



# The New Times



December 2018

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



**Happy Christmas**



## From The Vicarage

This year the seasons seem to be passing even more rapidly than usual. Many of us have had a busy time for many different reasons, and the long, extremely warm, days of this summer have morphed stealthily into short and now penetratingly cold, dull, days. I'm reminded of a poem I had to learn at school which ends:

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,  
No comfortable feel in any member –  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! –  
November!

But actually, with the season comes an opportunity to reflect on where we are going while nature rests. We have the chance to think about what we have achieved this year, and where we next want to go. The hope and expectation of Advent and the joy of Christmas – bathed by the Light of the coming of Jesus – reminds us of the part we can increasingly play by knowing and loving our Neighbour. We are fortunate to live in a group of communities where Christmas still holds an important element of celebration of the most wonderful Gift of all, as remote as we can be from commercial razzmatazz.

A reflective Advent and Joyous Christmas and New Year to everybody,  
With all blessings  
Andrew

## Llantilio Crossenny News

On 11<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 in the morning the muffled sound of bells could be heard ringing out at St. Teilos Church to summon the parishes of Llantilio Crossenny, Llanvapley and Llanvetherine to a **Joint Service of Remembrance**. At five to eleven, following a prayer and a hymn inside the church, we went outside to gather at the preaching cross where wreaths were laid by Nick Hoyle on behalf of the parishioners and Ruth Edwards on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council. Revd. Peter Cobb read out the names of the fallen in both World Wars followed by two minutes silence. The service continued inside the Church with appropriate hymns and readings and Revd. Cobb gave a moving and thought provoking address. Thank you to all who took part in the service and to the ladies for decorating the Church so beautifully and also the bellringers (pictured) who came out again in the evening to ring at seven



In October, Lorraine Cavanagh published her latest book entitled **'In Such Times: Reflections on Living with Fear'**. She has a limited number of signed copies available here in Llantilio Crossenny - profits from any local sales will go towards St Teilo's church funds. Please email her at [lorraine@lorrainecavanagh.net](mailto:lorraine@lorrainecavanagh.net) if you would like a copy. In this book Lorraine addresses a number of questions such as 'What are the fears that govern our lives? Why do we seldom share them with others? How do they inform the way we think of the politics of the day and the life of the church?'

Lorraine has written a number of other books and regularly writes articles which appear on her blog, which is well worth a read. The articles can be found by going to the website below. [lorrainecavanaghblog.wordpress.com](http://lorrainecavanaghblog.wordpress.com)



The next **children's choir practice for Christingle** is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 5.30pm at Llantilio Church. Everyone welcome.

## Llanvapley News

Llanvapley Church will be holding its **Carol Service** on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 4pm. Last year the Church gave the collection to the charity Crisis which supports homeless people. This year we will be doing the same and are hoping to reach our target of £100. There is also a **Taize service** on 3<sup>rd</sup> December – details are on the poster.

The Llanvapley Sports and Social Association will be holding a **coffee morning on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** at 10.30am. Apart from mince pies, coffee and cake there will also be a raffle for a wonderful hamper of Christmas goodies. The LSSA would like to give thanks to everyone who has contributed towards the prizes in the hamper, which is well worth winning. There will also be the final 100 club draw of the year. Congratulations go to Gen and Conrad who were the latest 100 club winners and thanks also to everyone who has supported the 100 Club this year.

TAIZÉ  
ECUMENICAL  
ADVENT SERVICE  
MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER  
7.30PM  
LLANVAPLEY CHURCH  
MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE  
PARKING AT VILLAGE HALL CLOSE TO CHURCH  
ALL WELCOME



## Penrhos News

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November a **Service of Remembrance** was held at St. Cadoc's Church led by Revd. Peter Cobb. The congregation gathered at the Lychgate to remember all those who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars and in more recent conflicts - a wreath was laid by Richard Cleeve. At 12.30 Richard Price, John Biggs, Tom Hillard and Pip Rumsey rang the church bells joining in with the national celebrations marking Armistice 100.

**Defibrillator and CPR Training** Do please come along to the Pavilion at Woodlands Farm in Penrhos on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm and learn how to use our new defibrillator and how to carry out cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), which saves thousands of lives every year. Now Penrhos has a defibrillator it is important that as many people as possible know how to use it. Rhian Templeton, our first responder with the ambulance service, has very kindly agreed to carry out this training. Any questions, please contact Charles on [charleshorsfield@hotmail.com](mailto:charleshorsfield@hotmail.com).

## Llanvetherine News



Llanvetherine Parish are also proud to announce the arrival of a Defibrillator. This was made possible by the amazing fund raising by Lauren Cooke. The defibrillator is sited at Lanes Garage, Llanvetherine. Hopefully it will never be used, but in the event of an emergency it is available for anyone to use. The photographs above show some residents being trained to use this new equipment.

**Things that go bang in the night ...** the story of the new radiant heating system in Llanvetherine church. The King's Arms closed in 2001, removing the last community focus in Llanvetherine. Apart from being a beautiful local asset, the Church is greatly under utilised and has considerable potential beyond brief fortnightly and 'high-day' worship. In medieval times churches were places of community activity and one source has suggested that altar rails arose out of the need to keep livestock out of the sanctuary! For some years the PCC has been hoping to encourage a wider non-worship use, initially by creating new



community space at the back of the church. The goal is to provide a convenient meeting place at the centre of the village without having to go further afield. A small grant was obtained last year to provide a table and comfortable seating. The intention is to obtain permission to remove five pews to make room for the table and chairs, to provide suitable space heating, portable lighting, and a water supply, for which initial funding has been obtained. Eventually we hope to find a way to install a toilet. Several villagers have suggested that the church could eventually become a place for exhibitions, concerts, and other performances. Against this background, things were brought to a head at last year's evening carol service when proceedings were briefly interrupted by a bang and a puff of smoke from a front pew. It turned out to be a faulty electrical heating pipe. A qualified inspection revealed that the whole heating system and its wiring were unsafe and beyond repair. As a result there is now a set of radiant heaters which are individually switchable and which provide instant warmth with far less waste – the meeting area has taken its first steps. The church is run by a very small team, and if there is anybody in the area who has expertise in project management then the team would be very grateful for hands-on help. No religious belief is necessary as the project is for the whole community, but there is a large bureaucracy involved with making even minor changes to this listed building, and expertise in this area or in fundraising would be invaluable as none of the team have any such expertise. Please contact the Churchwardens, Sally Dawson or David Hughes Jones if you are able to help in any way.

Join us for a Festive weekend at the Cellar Door of  
**White Castle Vineyard.**  
**Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th December 2018**  
**10 am - 5 pm**

We shall have a fine array of new release wines for tasting  
As we pop open the bubbles of our Sparkling white wine vintage 2016  
Uncork Vintage 2017 Red wines

WELCOME TO OUR CELLAR DOOR

Perfect Gift ideas for wine lovers: Adopt a vine.

Bespoke Gift vouchers.

Or simply spoil yourselves this Christmas.



All Luscious and local, are you looking for a little luxury this Christmas?

The November edition of TNT featured a report which described a Mental Health First Aid Course. Following that report a TNT reader has sent this message. *'I would like to offer my services to the people locally as a mental health nurse in the Llantillio area, I can offer cognitive behavioural therapy for anxiety and depression , sleep management, mindfulness and lots more, on a private 1:1 basis. I work for the NHS and I am based in the GP surgeries in Abergavenny. If you think I can help please contact me on 07980767445.'* Michelle Gunter

## WI News

Lin Morris, President, opened the meeting by asking members to join her in singing Jerusalem in honour of Ceinwen Davies, a long serving member of the WI who sadly died recently. She then went on to congratulate all the members who took part in the Gwent Federation evening of scenes from the movies. Our contribution of Dancing Queen from Mamma Mia was well received and our choir helped out with leading the audience singing whilst Margaret Parry provided the accompaniment on her keyboard. Sally Dawson gave an update on the putting together of contributions from members for the wall hanging to commemorate our centenary celebrations next year. She and Margaret Parry have an unenviable task but their own skills are magnificent. Jan Currie, Treasurer, was happy to announce that the match funding of £500 from Lloyds Bank for our Auction in August is being put into our bank account.



Lin welcomed Stephanie Tyler, Welsh Ornithologist, who came to speak about River Birds in Monmouthshire. She has worked for Gwent Wildlife Trust and was Conservation Officer of the RSPB in Wales. She told us that she has studied Welsh Dippers for over 20 years. She gave an enthralling presentation demonstrating her expertise and enthusiasm, backed up by some wonderful photographs of birds.



The next meeting will be on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December and will be a **Make a Christmas Card and Quiz Night** (this is a change to the programme). There will be carols, post box, nibbles and mulled wine. Members are asked to bring a small present for the Secret Santa. Centenary Year begins with a Formal Dinner at the Angel Hotel on Wednesday 15th January.

## The Garden in December

Have you noticed that there are quite a lot of berries on the **Holly trees** this year? It is said to signal a harsh winter. Are we going to have a repeat of last year? In fact the worst snow was in March this year when we were hoping to see the first green shoots of spring. We have a lot of holly trees in the garden and in fact, like Washington State in North America, I could almost say that it was a noxious weed. Little seedlings of holly come up in cracks all over the place, but there is something wonderful about the bright green of those shiny leaves and the scarlet berries – before the birds eat them – are an added bonus. Holly, or to give it its Latin name, **Ilex aquifolium**, is an

ancient tree said to guard against evil spirits by the Druids and even Pliny advised planting a tree by the house to ward off evil spirits. This belief in the apotropaic qualities of holly ran so deep, no wonder the early Christians adopted it for their own. Holly was said to represent Christ, the sharp leaves, the crown of thorns and the red berries the drops of blood from the crucifixion. Some even said that the Cross was made from holly wood. According to John Aubrey a 'garland of holly and bittersweet would cure a 'hag-ridden' horse if hung round its neck' I wouldn't try it myself! Also if children drank cow's milk from a cup made of holly wood it would cure whooping cough. In heraldry holly signifies 'truth' and Harry Potter's wand was made of Holly wood.



Ilex aquifolium is a native of West and Southern Europe, North Africa and China and is the parent of hundreds of varieties. It has been used for centuries for hedging or topiary as it responds well to clipping, is almost impenetrable, provides shelter for tender plants and is a safe haven for birds. The female bears the fruit which can cause a lot of confusion as 'Golden King' is a female, whilst Golden Queen is male, as is Silver Queen, so when buying the coloured hollies make sure you have the right ones or better still, one of each if you want berries. It is quite fast growing and needs a trim every year. Unless you want a tree, don't do what I have done and left a bush for a year or two before cutting it back as before you know it, it will be 20 foot high. A light trim every year should keep it in check.

## Dates for your Diary

**Llanvapley Coffee Morning** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am in the pavilion

**Llanddewi Rhydderch Coffee Morning** 10.30am Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Raffle with mince pies in the village hall

## Grosmont And District Gardening Club

In November we had a brief AGM followed by a fascinating flower arranging demonstration by Justine of Far Hill Flowers. She produced a magnificent table centre decoration using fruits, berries and foliage. We all went away feeling very inspired.

### Up and Coming Events

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Social evening at Temple Bar Inn, Ewyas Harold. Please note that there is no Meeting In January 2019

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February** 7.30pm Meeting at Grosmont Town Hall Sarah Bell – A year in the life of a vine

We welcome new members, so please either contact Jan 01600 750295 or visit the Grosmont Village website (Village Groups) for more information.

# Services in December and January 2019

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Llanvetherine

Holy Communion 9.30am

Llantilio Crossenny

Holy Communion 11.00am

## Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Llanvapley

Taize Service 7.30pm

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Penrhos

Holy Communion 9.30am

Llanvapley

Holy Communion 11.00am

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Llanvetherine

Morning Prayer 9.30am

Llantilio Crossenny

Carol Service 4pm

## Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>

Penrhos

Carol Service 6.00pm

## Friday 21<sup>st</sup>

Llanvetherine

Carol Service 6.00pm

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Llanvapley

Carol Service 4.00pm

## Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

Llantilio Crossenny

Christingle Service 4.00pm

Penrhos

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

## Christmas Day

Llanvetherine

Holy Communion 10.00am

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Llanvetherine

Holy Communion 9.30am

Llantilio Crossenny

Holy Communion 11.00am

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January

Penrhos

Morning Prayer 9.30am

Llanvapley

Holy Communion 11.00am

## Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Churchwardens' meeting 7.30pm

Talycoed tbc

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>

Llanvetherine

Holy Communion 9.30am

Llantilio Crossenny

Morning Prayer 11.00am

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

Penrhos

Holy Communion 9.30am

Llanvapley

Morning Prayer 11.00am



*Contributions for the February issue of TNT by 20 January 2019 please*

*Please send your emails to [lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com)*

**Don't forget our website [llantiliogroup.info](http://llantiliogroup.info) for the latest information**  
*as well as information about all our churches. We are also on Twitter @LlantilioG*