



# The New Times



*December 2017 / January 2018*

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



Do you recognise this cat?



Find out what Llanvapley is losing next year.



Find out how to cheer up your garden in the winter

## From The Vicarage

Christmas is coming - and it can mean so many things to people. For some it's all about getting together with people we love; sharing food and gifts and, perhaps, fond memories of happy Christmas times in the past. For others, Christmas may, for many reasons, be tinged with sadness. It may be clouded by anxiety, worry or loneliness. Many may spend ages struggling to find, and afford, the so-called "perfect" gift.

I have often been struck by how quickly unwanted gifts appear on online auction sites, or in charity shops; and I find myself wondering what was the story behind these presents.

To people of faith, Christmas has at its core, the beating heart of God heard in a baby in Bethlehem.

God, who received gifts from the wise men, has, in turn, given us gifts of his own. The gifts of life, of love, of hope and of faith.

Yet nothing will make him happier than if we give those gifts away to others, and share the wonderful gifts of life, love, hope and faith, this Christmas, and always.

With every blessing for a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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01600 780240



Gather around the manger  
with the donkey for

### CAROLS IN THE BARN

All welcome - tell your friends!

Wednesday 20th December at 6.30pm  
Whitehouse Farm, Llanvetherine. NP7 8RN

If you are looking for something to cheer up your garden in November and December you could not go too far wrong in choosing **Camelia Sasanqua 'Rainbow'** which is shown on the front cover this month. It has been flowering its head off for the last few weeks and it has a delicious scent. I think it is reasonably hardy and if you can find a sheltered spot for it in semi shade it will give you years of joy. I think there are other varieties available, but 'Rainbow' is particularly pretty as the buds have a pinkish edge to them. *Bubbles*

## Llantilio Crossenny News

Llantilio Church is delighted to announce its latest upgrade! **The front altar table** at St Teilo's is a very heavy piece of furniture which needs to be moved each time there is a wedding or funeral in the Church. Chris Wilding kindly offered to make a new top to make this task much easier. As you can see from the picture, we now have a beautiful new front Altar which can be moved by one person instead of needing two very strong men. A big thank you to Chris from everyone at St Teilo's and for making one Churchwarden very happy.



On a cold November morning the Llantilio Crossenny group of parishes held their annual **service of Remembrance** at St Teilo's. The service began at the war Memorial where Revd. Heidi Prince read out the names of the fallen. Wreaths were then laid by Nick Hoyal on behalf of the parishioners and by Ruth Edwards on behalf of Monmouthshire Council, followed by the two minutes silence. The service then continued in Church with hymns, readings and prayers relevant to Remembrance Sunday. Thank you to all who took part and to the ladies who decorated the Church so beautifully.

Congratulations to **Tricia Wilding** who has been named as volunteer of the year 2017 by South Wales Riding for the Disabled Association. She has worked with the Clytha Group for 30 years helping to improve the lives of countless adults and children. She recently retired as Chairman of South Wales RDA having filled the role for six years. Well done Tricia!

Does anyone recognise the largish **tomcat** on the front of TNT? Does he belong to anyone? He seems to belong to Llantilio village area and has been around for at least two years. *Chris Cousens*

Anne and Martin of Allt Dwgan, Llantilio Crossenny are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their first granddaughter, **Amelie Rose Ferrand** who was born on 30<sup>th</sup> October at 2am. Joel and Becky Ferrand are pictured with baby Amelie. Martin and Anne, Liz and Nigel (Joel's parents from Cardiff) and Nesta and Mary (great grand parents) are all besotted with the little bundle who weighed in at 6lbs 15oz.



Thank you to the bellringers for a series of reports about Llantilio Church bells which have appeared in TNT over the last few months. **The final report recounts the restoration of the bells in 1978.**

Following the completion of the restoration of the bells in 1978, the vicar, the Revd. John Selby wrote: *'The task of restoration of the six bells after some 269 years of progressive deterioration was no easy task. Death-watch beetle, woodworm, rust and damp had all taken their toll on the timbers, bells and stonework, to the extent that the tower and fittings were in a decayed and derelict condition. The new light peal of eight bells is a tribute to those good friends who freely undertook the daunting and hazardous work of restoration, and to those who generously underwrote much of the cost of the bells and frame. Aristotle's view sums up most fittingly the outcome of a labour of love on the part of three friends who must be mentioned; Dick Horsington, George Ward and Mervyn Roberts. "The true nature of a thing is the highest it can become".'*

The six recast bells were brought back from the Whitechapel Foundry on 24th February 1978. On Sunday 2nd April 1978 the bells were rededicated by the Bishop of Monmouth, the Very Reverend Derek Childs. Dick Horsington wrote: *'2nd April was another remarkable landmark in the life of the parish. History has been preserved for those generations who will come after us.'* The photo on the right shows bells which had been lowered through the floor of the belfry before being transported to the Whitechapel Foundry. Does anybody recognise any of the helpers?



**Tal y Coed Horse Trough** Since the last newsletter we have had quite a bit of feedback regarding the restoration of the wall and trough. We heard about the 'Village Alive Trust' from the White Castle Vineyard and approached the Trust. The core members of the Trust came to see the trough along with Les Taylor and Rick Currie. There were lots of discussions about what to restore, the level of restoration, the historical aspect and funding. The Trust let us know later that they were really interested in the restoration and could offer us support by representing us as we approach funding sources. This is wonderful. We have also had letters of support from people living in Tal Y Coed Court who would like to see the trough restored. We are very hopeful that funding applications will prove positive. There is a lovely Horse Trough at Hendre where the stone fabric has been restored. It also has the working water source/pipe and the whole effect is really good and a pleasure to drive past. It is good to think that we have started the journey with the Tal Y Coed Trough! *Chris and Zara Duncan*

## Llanvapley News

Tom and Flossie Lowes of the Old Rectory, Llanvapley are delighted to welcome the safe arrival of their first grandson, Archibald Theodore Gullestrup Lowes. Archie was born at the Kensington wing of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 8pm weighing 7lbs 4 oz. Tanja and Edward are the proud and delighted parents – congratulations to all!



On April 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 the **Monmouthshire Hunt** held a Point to Point meeting in Llanvapley. The picture on the front shows horses jumping down the back straight on that day. Sadly this has now turned out to be the last meeting to be held on the course in Llanvapley. On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 the Monmouthshire Hunt will be staging its Point to Point at Monmouth showground. There are many in the area and beyond who will have fond memories about days out in Llanvapley watching the horses and having a bit of fun. If you have any stories to tell then why not send them to TNT.



Visitors to Llanvapley Church can not fail to notice the recent improvements to the north window. The window has a shelf for floral displays which was made by **Peter Marchant**. Peter has recently added a remarkable addition to this shelf. He has made a miniature replica of the rose window on the east side of the church. The miniature was made using a stone taken from his garden and broken glass from a greenhouse. He has managed to fashion them into a masterpiece!



Don't forget **Christmas Coffee Morning in Llanvapley** – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30, There will be a raffle for a Christmas hamper, a bottle of genuine Llanvapley wine and cushions made by a local seamstress. Just £1 a ticket! Plus two 100 Club £50 prizes to be won.

## Llanvetherine News

The **Llanvetherine Church** traditional carol service is at 6.30pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December in St James's Church. **Cwmerra Baptist Chapel** Carol service is on Sunday 17 December at 3.00pm.

Following the success of two years ago, there will be another evening of ecumenical **Carols in the Barn** at 6.30pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at Whitehouse, Llanvetherine, by kind courtesy of Clarissa and Julian Fonseca. The service is intended for wider communities around Abergavenny, including our own Church in Wales group, the Roman Catholic community of Llanarth, the Baptist Chapels, and anyone wishing to join in.

## Penrhos News

**Can you sketch? If so, do please get involved in this Penrhos village competition.** As part of our Heritage Lottery Fund application for the restoration of our church in Penrhos, we need to create a space in the church for community events, other than the usual faith based services that are currently held there. There is to be constructed in the chancel arch (shown from within the chancel above) a glazed screen with large glazed double doors. This construction, as well as being a thing of beauty for generations to come, will assist in making the church have a multi-functional space. A village competition for the design of the screen is being run. Let your imagination run wild. Print off the template for the arch (a scale drawing) from the competition page of the village website at [electroencephalographic.com](http://electroencephalographic.com). There are also photos of the arch and the competition rules on the competition page of the website. All entries must be delivered to Pip Rumsey by post, hand or email (on [piprumsey2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:piprumsey2001@yahoo.co.uk)) to arrive by not later than Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018. All entries will be displayed on the village website. They will be judged by a small committee including Georgina Herrmann, as the screen will be dedicated to the memory of her late husband, Professor Luke Herrmann, who now rests in the churchyard. The prize for winning will be the glory of being selected as the preferred design, although there will be a further prize for the best entry from a child aged 15 years or under.



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**Penrhos Carol Service** is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm in the Church, followed by mulled wine and mince pies at High House Barn – everyone welcome

Towards the end of September, **The Andersons** opened their beautiful garden again under the NGS scheme. St Cadoc's church volunteers organised the refreshments and managed to raise over £190. Many thanks to all who helped with baking and serving teas & cakes. A very enjoyable afternoon! *Clare Adams*



The photos above were sent in by a TNT reader. The Halloween pumpkins were all carved by Sue Morgan of Penrhos. Well done Sue!

## WI News

We were sad to hear of the passing away of our friend **Carol Philips**. She enjoyed her visits to meetings and we recollected how she liked hearing members laugh and her dancing when there was music. As usual our amazing WI promised Dave to provide food for the wake for which he and the family were most grateful. The good news is that **Brenda Allen** who has been in hospital for 8 weeks is now home. She would no doubt enjoy some visitors. The WI had a very interesting talk and demonstration from **Francesca Verdi** on icons at the November meeting. Some artists in our midst even had a go at painting the face of Christ, in the style depicted on icons. Lin was also inspiring members to spend some time in the coming year to create a square depicting our WI or environs. This will be assembled into a wall hanging for 2019, our centenary year. Our artistic members will be asked to volunteer to meet and discuss how this could work. Members will also be able to put their talents to use at the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chris will be guiding us how to make a mini Christmas tree! Let's hope the punch is not too strong or the trees may lean a bit! Members are reminded there will be a secret Santa and post-box for cards.

Members are asked to bring their menus and cheques in December for the January annual dinner at the King's Arms on the 24<sup>th</sup> January and also to consider whether they wish to attend the National Federation of WI's meeting in Cardiff next June! It was very interesting the last time it was in Cardiff. Although that is a tall order to decide for more than six months ahead! For those members who are unable to attend the December meeting, Lin and the committee wish you a joyous Christmas

## Dates for your diary

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** Chapel Cottage Studio Llanddewi Rhydderch Christmas Exhibition and Gift Fair 7 – 9 Friday and 10 – 4 Saturday / Sunday

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December**, Llanddewi coffee morning 10.30 onwards. Raffle to raise funds for a local charity. Any raffle prizes gratefully received.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** Llanvapley Coffee Morning 10.30

**January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018** New Year's Day Walk, Llanvetherine

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January** Llanvapley Coffee Morning 10.30

# Services and Events in December / January

## 3rd December Advent Sunday

11am Llantilio Crossenny  
*Service with Baptism of Harry Oliver Lewis*  
6pm Llanvetherine  
*Service to mark the beginning of Advent*

## Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

7.30pm Llanvapley  
*Ecumenical Advent Taize Service*

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December Advent 2

9.30am Penrhos  
*Holy Communion*  
11am Llanvapley  
*Holy Communion*

## Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

7.30pm Llantilio Crossenny  
*Young Farmers' Carol Service*

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

7pm Llanvapley Carol Service

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Llanvetherine  
4pm Llantilio Crossenny Carol Service  
*followed by mulled wine and mince pies*

## Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

6pm Penrhos Carol Service  
*Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in High House Barn*

## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

6.30pm Ecumenical Service of Carols  
in the Barn with the donkey  
*Whitehouse Farm Llanvetherine NP7 8RN*  
*by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Fonseca*

## Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

6.30pm Llanvetherine Carol service

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

### Christmas Eve

4pm Llantilio Crossenny  
Christingle Service  
11.30pm Llanvapley  
*Midnight Mass*

### Christmas Day

9.30am Llanvetherine  
*Christmas Communion*  
9.30am Penrhos  
*Christmas Communion*  
11am Llantilio Crossenny  
*Christmas Communion*

## Sunday 7th January

9.30am Llanvetherine  
11am Llantilio Crossenny

## Sunday 14th January

9.30am Penrhos  
11am Llanvapley

## Sunday 21st January

9.30am Llanvetherine  
11am Llantilio Crossenny

## Sunday 28th January

9.30am Penrhos  
11am Llanvapley



Contributions for the February issue of TNT by 20<sup>th</sup> January - Please send your emails to [lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com) - Don't forget our website [llantiliogroup.info](http://llantiliogroup.info) to find out more about our churches. We are also on Twitter @LlantilioG