

The New Times

August 2017

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



Find out why everyone in Llantilio was smiling



From The Vicarage

Many of you may have heard by now that our brood in the vicarage has increased.

We now have three more females living among us. Not quite three French hens, but three welsh ones!

The joy of finding warm, freshly laid eggs has not diminished; and I am always amazed by how perfectly packaged they are. No need for plastic or bubble-wrap, or layers of wrapping. The egg shell is just perfect.

But I never expected to get so much pleasure in simply watching the hens roam freely around the garden – they are intriguing and it is possible to spend a long time watching their antics.

It made me think about the freedom that we have, and my thoughts were drawn to the prayer which has long been part of the traditional service of morning prayer:

“Almighty God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom stands our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom.”

In the days of slavery and serfdom, service and freedom were opposites of each other. Now, we have become accustomed to thinking of ourselves as free. But if we live in fear and uncertainty, or allow ourselves to succumb to hatred and prejudice, then we are really as much a prisoner as any slave, or the poor battery hen.

But when we place our trust in God, open our hearts to Him, and have confidence in the power of His Love, then we can know and share that true freedom that comes from serving Him.

*With every blessing,
Revd. Heidi, Llantilio Vicarage
llantiliovicar@aol.com
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I would very much like to thank all the many people in our four parishes who have provided so much support and goodwill to me during my rather swift but joyful journey into Ministry over the last three years or so. Thank you especially for all the messages of goodwill I have received on the occasion of my ordination to the Priesthood, and for the very kind gift of an Afternoon Tea voucher for Sally and I at the Gliffaes Hotel which we will greatly enjoy - how very thoughtful! I would also like to thank Sally for her support which has been immeasurable. I am looking forward to continuing ministry in the four parishes serving as Heidi's



Assistant Curate. I ask you all to keep me in your prayers as I continue my hands-on ministry experience under Heidi's kindly expert eye, and I will keep all of you in my prayers.'

Revd. Andrew Dawson

I am writing to say how immensely touched I was by the glorious fuss made of me to mark my ninetieth birthday.



Right from the moment when we walked up the path into Llantilio Church and heard the crisp striking of the bells, to the final moment when we bore off home the top tier of the birthday cake (that cake!) it was an unclouded joy, and all the more enjoyable for the feeling that it was a generosity quite unearned. Our numerous relations, together with the many friends who came along from our previous existences, felt so welcomed too. I thought you'd like to know what one of them has since written to me: "It was such a lovely service, in a beautiful church with an endearing congregation; and what a magnificent spread they put on!" How nice to be thought endearing! We are so aware of how fortunate we are that we have finally found ourselves in this place among you all, and with Heidi as our guiding star. So much is said about our great diocesan family, and, quite rightly, about our responsibility to care about the Church's mission to the world in crisis; but I always remember the words of a great theologian from my days in training: "Christianity started as a little family group, and it's in little family groups that its principles still have the best chance of being worked out today."

That's why I feel that the country church, which is so often written off by the hierarchy as marginal to the meaning of mission, is in fact privileged beyond measure. The way in which our four little communities so readily came together this last week is proof that the Christian virtues of generosity and brotherly (not to speak of sisterly) love are alive and well in the Llantilio group. Thank you so much.

A couple of verses of Charles Wesley's have been going round and round in my head all week:

Why hast thou cast our lot
In the same age and place?
And why together brought
To see each other's face?
To join with softest sympathy,
And mix our friendly souls in thee?

Didst thou not make us one,
That we might one remain,
Together travel on,
And bear each other's pain;
Till all thy utmost goodness prove,
And rise renewed in perfect love?

Revd. Peter Cobb

Llantilio Crossenny News

The **Llantilio Village Walk** once again proved to be a very popular event as you can see from the picture on the front of TNT. Despite the rain, 22 walkers and 5 dogs came along to enjoy a four mile walk through Talycoed Wood. The route took us through the wood to Upper House Farm, then through fields and back into the wood to rejoin the path where we started. Following the walk a delicious Strawberry Tea was served in the Church where we were joined by friends unable to do a long walk. Many thanks are due to the ladies of the Church for providing the excellent tea and to the walk leaders for a most enjoyable walk despite the weather.

We would just like to say a special thank you to all those who helped make our wedding so special. Heidi and Andrew who conducted the service, all the flower ladies, Jeanette who played both the organ and the piano, the bell ringers who played so joyfully, those who helped with serving the food and drink and everybody who joined us in St. Teilo's for the celebration.

Chris and Tricia Wilding



On Sunday 16th July **Revd. Lorraine Cavanagh** was interviewed as part of the Radio 4 program 'Something Understood'. In the program Lorraine is interviewed by Mark Tully and discusses some very interesting ideas. Please note that the mention of a "lukewarm cup of coffee" in the program is not a reference to Llantilio or Llanvapley! Well worth a listen. Follow this link to listen to the program again. Lorraine starts at about minute 10.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08xxd8d>

Myfanwy Williamson is pictured with the file she has created about the bell tower at St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny. The file contains pictures and articles relating to the bell tower, including one which tells how the church and parish was involved during the second World War. Myfanwy would like to thank those who have contributed to the file. The file will be left in the church for visitors to read. If anybody has more material concerning the bell tower please contact Myfanwy.



BBC Music Day. Bell ringers from the UK and around the world were invited to take part in the third annual BBC Music Day on Thursday 15 June 2017, with the theme this year being "The Power of Music". The sound of bells, with their power to bring communities and generations together, was a feature of last year's BBC Music Day. Tower or hand bells were to be rung at 7pm local time around the world to showcase this kind of performing art. This year three tower bell ringers from Llantilio Crossenny, Trish Luxmore, Sarah Heath and Myfanwy Williamson joined other ringers at Llantilio Pertholey, to contribute to the event.

Llanvapley News

Important building work is about to start on Llanvapley Church. This work will address a number of the issues brought up in the recent quinquennial report. As a result of this work, it will be necessary to close the Church for services and for visitors. This will mean that there will be no services in August and part of September and the Cadw Open Doors event scheduled for September will also be cancelled. The work is scheduled to last for six weeks. The Strawberry Tea will go ahead as normal. Access to the churchyard also needs to be restricted. Please speak to a churchwarden if you would like to gain access to the churchyard during this period.

LSSA will be holding a **coffee morning** on August 9th 10.30. Everyone is very welcome to come along and have a chat. The latest winner of the LSSA 100 Club was Dave Lewis. The LSSA committee will be organising a **BBQ** on 25th August from 6.30pm onwards. This will be an important opportunity to get together and to discuss how you would like to see the

playing field and the pavilion to develop in the future. Please bring your own drink as the LSSA does not have a licence.

Robert and Margarita Blackwell are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, **Eila (Isla) Linda Blackwell**. Eila was born on 29th of June and weighed in at 8lb 3oz. Mother and baby are both doing well. (Pictured are Margarita, Eila and big brother Charlie.) Robert's parents, Bernard and Linda Blackwell of Perth-y-Pia Farm, Llanvapley are particularly delighted as Eila is the first great granddaughter of Frances and Dudley Blackwell.



Llanvapley saw some changes in June. After living in Llanvapley for many, many years **Brenda Allen** has now left the village and has moved to a very nice apartment in Abergavenny. Brenda and her late husband, Clive, have been well known members of the village and contributed a great deal to village life. Despite leaving the village, it is good to know that Brenda is still a member of the LSSA committee for which she is the treasurer and she will still be coming to coffee mornings. I am sure everyone hopes she will quickly settle into life in the town and enjoy many happy years there. This is also a good opportunity to welcome John and Liz Deacon who have moved into Brenda's house, 4 Firs Road. John and Liz have moved from France and are very much enjoying their new home and getting to know the area. Welcome to Llanvapley!



Yoga in Llanvapley The three 'Introduction to Yoga' sessions in June at the hall were super. We had 10 in the group and we had a great time getting to grips with the warm up movements, some yoga postures, yoga breathing and lovely relaxation time. It was good to meet so many people from the area and to get a sense of the friendly community I am moving to. I had some positive feedback from everyone and have taken it on board for the sessions starting in September. Thank you for giving me the feedback, I have really appreciated it. My Yoga teaching course is completed and I have passed, 'Phew' and graduated. *Zara Elrington*

Yoga Sessions in Llanvapley Pavilion will be restarting in September

The sessions are for beginners (or for those who came to the introductory sessions). The class will be friendly with lots of simple work to get you started in yoga and to encourage home practice. The sessions begin on Tuesday September 12th from 10.30am to 12.00 for 6 weeks. Each session will cost £5.00 and the class size will be limited to 8. Please bring a yoga mat, cushion/s, a warm wrap, socks for relaxation and a water bottle.



Pictured right are some of the people who attended the sessions in June (men welcome too!)

Booking is on a “first come, first served” basis. If there are more people than I can accommodate in the first session, I am happy to run a second beginners’ session from 2pm – 3.30pm. Please book your place by emailing zgst1ce@outlook.com

Biography: Zara has been practising yoga for more than 20 years. Over the years she attended several retreat weekends and in 2015 decided to take the next step and study yoga more intensively. She completed the British Wheel of Yoga Foundation Teaching Course that year in Bristol. Zara has just completed a 200 hour teaching course in “Holistic Classical Hatha and Raja Yoga” at the Yoga Satsanga Ashram in Carmarthen, Wales, accredited by the Yoga Alliance UK.



On June 10th a band of volunteers assembled in Llanvapley to give the churchyard a good old fashioned **Spring Clean**. Thanks to everyone who came along to help and made it such a fun morning. The weather was thankfully kind apart from the odd spell of “lemon drizzle”!

On 25th June **Carys Gwenno James** was baptised in Llanvapley Church. The church was full of family, friends and the Llanvapley congregation who very much enjoyed celebrating this very happy event.



Penrhos News

Penrhos village is hosting a **BIG BBQ at Woodlands Farm Barns** on Sunday, 3rd September from 12.30pm. Tickets include BBQ food (locally sourced where possible, with meat from Neil James of Raglan) washed down with wine (probably not local), beer and soft drinks. Musical diversion will be courtesy of the BBC radio and Edinburgh Fringe star Jo Stephenson performing her brilliant comedy ukulele songs (check her out on <http://www.jostephensonsings.com>). There will be a kids' entertainment barn, so parents can relax for a change, and the gardens at Woodlands Farm will be open to view in their late summer splendour. Family and friends from all four parishes are most welcome. This event is principally about community fun and any funds raised will be put towards a village defibrillator and repairing our church. Tickets cost £15 each (under 10yrs free) For tickets please speak to one of your village contacts Emma Manchand, Craig Loane, Pip Rumsey, Clare Adams, Teresa Cash or Mat Burhouse or call Emma on 01600 780174.

On 25th June Heidi led a wonderful **naming ceremony for Monty and Hattie Manchand** at Penrhos Church. It was a great fun ceremony with children in fancy dress, bubbles blowing in the churchyard and an eclectic selection of musical instruments to help lift the rafters during the songs! Emma and Kevin Manchand are extremely grateful to Heidi for leading this non traditional event and it was wonderful to have the church filled with such colour and noise. A great time was had by all followed by tea at Woodlands Barns afterwards, with scrummy sausage rolls and pasties courtesy of The Parson's Nose. Thanks also to Charlie and Craig for the use of their wonderful party barns.



Above – The Naming ceremony in Penrhos church and a magical mix of characters around the Yew in the churchyard

On 30th July I am taking part in **Prudential Ride London-Surrey**, a 100 mile cycle event, to raise money for Parkinson's UK. Celebrating the legacy for cycling created by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 starts in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, then follows a 100-mile route on closed roads through the capital



and into Surrey's stunning countryside. There are leg-testing climbs including Box Hill and Leith Hill. The Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 finishes on The Mall in central London, shortly before 150 professional cyclists race in the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey Classic on a similar route. I will be cycling for 8 hours along with 25,000 other cyclists who are taking part. I work as a Speech and Language Therapist at Nevill Hall Hospital. I help people whose communication and swallowing has been affected by neurological progressive conditions such as Parkinson's. My own grandmother also had the condition and I saw the way that it can affect your movement, memory and mood. Parkinson's UK is the main support and research charity in the UK. They run local support groups in Monmouth, Chepstow and Pontypool. The charity also organises activity groups, provides grants to pay for adaptations to homes, works with health and social care professional to drive better care and funds research projects to improve treatments and find a cure. Please consider sponsoring me. I have an online fundraising page at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/HollyJanesThomas>

Holly Janes-Thomas

The Waun Farm, Penrhos

Improve the road layout on the A40 at Raglan to prevent further accidents On June 20th 2017 at 8.10am a serious accident occurred after a driver pulled out of Groesenon Road to cross the A40 to Raglan and into the path of a driver travelling at approximately 65mph along the dual carriageway towards the A449. Whilst the driver of the first vehicle was clearly at fault this type of incident is easily preventable with a changed road layout incorporating traffic lights or a roundabout. Thankfully both drivers survived the collision due to the excellent safety features in each of their cars. Both spent time in hospital due to injuries sustained in the incident and this story could so easily have had a more sombre ending.

A petition has been started to call on the National Assembly for Wales to make an urgent review of the road layout in the interests of the many walkers, cyclists and drivers whose lives are put at risk by this junction each day. 5000 signatures are required, which is unfair for such a small community, so as well as signing the petition yourself please ask your partners, parents, grandparents and everyone you know to sign!

Please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/yd33359r>

Or go to www.change.org and search for A40

Saturday 5th August at 7pm Cheese & Wine Evening at the Church

There will also be an update on the church restoration. Everyone welcome especially children, family and friends.

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th, September Longhouse Farm, Penrhos has its beautiful gardens open for the NGS. There will be teas both days and hopefully the dahlias and asters will still be out in full colour.

WI News

The guest night in June was a lovely picnic prepared by members. The weather was perfect and the Pub Session Players entertained everyone. They were accompanied by the LC WI band, who may need a little more practice! Training in CPR by St John's Ambulance was carried out and the opportunity was taken to practice on models. Should it ever be necessary it may now be given with more confidence and correct procedure. The Summer outing was to Monkland Cheese Museum, where members saw the process of cheese making and maturing. Some families surely enjoyed having some chunks taken home! Then it was on to Berrington Hall and beautiful gardens. There were guided tours of the house and the walled garden where vegetables were viewed. Many also enjoyed tea under the parasols in the sunshine. The choir



continues to sound even better due to Margaret and Ruth's hard work. The next practice at Llanvapley is on Monday 31st July. Then there will be two at Usk hall, on 4th and 11th of August between 7 and 9pm. The August Do-it-yourself party will be on 9th August. This will allow everyone to share their talents! There will be competitions for photos, cookery, flowers and poems all on the theme of Summer. Names need to be written on paper and sealed in an envelope, which should be

placed with the entry. The hall will be opened early for entries to be placed and the choir to practice, hopefully! Finger food would be welcome, as would any one prepared to entertain us, with poem, prose, song or dance. It's your time to shine!

Are there any **experienced chess players** who would be interested in an occasional game with a ranked Junior player looking to improve his skills? Or even just as a casual friendly? Especially in the Penrhos area? Please contact TNT if you are able to help.

On Monday 3rd July the **Taize singing group** met and surprised themselves with their musical capacities. The group practised 3 **Taize** songs, the Kyrie, the Lord Hear My Prayer and the Jubilate, singing the Kyrie in 3 parts. Everyone was delighted by how it went and had a lot of fun doing it. There will be another practice on 21st August. Please contact TNT if you would like to join the group.

As you know, the churches and chapels of Wales are some of the most beautiful religious buildings anywhere in the world. Now, **Sanctaidd - Sacred Wales**, is giving you the opportunity to choose your favourite. A competition for the nation's favourite Place of Worship was launched last week at an event in Cardiff. There is a shortlist of 50 churches and chapels and 2 of our local churches are on it: St Bridget, Skenfrith and St Nicholas, Grosmont. Here is the weblink to the Sacred Wales site where you can vote: www.sacredwales.org.uk

The induction of **Rev. Gaynor Burrett**, Priest in Charge Grosmont group of parishes and Ministry Area Leader designate will take place at St. Nicholas Church, Grosmont on Monday 4th September 6.00pm All welcome

Llangattock Lingoed is having a Fun Day and Show on 6th August. There will be all sorts of competitions to take part in including Granny Beryl's Bake Off and one for the most Glamorous Granny. There will also be classes classes and a dog show. Something for everyone!

FUN DAY & SHOW



LLANGATTOCK LINGOED
SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST 2017
1.00 PM onwards



FUN RUN (from 1.00pm)  MAYBOL
DANCING
KARAOKE (5.00 – 7.00pm)
VINTAGE TRACTORS SHEEP &
DOG SHOWS
CHILDREN'S GAMES & SPORTS
stocks, face painting, tin can alley golf
to the pin, skittles
tug of war (children & adults) auction
& raffle
LUNCHES, TEAS, CAKES, BBQ & BEER

ALL WELCOME

FREE ENTRY & PARKING

Services in August

Sunday 30th July

11am Penrhos Joint Service

Sunday 6th August

11am Llanvetherine with Baptism

11am Llantilio Crossenny

Holy Communion

Sunday 13th

9.30am Penrhos

Sunday 20th

9.30am Llanvetherine

6pm Llantilio Crossenny

Evening Prayer

Sunday 27th

9.30am Penrhos

Sunday 3rd September

9.30am Llanvetherine

11am Llantilio Crossenny

Please note that there will be no services in Llanvapley during August due to work being carried out on the church. Also note that on Sunday 20th August Llantilio will be holding Evening Prayer with hymns at 6pm. Also advanced notice that on Sunday September 17th there will be an Animal service in Llantilio Crossenny at 11am. Please bring your animals along if you can.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 29th July Llanvetherine Horse Show

Sunday 30th July Llanvapley Church Strawberry Tea, 3pm to 5pm

Saturday 5th August 7pm Cheese & Wine Evening at the Church

Sunday 6th August Llangattock Lingoed Fun Day 1pm onwards

Wednesday 9th August Llanvapley Coffee Morning 10.30am

Tuesday August 22nd Coffee Morning Llanddewi Rhydderch Village hall 10.30am

Friday 25th August LSSA BBQ 6.30pm onwards at Llanvapley pavilion

Sunday 3rd September BIG BBQ at Woodlands Farm Barns from 12.30pm

Tuesday 5th September 7.30pm to 9.00pm Grosmont Gardening Club in the Town Hall "Lynn Albutt on "The Music of Plants".

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th September Open Gardens Longhouse Farm, Penrhos

Contributions for the September issue of TNT by 20th August

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

Don't forget our website llantiliogroup.info to find out more about our churches.

We are also on Twitter @LlantilioG