The New Times

May 2018

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

It's Summer in Llantilo

But it's Spring in Penrhos

From The Vicarage

“Lord, so teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.”
Last month we said goodbye to Mim Heath.
Mim played a big part in the life of the Church in Llantilio Crossenny for many years. Always ready to help, in whatever way was needed, she was one of that group of special people whose quiet work behind the scenes stemmed from her deep faith. We will miss her.
A short while after Mim’s funeral, someone said to me, “People wouldn’t believe that this could happen in 2018.”
And I know what they meant.
A whole community came together and filled a country church, so that they could be with their friend, and show her respect and love on her final journey.
Members of the W.I. worked tirelessly to put on a spread that they felt would do justice to someone who had so often done the same thing for her friends and their families over the years.
To people living in towns and cities across the country, this would have seemed like a glimpse of the past, of a world long gone.
Except it was here; and now.
In a strange way, it filled me with great hope, and I found it both beautiful and humbling.
It was a reminder, if we needed one, that, at the end of the day what really matters is the love with which we live our lives.
Nothing more, nothing less.
Every moment is important, every day matters.

“This is the beginning of a new day.
God has given me this day to use as I will.
I can waste it or grow in its light and be of service to others.
But what I do with this day is important because
I have exchanged a day of my life it.
When tomorrow comes, today will be gone forever.
I hope I will not regret the price I paid for it."

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

Llantilio Crossenny News

Don't miss it – get there early! It's the Plant Sale at Llantilio Crossenny on Monday 7th May at 2pm at the church. Cake stall and refreshments.

The unsavoury weather over the Easter weekend failed to deter the congregations of our Churches. On **Good Friday** a hardy bunch of souls from our parishes and the parishes of Llandewi Skirrid and Llantilio Pertholey walked up the Holy Mountain (the Skirrid) carrying the Cross while taking part in the "Stations of the Cross" service. After the walk we went to Llandewi Skirrid Hall were hot cross buns and coffee was served followed by champagne and chocolates to celebrate a Golden Wedding Anniversary!

On **Easter Sunday** morning St Teilo's welcomed a good crowd of worshippers to the morning service. Following the service the Easter Egg Hunt was eagerly pursued by the excited children who managed to find all but two of the Easter eggs. Thank you to all who participated in the joy of the Easter celebrations.

Des and Elsie Latham (above) would like to thank everyone for all the good wishes they received on their recent Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The funeral of **Mim Heath** took place in Llantilio. We have rarely seen such a large turnout and, as well as a full car park, all the approach roads to the church were lined with parked cars, and people were standing in the church. At the Wake, which was held in Llanarth Village Hall, there was a display of many of Mim's works including the large embroidered WI table cloth which she designed and stitched herself.

AD

COACH TRIP TO LONDON

❤ In aid of Llantilio Crossenny and Llanvetherine Defib Fund ❤

As I am sure you are all aware I have been raising money towards a lifesaving defibrillator in Llantilio Crossenny and I thought why stop there! I am now raising money for one in Llanvetherine Church and we have £700 towards it already. We have everything ready for the Llantilio one and are just waiting for BT to sign over the telephone box for us to install.

So I have arranged a coach trip to London.
Details below, hope you can make it!

First come first served!

Leaving Monmouth cattle market at 8am Saturday 15th September, drop off in London. Pick up Sunday 16th September 5pm from London back to Monmouth cattle market.

Bus and Bed and Breakfast £115.00 per person
Includes a glass of bubbly or non-alcoholic alternative on the bus on the way down!

You can upgrade to have Tower Bridge view out of your room for an extra £20 per room.

You can upgrade to have a three course dinner on the Saturday evening for an extra £35 per person.

Room price based on either 2 sharing or 3 sharing. Can be double or twin and if triple room extra single bed.

There is a choice of four West End shows. I can make bookings for:
Matilda
Les Miserables
School of Rock
Mama Mia

❤ Raffle and money makers on the bus down for the Defibs ❤

Contact: Lauren Cooke
01600780044
07971607157

Llanvapley News

Congratulations to **Doris** (Babs) **Evans** of Firs Road, Llanvapley on the arrival of her newest great grandson, Hugo Sebastian Smallwood. Hugo was born at Bristol Hospital on 27th February weighing 7lb 15oz and joins his big brothers, Bertie & Rupert. That makes 7 great grandchildren for Doris - 6 boys and 1 girl! Hugo was a water baby having been born under water in the hospital in a large bath. Thanks to Mum (Natasha) for the lovely picture.

The **Llanvapley Sports and Social Association Annual General Meeting** was held on Wednesday 25th April. Existing committee members and trustees were joined by a number of interested people from the village. The LSSA maintains the pavilion, play area and the ground for the benefit of the village. The LSSA does not receive any financial help from the council. Regular activities in the pavilion include Yoga classes, Tai Chi classes, WI meetings, Llanvapley Cricket Club games and monthly village coffee mornings. Other activities include BBQs, family gatherings, community council meetings, elections and childrens' parties etc. Maintenance work is largely carried out by volunteers from the village. At the AGM the chair of the LSSA, Elaine Leader, presented a report on the achievements of the LSSA over the last year. These include **improvements to the gate** and improved disabled access. These works were completed by Monmouthshire County Council who hold the lease on the land. Quite a bit of **tree surgery** has been needed over the last year following storm damage and a request from a neighbour to cut back bushes adjacent to their property. **New steps to the loft** have also been installed and the loft floor has been boarded out. Many of you will have noticed that the **railings on the veranda** have also been refurbished and repainted which has greatly improved the appearance of the building. Following the successful application to the Community Green Energy Solar Fund it will now be possible to carry out **interior decorations** and **upgrading of the shower system** for the cricketers. **Signs** have also been erected next to Llanymynach Brook and at the entrance to the field to warn people of the possible dangers of the river bank. An **electrical inspection** has taken place and the LSSA is in the process of getting a quote for the recommended work that needs to be done. It has been a busy year!

The LSSA committee will be organising an **End of Summer BBQ** on Friday 31st August at the pavilion. Please make a date in your diary. Full details to follow nearer the time.

Many people in Llanvapley will remember **Richard Wilson** who died recently. Richard and his wife, Flavia, lived in Llanvapley Court for many years before moving on to live near Raglan. Richard will be remembered for all his hard work as chairman of the LSSA. He was always positive, cheerful and welcoming.

The first **LSSA 100 club** winner of the new year is John Deacon. The next draw will take place at the coffee morning on 9th May.

On Thursday 26th April children from three schools in Monmouthshire (Cross Ash Primary, Gilwern Primary and Pembroke Primary in Chepstow) visited **Llanvapley pavilion for an Eco Day** organised by Bryony Bromley from Keep Wales Tidy. The children were taken on a trip around Llanvapley Solar Farm and had the opportunity to meet local farmers and to find out more about how solar farms work. Apart from learning about solar panels they also learned about wild flowers and how crops are grown. Environmental education is now a very important topic in all schools and it is encouraging to discover how interested the children were in all things environmental. The overuse of plastics is a big topic in schools as well as how we can reduce our carbon footprint by making sensible choices about what we eat and buy. The event was supported by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales who are also supporting a painting and poetry competition for primary schools entitled 'The Problem with Plastic'.

Penrhos News

Three for the price of two... What better way to spend the May Day weekend than enjoying a bargain? Three gardens are opening in Penrhos on Sunday, 6th May for the price of two. With the gardens at High House and the Old Vicarage scheduled to open, the bonus gardens are those at Woodlands Farm, a last minute pop up opening. The three are open between 2pm and 6pm for a modest £6 with teas in aid of the church being served in the fabulous barn at High House. You can walk between the gardens at Woodlands Farm and the Old Vicarage before taking the 5 minutes drive to High House and a well earned cuppa to reflect on the beauty of the three gardens, all so different but all worthwhile. Spring has been long in the coming after a seemingly endless winter. Grab it with both hands with the Penrhos Garden Trio...

Update on St Cadoc's Church Despite the appalling weather our contractors have battled on. As with all work on an old building we have encountered some surprises that it has kept in store for us. I had my first meeting with a Death Watch Beetle grub – an unpleasant little character! We have now replaced the outer wall plate with seasoned oak and the rafters are no longer hanging in midair. Working on a Grade II* Listed Building is fraught with difficulty, not the least being that we have to preserve as much as possible of the existing structure, woodwork and beams which often entails repairing when replacing would seem more obvious. For this reason, when we put the tiles back on you will notice that the roof line will still be a little wavy – a modern straight roof would not be permitted. Inside we are now working on the inner wall plate which is moulded and we are having to replicate the moulding. This is turning out to be quite a major undertaking due to the activities of our friendly Death Watch Beetle grubs and will incur some additional expense. I have been keeping a photographic record of the work and we will be able to create a "before and after" record of the work including the 3D survey which should all be available electronically to view on your computer at home. Again, my thanks to everyone who has been helping and to the local residents who have shared the disruption that the work inevitably causes.

Geoff Adams

Holly & Sophie Flynn have been having great success with their pony racing. This is Sophie's first year and so far she has raced at Cheltenham and Ascot Racecourse. Sophie had a 3rd at Ascot and Holly a 5th. Could we one day see these girls lining up at Aintree for the Grand national?

Rainfall Satistics from Penrhos
January 2017 - 68.0mm January 2018 - 81.0mm
February 2017 - 50.0mm February 2018 - 27.8mm
March 2017 - 82.9mm March 2018 - 131.7mm
Total rainfall for 2017 was 749.6mm

Llanvetherine News

Cymerra Baptist Chapel plant sale, coffee morning, cake stall and raffle. Saturday 2nd June 10.00 - 12.30. All welcome

For some time Monmouthshire County Council has been trying to find a way of calming traffic through Llanvetherine. A recent traffic survey worryingly showed an average speed of 39+ mph, or to put it another way, a half of all vehicles are going at more than 39 mph. Many of the residents of Llanvetherine have been concerned about speeds through the village for some time. In the last week of April the council installed 'vehicle activated signs' which will light up when vehicles are exceeding the limit, like the white van in the picture is doing! The picture above shows the new device next to the 30 limit sign on the way down into the village from Lanes Garage. There is also a sign at the eastern end of the 30 limit and two more to cover the residential stretch by Caggle Street reminding motorists that there are pedestrians.

WI News

It was a poignant start to the April meeting when everyone sang Jerusalem in memory of a much loved member, Mim Heath, who sadly died suddenly at the end of March. She will be greatly missed

because of her amazing contribution to the WI and the committee in particular. She was a dear friend to all and a wonderful person - kind, considerate, compassionate and talented. Cooking, art, knitting and craft were among her skills and in particular her embroidery was beautiful. We can continue to appreciate this at all our meetings as Mim embroidered the W.I. tablecloth.

Two topics stood out for the rest of the business meeting. Firstly, it was agreed that we will take part in the Federation WI concert at the end of October. The theme for this year's performances is a scene from a film. After discussion it was decided to do the scene of "Dancing Queen" from Mamma Mia. Secondly, our choir has been asked to take part in another performance of the Federation's Alice in WI Land which will take place next year in April. The speaker for the evening was Therese Casemore from Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), which started up between the two World Wars supported by the Suffragettes. Therese is our local representative and is able to fund herself for all the travel and accommodation necessary in going to projects and conferences around the world. This means that all money collected goes directly to the groups of women in the world where there is most need. The purpose of the group is to empower women. This is done by supporting small projects which the women themselves have identified. For example, "community sanitary pads production" in Uganda, "new hope gardening project" in Zimbabwe and "computer literacy for adults and children" in India. Our WI has been a member of ACWW for many years and collects for Pennies for Friendship every month. Our meeting on May 9th is the AGM but will also include a talent show for our members to demonstrate their gifts of song and poetry.

May in the garden from our Gardening Correspondent

Walk down any residential street in April and May and I can almost guarantee that you will see at least one **Magnolia soulangeana**. It is a wonderful small tree, flowers profusely first in Spring before the leaves come out, and then again

in Summer. It earns its keep so don't knock it. Occasionally the flowers get caught by a late frost but it is tough and in spite of our long hard winter, ours is about burst into bloom, its white flowers flushed with pink peeping out of its furry calyxes. Having said it is small, I have to admit that ours has grown enormous and is fast encroaching on our drive. They don't really like to be pruned but a few branches cut off from the trunk won't do too much harm. Coming out very soon will be **Magnolia stellata**, a brave bushy variety whose white starry flowers never seem to get hit by frosts. There is an elegant pink kind called **Magnolia x loebneri 'Leonard Messel'** which was introduced in the 1920's by Leonard Messel and his gardener Harold Comber at Nymans. It must be slightly tender as I lost one here some years ago and have planted its successor in a more sheltered spot. I found a purple magnolia in the market in Abergavenny some years ago, possibly **Magnolia liliiflora nigra** which is happily growing on a bank. A friend has one with tulip shaped flowers that is more elegant and worth seeking out.

The evergreen **Magnolia grandiflora** is American in origin and is supposedly quite tender. We have **Magnolia grandiflora 'Exmouth'** which is supposed to flower early in its youth. It has coppery undersides to its large leaves and beautiful lemon scented flowers. So far we have had about ten flowers in ten years and it is growing far too strongly and almost blocking our view of the Skirrid. Our son has threatened to chop it down and I have murderous feelings about it, but then if a flower does appear the scent is to die for and it is so magnificent that you can't help forgiving it for its meanness. It does not mind pruning at all and seems to grow all the more vigorously.

Magnolia campbelli is gorgeous but grows enormous and is really only for a large garden. Archibald Campbell was a Doctor in the East India Company and a friend of Joseph Hooker. He was responsible for taking tea seeds (camellia sinensis) to Nepal, Dargeeling and Sikkim and Hooker named Magnolia campbelli after him.

All varieties like a well drained soil which does not dry out. A good mulch in the spring would not go amiss either. Llanover has some wonderful specimens, though sadly it is too late to see them this year. Burncoose Nurseries in Devon stock an enormous variety.

High House in Penrhos opens its gardens under the NGS combined with The Old Vicarage on Sunday 6th May (2-6), and if you fancy a trip, The Alma, Bully Hole Bottom, Shirenewton NP16 6SA is open on the 19th May. Further details from the National Garden Scheme www. ngs.org.uk

COMMUNITY GREEN ENERGY ADVISORY GROUP COMMUNITY BENEFIT GRANT 2018

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 year's 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 1.05.2018 and the deadline for submissions is 30.06.2018

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

Services in May

Sunday 6th May Rogation Sunday
11am Llanvetherine Blessing of the Plough

Sunday 13th Easter 7
9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Thursday 17th Deanery Conference
7.30pm Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 20th Whit Sunday/ Pentecost
9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio crossenny

Wednesday 23rd
7pm Vicarage Churchwardens' Meeting

Sunday 27th Trinity Sunday
9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Sunday 3rd June
9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday May 1st Coffee Morning Llanddewi Rhydderch 10.30am
Friday 4th May – Monday 8th & Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th Llantilio Crossenny Festival of Music and Drama
Saturday 5th May Llanvapley Churchyard clean up morning
Sunday 6th May Penrhos, The Old Vicarage and High House have their gardens open 2pm - 6pm
Monday May 7th Plant sale Llantilio Crossenny 2pm
Wednesday 9th May Llanvapley Coffee Morning
Thursday May 17th Deanery Conference in Llantilio Church 7.30
Tuesday 22nd May Yoga Workshop Llanvapley Pavilion
Wednesday 23rd May Churchwardens' Meeting Llantilio Vicarage 7pm

Contributions for the June issue of TNT by 20 May 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*