

The New Times

February 2017

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



**Llanvapley snowdrops and Llanvetherine lambs
It's that time of year**



From The Vicarage

How is your diary looking? Maybe not quite as pristine as when you first received it. Crossings out, change of dates, illegible scribbles perhaps, or is that only me?

How lovely it was for that brief moment to have an empty diary full of possibilities and total availability. It's rather like that brief moment of the car being clean! No sooner have I hosed the car down and washed it, then a quick trip through the country lanes covers it with mud and grime once more. What was the point, you might wonder.

And yet, of course, if the car is never washed, and the number plate, lights and windows are coated with filth from our travels, then not only is the identity of the car hidden but also we are unable to see where we are going, and others are unable to see us.

It's not unlike ourselves and our souls as we travel through life. For however good our intentions may be at the beginning of the year with new resolutions and what have you, we can't seem to help letting ourselves down, and fail to be the people we want to be. We can all too easily allow our vision of the way ahead to be obscured by the cares of the world. We need to turn to our Creator to show us who we are, to find our identity, and to guide us in the path ahead.

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Monthly Bible Text Obadiah 1:4

Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares the Lord.

I read in a newspaper today of a refugee camp - a place of hopelessness and despair. There women who have been raped and beaten by soldiers wait listlessly while war in their country rages on. Hundreds of miles away their husbands, sons and brothers sit in death camps. It's so awful! "Lord stop those who are doing this," is all I can say. I feel totally helpless, the oppressors are beyond our reach and it seems that justice cannot touch them. Christians who buy a newspaper with an eye to prayer, know that there is much to cry out to God about. Individuals, families and countries all take their turn in abusing others. We may not be able to bring about justice that is needed in the world, but we can pray. Through our prayers God changes situations that baffle even the skilled negotiator. The next time you pick up a newspaper, as you read pray. Through your prayers, God will save those whose only hope is his unfailing love and our care.

Easter Vestry Meetings

Llantilio Crossenny – Wednesday 22nd March 7.00pm at the vicarage

Llanvetherine- Tuesday 14th March 7.00pm at Cartref, Llanvetherine

Llanvapley – Thursday 27th April 7.00pm in the church

Penrhos – Thursday 6th April 7.00pm in the church

Easter vestry meetings are open to everyone. Why not come along and find out what is happening in your local church.

Llantilio Crossenny News



A delightful service of nine lessons and carols by candlelight was held on December 18th. Following the service, mulled wine and mince pies were served in the Killough Chapel. Thank you to all who helped to make this a most enjoyable evening. The Christingle service on Christmas Eve saw the Church bursting at the seams. It was wonderful to see so many children and two very young babies, the youngest being just eleven days old. Christine Everett engaged the children in a game of 'pass the parcel' telling the Christmas story. Afterwards, Heidi handed out 50 Christingle oranges to the excited children who then delighted us by singing 'Away in a manger' by candlelight. Many thanks to Sarah Heath for making the Christingles and to the Formaggia family for the beautiful gingerbread cake. On Christmas morning the Church welcomed a large congregation for the Christmas Communion. Thank you to all who helped to decorate the Church so beautifully, to our organists Jeannette and Margaret, to the bellringers and lastly to our Vicar Heidi for organising all the lovely services.

Llantilio Bellringers Christmas Dinner was held at The Foxhunter Inn on December 14th. The party continued on Christmas Eve when they were able to enjoy a glass of mulled wine after ringing for the Christingle Service. The excitement continued into the New Year when one of the team pulled the rope so hard that it broke the stay. The stay prevents the bell from swinging all the way round but is designed to break if swung too hard against the stop. The identity of the culprit has to be kept a secret but it can be

revealed that **he** is in the picture below! Details of bellringing practices are on the calendar on the parish website. Newcomers always welcome.



Llanvapley News

The **Llanvapley Sports and Social Association** is once again running a 100 club in 2017. Prizes will be given every month starting in April. The aim is to have a prize of £50 every month. The cost of joining is £10 which will give you 10 chances of winning a prize throughout the year. By being a member of the 100 Club you are supporting the work of the LSSA in maintaining the pavillion, play area and the field. Please ask a committee member if you would like to join or email lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com Pictured on the right are David and Carol Philips who won the hamper at the Christmas coffee morning.



On 29th December the annual Llanvapley Village Christmas walk took place. A group of 9 people and one dog made their way up Firs Road and around the Skirrid and arrived at The Crown Inn, Pantygelli just in time for lunch. Numbers were swelled by a number of people who realised they could enjoy the lunch without having to walk six miles!



Rugby Walks. February and March are the most important months of the year as far as international rugby is concerned. Once again a series of walks have been organised from Llanvapley to local pubs. Please feel free to join us if you would like to join in the fun or why not meet us at the pub. Come on Wales!

Sunday 5th Feb 3pm Italy away – Warwicks

Saturday 11th Feb 4.50pm England home – The Hunter's Moon

Saturday 25th Feb 2.25pm Scotland away – The Hog's Head

Saturday 18th March 3.45pm France away – The Crown

Goodbye and good luck to **Jason and Lesley Stoker** as they leave Llanvapley in February after living in the village for 38 years. Jason and Lesley have been enthusiastic and hard working supporters of village events over the years and they will be missed for their fun and

companionship. In the short term they are moving into town but will then be moving on once they have found somewhere they like. They have witnessed a great deal of change in the village and they can tell quite a few stories about some of the present and past characters in the village which unfortunately can't be printed in the parish mag!

Young people are always complaining that their generation will find life much harder than their parents' generation. Higher house prices, student loans to pay off, working longer, poorer pensions and so on. Well, there is one more thing to add to the list – snow. There must be children out there who have never seen the stuff. So to let them know about the fun they are missing, here is a lovely picture of Llanvapley Church sent in by a TNT reader. Fingers crossed for a snowy February.



Llanvetherine News

The picture of the beautiful sleeping lambs on the front of TNT was sent in by Kate Beavan from Llanvetherine. The lambs do of course look really cute but without the hard work and skills of our local farmers we wouldn't be able to enjoy the sight of lambs playing in our local fields.

On Thursday 19th January a quiz evening was held at the Livestock Market in aid of RABI (**Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution**). The Monmouthshire branch was launched last year and has already helped 8 families in the area, giving out nearly £16,000 in grants. The confidential helpline for farming families in crisis is 0808 281 9490.



About 22 people set out on the **New Year's Day walk** in steady rain, from Cagle Street, across a snatch of the Offa's Dyke path, thereafter via Gelli Farm on the Treadam Road, down to Pant Farm where we had a fascinating conducted tour of the goat sheds, and then across the fields up to Firs Road, and back to the junction ending up at the Green Memorial Hall. Hot drinks, hot dogs and bacon sandwiches were waiting together with

quite a few who had sensibly avoided the weather but wanted to join up with neighbours. Many thanks to Chris Lewis and David Jones for route planning, and to all the volunteers at the Hall led by Marjorie Bennet. A collection was taken to the benefit of Llandewi Skirrid Church.



Penrhos News

Christmas seems so long ago but I am sure everyone remembers the lovely **Carol Service** followed by mince pies and mulled wine at High House. It's so lovely to have the children doing the readings and having them involved in the service. Thank you to Sally Adams for taking the **Christmas Day** service and to her son Joe who played the organ and sang for us, it's always a treat to listen to Joe sing. Thank you to everyone who made the church look so beautiful and festive.



If you live in Penrhos and you're fed up with **slow broadband** then visit the Penrhos website at www.penrhosvillage.co.uk/broadband to find out what options are available to you and how the government may fund the installation of new equipment.

On New Year's Eve something was seen that hadn't been witnessed for over 30 years. This was a very much anticipated event and had been the talk of the village for several months. It was touch and go if it would happen because the fog was threatening to cancel the day. Luckily it lifted and **Colin Phillips** was on his horse for a day's hunting. Colin had a bet with Caroline Turner that she had to learn how to shoot and have a day's shooting and in return Colin had to have a day's hunting on a horse not a quad bike! During the summer, Caroline learnt to shoot and then thoroughly enjoying her day's shooting in November. However, Colin had not only to find a horse but also the kit to wear and a suitable day to go out. He found a wonderful horse called Zac. Zac and Colin had a couple of hacks before their big day but they looked like they had been together for years. Colin wasn't prepared to get left behind or go with the non jumpers and was soon popping over rails that made even the keenest riders look twice. Unfortunately, our day was cut short but huge respect for Colin for lasting the time that he did and the speeds that he was going. I hope he enjoyed a long hot radox bath afterwards probably followed by a few drinks to recover.



WI News

The December meeting of the WI was lots of fun. John Sheen gave us an opportunity to choose from the "Twelve Days of Christmas crackers" to hear a variety of anecdotes. He had everyone laughing from start to finish. There were then lovely refreshments provided by the committee.

The January meeting was our annual dinner at the King's Head. Everyone had fun trying to find out the name they were wearing on their pink tiara! The amazing entertainment from the choir was backed by the Llantilio Ladies Ensemble! Is there no end to the talent of this WI?

The next meeting is on Wednesday 8th February, when there will be a chance to meet Henry the Eighth's Wives..... in miniature.

A reminder that subs will be due and names will be taken for 25 members to go to Denman College in October.

Services in February

Sunday 5th February

Fourth before Lent
9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

7.30pm

Sunday 19th February

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny.

Sunday 12th February

Third before Lent
9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Sunday 26th February

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Thursday 16th February

Llanvapley PCC at the Old Rectory

Wednesday 1st March

Ash Wednesday Service
7.30pm Llantilio Crossenny

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 8th February Coffee Morning Llanvapley at 10.30am

Wednesday 22nd Feb Coffee Morning Llanddewi Rhydderch in the village hall

Friday 3rd March St. David's Day concert at The Hog's Head

Saturday 1st April Llanvapley Point to Point races

Grosmont and District Gardening Club

2016 has been another successful year for the club. We have had a varied and interesting list of speakers, garden visits, and a social evening. We start 2017 with a talk about dahlias by Robin Pearce on Tuesday 7th February 7:30 pm at the Town Hall. The March meeting is on Tuesday 7th 7.30 pm and the speaker is Duncan Coombes talking about herbaceous borders.

Members free. Guests £4. Tea coffee and biscuits included.

For more information or if you would like to go on the mailing list for the newsletter contact Jan Parker. 01600 772891.

Gardening advice needed

A keen home brewer from Llanvapley has decided to have a go at growing his own hops. The aim is to use them to make a special home brewed beer. He has selected and planted two dwarf varieties of hop and is waiting for signs of life as the spring comes. If everything goes to plan the hops should be harvested in September. Is there anyone with experience of growing, picking and drying hops who could offer some advice on how to do it successfully? Please contact TNT if you can help.



Contributions for the March issue of TNT by 20 February 2017 please

Please send your emails to lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com

Don't forget our website llantiliogroup.info for the latest information as well as information about all our churches. We are also on Twitter @LlantilioG