The New Times

March 2019

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

Find out who has been given the key to the door

and find out who has been knocking at the cellar door!

From the Vicarage

"Don't you ever do that to me again!"
"Please answer the phone/ reply to your texts. I was so worried about you."
They could be the words of a parent to a child away from home, or a son to a parent living at a distance, or even, possibly, a vicar to her husband in hospital!
We've probably all been there. The phone goes unanswered, and the mind goes into overdrive.
Of course, there may be perfectly simple reasons why no response is given: phones may be switched off or turned into "silent" mode, there may be no signal, someone could be having a nap…
Yet, after a while, there is only one solution to the worried caller – Go and see.
This recent scenario made me think about the ways God tries to speak with us. Time and again he tries to tell us how much we mean to Him, how much He loves us. Yet, time and again, we fail to get the message. Maybe we are "out of signal", unattuned to his voice, blind to the wonders of his hand.
In the end, there is only one thing He can do – come and show us.
The life and death of Jesus reveal how deeply we are loved and cherished by our Creator.
Those outstretched arms are ready for our response. Let's not leave him waiting.

With every blessing,
Heidi

Llantilio Crossenny News

Llantilio Crossenny Community Council met at Cross Ash Village Hall on Tuesday 19th February 2018 at 7.30 p.m. The next meeting is on 21st May. This will be the Annual General Meeting and a full Council Meeting. If you wish to discuss any local matters with members there is a 10 minute public speaking time at the start of every meeting. Llantilio Crossenny Community Council covers the wards of Llantilio, Penrhos and Llanfihangel/ Tal-Y-Coed. Community Councillors are as follows :- Don Menzies, Eddie Phillips, Chris Lewis, Adrian Watkins, Lauren Cooke, Tony Watkins, John Biggs, Colin Phillips and Colin Ellaway. Details of council meetings can be found on the community council website.

Does anyone know of kittens looking to be rehomed to a very good home. Please telephone Elsie Latham on 01600780225.

Llanvapley News

The new **Llanvapley Sports and Social Association** committee will be elected in April at the annual general meeting of the association. Anyone interested in taking the role of secretary or general committee member is very welcome to contact Les Taylor or Elaine Leader for more information.

Llanvapley walking group Llanvapley is a fantastic place to live not least because of the number of walks that are available in the local countryside. Visitors often comment on how beautiful and undervalued the area is and how much they get from walking here. Walking, of course, has many health benefits for local people and visitors - and also encourages appreciation of the countryside. A few of us in the village have been talking about setting up a 'walking group'. The initial aim of the walking group is to ensure that public rights of way are kept in a condition that makes them accessible all year round. If you want to be involved please let us know. You can contact me on llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com or come along to the next coffee morning on 13th March and we can discuss how we can go forward with this. Of course, we can always extend it to other local villages and areas as well (not just keep it to Llanvapley). *Phil Allsopp*

The next meeting of **Llanarth Fawr Community Council** is on the 12th March 2019 at Llanvapley Sports & Social Club 7.30 p.m. Llanarth Fawr Community Council welcome members of the public to attend meetings of the council. Please note:- members of the public are not permitted to speak during council meetings - whilst the meeting is taking place we respectfully request that members of the public are silent. Donna Harris and Pat Bolwell are your community councillors for Llanvapley.

Penrhos News

Who would have though Penrhos could muster such a good crowd on a cold Monday evening to learn how to use its **brand new defibrillator**? Well done Team Penrhos, you are a public spirited lot! It was made all the more bearable by a little alcohol and Rhian's excellent delivery. Rhian Templeton, our very own Welsh Ambulance First Responder, generously gave up her time to educate us

on basic CPR (see 'Little Alice' looking in a bad way (no legs or arms) flat out on the floor: although not sure she was feeling much better after the assembled crowd had each practiced their 30 chest compressions...) and a lesson on how to operate the new defibrillator, which is located on the wall of the Pavilion closest to the lane at Woodlands Farm. If you were unable to attend and think a further training session would be welcome, let Charlie know at woodlandsfarmwales@gmail.com. Rhian has kindly offered a second training session and, if there is demand, basic first aid training. *Charles Horsfield*

Penrhos Dates for you Diary
Sunday 5th May Open Gardens High House and The Old Vicarage
Sunday 23rd June Penrhos Church Hog Roast

Llanvetherine News

Traditionally you are given the key to the door when you are 21. The picture on the front covers shows Peter Marchant handing over **a new duplicate key** to the group curate, Andrew Dawson who, despite no longer being 21, was delighted to be given the key! St James's church has relied on a single antique key for many years, leaving aside concerns about what would happen should it ever be lost. Attempting to have it duplicated through standard key cutting services was never going to offer the solution: there are no blanks for such an old key, and modern key technology has no answers. A chance conversation between two people of neighbouring parishes has resulted in the discovery that projects like rescuing an antique key from solitary isolation fall into the skill set of a dedicated engineer - Peter Marchant! Peter spent many hours meticulously measuring and recording the different dimensions of the lonely key, and then using hand tools with enormous skill to complete the project. I am sure you will agree he has produced a beautiful working reproduction (lower key in the photograph above). Not only has Peter created this magnificent key but he has also serviced the ancient lock it belongs to. The St James Church PCC is really pleased and impressed with Peter's work and has extended their grateful thanks to him. *Andrew Dawson*

Grosmont Community Council will meet on 11th March at Grosmont Town Hall at 7.30pm. The annual general meeting of the community council and full council meeting will be on 13th May. James Beavan and David Hughes-Jones are the community council representatives for Llanvetherine.

White Castle Vineyard in Llanvetherine was pleased to welcome **Sir Bryn Terfel** to the vineyard in February. Sir Bryn was delighted to give his support to our Welsh wines and helped us to celebrate what promises to be a vintage year. This year a new chapter unfolds as my wife, Nicola is now retired from her profession as a district nurse after 37 years of nursing. This ties in nicely with our 10th anniversary year at White Castle Vineyard. Nicola has now joined me working from home at the vineyard, which has been a long held ambition for both of us. Vines were first planted at White Castle Vineyard on 11th May 2009. A further planting of vines has been in the pipeline for a while and this May shall see just that, as 1000 Pinot Noir and 1000 Cabernet Franc (both of which are red grape varieties) are planted. Winter pruning is well underway. This activity is the start of the growing season. The sap has risen and is dripping from the pruning wounds, all we need now is too keep our fingers crossed for no Jack frost as this mild spell we have had will fluff up those buds and will lead to a far too early bud burst. Spring has sprung in many places with daffodils in bloom in may parts of the parish. However, ours have yet to burst but will surely to be in bloom in time to celebrate St Davids Day. *Robb Merchant*

WI News

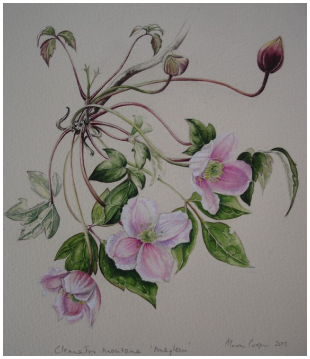
Lin Morris, President, opened the meeting by thanking all those who helped make the Centenary Dinner at The Angel Hotel such a wonderful occasion. She hoped everyone now had a Llantilio Crossenny WI calendar which illustrated our history through archives and photographs. The written history, broken down into 25year parts, was so popular when it was read out at the dinner, that it was agreed by the Committee to get it printed as a booklet. These were available on the night. Lin moved on to the 2019 WI six resolutions, which she read out and gave everyone a form to vote. The final resolution/s will be voted on at the WI Annual Meeting.

It was felt for our garden party in June that wild flowers in pots, or any flowers in pots, would create a summer atmosphere and members were asked to start sowing their seeds now. The speaker for the evening was Malcolm Meadows on The Role of Women in World War One. Malcolm was a truly inspiring speaker who illustrated his talk with a wonderful Powerpoint presentation incorporating songs from the period and poetry. He made it clear that Britain was the best organised country out of all the others involved in WW1. because women were able to take over the country in all ways nursing, police, making bombs, fire fighting and everything else needed to keep the country running while most of the men were at war. Although he concentrated on the role of women he managed to bring in all

aspects of the history of W.W.I. especially the senseless killing of thousands of men many of them in their teens. Not only the killing but for those able to go home, the physical and psychological damage they experienced which had a knock on effect on their families. Malcolm brought everything to life in a way that had an emotional and sobering effect on his audience.
The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th March when Marcus Grodentz will speak on The Queen and I. As this is a particularly special year other events have been organised starting with a visit on 21st February to The Rolls, Hendre with a talk by Bruce Lawson, biographer followed by afternoon tea. Also in March will be the RWS Bees and Trees Competition at Usk Memorial Hall on 9th March and a visit to Bath (date to be arranged).

The Garden in March

Last year we had deep snow in March and it was very cold. As I write this in February I am keeping my finger's crossed as yesterday I cut back a tangle of viticella clematis. These obliging climbers can be cut back hard in February even though there are some shoots above. You can be really clever and cut half down now and the other half a month or two later, which will extend the flowering right up until October. Most of the flowers in this category are on the small side but they flower abundantly. A favourite is 'C viticella 'Betty Corning' with lavender mauve bell shaped flowers, which is scrambling up a purple vine. C. Perle d'Azur can be treated in the same way, as can C. texensis 'Gravetye Beauty', an elegant wine red, C.Jackmanii and C. orientalis with yellow lemon peel like petals. Don't cut back Clematis Montana until it has flowered and even then only if you have to. It looks its best climbing up trees or smothering a wall. A scented variety is Clematis montana 'Mayleen' (pictured) which has pink flowers and leaves that can turn bronze. Other ones to leave well alone are C. alpina and C. macropetala as like the montanas, they flower in early spring on last year's growth. Our C. macropetala 'Maidwell Hall', a delicate shade of blue with a white centre, was happily scrambling over a wall until a rabbit decided to make a meal of it last autumn and I fear it has turned its toes up.



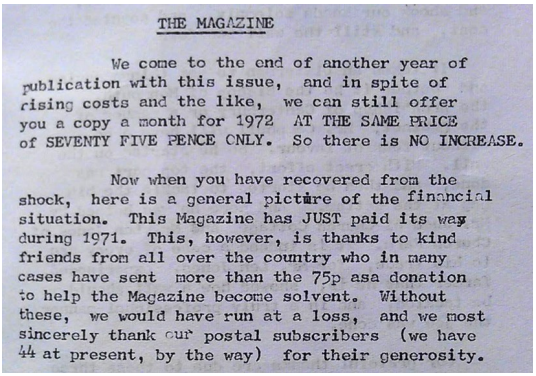
Herbaceous clematis are very well behaved and easy to care for. Clematis recta, C. integrifolia, C. heracleifolia 'Wyevale' and C.jouiniana can all be cut back hard in the winter. The latter makes phenomenal growth and is ideal for covering a stump or something unsightly. It is worth seeking out new varieties as breeders are constantly improving them.
Clematis armandii, an evergreen plant from Southern China, introduced in 1900 by EH Wilson has large glossy leaves and clusters of scented white flowers. It needs some protection and is probably happiest on a south facing

wall. There is a beautiful dusky pink variety called ‘Apple Blossom’ but we don’t have a suitable spot here sadly. All the above are easy to look after unlike the larger flowered clematis which are horribly temperamental and sometimes for no reason at all seem to disappear. One is told to plant them deep to avoid clematis wilt, and keep their roots in the shade. They are also greedy and need feeding frequently.

Your Parish Magazine

You may think that everything is getting more expensive. This is true about most things but it isn't true about The New Times! Thanks to support from members of our community we are able to publish our parish magazine **free of charge**. Copies of the magazine are delivered to households in Llantilio and Llanvapley and TNT is also available at church services. It is also distributed by email and published on our website, llantiliogroup.info. Please remember to take a copy home when you attend church.

Things have not always been like this. Back in the early 1970s Llanvapley was linked with parishes such as Llanddewi Rhydderch and the parish magazine was published by Father Adams from the vicarage in Llanddewi. As you can see from the cutting on the right, there was a charge of 75p a year for the magazine which must have been a significant amount back in those days. Copies of the old magazine have recently been unearthed by Doris Evans of Llanvapley. Doris can be seen in the picture below from 1971!



THE MAGAZINE

We come to the end of another year of publication with this issue, and in spite of rising costs and the like, we can still offer you a copy a month for 1972 AT THE SAME PRICE of SEVENTY FIVE PENCE ONLY. So there is NO INCREASE.

Now when you have recovered from the shock, here is a general picture of the financial situation. This Magazine has JUST paid its way during 1971. This, however, is thanks to kind friends from all over the country who in many cases have sent more than the 75p asa donation to help the Magazine become solvent. Without these, we would have run at a loss, and we most sincerely thank our postal subscribers (we have 44 at present, by the way) for their generosity.

LLANFAPLEY COFFEE EVENING on June 21st. Mrs. Foord, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Speake, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Rudman.

Services in March 2019

Sunday 3rd March
9.30am Llanvetherine
Morning Prayer (MP)
11am Llantilio Crossenny
Holy Communion (HC)

Wednesday 6th March
Ash Wednesday
7pm Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 10th
9.30am Penrhos MP
11am Llanvapley HC with Revd. Gaynor Burrett from Grosmont

Sunday 17th
9.30am Llanvetherine HC
11am Llantilio Crossenny MP

Sunday 24th
9.30am Penrhos HC
11am Llanvapley MP

Sunday 31st March
Joint service for Mothering Sunday
11am Llanvetherine

Dates for your Diary

Llanddewi Rhydderch Coffee Morning Wednesday 6th March 10.30am
Llanvapley Coffee Morning Wednesday 13th March 10.30am in the pavilion
Llanddewi Rhydderch Film Night
First Man - Thursday 14th March - Doors and Bar open 7.15pm - Entry £4 - Refreshments available during the interval
Taize Singing Group Meeting Monday 18th March 7.30pm at Blaencoed

Grosmont And District Gardening Club

For our first meeting of the year in February 2019, Sarah Bell from Sunnybank Vine Nursery in Rowlestone gave a fascinating talk entitled "A Year in the Life of a Vine". We all learnt a new word - "Ampelography" – the identification of grapevines by comparing shape and colour of vine leaves and berries. No doubt we shall all be going to her open day in September and be further inspired to grow our own! Our next meeting is at Grosmont Town Hall on Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm. There will be a talk about Jamie's Farm and the vital work that is done there to transform the lives of hundreds of disadvantaged young people each year. We have members from a wide area – visitors and new members are always welcome so please contact Marion marion.stainton@btinternet.com 01981 241161 for further information or visit Grosmont Village website (Village Groups). We are also now on Facebook.

Contributions for the April issue of TNT by 20th March 2019
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