

The New Times

April 2016

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



Find out about the singing pig!



Find out when this picture of the summit of the Skirrid was taken

From The Vicarage

At long last I have been re-united with my old telephone number. The so-called "temporary" 24 hour number turned out to be not-so-temporary after all!

It started me wondering how often God gets the "number unavailable" message when he longs to communicate with us. We are so often deaf to His voice, or simply do not recognize it when He tries to talk with us. We are not alone, of course. Samuel was convinced it was Eli who was calling him. Elijah eventually heard God whisper in the "still small voice", rather than the fire or earthquake.

One of the most beautiful Easter encounters happens when Mary, grief-stricken, and unable to see through her tears, mistakes the risen Christ for the gardener. It was only when he called her by her name that she recognized his voice, and knew it was her Lord.

May we listen for the voice of God in unexpected places, and may our lives reflect His love as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

Wishing you every blessing at Easter,

Heidi

Llantilio Vicarage llantiliovicar@aol.com

Some interesting web links

Revd. Dr Lorraine Cavanagh <http://jobbingtheologian.blogspot.com/>

The Modern Church who are the leading liberal voice in the Churches today. <http://modernchurch.org.uk>

Bible text of the month by Christine Everitt

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." John 11:25

"Where are the snowdrops?" said the sun

"Dead," said the Frost, buried and lost.

"A foolish answer," said the sun,

"They did not die, asleep they lie, everyone."

"And I shall wake them, I the sun, into the light,

All clad in white, everyone.".....

This little poem reminds us that all is not lost, even when we believe it is. Throughout the dark, cold months of Winter, everything that was beautiful, warm and alive in Summer, disappears. However, even in the bleakest of times there is always the hope of something new, just around the corner. Snowdrops are like that, they appear at just the right moment, don't you

think? Not quite the end of Winter, but a sign to let us know that Spring is on it's way. What we thought had disappeared suddenly re-appears, shinning white, bright and alive, a welcome sight. Satan the master of defeat, tempts us to believe, that like the snowdrops in Winter, all humanity is lost; death is the end, (buried and lost). "A foolish answer," says the Son! The Son, Jesus came to give life, his life for us; death is not the end, if we BELIEVE in him. Through his death and resurrection, we rise just like the snowdrops, from depth of the earth, in to the glorious light, shinning and bright, brand new. We are not lost! 'Whoever believes in me, though he die,' Jesus said, 'yet shall he live.' What do you believe?

Llantilio Crossenny News

Dennis Ball of Upper Cwm Farm, Llantilio Crossenny sadly passed away on Feb 23rd, aged 84, after a short illness. The family would like to thank all those who have shown such kindness and support at this time and for the generous donations to Myeloma UK and Dementia UK in his memory.



The death of Dennis Ball in February has taken away from Llantilio Church one of its most loyal members. Until the last year or so, when declining health, both his own and his wife Anne's, made attendance at church difficult and latterly impossible, Dennis would always be there at Sunday service, alert to give a cheerful handshake to all who came in through the door. For fourteen years, of course, he was a churchwarden, unfailing in his duties, which, as anyone who has ever been a churchwarden will know, are many, and unobtrusively effective in carrying them out. For myself, I shall always remember how beautifully he read a lesson, and how meaningful he made it. Such a complete life he led – more than sixty years of happy marriage with a wonderful wife; loyal children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren; a life's work in and around the countryside he knew and loved so well; countless friendships. All this in what the some might account a small compass, as the world judges. But as the Lord told the prophet Samuel on a memorable occasion, "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart". We may be sure that Den fulfilled all that the Lord hoped for when he sent him into the world, to pass our way.

Revd. Peter Cobb



Llantilio Crossenny Church Plant Sale is being held at the church on Bank Holiday Monday 2 May at 2pm. Contributions of plants will be welcome. There will be a cake stall and refreshments. Weather permitting it will be held adjacent to the car park.

Are you following us on Twitter? @LlantilioG Our twitter account is regularly updated with news and an inspirational thought for the day. We also follow people and groups in the area. How else would you be able to find out who was on top of the Skirrid on Good Friday or discover a singing pig? Thanks @KateBeavan

Llanvapley News

Llanvapley Church has responded to a recent report on the condition of the building by applying to the diocese for a faculty to do the necessary work. The church is generally in very good condition but there is a lot of essential work to be done. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would also like to install a toilet in the north vestry as part of this project. An additional aim will be to provide more information to visitors to enable them to understand the history of the church, the churchyard and the parish. The PCC has already made a grant application to CADW and will also be applying to other bodies to raise the money required. However, grant funding will not provide all the money we need and fundraising will have to be done to “bridge the gap” between what we have and what we need.

A meeting has been organised on Friday 8th April at 7.30 in the pavilion to explain the project to the parish. The meeting will be of interest to everyone in the parish or anyone who has connections with the village. A glass of wine will be provided and it promises to be an interesting and sociable occasion.

James Lowes of Llanvapley offers a **professional gutter cleaning service**. James very kindly offered to clean the gutters on Llanvapley Church just before Easter which has saved the churchwardens risking life and limb climbing ladders. Thank you very much! James can be contacted on 07817 408398

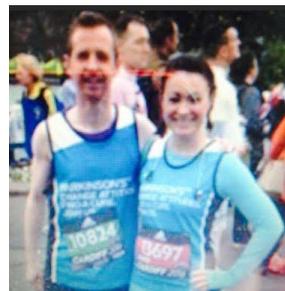
A Taize service was held in Llanvapley Church on 8 March. The evening was a great success and attracted a lot of people from outside the parishes. Thanks go to Revd. Butterworth and to Clarinda Collin for organising the service. Our best wishes go to Revd. Butterworth and his family who are shortly moving to Pembrokeshire. We hope to see them back in Llanvapley soon.

Monmouthshire Hunt is holding a **point to point** meeting in Llanvapley on Saturday 2 April. The course is very wet at the moment but hopefully everything will be fine for a 2pm start. The picture below shows the fearsome final fence.



Llanvapley Sports and Social Association is responsible for the upkeep of the pavilion. The wet winter has highlighted the need for additional parking facilities to facilitate access to the building. The LSSA has been in discussion with the council to provide six car parking spaces adjacent to the existing path. The surface will be stone dust on top of compacted scalplings. The committee is investigating sources of funding for this project. The LSSA has also spoken to the council about the drainage ditch which takes surface water from the highway. The ditch is blocked in a number of places and is exacerbating the condition of the field.

On 27 March Jess Harris, from St Mabley's Close, Llanvapley competed in the **Cardiff Half Marathon** against the likes of Mo Farrah. Jess completed the 13.1 mile course in 2 hours and 13 minutes. Congratulations to Jess on a great run on a blustery Easter Day. You deserve your Easter egg!





Since May 2012 the footpath which runs across the fields from Llanvapley to Duffryn farm has been closed due to problems with the bridges on the footpath. Thanks to the help of Cllr. Sara Jones and the community council the **footpath is due to reopen this summer**. Any minor works such as replacement of signage and bramble clearance will also occur when the bridge is installed. The picture shows the condition of one of the bridges.

Llanvetherine News

A joint service was held in Llanvetherine Church on Palm Sunday. Larna the donkey was on duty again to lead the congregation around the churchyard. The service included a number of meditations and a dramatisation of the Easter story. Thanks go to everyone who took part in the service and to Julian and Clarissa Fonseca for bringing Larna along.



Plans for **celebrating the Queen's Birthday** in Llanvetherine are moving ahead. An event will take place at Tre-Rhiw Farm, Llanvetherine. There will be a BBQ and a competition for the best decorated 90th birthday cake which will appeal to all those many Bake Off fans. Tickets will be available soon £5.00 each.

Llanvetherine Horse show will be on Saturday July 23rd at Llanvetherine Court. The event will include show jumping/showing/ working hunter etc. There is a **new MOT station** at Lanes Garage. TNT wishes them success with this new venture.

Grosmont Community Council is looking for someone to take over the role of clerk. Please contact the current clerk, Jane Fleming at thatwoman@hotmail.com for more details

Penrhos News

Penrhos Church First Stage of Repair. An application has been made to the Diocesan Office for permission to remove the bird debris from within the roof void and to prop up the rafters and repair some of the stone tiles that have slipped and then to cover the holes in the wall plate with mesh to prevent further ingress by the birds. At the same time further panels will be opened up in the ceiling to ascertain the exact extent of the work will be necessary to secure the roof and to enable the nave to be brought back into use and to repair the internal wall plate and the ceiling areas.

This work which will be quite extensive will be funded hopefully by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund but they will not fund the full cost of the work so it will be necessary for us to raise money locally to fund the difference.

Until the further panels have been opened up it is not possible to get an accurate cost of the work and we're hoping that certain other repairs might well be included within the application depending on the cost of the necessary work to the nave.

The funding for the removal of the bird debris and the propping up and repair of tiles has been secured together with the work to cover the holes in the wall plate. We will have to fund the opening up of the panels from our own resources.

Congratulations to **Holly Flynn** who has competed in 3 pony races at 3 different Point to Points.

WI News

Llantilio Crossenny WI welcomed Tribal Topaz belly dancers to their March meeting. Their colourful, homemade costumes were beautiful. Everyone enjoyed trying out their own skills at hip swinging, whilst being instructed by the experts! There were amazing sights to behold. Photos of which have been withheld for private viewing!

In April the WI are hosting the Gwent Archives exhibition of the First World War. All welcome to come and see, this interesting, pictorial, local history event. The display will be at Llanvapley Pavilion on Thursday 14th April, between 3pm and 8pm. Tea, coffee, drinks and cakes will be served at £2.00 each. Children free. See you there



Services and Events in April

Sunday April 3rd

9.30am Llanvetherine Holy Communion
11am Llantilio Crossenny Holy communion with Baptism.

Wednesday 6th

Llantilio Crossenny
Easter Vestry 7pm

Sunday 10th

9.30am Penrhos followed by Easter Vestry meeting
11am Llanvapley Holy Communion

Friday 15th

Llanvapley Easter Vestry in the church 7pm

Sunday 17th

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Thursday 21st

Llanvetherine Easter Vestry
7pm Southleigh

Sunday 24th

11am Penrhos with Baptism
11am Llanvapley Morning Prayer

Dates for your Diary

Friday 8 April Llanvapley Church meeting in the pavilion to explain proposed development 7.30pm

Wednesday 13 April LSSA Coffee Morning 10.30am in the pavilion

Thursday 14 April First World War Exhibition Llanvapley pavilion 3pm to 8pm

Saturday 23rd April Table Top Sale in Llanvapley Pavilion in aid of church repairs 10.30 to 12.30

Wednesday 27 April Llanddewi Rhydderch Village Hall Coffee Morning 10.30am

Thursday 28th April LSSA AGM 7pm in the Pavilion

Bank Holiday Monday 2 May Llantilio Crossenny Church Plant Sale 2pm

Sunday 22nd May Penrhos Hog Roast at Bulmers Barn 1pm Everyone welcome

What is the connection between Cardiff and Hay, Brecon and Talgarth? Very little you might say. However, they have both signed up to be part of a movement known as "**City of Sanctuary**". City of Sanctuary is committed to building a culture of hospitality and welcome, especially for refugees seeking sanctuary from war and persecution. A group of people in Abergavenny is seeking the same status at the moment. We wish them well. The local contact is Lindsay Wright lindsay.wright@talktalk.net

Contributions for the April issue of TNT by 20 April. Please send emails to lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com

Don't forget our website llantiliogroup.info for the latest information and tweets @LlantilioG