

The New Times

September 2017

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



Find out what Megan had to say at the BBQ



Find out how this event could get even better next year

From The Vicarage

September can be a month of contrasts. For some, it heralds the start of a new chapter. A new school, or the excitement of going to college or university.

Many children will see it less as the start of something, but rather as an ending: the end of the Summer holidays.

This past Summer has been a mixed bag, at least as far as the holiday weather is concerned. While continental Europe has languished in a sweltering heatwave, we in the British isles, guarded by the Gulf Stream, have experienced something different. As someone once said to me, "Abroad they have a climate. Here in Wales, we have weather." How true!

I was struck by the contrasts on my packing list for a week we spent in mid-Wales, not a place renowned for dry spells: *Coat; sun cream; waterproof trousers; sunglasses*. It reminded me of the quite useless piece of advice, "Pack for a British Summer!" A more useful axiom might be that there is no such thing as bad weather – only inappropriate clothing.

We might not be able to choose our holiday weather, but we can pack so that we are prepared for it. Just like the Welsh weather, life can also be unpredictable: wonderfully happy one day, yet desperately sad at another time. During our lifetimes we will all experience enormous contrasts.

Yet whatever we encounter, placing our trust in God will help us to be prepared for the contrasts that life brings.

As a lovely gentleman said to me as he neared the end of his earthly pilgrimage,

"The Lord has looked after me all my life, He isn't going to stop now."

With every blessing,

Revd. Heidi, Llantilio Vicarage

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Llantilio Crossenny News

Congratulations to **Kim Evans**, née Lewis who celebrated her wedding on August 10th. Kim lived at Great Killough Farm, Llantilio Crossenny for 24 years and many people in the village will remember her father, Keith Lewis who for many years cut the grass in the churchyard.

As well as regular practices and ringing for special occasions, **Llantilio Crossenny Church bell tower** is also used by visitors from all over the UK who come to enjoy what has been called 'the finest light peal of eight in the county'. On Bank Holiday Monday a visiting band came from the Builth Wales area. A member of the band was Linda Davies. She has kindly presented to the church her father's record of the restoration of the bells forty years ago. Before that date the bells probably had not been rung for one hundred years. Dick Horsington organised the removal of the bells to White Chapel in London where they were repaired and recast. He worked together with George Ward and Mervyn Roberts but was assisted by many others to lower six bells weighing many hundredweights, then move them onto a waiting lorry for transport. Further details of the restoration will follow and the story of how six bells became eight.



What have Chepstow Racecourse, The Hog's Head, The Old Station at Tintern and The Savoy Theatre in Monmouth all got in common? The answer is they are all on the list of 33 approved venues for wedding ceremonies and receptions found on the Monmouthshire County Council website. Missing from the list are our four churches, which make ideal venues for rather more splendid wedding ceremonies! The photo on the left was taken at the wedding of **Harry and Flora Stein**, who were married at St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny on Saturday 10th June.



The other photo was taken at the wedding of Kezia Blake and Steven Jones on 17th June. Their wedding was followed by a reception at the Hog's Head.

Llanvapley News

On Friday 25th August, Llanvapley Sports and Social Association held a summer BBQ in the pavilion. The weather was thankfully warm and everyone was able to relax and enjoy the delicious food and the good company. Before the raffle there was an opportunity to thank everyone for coming and a toast was given by one of the younger members of the village community. Megan (granddaughter of Anne and Edwin Jones) read out the following toast which she had written on the night. "I'd like to raise a toast to village life, good food and the LSSA". Megan is 7 years old and loves coming to the village and village events such as coffee mornings, strawberry tea and BBQs. The toast was all her own idea. Many thanks to Megan's mother Mia for the pictures. Many thanks also to the LSSA committee and others who prepared the wonderful food and helped with the washing up. The puddings were so nice many of the children came back for seconds and thirds and... The photo shows Megan reading her favourite book "Six Dinner Sid" which may have given her the idea to go back for more!



The **LSSA 100 Club** monthly draw took place at the coffee morning on 9th August. The winner was Brenda Allan, the LSSA treasurer! Brenda was delighted to win and to write a cheque to herself for £50.

The picture on the right was sent in by Denise Holborn with the following message - "My Mum's birthday is on 22nd September and she will be 93....if you would like to put that in September's TNT." TNT is always delighted to publish birthday greetings and we wish **Doris Evans of Llanvapley** many happy returns and we hope the sun is shining on the 22nd so she can sit outside and enjoy her new bench.



Yoga at Llanvapley Pavilion

Starting September 12th for six sessions.

Tuesday 10.30 - 12.00 - This session is now fully booked

Tuesday 12.30 - 2pm - Spaces available. Please contact: Zara on zgst1ce@outlook.com to book a place and find out more.

Building work on Llanvapley Church has progressed very well during August. However, services in September will be cancelled as the work is expected to take longer than expected as a result of further work which has been identified. The new French drain on the north side of the church has been installed and is expected to solve the damp problems which have caused discolouration to the wall. Three new windows have also been fitted which have improved the overall look of the church and repairs have been done to several ceiling panels which have been a great cause for concern. Archeologists were on hand during the excavations for the French drain in case anything was disturbed. It is interesting to note that very little was found during the excavations for the soakaway but some interesting things were found adjacent to the church wall. Bones, teeth and parts of a skull were found and examined by the archaeologists. It wasn't possible to date them without taking them to a laboratory but we were assured that they were not recent! All the remains were carefully gathered together and reburied in an appropriate place. Revd. Heidi was on hand to ensure that the remains were given a final blessing. A record has been kept of what was found but we were told not to publish pictures by the archeologists. However, during a sweep of the churchyard with a metal detector an interesting object was found. The words and images on the object were not clear but on closer examination by Peter Marchant he was able to give us this report "It's a medallion representing the "gifts of the spirit" which are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord. That's what it says round the edges of the side with the Maltese cross on it. (It doesn't include 'piety' for some reason unless that's in the middle perhaps?) and it spells 'Counsel' 'Counsell' which I think is an old spelling so it's possibly Victorian?? I can't read what it says on the other side, (it seems to start 'You...'?) but I think the scenes relate to the attributes; a book for knowledge etc. The double cross is called a cross of Lorraine, and both that and the Maltese cross relate to the Knights' Templar, but they also appear in other circumstances. It may be the sort of thing that was given to a child on their baptism or confirmation?"



Llanvapley Church held it's annual **Strawberry Tea** on 30th July. The weather was a bit uncertain so the event was moved inside to avoid the predicted showers and the wind. There was an excellent turnout and everyone thoroughly enjoyed spoiling themselves. Thanks to everyone who came to support the event and to those who helped to organise the tea which raised £188 for Church funds. One PCC member said "So many people - rumour of Flossie's delicious cakes has spread far and wide!"



Llanvetherine News

Cwmerra Baptist Chapel, Llanvetherine, Harvest Service - Sunday 24th September 3.00pm. All very welcome, followed by tea and cakes and distribution of produce.

Brian Lane is recovering from an operation to replace a knee joint and we wish him well and also hope that he does not become too demanding a patient for Zoe.

We understand that **Clarissa and Julian Fonseca** are celebrating their ruby wedding anniversary, so many congratulations to them both on reaching such a significant milestone in their lives together.

As it is the **exam result season** we hear that Jim and Kate Beavan are becoming share holders in a well known tissue company as they have shed many tears of utter pride and joy over the last few days. Their daughter Celyn has had a difficult time with her school work as she missed so much time through ill health. Celyn was not looking forward to results day! She need not have worried as her results were 2 A stars, 6 A grades and 2 B grades. What a result, well done and put the tissues away Jim! **Celyn** is going to Hereford Sixth Form College to study English, Philosophy and Ethics, Psychology and Biology for the next part of her career. She should do so well with those results and two 'ologies to work on as well.

We are pleased to welcome **Huw, Ben and Tom to Llanvetherine Court** and wish them well in their new venture at the court.

The **Llanvetherine Show** held in July was a great success and a great team effort. The show raised a good sum to support the church and in our meeting following the show it was mentioned that we could have a Show Dinner! That may sound rather grand but it is great to notice that the show is an event in the Llanvetherine calendar that brings many residents together so a "dinner" or a night out will give us another chance to catch up with our neighbours. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the show successful. *(photos from the show are on the cover)*

St David's Church, Llanddewi Skirrid Festival Weekend September 8th-10th

Friday Sept 8th Skittles Evening at the Hall 7.30pm £5 inc. Supper

Saturday Sept 9th Church Open 10-4pm Craft displays, books, plants etc
Teas in the Hall 3-5pm

Sunday Sept 10th Church Open 10-4pm
Songs of Praise 4.30pm

Penrhos News

Penrhos Harvest Festival is on Friday 29th September at 7.00pm in the Church and will be followed by Harvest Supper at High House Barn. A warm welcome to everyone. Why not come along and enjoy the festivities!



**All four parishes, family and friends
most welcome.**

This event is principally about community fun and any funds raised will be put towards a village defibrillator and repairing our church.

★ **THE BIG BBQ** ★

Woodlands Farm Barns

Sunday, 3rd September - from 12.30pm

Ticket includes:

- BBQ food (locally sourced where possible)
- Wine • Beer • Soft drinks
- Kids entertainment • Woodlands Farm gardens open to view
- Music courtesy of the BBC radio and Edinburgh Fringe star Jo Stephenson - www.jostephensonsings.com

**Tickets: Adults - £15, under 16yrs - £7.50
and under 10yrs - free**

Tickets bought in advance will be entered into a prize draw to win a piece of pottery from the Woodlands Farm Pottery.

For tickets please speak with • Emma Manchand

- Craig Loane • Pip Rumsey • Clare Adams • Teresa Cash
- Mat Burhouse • call Emma on 01600 780174
- email penrhos@slingshot.co.uk

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 WI August meeting was an open and competition evening. The theme of the competition was Summer and members entered into the spirit by bringing along some wonderful entries. The choir sang and a good time was had by all.

The choir will have a practice on Monday 11th September at 7pm. There will also be another before the meeting on Wednesday 13th at 6.30pm. The choir is sounding great and had a warm reception at the rehearsal for the October show, in Usk.

Next month Marion will give a talk on Tenovus, the Welsh cancer charity.

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

Llanddewi Rhydderch News

Charity Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning Llanddewi Rhydderch Village hall 10.30am

September 20th 10.30 am in aid of Macmillan Nurses - Prizes for the raffle would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Caroline Grant carolineatgrant@gmail.com if you are able to donate a prize.



Film Nights in Llanddewi

- 14th September - Going In Style
- 19th October - The Zoo Keeper's Wife
- 16th November - The Levelling
- 14th December - Churchill



Services in September

Sunday 3rd September

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Monday September 4th

6pm. Licensing of Revd. Gaynor Burrett to the Grosmont group of Parishes

Sunday 10th September

9.30am Penrhos

Sunday 17th September

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Animal Blessing Service
Llantilio Crossenny.
This service is an opportunity to give thanks for all creatures great and

small. Please would animals bring their well-behaved owners along!
2pm Llanvetherine Baptistm

Sunday 24th September

9.30am Penrhos

Friday 29th September

7pm Penrhos Church Harvest Festival, followed by Harvest Supper at High House

Sunday 1st October

11am Llantilio Crossenny Harvest Festival Followed by a buffet lunch
6.30pm Llanvetherine Harvest Festival

Dates for your Diary

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".

Wednesday 13th September Llanvapley Coffee Morning 10.30 am

Wednesday 20th September Llanddewi Coffee Morning 10.30 am

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

The following pictures were submitted by TNT readers. The first is a holiday snap from Cornwall. Will we be following their example? The second shows pupils from Brynderi School from the 1960s when all the boys wore short pants and the girls wore dresses!



Contributions for the October issue of TNT by 20th September

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