

The New Times

October 2016

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



Find out why Nicola and Robb are smiling and why
Lucy is jumping for joy



From The Vicarage

“Let the children come unto me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:14).

I am very pleased to let you know that the Church in Wales has decided that as from Advent Sunday (November 27th), we shall welcome all those who have been baptised /christened, to receive Holy Communion. The only proviso is that children under 5 years of age are not legally allowed to be given the wine, but will be very welcome to come and receive the bread. Children over the age of 5 may receive wine if they have the parent's or guardian's consent. I think this is a positive move, for surely Jesus welcomes all of us to join in the family meal. More information about this decision is available on the Church in Wales website.

Animal Memorial and Thanksgiving Service.

When my beloved border collie, Rosie, died a few years ago, I missed her terribly. She had come everywhere with me, and we were a team. From first thing in the morning, to last thing at night, she was my faithful companion. She showed me faithfulness, trust and forgiveness. We shared a huge part of life together. When she died at the age of sixteen, I grieved for her; I missed her.

Friends and colleagues also shared with me the sadness of losing their animal companions. Some said, very honestly, that they grieved more for their pet than they did for a parent. I made a promise that if ever I returned to parish ministry I would hold a special service to remember and give thanks for those animals who have been a part of our lives. Well, I have returned, and this September, in a little country church in Monmouthshire, we held that special service on a beautiful Sunday evening.

At the beginning of the service people placed photographs of their animals around the altar; and were handed a candle for each animal for which they had come to give thanks and remember. During the service there was a Bible reading, a short address; poems, (one of which was written by one of the people present in memory of his dog). There was a time for reflection when music was played, (I chose the soundtracks from Forrest Gump, Dances with Wolves, Two Socks, 'Goodbye' from Hachi, and Gabriel's Oboe). During this time people came forward and lit their candles, which were then placed together near the altar. Rudyard Kipling's poem 'A Dog for Jesus' was then read, and after some special prayers the service concluded with a soloist singing John Rutter's Gaelic Blessing. Afterwards we joined together over refreshments to share stories and memories of our beloved animal companions. Some people who attended were very recently bereaved of their animals, and found great solace and healing within the service. People came from quite a distance to attend the service, and I have received positive feedback and lovely comments. So 'Thank You' Rosie, you taught me many things in your life, and even through your death you have taught me how to reach out and minister to those who grieve for their beloved animal friends.

Mrs Beryl Nicholas The community of Llantilio Crossenny came together to pay their respects to Beryl as she was laid to rest in the church which she so loved. Beryl was a huge part both of the church and of the WI of which she was at one time president. A no-nonsense, fun lady, Beryl had suffered much in recent years,

and Roy, her husband, has been an absolute rock, caring for her every need, and supporting her every step of the way.

Bishop Richard will be coming to meet us and join in our worship on Sunday 6th November at 11am in Llantilio Crossenny. It will be lovely to welcome him back to our group of parishes.

With every blessing, Heidi
Llantilio Vicarage, llantiliovicar@aol.com

Our monthly bible text is from Psalm 62:5

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him.

Expectation can be disappointing, can't it? We were fortunate enough to be invited, by our lovely friend, to stay with her in Saundersfoot for the weekend. It has been a long time since I last visited that area, especially Tenby, which is near by; my memory of delicious ice-cream from the local ice-cream parlour and the possibility of GF fish and chips were a mouthwatering prospect. How sad I was when my expectation was unmet; the staff in the ice-cream parlour were less than friendly and the ice-cream costly and unpleasant. Neither did the GF fish and chips live up to expectation! It sounds silly, but I felt really let down and sad. Thankfully all was not lost! My daughter, on a previous wander, spied another ice-cream parlour!! Happy staff, friendly environment and delicious ice-cream!! We also discovered a burger restaurant that served the most delicious GF burgers!! I suppose the truth is, expectation can be a bit of a reality check! It is never quite what it seems and we often end up disappointed. Strangely, it made me think about my faith and how our expectation of God limits him in our lives. We get so caught up with our own agenda that we seldom let him have a look in until it all goes wrong. God has a way of showing us that when we feel let down by life, he is not only there to pick us up, but always has something better planned for us just around the corner. It's about letting God take care of our expectations, don't you think?

Llantilio Crossenny News

Llantilio Church is presenting a special performance on 10th November of a new play by Riding Lights Theatre Company called "Simeon's Watch" which is touring the UK this Autumn. This performance has been supported by all of our parishes and promises to be an entertaining and interesting evening. So what can you expect and why will you find it interesting if you buy a ticket and come along? First of all the show is for both church-goers and non church-goers in our community. It is suitable for children over the age of 10. Secondly, the show is about forgetting things, something we all experience! In the play both Simeon and Leah both experience periods of forgetfulness. Simeon forgets things because he is getting old and suffering from dementia. Leah forgets where she has put her knitting as well as her sheep. The play is about growing old but is also about discovering hope and



being surprised. Ring the box office on 01904 613000 or book online at ridinglights.org/simeons-watch. Tickets £12 Concessions £10

On 4th September the BBC ran a story about bell ringing under the title “**Church bell-ringers shortage prompts concern**”. Despite the concern raised in the article things are not all that bad. In Llantilio the bell ringing team is going from strength to strength and is always busy and active in St Teilo's and other churches in the area. The problem is that people tend to bracket bell-ringing with Morris dancing as a pursuit for old men with beards, but this is a little bit misleading. The truth is that it's suitable for both women and men of all ages, it is sociable and fun and it keeps you fit. Llantilio bell-ringers always welcomes new ringers. The next new ringers session is on Thursday 27th October at 7.30pm.

The Llantilio Crossenny Festival cordially invites you to the **Musical Friends Evening with supper** on Saturday October 8th at 7.30pm at Treadam Barn.

We will be showcasing four of the talented young artists who took part in this year's Festival. **Jennie Cloud** (soprano, 12 years old), **Anwen Mai Thomas** (harpist, 17 years old) **Gemma Thomas** (flute, 9 years old) **Callum Rees** (baritone, 16 years old) first came to our attention in 2012 when he won the junior prize in the Charles Farncombe Award for Young Composers in Wales. His voice is very mature for his age and although he has learning difficulties, a terminal illness and has been a child in care all his life, nothing can stop him!

Tickets are £15 and include supper available from Treadam Barn Box Office: 07779225921, info@treadam-barn.co.uk or message us on facebook

Llanvapley News

On Friday 2nd of September Llanvapley Church held an “**End of Summer BBQ**” in the village pavilion. The event was very well supported and lots of fun was had by all. Thanks to everyone who made food and provided raffle prizes and to all those who helped on the evening. The evening raised over £450 for church development funds.



The **Open Doors day** at Llanvapley Church was a great success. A discovery trail was organised around the church and churchyard and a presentation was given to provide more information about the church and its heritage. We were delighted to welcome Marilyn Hughes, who is the grand daughter of Charles Williams with her collection of her grandfather's WW1 medals and pictures. Charles Williams is the only soldier who died in WW1 to be buried in the churchyard. We were also delighted to welcome local historian, Alex Gibbon to the church. Alex has been trying to find out more about St Mabli and he was able to explain the significance of his latest research during the open day. It now seems possible that the dedication of Llanvapley Church to St Mabli may not have been correct. Full details of Alex's research is on the website and will be discussed in a

future edition of TNT. There was a steady stream of visitors during the day and the event was fun and informative.



The LSSA **100 club** winner for September was Sue Long. The LSSA would also like to thank the **Llanarth Fawr Community Council** for its generous donation of £100 which will be used to purchase a new fridge freezer.

On Saturday 24th September Lt. **Alistair Andrews** from Llanvapley and Dr. **Rebecca Jackson** from Edinburgh were married in Balforn Church, Glasgow. Alistair asked his mother to make them a 5 tier wedding cake which was made in Llanvapley and successfully transported north of the border for the reception. The picture shows the cake which was decorated with a hand made floral display. Well done Janet!



Congratulations to **Doris Evans** of Llanvapley who celebrated her 92nd on 22nd September.

October is the start of term for students at university. Elaine Leader from Llanvapley sent in this report - "**Max** our eldest grandson recently celebrated his 18th birthday and just this week started reading history at Birmingham university, he's a keen rugby player and until recently played for the first team at Clifton college, he plans to continue playing now he's at university." Good luck Max! Max is pictured with his mum and dad.



Llanvapley Church held its **Harvest Service** and Lunch on Sunday 25th September. Thanks go to Brenda, Flossie and Gen who decorated the church and to everyone who helped with the lunch. Thanks also to Janet Andrews for yet another perfect Harvest Loaf



Penrhos News

Every August is the Pony Club Championships which are held at Cholmondeley Castle in Cheshire. **Lucy Morgan** from Great Killough was representing the Monmouthshire Pony Club in 3 disciplines. Lucy and her mother Liz put so much time and effort into their horses and work so hard and it certainly paid off. In the Show jumping she had 3 foot perfect clear rounds to WIN the Open individual Show jumping, she came second in the Horsemanship competition. The team dressage came 4th. Then in the Open eventing Lucy had a technical refusal which means she crossed her tracks on the cross country but otherwise went clear which is incredible because that was one tough track. She finished 6th individually and the team came 4th. This really is an amazing achievement and so well deserved.

Tommy and Megan Yeomans were also competing at the Pony Club Championships in the Mounted Games. They came 3rd in the B final which is a great achievement as they had one of the youngest teams there.

Horse & Hound are celebrating equestrian heroes in several different categories. Geoff & Sally Adams son **Tim Adams** is down to the last 5 in the Vet of the Year. This is an amazing achievement to get down to the last 5 and we wish Tim lots of luck. The winner will be announced on 3rd November so I shall let you know how he gets on.

Llanvetherine News

Llanvetherine Church was the first of the four parishes to celebrate harvest this year. On Friday 23rd of September the service was held at 7pm. The church was beautifully decorated and as part of the service Kate Beavan was asked to address the congregation. Kate spoke eloquently about the pressures farmers are under and about the work of RABI which supports farmers and farming families in times of need.



On Sunday 11th September, the **Croft Barn** at White Castle Vineyard was open to the public as part of CADW's annual Open Doors weekend. During the afternoon there was a very informative lecture on barns by Ken Bonham. He explained that many of the timbers at the Croft Barn are 500 years old and he also explained the origin of the word threshold. Apparently, boards were placed across the barn door during the threshing process to keep the wheat inside the barn instead of it spilling out. Well I never knew that!

Congratulations to **Robb and Nicola Merchant** of White Castle Vineyard, Llanvetherine who were awarded two bronze medals, a silver medal and a trophy at the recent Welsh Vineyards Wine Awards. Over 100,000 bottles of wine are made in Wales and some of the best are made in Llanvetherine.



WI News

The September meeting of the WI saw a good turn out to practice our choir contribution. The concert is in Usk on the 22nd October. We agreed to wear a rainbow of coloured tops and black skirts or trousers. The singing sounded great and members are going to learn the words, so they won't need notes! After the business meeting, most of the ladies, had a chance to tell their life stories and how they came to be in the community. It proved to be an insight into the different worlds of the members. Hopefully we will hear more stories in the future! The entry to the Rosemarie Memorial Competition The Geisha Girl won first prize at the Monmouth Show, much to everyone's delight.

The committee are planning next year's program. An additional trip will be added, next October 2017, to go to the WI Denman College in Oxfordshire. A voucher was won from the Gwent ACM which will subsidise the cost. It will give members a chance to have a taster day, with lunch, demo and tea. It will be an opportunity to see this centre of excellence and all it has to offer.

Next month will provide a different learning curve! Jane Barnard will be talking about the world of microbes and antibiotics. There will also be a final dress rehearsal for the concert!

Congratulations to **Revd. David Osborn** who celebrated 50 years since ordination at St Thomas's Church Monmouth on Sunday 25th September. A special cake was made by Helen with a bible made out of sugar craft.



Services in October

Sunday October 2nd

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 30th October

11am Joint Service in Llanvapley.
NB BST ends, Clocks go Back an Hour.

Sunday 9th October Trinity 20

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley
7.30pm Welsh Baroque Players
Llanvapley

Wednesday 2nd November All Soul's Day

Service to remember those we love
who have died
7.30pm Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 16th October Trinity 21.

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 6th November 3rd Sunday before Advent.

11am Joint Service at Llantilio
Crossenny with Bishop Richard.
NB There will be no morning service
in Llanvetherine.

Sunday 23rd October

Last Sunday after Trinity.
9.30am Penrhos

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 1st October Concert Grosmont Church - Hereford Concert Band with the Kitchen Singers

Sunday 2nd October Family Service @ Llangattock Lingoed Church at 3.00pm followed by a Tea Party @ Cross Ash Hall at 4.30pm This is Revd. Jean Prosser's last service

Sunday 9th October Wales Baroque Players Llanvapley Church 7.30pm

Wednesday 12th October Coffee Morning, Llanvapley 10.30am

Thursday 13th October 7.30pm Deanery Conference
Priory Centre Abergavenny

Saturday 15th October Diocesan Conference 8.45am
St. Teilo's High School, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff.

Saturday 15th October 10.30am-4.00 pm "Reclaiming faith for the people"
An interactive day conference at Manvers St. Baptist Church, Bath
Further details from Revd. Lorraine Cavanagh

Wednesday 26th October Coffee Morning, Llanddewi Rhydderch 10.30am

Saturday 5th November Christian Perspectives on Death and Dying
11:30am – 6pm The Church of St Paul and St Stephen, Tredworth, Gloucester
For further information please contact Julie Latchem, project co-ordinator:
latchemjm@cardiff.ac.uk

Thursday 10th November Simeon's Watch Llantilio Crossenny Church 7.30pm

Contributions for the November issue of TNT by 20 October. ß

Please send emails to lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com

*Don't forget our website llantiliogroup.info for the latest information
[Twitter@LlantilioG](https://twitter.com/LlantilioG)*