llanvetherine