

# The New Times

*March 2017*

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



**Find out what Henry has been up to**



**Find out where to see wild daffodils**

## From The Vicarage

The snowdrops are heralding the beginning of Spring, and some of our farmers have already started lambing. This is one of my favourite seasons, and I have even spotted some primroses along the lanes. Colour is coming back into the countryside, and new life is appearing all around us.

This month Christians enter the season of Lent – when we recall Jesus' time in the wilderness, and the temptations that he encountered.

The service on Ash Wednesday encourages us to reflect on our own mortality, and how we use the time allotted to us. A cross is marked on our foreheads using the ashes of last year's palm crosses, with the words: "Remember that thou art dust, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Many people, of course, associate spring with cleaning – a time to sort out stuff we no longer need. Lent can be a good reminder to look at ourselves, and endeavour to rid ourselves of those things that weigh us down.

It was whilst pondering on these themes that I came across a poem I wanted to share with you. It's written by Rose Mulligan and entitled "Dust if you must":

"Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better  
To paint a picture, or write a letter,  
Bake a cake, or plant a seed;  
Ponder the difference between want and need?"

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,  
With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb;  
Music to hear, and books to read;  
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there  
With the sun in your eyes, and the wind in your hair;  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,  
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
Old age will come and it's not kind.  
And when you go (and go you must)  
You, yourself, will make more dust."

Why not use this season of Lent to look again at the gift of your life, to value it and use it wisely?

With every blessing,

Revd. Heidi  
Llantilio Vicarage  
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# St Mabli's Church Llanvapley



Invites you to join us  
for a Lenten

## TAIZE SERVICE

on Monday 6 March 2017  
Between 7 & 8 pm

*Refreshments will be  
provided after the service*

**Do you have any burning questions about Holy Scripture?** Is there something you've always wanted to know, but been afraid to ask? Want to know more? We have the opportunity to get to know Jesus better through joining together to explore the Bible, over tea and biscuits! Are you interested? Further details in the next edition of TNT.

In November last year, **Riding Lights Theatre Company** visited Llantilio Church and presented a play known as Simeon's Watch. Riding Lights are again on tour and are appearing on 12<sup>th</sup> April at St Michael and All Angels Church in Ledbury. The title of the new play is Crosslight. It has been described as "A fascinating psychological drama" and it draws the audience into the dramatic events of Christ's Passion and into the experience of one

disciple who failed, despite everything he believed so passionately. Tickets for the play cost £10.



Please contact TNT if you would like to go to see the play and arrangements will then be made to share lifts to Ledbury. The play is also being performed in Cardiff but Ledbury is actually nearer than Cardiff and easier to get to!

### **Llantilio Bellringers**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February was a quiet day for news and as a result quite a lot of media attention was given to the events which took place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February in Worcester Cathedral. Headlines such as “**Bell ringer survives freak accident at Worcester Cathedral**” and “Bell ringer pulled upside down after foot caught in rope” made 51 year old Ian Bowman quite famous. Llantilio Bell Ringers have so far evaded any media or hospital attention since they were re-formed over 4 years ago. Llantilio Tower Captain, Richard Booth would like to remind any would-be bell ringers that new ringers are always taught how to ring safely and they are welcome to come along on practice nights to see how it is done and to ask any questions. The next new ringers' night is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30.

### **Llanvapley News**

Over the last year **Llanvapley Church** has been raising money to enable it to go ahead with the points raised by the Quinquennial inspection of 2015. The Church has been given permission to go ahead and make improvements and repairs to the building but everything was dependent on securing grants and raising money. The aim of adding a disabled toilet was dependent on support from Cadw and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Unfortunately, these organisations were not able to support the big project but support from other organisations such as Church Care / Wolfson will enable the Church to go ahead with some essential repairs to the fabric of the building. It is hoped to start the works in the summer. Llanvapley Church would like to thank everyone who has contributed to its fund raising efforts which are still continuing.

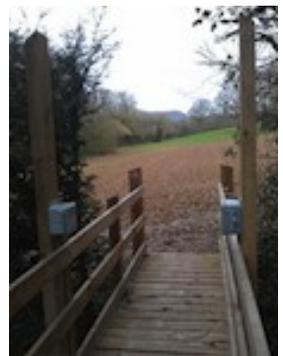
**The Annual General Meeting of Llanvapley Sports and Social Association** will be held on Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 in the pavilion. At the AGM the chair of the LSSA will present the annual report and the treasurer will present the accounts. The most important part of the evening is the election of officers. Without a committee there would be no LSSA. Without the LSSA the pavilion would be closed, the swings would be out of bounds and the future of the playing field would be uncertain. Everyone in the village is invited to join the committee and it is hoped that more people will come forward to show their support for the community. Please make a date in your diary and come along to the AGM.



Llanvapley Church was packed on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January for the **funeral of Bill Speake**. The church was full of family, friends and neighbours for a service of thanksgiving for Bill's life. Fond tributes were made to Bill and stories were told which reminded everyone of his love of his family and the fun he had following his passions and interests. The family would like to thank everyone who attended and who generously supported St David's Foundation and Llanvapley Church with their donations.



**One of Llanvapley's most important footpaths** was reopened last year after Monmouthshire County Council put in two excellent footbridges. Since then many local people and people from further afield have used the footpath which leads from



Llanvapley towards Duffryn Farm and beyond. Local walkers were recently surprised to find that the council has installed a people counter on one of the new bridges. No one is quite sure why the council has done this but hopefully it will show that the money spent on the bridges has been money well spent. It is well worth using this footpath at this time of year as you will be able to see displays of snowdrops, wild daffodils, bluebells and wood anemones in the woods and along the banks of Llanymynach Brook.

The wedding of **Edward Lowes and Tanja Gullestrup** took place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January at the Danish Church in Regent's Park, London followed by a reception at Claridges. A wonderful day was had by all and once again “a Llanvapley designed and made” wedding cake was the centrepiece of a wedding reception. Well done to the mother of the groom for your marvellous cake!



Back in 1984 **Llanvapley had its own parish magazine**. The April edition recorded that the LSSA AGM on the 21<sup>st</sup> March was held at Llanvapley Court. It also contained this rather interesting reminder to the youngsters of the village. As far as TNT knows no youngster was ever apprehended for their mischief. TNT would love to hear from anyone who could provide additional information which might help to identify who the culprits were!

Finally - a serious note -- We are aware that youngsters are using the church to play in. Far be it for me to stop anyone entering the House of God, but it is very dangerous as well as expensive, for youngsters to light the candles- We all know what happened in St Mary's Abergavenny, and it would be appalling if an accident occurred in our church. I do hope all youngsters in the village read this and then get the message!



The following advice was sent to TNT by a local gardener. “Now is the time to split up those congested clumps of **snowdrops**. I started with a few clumps 13 years ago and now they are all the way down the drive and bring a cheer on cold windy days in February. Most are *galanthus nivalis*, but I also have the double form and *g. Nivalis* ‘S Arnott’, but am not sure what some of the others are. If anyone knows what the second image is of, I would be most grateful.”

## WI News

The February meeting of the WI witnessed a significant historical event - the arrival of Henry VIII and all his wives in their finery! Their clothes were amazing and hand made by Rosemarie Jones. Members were thrilled to see the fruits of six years work, to create these 'dolls'. Jane Seymour had a thousand beads on her gowns.



Members were reminded that subs of £39 are now due. Also, a reminder to include their names in the brilliant trip to Denman College Oxfordshire on 9th October. This is a great opportunity to see the college, stately home, hear its history and see the gardens. The day will include lunch and tea, plus a cookery demonstration. The cost will be £42, which is a bargain as many of the courses at the college, cost hundreds of pounds.

In March we will welcome back one of our spell-binding speakers, Peter Strong. He is a local historian, who provided our very successful World War One Exhibition last year. This time he will deliver 'Musings on Monmouthshire', so we will learn many new anecdotes about the history of our country.



### What are you giving up for Lent?

If you, like me, always pick up a copy of the Waitrose Weekend magazine you may have noticed an interesting report in the 23<sup>rd</sup> February edition. **“Lent's modern message: fast less, give more”**. According to the report the tradition of giving something up for Lent is on the wane. Fewer than one in eight people give something up for Lent. However, the tradition of making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday is still very popular with 58% of people admitting to indulging themselves on the day before Lent begins. If you are giving up something for Lent why not “fast more and give more” and giving what you save to your favourite charity or to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal.

# Services in March

## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Ash Wednesday  
Service in Llantilio Crossenny at  
11am. (Please note this is a morning  
service this year)

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

St David's Day Concert  
Hog's Head 7.30pm

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March

First Sunday in Lent  
9.30am Llanvetherine  
11am Llantilio Crossenny

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Taize Service  
7.30pm Llanvapley

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Second Sunday in Lent  
9.30am Penrhos  
11am Llanvapley

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Llanvetherine Easter Vestry  
7pm Cartref

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Llanvetherine  
11am Llantilio Crossenny with  
Baptism of Caitlin Walker

## Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Llantilio Easter Vestry  
7pm Vicarage

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Mothering Sunday  
Joint Service for Mothering Sunday at  
11am in Llanvapley

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

9.30am Llanvetherine  
11am Llantilio Crossenny

## Dates for your Diary

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** St. David's Day concert at The Hog's Head

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March** Coffee Morning Llanvapley 10.30 in the pavilion

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March** 4.30pm Ward Surgery with Cllr. Sara Jones, Llanvapley pavilion

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April** Llanvapley Point to Point races



The Abergavenny Chro @AberChronicle · 3h  
Injured walker rescued from Skirrid in heavy wind and high rains



Injured walker rescued from Skirrid in heavy wind and high rains  
Abergavenny-based Longtown Mountain Rescue team were called out on  
Sunday afternoon to tend to an injured walker on the Skirrid (Ysgyrd Faw...  
abergavennychronicle.com

## Tweet of the month

From the Abergavenny Chronicle

This could never happen on our  
Good Friday walk - or could it!

*Contributions for the April issue of TNT by 20 March*

*Please send your 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 as well as information  
about all our churches. We are also on Twitter @LlantilioG*