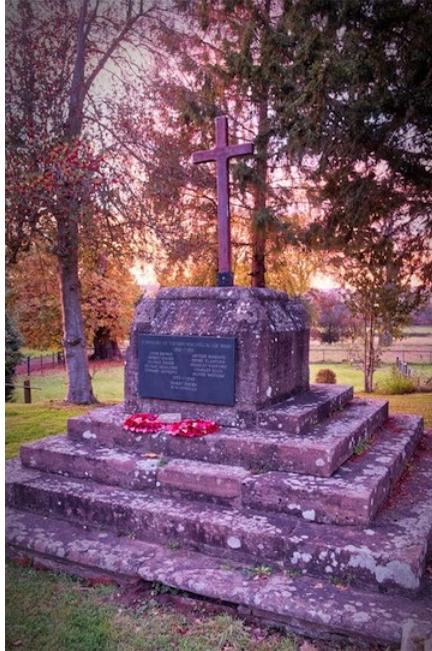


The New Times

November 2018

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



**At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**



From The Vicarage

Our attention has very much been focussed on the centenary of The Great War over the last four years, and this year we are remembering especially that strange time a full hundred years ago when the guns fell silent.

I've always been touched by the closing shot of the film, 'Oh, What a Lovely War', which begins with a young battle-weary soldier leaving the remnants of the trenches following a red ribbon, gradually shedding his equipment, emerging into a sunlit English downland, stumbling past his detached womenfolk picnicking on the grass, until he lies down to face the sun. We realise he is the last soldier to die. As the camera pulls back his body fades into a lone white cross, but as the camera climbs gradually higher, thousands more crosses obliterate the scene. All this to the song sung by the dead, 'And when they ask us, we'll never tell them', poignantly emphasising the unanswerable question, 'Why?'

Of course, the first Remembrance Day didn't happen until 1919, when King George V inaugurated the ceremony we are so familiar with, and the then wooden Cenotaph (empty tomb), and later, the committal of the Unknown Warrior. Millions of families were left dealing with the aftermath of deaths, of severe injuries, both mental and physical, a time we don't think about quite so much. (Try reading Juliet Nicolson's 'The Great Silence', if you haven't already done so).

This is about all of us. The Great War affected so many families that there are very few, even now, who don't have their family folklore, and many of us, even 'Millennials', can remember relatives who fought in the Great War. And this may well be why there is still such a strong community involvement in Remembrance, always accentuated by Autumn leaf fall. Sally and I did our own pilgrimage to Flanders and The Somme in 2014 to remember not only a family loss (my great uncle Jack, who died aged 20 on 1 July 1916) but also many members of our families who faced the revolting carnage of the trenches, and the terrifying Battle of Jutland. We also stood at the place in Ypres where McCrae was inspired to write 'In Flanders Fields', the birth of the red poppy as a symbol.

We're remembering not only vast anonymous losses, but also events that shaped and continue to shape our own lives now - reason enough to say 'We will remember them'. But also to prompt us to think about the 'why?', and to see how history can help us to prevent it all happening again. And in so doing, even with this year's emphasis on the 1918 Armistice, we remember too, that men and women from Wales, and all the UK, have continued to give their lives in conflicts which also have shaped how we live now. Those lives were given no less lightly.

We honour all their memories.

God bless you all,

Andrew Dawson

Some thoughts on 1918 – 2018

Thoughts of past history are everywhere in this centenary year. To me, who grew up in the long shadow of the Great War (the "war to end all wars" we called it - and believed it!) it is hard to credit that there is no longer anyone living who fought in it, and that, in a sense, the Somme is now as remote as Waterloo. Such a dreadful carnage the Great War was; and now that the noise and the shouting have long since died, we can see how little useful purpose there was to it all. Ours is a society which is quick to blame. There have been no shortage of those who point the finger at Kaiser Wilhelm, Field Marshal Haig, economic rivalry, the Imperialist system, and goodness knows what else. But, however ingenious the historical edifice built on the ruins, the only thing that now signifies is the contemplation of the millions of dead, each and every one of them a living, breathing soul, as real as you and me.

This centenary is a time for commemoration, certainly, but not of celebration; for who would wish to celebrate man's never-ending inhumanity to man? All we can do in this sorry world of ours, is to go on with our Christian mission of loving and giving and forgiving. So little, you may think, when hatred continues to stalk the earth, as brazen as ever. But always remember:

" No one made a greater mistake than the man who, because he saw he could do little, did nothing." *Peter Cobb*

Many of you will be aware that **Bishop Richard** has been ill recently. He has sent the following message to our parishes.

"I am sorry that I will be unable to gather with you as the family of the Diocese at the Diocesan Conference on October 20th. For some months I have suffered from nervous exhaustion and had been advised by the doctors to refrain from work. Thankfully I am now improving and I hope that I may be able to resume my duties soon. Meanwhile can I thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers, and also express my gratitude to Chancellor Mark Powell for agreeing to preside at the Conference in my absence. I am sure that this event will build on the success of our other recent Conferences. +Richard"

The Bridges Centre in Monmouth have a **community car scheme** which may be of interest to anyone living in our four parishes. The scheme is for people who face barriers in using public transport, taxis or existing community transport. The scheme relies on volunteer drivers who use their own cars to support people to access facilities and appointments. For further information please contact Amanda Brake on 01600 228660. Amanda will be visiting Llanvapley Coffee Morning on Wednesday 14th November to explain the scheme and to answer any of your questions.



Christingle Service Children's Choir

We had such success at last year's Christingle with our Children's Choir, we have decided the children would love to do it again!

It is always a well supported event on Christmas Eve and we want your children to show their talents off, not just singing but any instruments or if they would like to read a reading.

Our 1st get together will be:

Sunday 4th November at 8 Trothy Way, Llantilio Crossenny at 5pm

To let us know you are interested or for
anymore info please contact:

Lauren Cooke: 07971607157 (DBS Checked)



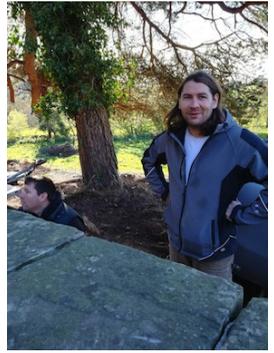
The **Community Green Energy Advisory Group** have announced the successful groups / projects from the 2018 Community Benefit Fund. The next round of grants will be in May / June 2019.

1. Bettws Newydd Village Hall - photovoltaic panels
2. Bridges Centre - Befriending Project
3. Grosmont Fawr Community Council - improvement of the toilet facilities at Grosmont Town Hall
4. Llanarth Cricket Club - replacement of practice facilities
5. Llanvapley Congregational Church - upkeep of the churchyard
6. Llanvetherine Parochial Church Council - creation of a public village meeting place for Llanvetherine
7. St Mabli's Church Parochial Church Council - replacement of sandstone coping blocks
8. The Village Alive Trust - for saving Bradney's Horse Trough

Llantilio Crossenny News

Following a successful application to the Community Green Energy Fund the Village Alive Trust has been able to restore the **Bradney Horse Trough in Tal-y-Coed**. Horse troughs such as this one would have been important facilities on this important coaching route from London to West Wales. Here is a report on the progress that has been made.

Following the dismantling of the brambles over a year ago, we approached The Village Alive Trust on the recommendation of Rob from the White Castle Vineyard. The trust has been a very sturdy supporter in the conserving of local landmarks and the trust secured funding from the Solar Farm, Country House Federation and privately to conserve the walls and trough itself. The work has been undertaken by Nathan Marsh (pictured) who is well known in the area for his work on local churches. During September, Nathan has been putting the walls back



together after further bramble and ivy clearance, a tricky jigsaw but he is doing a great job. Rodney who owns the land behind the trough has helped clear and lower the ground level at the back so that lively sheep can't jump over the wall now. Kath, Rodney's wife, told me that she and her teenage friends used to meet at the trough, no parents allowed, and would chill together! We have cleared the trough's front curved banks of soil and will be putting gravel down as it used to be. We understand that the gravel was replaced quite often. After the dogs from the hunt had topped themselves up with water the gravel was topped up to keep the area sweet and clean. We explored the option of restoring the water to flow from the water pipe but this would be too costly now. The water came from a spring from the Tal Y Coed parkland. It was located this summer and is still gently pushing out water that now drains into the River Trothy. There is the inscription in Welsh on the trough, which means 'Water free for everyone'. There are also little rose carvings along the whole of the basin of the trough, in memory of Joseph Bradney's wife whose name was Rosa. Joseph Bradney is best remembered for his book 'The History of Monmouthshire' which he wrote while living at Tal-y-Coed Court. Thanks must go to Jean Prosser, Pattie Griffiths, Torquil and Eric from the Village Alive Trust who have led this effort. There are others too and it has been great having such a positive response before and during the last year, when anything has been said about conserving this lovely simple landmark. Plans are in place to design and erect an A2 information board at the side of the trough with a brief synopsis of Joseph Bradney and his connection to the trough. There will be an unveiling of the plaque in December to complete the overhaul of the whole project. *Zara Elrington*

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Llantilio Crossenny Harvest Festival On a beautiful sunny autumn morning the people of Llantilio Crossenny and beyond gathered at St Teilo's to celebrate their Harvest Festival. Revd. Heidi Prince conducted a lovely service and our visiting preacher the Revd. Simon Guest gave a meaningful and humorous address. The local children proudly presented the harvest gifts at the altar. Following the service a delicious lunch was enjoyed in the Killough Chapel. Many thanks to everyone who helped to decorate the church so beautifully, to all those who kindly gave donations of food and wine and to everyone who came along and helped to make it such a joyous occasion.

Llanvapley News

The site of the **old Village Hall in Llanvapley** has been put up for sale on the instructions of the trustees of the site. A letter from the trustees has been placed on the village notice board. Proceeds from the sale of the site will go to the Llanvapley Sports and Social Association. The land was given to the village in 1930 and a village hall was built on the site. In more recent times the village hall became the Gwent Museum of Rural Life. In due course the museum moved to Usk and the building was demolished. The sale of the site (and the bus shelter) will take place in November.

On Sunday 7th October two local runners took part in the **Cardiff Half Marathon**. Phil Allsopp from Llanvapley completed the course in one hour fifty four minutes while Rhys Pritchard from Llantilio finished in 1:38:11. Well done to both of them.

The **LSSA committee** met on 19th October. The committee have agreed to fund improvements to the drainage of the field by cutting back the hedge and clearing the ditch on the eastern side of the playing field. The gutters on the pavilion will also be cleared and redecorating the inside of the building is scheduled over the winter months. A new emergency fire door costing £840 will also be installed following damage to the existing door. The committee aim to ensure that all users of the pavilion are aware that the new door can only be used in emergencies and not as an additional entrance or exit.

On 19th October, Llanvapley Church held a very successful **quiz night** in the pavilion. The quiz was well attended with teams from all the four parishes. The first question was appropriately about the Feeding of the Five Thousand in the Bible. Little did the audience know at that stage that the ladies of the church were having to perform their own miracle as they had only catered for 36



people and 45 people turned up! At the half way stage the team from Llanvetherine were in the lead but in the end it was a team from Llanvapley (**The Llanvapley Stylists**) that came out in front! It was very tight in the end with only one point separating them from 'The White Rhinos (Llanvapley) and St James the Oldies (Llanvetherine). Thanks go to everyone who supported the event and to those who worked so hard to provide such a lovely supper during the interval. The event raised £286 for church funds and it is hoped to repeat the event next year with another parish hosting the quiz. Pictured on the previous page is the captain of the winning team receiving the team prize from the quizmaster.

“Thanks to everyone who came to Llanvapley's October coffee morning with **stories, pictures and artefacts about Llanvapley's past**. I received lots of information and I am busy collating it. I'll be at the coffee morning again in November, so if there are any more stories about our village, please bring them along. I'm also thinking of having a separate meet-up at some point to share stories and ideas about how we can record it all.” *Phil Allsopp*

During October a group of servicemen including **Martyn Leader** (formerly of Llanvapley) completed a 100K walk starting at the Somme and finishing at the Thiepval monument. The march raised £23,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund. The picture below shows them setting off at dawn and finally arriving at the Thiepval monument. Despite the smiles they were all complaining about their blisters!



Penrhos News

Was William Shakespeare's Captain Fluellen born in Penrhos? An interesting bit of Penrhos history has been discovered by Tom from Church View. Born in Penrhos and buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, Sir Roger Williams (1539/1540 – 12 December 1595) was a Welsh soldier who had accompanied Essex during the French campaign of 1592 and had died, tended by Essex to the last, in 1595. Shakespeare scholar, J. Dover Wilson suggested that the character of Fluellen who appeared in Henry V was in fact based on Roger

Williams from Penrhos! Wilson insisted that Fluellen was “a careful and unmistakable portrait—a real portrait—of Sir Roger Williams”. Could this be true and where did he live? If anyone knows more, please let us know! Read more about it on Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Williams_\(soldier\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Williams_(soldier))
Matt Burhouse

Congratulations to Kevin and Emma Manchand for the interesting birth of their daughter **Rowan Grace**. Emma had planned a home birth for her third child but when labour wasn't moving along as quickly as they hoped, the midwife suggested a walk around the garden. Once outside things happened very quickly and 20 minutes later under a Rowan tree she was born weighing a very healthy 9lbs 8oz.

We had a very well attended **Harvest Festival service** followed by a delicious supper at High House Barn. The church was beautifully decorated and this year we lit the pathway with pumpkins and lanterns and a lovely arrangement of squashes and marrows.



A couple of weeks ago Vicki Howe from White House in Penrhos attended a two day adult **Mental Health First Aid course**. In this report Vicki shares her experiences.

'The course was thought provoking and highlighted the fact that mental health issues can affect any of us at any time. The statistics were sobering. It is clear that the more we can all talk about our own mental health experiences the more awareness there will be that mental health issues are not taboo and need to be out in the open. Talking about mental health opens up the possibilities for support and understanding and provides a pathway to better mental health for us all. The course covered understanding and recognising the signs of a

number of common mental health problems. From anxiety and depression to phobias, bi-polar and suicide. As a group we then went on to learn how to support a person suffering from mental health problems and suggest where they can go for help. The course is all about 'first aid' as anyone suffering from mental health concerns needs professional help and support. As part of the approach we were taught ALGEE. This is an acronym for an action plan to apply mental health first aid. It is a step by step approach which makes a lot of sense. What struck me most was the emphasis on non-judgemental listening. How often are any of us really listened to? How much better might we feel if we did have someone who would take the time to stop and really listen? Listen with empathy and patience. This is something I now need to practice. And so as a result of this two day course Penrhos has a Mental Health First Aider and I can highly recommend going on such a course.'

Llanvetherine News



With **White Castle Vineyard harvest** complete, let's raise a glass to the harvest of 2018! The weather has been exceptional this year and the bounty of quality grapes will stand us in good stead for a "vintage 2018", a year to remember for the vineyard. The growing season began in earnest with bud burst in mid April, flowering early in June and fruit set by the middle of June. All in all the season has been perfect, a little dry at one point but when the rain came it was gentle and the grapes swelled nicely. Harvest began on 27th September and our total harvest in all grape varieties exceeded anything we had hoped for with a good balance of sugar and acidity. The lasting Autumn sunshine has been a blessing and despite predictions of early harvesting, our last harvest was on Sunday 21st October. Already we have visitors reserving bottles of Pinot Noir from this year's harvest. Thankfully during the harvest we were supported by good friends and family without whom we could not have managed. Thank you all. With harvest over we have taken the opportunity to taste our red wines from vintage 2017, which we do periodically. The good news is that we shall be releasing these wines at our festive weekend on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December. We look forward to seeing you then. *Robb & Nicola Merchant*

Events around our four parishes

The next **Llanddewi Rhydderch coffee morning** is on Wednesday 7th November. Soup will be served and there will be Christmas cards and small gifts for sale from local people. It starts at 10.30 in the village hall and everyone welcome. Llanddewi are also having a party and there is a hedging and walling match in Pandy.

PARTY LIKE ITS 1988

FRIDAY

26TH OCTOBER 30TH

7PM

ANNIVERSARY
PARTY!



1980'S FANCY DRESS prize's
for best dressed female
and male
Buffet, games & music

includes bottle of Babysham on arrival

adults £10
children £4

caroline - 840272

Dawn- 840665

Sam - 840020

Llanthony Valley
& District Show
Society



Hedging Match &
Stone Walling Competition



Trevedd Farm (Walling) & Great Llwyg
Farm (Hedging), Pandy
Saturday 3rd November 2018

1. Open - any style hedge
2. Open - farmer's hedge novice
3. Open - Young Farmers under 25
4. Open - farmer's hedge 18 & Under
- 5a. Open - dry stone wall
- 5b. Open - dry stone wall novice

Cash Prizes: 1st - £50, 2nd - £30, 3rd - £20

Also prizes for best local and youngest competitors

9 a.m. start Spectators welcome

For information on how to enter and general enquiries please contact:

Colin Passmore (01873) 890359

Walling

Mark Egerton (01873) 890448

Hedging

WI News

At the October meeting of Llantilio Crossenny WI we welcomed David Harrison who talked about the curios of Monmouthshire and surrounding area. Some members had brought curios from their home. These were old and interesting and ranged from a goat, to a candle snuffer; an old wooden painted baby powder box to an old thing-a-me-jig! These items proved a distraction from David's presentation, his computer having decided to do an update at the most inappropriate moment! However, when it got going, David's talk was great fun. He had a wide range of photographs, showing features in this area and his historical comments were full of humour. Before the meeting there was a rehearsal of Dancing Queen to prepare the cast, for the dress rehearsal at Usk Hall. The deposits for the Centenary dinner at The Angel were collected. Most of the squares for the centenary wall hanging are now with Sally and Margaret, and Sally will assemble them into a work of art to be treasured! In November, the well-known and knowledgeable Stephanie Tyler, will be speaking about River Birds.

The Garden in October

The days are getting shorter and the air is getting colder. There is still plenty to do in the garden, not least to stand back, reflect and decide what changes should be made. There is still time to move things and to split up any perennials that have got congested.

In the herb garden it is time to collect some culinary herbs for the winter. I freeze **Parsley** and put it washed into plastic bags to use straight away from frozen. You can make a delicious soup out of parsley, make it just like spinach or watercress soup and preferably with a good chicken stock. Parsley is an ancient herb linked to the Greek



Archemorus, the herald of death, and apparently it was fed to warhorses to give them courage. It was also used to decorate tombs. **Salvias** come in all shapes and sizes but the culinary **Sage**, *Salvia officinalis*, is a useful and decorative herb. *S. purpurascens* has purple leaves and blue flowers in June. It is tough and like **Rosemary** you can pick leaves throughout the winter. Associated with fertility and longevity, use it sparingly. Apparently epileptics should avoid it. Rosemary is a symbol of friendship and remembrance and was associated with the Virgin Mary. According to folklore, bunches used to be hung in the house to deter thieves and to stop fairies from stealing infants. I lost two growing in pots last winter but another in a flower bed was fine. It is pretty tough and does not mind having a hard prune. Like Sage, there is no need to dry or freeze leaves. **Thyme** needs a good trim every year to stop it from getting straggly and it does not like being cut back to bare wood. There are many varieties including a pretty one called 'Silver Posie' with variegated leaves. To the Ancient Greeks it was a symbol of courage, and indeed Roman soldiers bathed in Thyme to give them courage before battle. It was also used as an antiseptic by the Egyptians and in the embalming of mummies. These last three herbs are from the Mediterranean and like free draining soil and plenty of sun. I put a gravel mulch in the herb garden in the hope that the sun would reflect back and give them a good baking.

PS I wrote about our **Fothergilla Major** last month and it has been lighting up the garden for the last couple of weeks as you can see from the above photograph.

Services in November

Sunday November 4th

Llanvetherine
9.30am Holy Communion
Llantilio Crossenny
11am Holy Communion

Friday 9th November

Llantilio Crossenny
Funeral Service for Ceinwen
Davies 2pm

Sunday 11th November

Penrhos
Remembrance 9.30am
Llantilio Crossenny
Remembrance 10.55am

Sunday 18th November

Llanvetherine
Holy Communion 9.30am
Llantilio Crossenny **Cancelled**

Sunday 25th November

Penrhos
Morning Prayer 9.30am
Llanvapley
Holy Communion 11.00am

Sunday 2nd December

Llanvetherine
Holy Communion 9.30am
Llantilio Crossenny
Holy Communion 11.00am

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 7th Llanddewi Rhydderch Coffee Morning 10.30am
Wednesday 14th Llanvapley Coffee Morning 10.30am
Monday 3rd December Taize Service 7.30pm Llanvapley Church

An interesting tweet - Bible Sunday. Remembering Terry Waite who knew the psalms by heart. Reciting them from memory got him through his ordeal as captive in Lebanon @LorraineCavana2

Grosmont And District Gardening Club

For our October meeting a local author, Bill Laws, gave a talk entitled "Spade, Skirret and Parsnip: The Curious History of Vegetables" which also happens to be the title of one of his books. We learned a great deal about the history of the humble vegetable, including which is the oldest vegetable and how they even reduced street crime! Tuesday 6th November 7.30pm Annual General Meeting followed by a flower arranging demonstration on a winter theme. In December we are planning to have our usual Christmas Social evening, including an amazing raffle with many hampers. For further information please contact Jan Parker on 01600 772891 or visit the Grosmont village website.

*Contributions for the December issue of TNT by 20 November 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**