

The New Times

May 2017

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



Find out where to go to see the best bluebells



Find out where to go to see the best borders

From The Vicarage

“Weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice”. As I write we have just held the funeral services of two very loved parishioners, Mrs Ann Ball and Mr. Alec Warwick.

It is such a tremendous privilege to be a vicar among you, and to commend our loved ones’ souls to God as we end our earthly pilgrimage. I also have the honour at officiating at people’s marriages; and it is so wonderful to witness their happiness and glow, as they embark on married life together. I have a letter holder on my desk with the words:

“Marriage isn’t finding someone to live with; It’s finding someone you can’t live without!” As I meet with couples preparing to marry, I remind them of the sacred vows they will make to each other. If I am guilty of stressing one above all else, it’s the vow “To love and to Cherish” one another – remember to do that, and you shouldn’t go far wrong. I will be forever grateful for my father’s advice, when as young girl, I asked him how I would know who to marry. His advice? “Marry someone with a kind heart.” Advice which for once, I took, and have never regretted it.

As my daughter chooses her GCSE options, (yes, we are at that age!), I am reminded of all the different choices we make through life. We don’t always get things right, and of course, hindsight is a wonderful thing; but if we choose to share God’s company, we know that whatever happens, He will be beside us through it all.

Grant, O Lord, that we may ever walk in your presence,
with your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds,
and your strength in our wills,
that when we finally come to stand before you,
it may be with the assurance of your welcome and the joy
our homecoming.

With every blessing,

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Llantilio Crossenny News

The recent deaths of **Ann Ball and Alec Warwick** have taken from Llantilio two of its most long-standing and respected inhabitants. To me they were both friends from a now distant past. Ann I first knew as a schoolgirl in the 1950s in the Vale of Glamorgan, when she had the distinction of being the only girl ever to be educated, as a sixth form scientist, in the Boys' Grammar School in Cowbridge. And I came to know Alec in the 1980s when he and Derrine were so unfailingly kind and supportive to my father-in-law, Mansel Thomas, during his long final illness in Treadam. Such truly good, kindly people they both were. They understood so well that the proper purpose of our life here on earth, is to be a giver rather than a taker. Our world is richer for their having been here, and poorer for their no longer being with us. Everyone will feel for their families in the great loss that each has sustained. *Peter Cobb*

The bells rang out on **Easter Sunday morning in St Teilo's** and a large congregation came along to the lovely and uplifting service in celebration of the Easter message. Following the service a lively gathering of children engaged themselves in the Easter egg hunt, little hands were quickly filled with chocolate eggs; however they didn't find all the eggs and the Vicar and Churchwarden almost spoil their lunch!

St Teilo's Church receives many visitors throughout the year. Among them are walkers from the nearby Offa's Dyke Path who stop to rest awhile and admire the beautifully kept churchyard and surrounding areas. Sometimes they sit and enjoy the peace and beauty of the place while having their lunch. A frequently heard remark is "how well cared for and looked after it all is". Thanks for this must go to David Lewis who mows the grass and keeps it all looking in tip top order. Thank you too, to Wyn Jones for all the beautiful flowers and shrubs that he has planted throughout the Churchyard and particularly the bank, which this spring has looked exceptionally beautiful. Thank you David and Wyn from everyone at St Teilo's. *Elsie Latham*



Llanvapley News

Llanvapley Church is having a **Churchyard Spring clean** on Saturday 10th June from 10am to around about lunchtime. We need your help! If you live in the village or have family buried in the churchyard then why not come along and give a helping hand. You can choose to do whatever you like for as long as you like. Please bring along your own tools etc. Hard work has its rewards they say and in this case we hope the reward will be a piece of lemon drizzle cake!

Keeping churchyards tidy is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council and many people donate to local churches to support ongoing maintenance of graves and the churchyard in general. The grave of Charles Williams in Llanvapley churchyard is not only looked after by the PCC and his family but also by the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)**. Charles died in the First World War and ever since then his grave has been regularly cleaned by CWGC in order to ensure it is in pristine condition. It is good to know that all war graves, even in small country churchyards such as Llanvapley, are maintained in perpetuity as a mark of respect for the sacrifice they gave.

The **LSSA 100 club monthly draw** was made at the LSSA coffee morning on 12th April. The winner was Doris Evans who was on hand to receive her cheque for £50. When asked how she was going to spend the money she said "I'm going to treat myself to a nice summer cardigan". The next draw will take place on 10th May at the next coffee morning. The **LSSA AGM** was held on 26th April. Nineteen people attended the meeting and the committee welcomed Richard Sidwell as a new trustee to replace Jason Stoker. Carole Brown and Sue Hinds were also welcomed as new committee members.

Llanvapley Church was recently given the following picture by Bernard Blackwell of Perth y Pia Farm. It is taken from a newspaper in the 1970s. It shows a group of people from the village at a church fundraising event. If anyone knows any of the names of any additional people in the picture then TNT would love to know.

Some of the guests who attended the coffee evening at Llanvapley Court last Thursday evening. Left to right, Miss Evans, Rhoda Nye who presented a bouquet to Mrs Jack Chance (seated centre) and Mr Jack Chance.



Penrhos News

Penrhos hosted the **Palm Sunday Service** on 9th April. We were blessed with glorious sunshine which meant we could have the service outside the church. Despite having no donkey the congregation moved around the churchyard and sang hymns and listened to meditations and readings from the Bible. Singing hymns outside without organ accompaniment can be really difficult, but everyone rose to the challenge with the help of the more accomplished singers in the congregation.



Congratulations to **Nigel and Carol** who were married on Easter Day at Glen Yr Afon House Hotel. We wish you lots of luck, love and happiness in your married life.



Holly Flynn is having a fantastic season Pony Racing on her wonderful pony Sammy. She came 3rd at Howick, 5th at Maisemore, 2nd at Cheltenham, 4th at Llangeinor and **WON** at Andoversford. She has had some tight finishes, stiff competition but that just makes her more determined to keep going. Well done Holly you've done something your father never managed in his racing career because Holly got into the winners' enclosure! *Pip Rumsey*



Woodlands Farm and The Old Vicarage had a tremendous weekend opening under the National Garden Scheme in April. With over 450 guests it raised more than £4,000 for good causes (including the Macmillan Nurses and the Monmouth District Food Bank). The feedback on both gardens has been phenomenal. The borders were greatly admired.



If you missed the April openings, fear not. Both gardens are open again between 2pm and 6pm on Saturday 13 May and, together with Tandderwen for the first time (thank you Andrea and Mat), on Sunday 14 May. Teas are available for £4 on both days (at Woodlands Farm on Saturday and at The Old Vicarage on Sunday). There will also be a plant sale at The Old Vicarage. Single entrance fee for the gardens is £6.50 per adult on each day. Children get in free (no dogs). All proceeds go to charity, including St. Cadoc's church, Penrhos (which will also be open to guests on both days). You can look up all three gardens on the NGS website at www.ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden *Charles Horsfield*

In June, Penrhos will be hosting a **Wine Walk** round the village. There will be several houses each hosting a country e.g. Australia, South Africa. The wine walkers will be split into groups depending on how many people are taking part. Everyone will meet at the Church, which will for example be Chile, and you will be offered a glass of Chilean wine and each group will be sent in a different direction with a route of houses to visit. You then have 5 or 20 mins per house to sample the wine and nibbles before moving onto the next house. Taxis home are a necessity and so is booking! It will cost £10 per person and is a great way to meet new people and to discover the village. Date to be confirmed. Let Pip know if you are interested in this event.

Llanvetherine News

Llanvetherine had a very successful **Easter Bingo** session at Llanddewi Skirrid Village Hall on Easter Saturday, organised by the two villages to support their churches. It was obviously enjoyed by all and raised some very helpful funds.

It was also gratifying to have a good congregation for our **Easter Day** service where an increasing number of children took part in Communion, and it was lovely to welcome quite a few visitors.

Sally Dawson and a group of fellow stitchers known as 'Naturally Sew' are holding an exhibition of textile art entitled '**The Spirit of Nature**' at the **Craft Renaissance Gallery**, Kemeys Commander, near Usk, from 3rd – 21st May 2017. It's open Wednesdays to Sundays each week from 10.30 to 5.00. There's plenty of free parking and entry is free. Nice tea shop as well!
Andrew Dawson

WI News

The April WI meeting heard reasons for the National WI to support, or not, the two resolutions for 2017. Plastic and microfibres in the sea, which Ruth Hoggins explained, was not only the hard plastics, that we all know about, but the microfibres that are released from non-natural materials each time these are washed. The members agreed with this as a worthy cause to try to lessen these dangerous fibres, getting into our oceans and then into the fish, and ourselves. The second motion was to lessen loneliness, by actively seeking out

lonely people and befriending them. Elaine Leader gave an interesting talk on this subject and carried the members to support this resolution. It was said, of course, that we and many other WIs aim to do this. By including and encouraging women to join the WI and by looking out for friends, neighbours and lonely people. The committee were able to offer the members a choice of two venues for their annual Summer outing. The members present decided on Berrington House and gardens with lunch and secondly the Monkland cheese museum in Ludlow. Marion will book this for us and Jan has booked 12th July for the coach. May is the AGM and Lin reminded members they can use a proxy vote or postal vote now. Please let her know and she will send a form. At the AGM it will be necessary to find a new secretary. We don't want our WI to go under! So anyone willing to share the load with Ann and Lin, please make your name know. We have a new treasurer, Jan Currie, who is kindly waiting in the wings. After the AGM there will be the fun auction of items and promises. Please take any offers to Jan's at Broadlands the week before. Next meeting 12th May. *Lin Morris*

The speaker for the April meeting of the **Grosmont and District Gardening Club** was Davina Wynne Jones. Davina gave us a really interesting talk about the properties of various herbs and their healing powers. Davina also brought along herbs that we could buy. She has 2 acres near Cirencester where she grows her herbs and makes her natural cosmetics. We then had tea and biscuits and the raffle was held. There is no hall meeting until September. The next meeting on 2nd May is a trip to Llanover house gardens and the 6th June is the plant sale. For more information or if you would like to go on the mailing list for the newsletter please contact Jan Parker 01600 772891 and you can also find us on the Grosmont town website.

On Saturday 13th May the **Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales** has organised a guided walk around Skirrid Fawr. The walk will be an opportunity to enjoy the spectacular scenery and learn about the myths and legends of Monmouthshire with local historian, Alex Gibbon. The start of the walk is at the new Skirrid Car Park at 10.30am. The walk will follow the footpath around the Skirrid followed by an ascent to the summit. Please ensure you have strong footwear and suitable clothing. Please note, it is generally cold and windy on the Skirrid ridge whatever the weather is like in the car park! The walk should last between 2 and 2.5 hours. The National Trust charges £3 for day parking. There is no charge for the walk and you are welcome to bring along friends. Contact cprwmonmouthshire@gmail.com

The Skirrid is famous for its **bluebells in May** which can be found in abundance in the woods on the western slopes of the mountain. The picture to the right shows bluebells in Tintern in the Wye Valley. Thanks to a TNT reader for the recommendation and the picture.



Services in May

Sunday 7th May

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 14th May

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Sunday 21st May Rogation Sunday

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 28th May Sunday after

Ascension
9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Dates for your Diary

Bank Holiday Monday May 1st Plant Sale Llantilio Crossenny Church 2pm

Saturday / Sunday May 13th and 14th Penrhos Open Gardens

Saturday May 13th CPRW Skirrid Guided Walk

Friday 26th May Llanddewi Skirrid Hall 7.30pm Quiz night with fish and chips or pizza. Bring your brain and we'll order in some fast food to feed it.

Sunday 4th June Hog Roast at Bulmer's Barn, carving at 1pm. Please let Richard or Margaret Price know if you are coming so we know approx numbers

Friday September 29th Penrhos Harvest Festival Service

Tuesday 19th December Penrhos Christmas Carol Service

The 2017 Annual Conference of the Modern Church is entitled God: None, One, Three or Many? It will be held on 10th-12th July 2017 at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. TNT is pleased to hear that **Revd. Lorraine Cavanagh** from Tal-y-Coed has been appointed as the Conference Chaplain. Lorraine is also currently Acting General Secretary for Modern Church.

On **Good Friday** a group from the four parishes and Llantilio Pertholey group took part in a service of the Stations of the Cross on Skirrid Fawr. A wooden cross was carried all the way up to the summit by a number of people. The cross was made from



wood taken from the Christmas tree used last Christmas in Llantilio. Special thanks go to Marjorie Bennett from Llanddewi Skirrid for the hot cross buns which were enjoyed at the summit.

*Contributions for the **June and July** issue of TNT by 20th May*

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