

The New Times

November 2017

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



Find out why Nicola, Phoebe and Jack are smiling



Find out why everyone in Stable Cottage is smiling

From The Vicarage

Earlier in the year I stumbled across the ancient site of Saint Melangell. What a hidden gem! Hidden in the depths of the Tanat valley in North Powys, this ancient church is home to the oldest shrine in Britain. Saint Melangell was obviously quite a lady. The story goes that whilst Brochwel, the Prince of Powys, was out hunting, a hare took refuge under Melangell's cloak. The Prince was apparently so impressed by her holiness, that he decided to give her the valley as a sanctuary. Pennant Melangell has been a place of pilgrimage ever since, and Melangell is the patron saint of hares.

Here, in our parishes, we are surrounded by ancient sacred places, where once the saints passed by. Some of our Celtic saints seem to have lived quite wild and eccentric lives, and were certainly not the refined company we might imagine!

November is the month of All Souls, and All Saints; a time to remember those people we have known and loved, whose lives have reflected something of God's love to us.

On November the 2nd, All Souls Day, there will be a special service in Llantilio Crossenny at 7pm. During this little service you will be invited to light a candle in memory of your loved one. Everyone is warmly invited to come along.

Lord, we thank you for the lights
that shone in our small corner of the world:
for mothers and grandmothers,
fathers and grandfathers,
children, husbands and wives,
neighbours, friends and colleagues,
who gave us something never to be forgotten
and shared a love never to be lost.

With every blessing,
Revd. Heidi, Llantilio Vicarage
llantiliovicar@aol.com
01600 780240

Llantilio Crossenny News

In the last two editions of TNT there has been a report about the history of **Llantilio Church bells**. In this third installment there are details of the people who supported the installation of the new peal which was first rung before the Harvest Festival October in 1978.

“It was the generosity of the parishoners and various fund raising events,

together with grants from several sources which enabled the restoration of the bells and the rotten timber frame which held them. The cost was approximately £6000.

There are inscriptions on the bells as follows:

1. 'Let us rejoice with cheerful voice'. A.R. 1709
2. 'God save the Church and Queen'. A.R. 1709
3. 'Peace and good neighbourhood, God save the Church'. FECT.1821 this bell 'adopted' by Handel Opera Company, Mansel and Megan Thomas and friends of Llantilio.
4. 'God save the Queen and Church'. A.R. 1708
5. 'Prosperity to all our benefactors. A.R. 1709 'adopted' by John, Winifred, Michael and Fiona Selby. William Powell.
6. 'God preserve this place' 1709 'adopted by Charles, Sally and Eleanor Farncombe.

7&8 . Both bells given by William T. B. Davies in memory of Martha Mary (Pat) Davis 1978.

The small sanctus bell carries the inscription 'Come away, make no delay'. 1725”

Tricia Wilding

On Friday 20th October representatives of the **Village Alive Trust** visited the horse trough outside Tal-y-Coed Court in order to give their advice on how it might be restored and maintained. (*The horse trough featured in last month's TNT*) The Village Alive Trust has assisted a number of organisations in the area to restore important historical structures. The horse trough was built by Colonel Sir Joseph Bradney (1859–1933) who was a British soldier, historian and archaeologist, best known for his book “A History of Monmouthshire”.

Llanvapley News

In October, Llanvapley Church had a visit from a gentleman from Undy who had made an unusual discovery. John Perry is a member of the **Welsh Postal History Society** which caters for those interested in the philately and postal history of Wales. John recently purchased a bundle of letters from a dealer in Harrogate, Yorkshire. Amongst the letters there were nine letters relating to the Revd. Edward Mansel Townshend who was the vicar of Llanvapley from 1899 to 1947. Five of the letters were business letters but four of them were letters to Revd. Townshend from his wife Jessie. The four letters date from 1902 to 1911. John was very interested to be able to read the church service books from this time and to match the information in the letters with



the notes made in the service book. While looking through the service book for 1911 it was interesting to note that there was a service on the day of the coronation of George V on 22nd June 1911. In his notes the Revd. Townshend announced that the new vestry (*now known as the north vestry where coffee is made after services*) was first used for this service. The letters shed light on life in the early part of the twentieth century when you had to take a horse and cart if you wanted to pick someone up from the station! The letters also paint a picture of life in the rectory which was filled with nine children and countless visitors and no mod-cons. The letters will be published on our website in due course.

Llanvapley Harvest service was held on 8th October. Thanks to everyone involved in decorating the church and setting up the pavilion for the lunch. During the service a number of gifts were offered including topsoil, wheat and cereals, a shepherd's crook, flowers and fruit, seeds, a harvest loaf and an empty bowl. Thanks to Janet Andrews who once again made the magnificent harvest loaf. The harvest lunch was greatly enjoyed by everyone who brought food along to share.



On Sunday 22nd October a group of 17 people assembled in Llanvapley for a guided walk organised by the **Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales**. The group were shown the solar farm in Llanvapley and were able to ask questions about its development and were told basic facts and background information about the site. Did you know that it cost £10 million pounds to build the solar farm and that there are 37,000 solar panels on the site? Visitors to the site were also interested to know that local communities are set to benefit from the development with an anticipated £70,000 a year available for community projects. Amongst the group were a number of young people including Alex from Wernrheolydd who was asked about his impressions of the solar farm. Alex was asked “*Do you think solar farms are a good thing and why?*” He said “Solar panels are good because when it is daytime and when you can see the sun they are producing power. There are lots of solar panels in each solar farm – and in this one there were 37,000. They cost loads but over time they will pay more. They don’t create as much pollution as coal or nuclear power stations. However it doesn’t work at night or on stormy days.” Alex was also asked



“Some people complain that solar farms spoil the landscape. Do you think this matters?” He said *“Personally I think it does change the landscape but I don’t think it makes it any better or any worse, just different. Even if you don’t like the look of them, I think we are gaining more than we lose because we are gaining energy which we need.”*

Rhys and Mary Davies of Stable Cottage, Llanvapley are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Samuel Rhys Davies, born at 12:14 on 12th September 2017 weighing 6 pounds 12 ounces to Jack and Rachael Davies.

The LSSA 100 Club was won by **Sue Hockey**

On 13th October Clarinda Collin hosted a **fund raising supper** for Llanvapley Church. An excellent meal was enjoyed by all and the supper raised £128. Well done Clarinda!

A number of people in Llanvapley put their **small change in jam jars** and donate it to the church. One of the jars was recently taken to a supermarket and put into one of those machines which counts it and gives you a voucher which can be cashed. The final amount which flashed up was over £8 but the delight was short lived as the voucher said that a charge of £1 had been made for the service. So beware if you see one of these machines. Llanvapley Church always welcomes donations and our treasurer, Tom Lowes is always delighted to count your coins!



Llanvetherine News

Harvest 2017 at **White Castle Vineyard** has been an exciting time. This year saw the first grapes being harvested on 20th September, 10 days earlier than previous years due to the great spring and early summer. Final harvest was on 15th October. We have seen an increase in yield this year by 1 tonne and we are now looking forward to our first taste of the fruits of our labour in February 2018.



We would like to thank all who helped with the harvest from far and wide and those closer to home our neighbours and the community. Amidst the harvest we were delighted and excited to announce the birth of our first grandchild. Congratulations to Jack Merchant & Nicola Jane Watkins on the

safe arrival of **Esmae Rose** a little sister for Phoebe. Welcome to the world. Esmae Rose Merchant. Born on 04/10/17 @ 00.23 weighing 7lb 4oz.

Penrhos News

On Friday 29th September the parish came together to join in the **Harvest Festival**. The Church was beautifully decorated and smelled of apples! It was lovely to have so many children taking part in the service, with the readings (one in welsh!) and presenting the seasonal gifts. After the service it was off to High House for soup, a delicious harvest supper and a catch up with friends. Many thanks to all who helped decorate the church and provide the food, and especially to Richard and Fiona Cleeve for their hospitality and for providing such a wonderful venue.

WI News

The Llantilio Crossenny WI have had a busy month! A group of members went to the WI **Denman College** in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. They were shown around the old house, with its beautiful bedrooms full of hand made fabrics, pictures and various craft items. They also had an excellent cookery demonstration of five cakes....watch out for these at future events! They had a wonderful lunch and



afternoon tea. The tour around the grounds helped to walk these off! The WI has a small choir who were thrilled to be asked to support a Gwent WI production of "**Alice in WI Land**". They were ably helped by Margret Parry and Ruth Hoggins. Two of the choir, Diane and Shez, were a resounding success after giving a wonderful rendition of the "Calendar Girls" song. They were highly praised by the play's writer and lyricist, who also congratulated the choir, who were great! The church and WI, supported the WI's minutes secretary **Ann Couldwell**, during the funeral of her husband Wilf. They provided a wonderful array of flowers for the church and food at the Hog's Head. Ann was pleased and very grateful.

The fun outing of the month was to **Monmouth Fire Station**! Members were permitted to climb up into the cab, wear the fire fighters clothes and sound the siren, on condition that the WI provided them with cake! They did allow the WI to have some mind! The next meeting on Wednesday 8th November will be about icons and how to paint them. Yet another interesting subject to inspire members.



**COMMUNITY GREEN ENERGY ADVISORY
GROUP
COMMUNITY BENEFIT GRANT 2017
FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY
BENEFIT PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY
COUNCIL AREAS OF LLANARTH FAWR
COMMUNITY COUNCIL, LLANTILIO
CROSSENNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND
GROSMONT FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Applications are invited for this years grant allocation
in the above areas

Full details of how to apply, eligibilty, sums available
etc. Can be found on the website

www.communitygreenenergy.co.uk

Application forms will available from 1.11.2017 and
the deadline for submissions is 30.11.2017

Full details / forms can be obtained from the above
website or by applying, in writing, to:-

The Administrator, Community Green Energy
Advisory Group, C/O The Old Post Office, Llanarth,
Nr Raglan, Usk, NP15 2AU



Christingle Service Children's Choir



Christmas is fast approaching and with the parish and surrounding
area having so many children coming to last years service on
Christmas Eve we had the idea of arranging a little choir, nothing too
formal just so that our children can show off their talents to
everyone on this special evening. If anyone is interested, we are
going to get together to arrange the evening and a couple of
practices on

Sunday 12th November at Llantilio Crossenny Church at 4pm

If you would like to let us know your interested or for
any more info please contact:

Lauren Cooke: 01600780044/ 07971607157

Heidi Prince: 01600780240



Services and Events in November

Sunday 29th October

Joint Service for all 4 parishes
11.00am Llanvapley

Thursday 2nd November

7pm Llantilio Crossenny
*Special Short Service for All Souls Day,
when we remember and give thanks for
those we love who have died*

Sunday 5th November

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 12th November

Remembrance Sunday
9.30am Penrhos

10:55am Llantilio Crossenny
Remembrance Service
4pm Llantilio Crossenny
Christingle Children's Choir
Rehearsal

Sunday 19th November.

9.30am Llanvetherine Morning
Prayer
11am Llantilio Crossenny
Morning Prayer

Sunday 26th November

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 8th November Llanvapley Coffee Morning 10.30am

Friday 10th November Boar & Bingo Evening Llanarth Village Hall 7:00pm

Monday 13th November Taize Group Meeting Blaenocoed 7.30pm

Tuesday 21st November Llanddewi Rhydderch Coffee Morning 10.30am



*The above picture of Llanvapley was taken in the 1950s and was used to make a postcard.
Fancy sending a postcard from Llanvapley! A large version of the picture can be seen on the
church website. <http://llantiliogroup.info/our-churches/llanvapley-church/>*

Contributions for the December issue of TNT by 20th November

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