The New Times

February 2018

The Parish Magazine of Llantilio Crossenny, Llanvetherine, Llanvapley and Penrhos

Find out why number 10 is smiling

Find out who won these wonderful home made cushions in the Christmas draw in January!

From The Vicarage

"It's been a long winter," people have been saying to me.
Another comment that has struck me in recent weeks has been the one that visitors to the vicarage almost always make when, having made their way along the drive, they arrive at the front door. "Aren't the snowdrops lovely!" The vicarage garden is blessed with two clumps of this most beautiful of flowers.
As we prepare for Lent, it can indeed feel as if it has been a very long winter. The short evenings, dark, cold and wet, closely followed by a traditional 40 day period of austerity.
And yet it is at this very time of year that the snowdrops give my spirit such a boost.
For throughout most of the winter, there has been no sign of them. One might even think that they had died. They are forgotten.
Not a bit of it! Throughout this wet, cold winter, they have been busy. In secret, in the darkness beneath the earth, under the dead leaves, and in shady, forbidding places, they have been sending down young, deep roots: new bulbs have been growing.
We rarely notice them when the shoots first emerge, but then, all of a sudden, that burst of brilliant white catches our eyes, and lifts our spirits. They look so delicate, yet they are able to survive the very harshest of winters.
They are such a powerful symbol of hope and new beginnings. Next will come the crocuses: and then, of course, the daffodils.
And God's people are able to follow their progress and grow with them: try as it might, the gloom of winter cannot resist, and must give way to the brilliant colours of spring. And as we embark upon Lent, let us remember that, although invisible to us, God, like the snowdrops, was working beneath the surface, ready to dazzle us when the sun rose and banished the shadows on that first Easter morning.
With every blessing,

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Llantilio Crossenny News

Christmas at St Teilos - On Thursday 14th December we were privileged to host the County YFC and the NFU Ladies Carol service. Following the service a raffle and auction was held in the Lady Chapel and mulled wine and mince pies were served. The raffle raised a large sum of money which was donated to LATCH, a charity which supports children with cancer. Llantilio Carol service, on December 17th, was also very well supported and was followed by mulled wine and mince pies which were enjoyed by all. As usual the Christingle service on Christmas Eve saw us bursting at the seams with lots of excited children and our very own Children's Choir. Huge thanks to Lauren Cooke for organising this and to Revd Heidi for putting together this wonderful service. Thank you to all the children for entertaining us with their considerable talents. Sarah Heath once again made all the Christingles, so a big thank you to Sarah. On Christmas morning a good congregation came along for Christmas Communion. Thank you to all who have helped / donated in any way, to the ladies who decorated the Church so beautifully and to our Vicar, Heidi, for all the lovely services over the festive period.

Llantilio Church has been given a full set of **Sir Joseph Bradney's History of Monmouthshire**. These books, nine in all, cover all the historic buildings and families throughout the county. Each book details different areas. We have also been given three volumes of "Old Monmouthshire Houses" written by Lord Raglan and Sir Cyril Fox. These books are particularly interesting to our rural areas. We would like to make these available to anyone in our communities who would like to read them (perfect for a cold winter's day by the fire). Please contact Elsie Latham on 01600 780225 if you are interested in borrowing them

Congratulations to **Ceinwen Davies** who celebrated her 90th birthday on 3rd January with family and friends.

Llantilio Bell Ringers Christmas Dinner was held at The Foxhunter Inn on Thursday December 14th. Details of the dates for bell ringing practices in Llantilio are on the calendar on the parish website. Llantilo ringers meet on the 2nd, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays of the month at 7.30pm. Newcomers always welcome.

Does Your Child Love to Sing?

'Stars in their Eyes'

Children's Talent Show

@ The Hogs Head, Treadam

On Friday 16th February 6.30pm for 7pm start

Book your child in for a spot on the stage
now to avoid disappointment!

Age Categories : Under 10s or 11–16s

Top Prize is a Karaoke Machine!!

Pay on the door – Adults £3, Children £2, Under 5s Free

Closing date for entries to be on stage is 2nd February

Contact Lauren Cooke 07971 607157

In aid of the Llantilio Crossenny Defibrillator Fund

After the service in Llantilio on 7th January there was a special party to say goodbye and thank you to **Tricia and Chris Wilding**. Tricia has been a churchwarden for many years and has worked tirelessly to improve the fabric of the church. Tricia has also been one of the bellringers and the ringers are very sad to lose on of its "top ringers". Tricia and Chris leave the village with all our best wishes for the future. In a message to TNT, Tricia said "Chris and I were quite overwhelmed by the party and all the kind words following the service on 7th January. A big thank you to everyone who contributed."

The photo on the right shows Chris and Tricia with **Revd. David Osborn.** Chris and Tricia went to see Revd. Osborn during one of his weeks in residence at Westminster Abbey. They were shown around the abbey and then attended choral evensong.

The photo on the left shows **Elsie Latham** with the pair of cushions which she won at the LSSA Christmas raffle on 10th January. The cushions were made by Janet Andrews of Llanvapley.

Llanvapley News

The service in **Llanvapley Church** on 10th December had to be cancelled due to the heavy snow overnight. The snow was so heavy it brought down a number of large branches, including a limb from a yew tree near to the church. Both the Carol Service and Midnight Mass were very well attended and thankfully were not affected by the snow! Half of the collection taken at the Midnight Mass was given to charity. A sum of £80 was sent to Crisis at Christmas which supports homeless people.

The snow continued to cause problems in Llanvapley and the **LSSA Christmas Coffee Morning** on 13th December had to be called off. This meant that the Christmas Raffle had to be put back until January. One TNT reader proposed an alternative coffee morning which could be used when the weather is too bad. *"Had you thought of doing a 'virtual' coffee morning where everyone is connected by Skype and they watch each other sip their coffees in the comfort of their cosy homes while discussing the weather?"* Skype was thankfully not needed at the January LSSA coffee morning at which the draw for the Christmas raffle was finally made. Once again Doris Evans walked away with a prize. Which prompted the following response from Doris's daughter, Denise. *"I can't believe it!! I've never known anyone to win so often when there is a raffle, and the one and only time that I have won anything in my life was when I was sitting next to her in Llanvapley Village Hall and I won that bottle of whisky! It's as if Mum has some lucky 'thing' about her. The strange thing is that on Tuesday evening of this week when she said she was off to the coffee morning I had said to her that if she won the prize then she really ought to be doing the lottery every week! "*

On 28th December the annual **Llanvapley Village Christmas Walk** took place. A group of 7 people and one dog made their way up Firs Road and around the Skirrid and arrived at The Crown Inn, Pantygelli just in time for lunch. Thankfully the weather was kind but snow was still on the Skirrid. Numbers were swelled by people who realised they could enjoy the lunch without having to walk six miles! Half way through the walk the group bumped into a team of walkers from Llanvetherine who were heading for the Hunter's Moon.

The **Llanvapley Sports and Social Association is** once again running a 100 club in 2018. Prizes will be given every month starting in April. The aim is to have a prize of £50 every month. The cost of joining is £10 which will give you 10 chances of winning a prize throughout the year. By being a member of the 100 Club you are supporting the work of the LSSA in maintaining the pavilion, play area and the field. Please ask a committee member if you would like to join or email lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com Two 100 club prizes were drawn at the January coffee morning. Congratulations to Llanvapley Cricket Club and Steve McCoy from Little Ton who both won £50.

January 6th 2018 was the centenary of the death of **Sergeant Charles Williams** of Llanvapley. Sgt. Williams died of injuries sustained in the Great War and is buried in Llanvapley Churchyard. On 14th January a short service was held at the grave side following Morning Prayer. Sgt. Williams granddaughter, Marilyn Hughes was present and put flowers on the grave. Following the service the following message was sent to the church. *"Marilyn wishes to thank everybody from the congregation who came outside to take part in the service to commemorate the centenary of her Grandfather's death. She was very touched that everybody there joined her and Tony in the blessing that Heidi performed - it meant a lot. She also wishes to thank Heidi for carrying out such a lovely service. Many thanks also to Andrew Dawson for his research into my Grandfather's military records."*

As a footnote to the above report, the pictures on the right show the transformation that took place to the gravestone in the days following the service. Thanks go to the **Commonwealth Graves Commission** for their excellent work in restoring the gravestone to its original condition. The picture also shows flowers laid on the grave. The flowers nearest to the gravestone were laid by the family but we do not know as yet who put the pot of flowers on the grave.

Yoga At Llanvapley The yoga sessions at the Pavilion are going well, as you can see from this lovely picture. Since September we have progressed to practicing the Aruna Sun Salutation and more complex asana sequences. The last session we practiced a deeper vibrational breathing sequence which resulted in wonderful resonance sounds. Both groups I see each week remain enthusiastic and committed, so what more can a yoga teacher ask for! It would be lovely to hold a longer yoga workshop in the late spring at Llanvapley: so if this interests you at all contact me at zgst1celrington@gmail.com for details and dates.

Llanvetherine News

Julian and Clarissa Fonseca will be holding a charity performance of an **Opera in their barn** sometime around June. It will be performed by the Students of the Royal College of Music in Cardiff. Details will follow in due course and there will be an interval for people to picnic in the garden.

“Vineyard hopes 1581 is a good year for first welsh fortified wine” White Castle Vineyard’s owners, Robb and Nicola Merchant, have launched Wales’ first fortified wine, ‘1581’. This new alcoholic drink is similar in style to Port and has been four years in the planning. The grapes are harvested and aged in the same way as Port and the result is a drink with an abv (alcohol by volume) of 19%. Robb and Nicola say that '1581' is light in texture, very fruity, and reflects what they do at White Castle. Available as a limited edition, a barrel has been put away after each harvest and stored at the Three Choirs winery in Newent, which produces White Castle’s wines. '1581' joins White Castle’s range of red, white, rose, and sparkling wine which, since the vineyard’s first harvest in 2011, have reaped numerous national wine awards. The new beverage has close links to the area’s heritage and takes its name '1581' from a grade II* listed Tudor barn at the vineyard, which is situated in the village of Llanvetherine

Thanks to **Kate Beavan of Llanvetherine** for the picture of the lambs on the cover of TNT. Farmers throughout the area are very busy lambing at this time of year. TNT has been let into a little lambing secret – apparently ewes and lambs are numbered so farmers know which lamb belongs to which ewe if they get lost. That is why number 10 is smiling!

Penrhos News

Penrhos had a lovely **Carol Service** filled with lots of children who read so beautifully telling us the story of the birth of Jesus. After the service we went back to High House for mulled beer and mince pies in front of the very welcoming open fire. Thank you very much to Fiona and Richard Cleeve for allowing us to use their wonderful barn and to everyone who donated raffle prizes and made mince pies. Thank you to all who helped decorate the Church, it looked amazing and was so warm considering we have a very large hole in the roof! We had a huge tree kindly donated to us, thank you very much for that as well.

WI News

The December meeting found members using craft skills they didn't know they had! Chris Brammer helped everyone to make mini Christmas trees which were very impressive! Everyone enjoyed some punch,special nibbles, some carol singing and they went home with a present from Santa and a tree!

After the resounding success of last year's annual dinner at the Kings Arms it was agreed to hold it there again this year. The meal was good, the games were fun and the choir sang beautifully. Everyone else tried playing an instrument to join in and it will take Abergavenny a while to recover!

The next meeting is on Wednesday 14th February. This is not only Ash Wednesday but also St Valentine's Day, so partners will have to give their flowers early, as this WI meeting is not to be missed. It will be a Japanese evening with Keiko and her husband Ashley, who lived in Japan for many years. They will be telling us of life in Japan and offering a Japanese experience.

Grosmont and district gardening club news

Tuesday 6th February 7:30 pm. Garden design by Mary Stevenson.
Tuesday 6th March 7:30 pm. Unusual plants for containers by Paul Green.
If anyone would like to subscribe to the gardening club newsletter please contact Jan on jan.com@btinternet.com

Community Green Energy Advisory Group

Email: - cgeag01@gmail.com
Website: - www.communitygreenenergy.co.uk

Grant Applications From The 2017 Community Benefit Fund

The Community Green Energy Advisory Group are delighted to announce the successful groups / projects from the 2017 Community Benefit Fund. This round of grants is funded by Community Green Energy Monmouthshire CIC and / or Community Green Energy England & Wales CIC. The Community Green Energy Advisory Group had to make some very difficult decisions as applications received amounted to twice the monies available. All applicants have now been informed of the decisions of the group and unsuccessful applicants have been invited to re-apply for the 2018 round of grants that are expected to be available approximately late June 2018. (Full details will be available from the website as soon as timescales become clear.)

2017 Grants awarded to the following Projects

St Nicholas Church, Grosmont - Easy Access Pathway
St Cadoc's Church, Penrhos - Glamping Pod, Community Space & Defibrillator
Mrs Elizabeth Prichard's Charity - Safe Space for Llangattock Lingoed - woodland project
St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny - Water supply and temporary disabled portaloo
Grosmont Together - Electric supply for village events
Llanvapley Sports & Social Association - Refurbishment of hot water system and internal redecoration
Cwmerra Chapel - Refurbishment of the chapel building
Llanddewi Skirrid Village Hall Committee - Exterior repainting
Llanarth Village Hall - LED Lighting & solar panels

Services in February

Sunday February 4th
9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday February 11th
9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Wednesday February 14th
Ash Wednesday
10am Grosmont church
Service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes

Sunday February 18th Lent 1
9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday February 25th Lent 2
9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Sunday March 4th Lent 3
9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 6th February Coffee Morning Llanddewi Rhydderch 10.30
Wednesday 14th February Coffee Morning Llanvapley 10.30
Monday 19th February / Monday 19th March Taize Group at 7.30pm at Blaen Coed
Wednesday 21st February 7pm Joint Meeting of the Churchwardens in the vicarage
Thursday 22nd February Llanvapley PCC meeting 7pm at Point Pleasant
Thursday 22nd March Taize Service at Llanvapley Church 7.30pm

'Romero – Heartbeat of El Salvador'
at The Priory Centre, Abergavenny
Tuesday, March 13th at 7.30pm

The production tells the true story of Blessed Oscar Romero and his fight for the oppressed people of El Salvador. Romero chose to challenge those in power and stand up for social justice. He demanded respect for human rights.

Tickets: £10 / £8 concessions (includes glass of wine, or other drink)
For tickets please contact Priory Box Office 01873 858787, or visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre Performance lasts approximately 75 minutes and is suitable for adults and children 11+. There is free coach parking available in the Bus Station Car Park next to the Church. The Priory Centre can be accessed directly from the adjacent car park.

Contributions for the March issue of TNT by 20 February 2018 please
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*