

# The New Times

## March 2016

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



Find out who was playing with the lambs in the barn



Find out where to see the best Spring Crocuses

## From The Vicarage

Most of us have probably, at some time or another, experienced times of great bleakness and sadness in our lives. Some will have faced times of outright hostility and even betrayal by people they once counted as close friends and family.

Things can happen, and life can suddenly be turned upside-down, and we cannot see a way ahead. We may feel that even God has abandoned us and let us down.

I take great comfort from the fact that Jesus himself was no different. He too faced betrayal by friends, mis-understanding, and hostility. He questioned where God was, and why he had deserted him when he most needed Him.

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

If Jesus can question God, then I think we too should not feel guilty when such thoughts come to us.

Yet the horrific events of Good Friday are not the end of the story. The wonder of the Easter message is that God can take all of our mess and brokenness and redeem it. His love is more powerful than anything on earth. Even death itself does not have the last word.

O Christ , The Master Carpenter, who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation;

Wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench, may here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand.

Amen.

Wishing you every blessing at Easter,

Heidi

Llantilio Vicarage

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Thank you

Many thanks to you all for your messages and good wishes on my reaching a milestone birthday! I like the saying, “Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the moments that take your breath away.”

## Bible text of the month by Christine Everitt

We are pressed hard on every side, crushed but not broken.  
2 Corinthians 4:8

I love daffodils, there is something about their bright yellow flowers that always brings a smile to my face. I look forward to seeing them pop up every year, a reminder that Spring is just around the corner. Sadly, this dreadful weather has taken its toll on my lovely daffs; I noticed that between the wind and the rain they were looking pretty battered, I thought I had lost them! Then the sun came out and for a while these beautiful flowers regained their strength, stood straight and shone like beacons. Their character reminded me of our Bible text from 2 Corinthians, what an example they set. As God's people perhaps we should start facing our troubles like these beautiful golden flowers, no matter what life throws at us, however crushed and battered we become, with God's grace we rise again, straighter, stronger and more beautiful for having weathered the storm. (Crushed, but not broken.)

### Surprising Website Visitor

It is not surprising to discover that most visitors to our parishes' website come from the UK. However, it may surprise you to read that we also had visitors from Portugal, Spain, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Egypt and even Israel. Our visitors from Russia have been selecting the button on our website to subscribe to the online version of TNT. When they do this it sends an email message with a name and an email address to the webmaster. The names of these people have not been what you would expect. Instead of names like Richard and Sally, names such as Vladimir and Olga have appeared. The associated email addresses have not been familiar as well. Then another request to subscribe to TNT came through which made me stop and think. Even though the address was not familiar the name was and it made me wonder. I know TNT is in great demand but what would you do if you received a request for TNT to be sent to the person shown below?

### The News Times - New Subscriber Request

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**Jesus** <wordpress@46.32.240.33>

to me ▾

From: **Jesus** <[petrmedna2@mail.ru](mailto:petrmedna2@mail.ru)>

Subject: [your-subject]

# Llantilio Crossenny News

## Llantilio Crossenny Festival 2016

**Sunday 1st May** Theatre scenery painting and lighting workshop at Treadam Barn (2pm-5pm). FREE event for children and grown-ups alike!

**Saturday 7th May** London Opera Productions present a staged performance of the oratorio "Solomon" by Handel at Treadam Barn (7.30 pm) with interval 3 course meal served at tables. Tickets £30

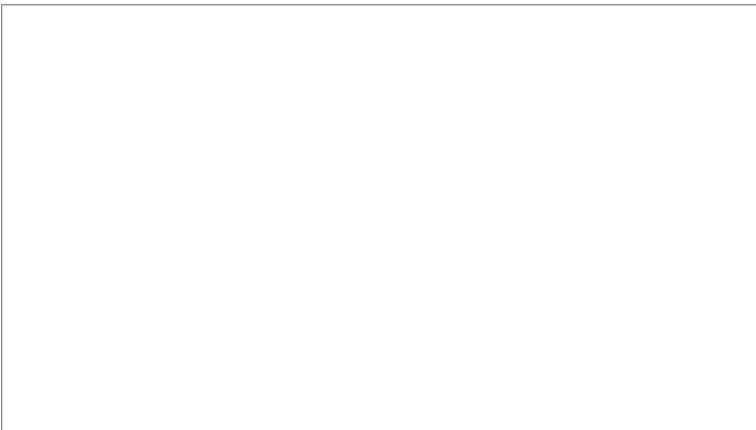
**Sunday 8th May** Solomon by Handel at Treadam Barn (3 pm) concert style. Tickets £22/£20/£15

**Friday 13th May** Treadam Barn Goes Ronnie Scott's with French Jazz singer Gabrielle Ducombe and her band (7.30pm). Tickets £18

**Saturday 14th May** Magic Flute by Mozart at Treadam Barn (2 pm & 4 pm). Tickets £6/£4

**Saturday 14th May** Musical Wine Tasting with Canapes. Artists include Tom Innes from Fingel Rock in Monmouth and the Tenor, Peter Wilman (7.30 pm). Tickets £15

**Sunday 15th May** Dowlais Male Voice Choir and Con Voce in Llantilio Crossenny Church of St Teilo's (3 pm). Tickets £10  
Tickets available via the Box Office: [07779225921](tel:07779225921) or message us on facebook.



## Llantilio Bell Ringers

The Annual General Meeting of Llantilio Crossenny Bell ringers is to be held on Thursday 3rd March 2016 at 7.30pm at Warwicks, Llantilio Crossenny. Richard Booth will be presenting his tower captain's report which will describe the activities of the ringers in 2015. There will also be the election of officers, tower captain and secretary. New members are welcome at the meeting so why not come along and meet the team if you fancy giving it a go.

## New Lambs at Park Farm

Thank you to Ali Wilkins who sent in these pictures of her children, Charlie and Ruben Wilkins playing with the new lambs at Park Farm, Llantilio Crossenny. Don't get confused by the jumpers the boys are wearing, these are definitely this year's lambs!



## Llanvapley News

Any visitor to any of our churches appreciates how important churches are in the history of our area. Apart from the church itself, the churchyard is also an important source of information about the people who have lived in the area. Llanvapley Church would like to promote the history of the church and the churchyard to visitors. Much is known about the church and the area but there is much that is not known or which is not easily accessible. **Are you interested in local history or geneology?** If you are interested then why not join a local group whose aim is to discover and present the history of Llanvapley Church and the wider area. Send your details to the TNT editor and you will be informed about how to get involved.

Llanvapley Church has applied to the Diocese of Monmouth for a **faculty to do work on the church** following the quinquennial report of October 2015. A notice to this effect has been posted in the church and on the village noticeboard. The main work involves re-limewashing the church, replacing of stone coping on the tower, installation of a land drain and replacement of a window. Full details are on the notice.

There will be another **Taize service** in Llanvapley Church on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30. The service is entitled “Prayer in the style of the Taize Community” and includes a mixture of prayers, chants, readings and time for reflection on the period of Lent. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Llanvapley is still waiting. It is over 6 months since the road to Llantilio was dug up but we are still waiting for **superfast broadband**. No one knows why it is available to people living in Llantilio but not to people living in Llanvapley even though we are on the same exchange. News that BT's broadband section, Openreach, may be restructured is not surprising.

If you ever wondered what happens at Llanvapley coffee mornings but were afraid to come along and find out, then worry no more! The **LSSA coffee morning** in February has appeared on television as part of a current affairs program made by S4C. The program was broadcast on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and features lots of shots of people chatting and eating cake. If you missed it you can still see it on BBC iPlayer. Search for “Y Byd ar Bedwar”. English subtitles are available but you will have to come along to the next coffee morning if you want to sample the cake!



## Llanvetherine News

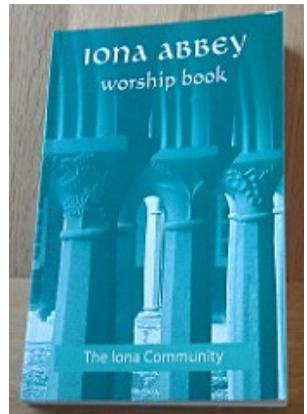
Llanvetherine Church had the **Church Draw and Mr & Mrs Evening** at the Hog's Head on the evening of Friday 29 January organised by David and Shirley Hughes Jones, and which was great fun with plenty of laughs. Most of the competing couples are reported still to be together! It was won by Adrian and Val Cook.

People in the bar were entertained on the same evening by Sally Dawson's brother Tim appearing on The One Show with his **vintage pre-production Land Rover LR3** - the one which appeared at the 1948 Amsterdam Motor Show and the first Land Rover registered on the road in the UK.



Tim being interviewed by Alex Jones in his Land Rover

On Sunday 31 January, Llanvetherine were hosts to the four parishes for the **fifth Sunday service** held in the form of Iona Community morning prayer. The service was very thoughtful and was well received by the congregation. It was organised and lead by Andrew Dawson who at the beginning of his lesson caused a little unease when he appeared to be asking the congregation to assemble in the car park. It quickly became clear that he was only taking us on an imaginary journey to highlight how far the island of Iona is from Llanvetherine. 500 miles in fact. Thank you Andrew for all the work and preparation you put into this service.



## Penrhos News

Penrhos Church is the place to visit in the Spring if you want to see a fantastic display of **beautiful crocuses**. Thanks to Pip Rumsey for the cover picture.

**Penrhos Hog Roast** - New Date of Sunday 22nd May at Bulmers Barn. Carving at 1pm, everyone very welcome.

**Rainfall** in January 2015 108.7mm, Rainfall in January 2016 was 178.1mm. Do you remember that really wet Saturday (6th February)? We had 40.2mm and in the whole of February 2015 we had 46.6mm of rain. So yes it's been a really wet start to the year!

## WI News

In February the WI had a really interesting visit from Lena Dyche, a Swedish woman living in Monmouth. We found we knew many more famous Swedes than we thought. We learned about Sweden's places, history customs and food, through some beautiful photos. Understanding the language was a challenge! During the business meeting, the community council was thanked for the grant and their continued support. It was agreed we would enter the ACM competition 'romance', the quiz at Usk and to sing in the federation concert on 22nd October. Members were offered the opportunity to enter a competition to produce a handmade card with flowers, at the AGM in May. Also posters we given out, with information about the first world war exhibition in April. Next month we will have the chance to see a show of Topaz Tribal Bellydancers. All life can be experienced at Llantilio Crossenny WI !

Llantilio Crossenny WI will present Gwent Archives interesting, **Exhibition of World War One in Gwent**, on Thursday 14th April 2016. Everyone will be welcome between 3pm & 8pm at Llanvapley Pavilion. There will be a charge of £2 , tea, coffee and cakes will be available. Come and see the posters telling the story , in pictures, of local people, during this time in history.

The WI is interested in joining in with the celebrations for the **Queen's 90 birthday** over the weekend of 12/13 June. More details to follow,

Try Something New This Summer - **Abergavenny Bowls Club**, Avenue Road (next to cricket club) will be opening on Saturday 16 April at 2.15pm for its 2016 summer season. All welcome. If you have not played before. Contact Jackie on 853301 or John on 850924

## Services and Events in March

### March 6th Mothering Sunday

9.30 am Llanvetherine  
11.00 am Llantilio Crossenny

2.00 pm Good Friday Service in  
Llantilio Crossenny

### Tuesday March 8th

7.30pm Taize Service Llanvapley

### March 27th Easter Sunday.

(Please remember clocks go forward  
one hour!).

9.30am Llanvetherine Easter  
Service

### March 13th Passion Sunday

9.30 am Penrhos  
11.00 am Llanvapley.

11.00 am Penrhos Easter Service  
11.00 am Llanvapley Easter Service  
11.00 am Llantilio Crossenny Easter  
Service

### March 20th Palm Sunday

10.00 am Joint service at  
Llanvetherine, accompanied by the  
donkey

### Easter Vestry meetings

### March 25th Good Friday

10am walk up the Holy Mountain,  
The Skirrid  
Meet at the car park. Wear suitable  
footwear and bring something to  
keep you going!

**Llantilio Crossenny** 6th April at  
7pm in Church

**Penrhos** Sunday 10th April following  
the morning service in church

**Llanvapley** 14 April at 7pm in the  
church

**Llanvetherine** tbc.

## Coffee Mornings in March

Wednesday 9 March Llanvapley 10.30am in the pavilion

Wednesday 30 March 10.30am in the village hall

The **Good Friday walk up the Skirrid** begins in the car park near to the village of Bryn-y-Gwenin. The National Park are about to extend this car park to cope with the every increasing numbers of visitors to the mountain. A short walk away from the new car park there is another new development which will add to the facilities in the area. The Copper Kettle Tea Room is opening on Easter Saturday and sure to attract weary walkers and reluctant walkers in equal measure!



*Contributions for the April issue of TNT by 20 March. Please send emails to  
[lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com)*

*Don't forget our website [llantiliogroup.info](http://llantiliogroup.info) for the latest information and tweets @LlantilioG*