

# The New Times

May 2019

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



**Spot the difference!**



## From the Vicarage

Cows, their calves and a bull coming into the field just as the choir were preparing to sing The Old Rugged Cross.

“Cut!” Having to pause mid-interview while some walkers passed by talking loudly about some very personal issues.

“Hold on – I can hear Gareth talking in the background. Can we go again?”

Some of the notable and amusing complications of filming when the BBC joined us on the Skirrid in preparation for Britain’s Easter Story.”

When the programme was aired on Good Friday, it showed a wonderful tapestry of different traditions, old and new, from right across the country. From a group carrying enormous crosses across the causeway to Lindisfarne, to a Church group that had embraced the Jamaican delicacy of bun and cheese. From the Greek Orthodox Church, to our own tradition of the climb up the Holy Mountain, the Skirrid.

As we worship in our own church communities, we can sometimes feel isolated. Small numbers make it easy to feel that we are part of a declining Church. But watching the programme reinforced my belief that we are part of something bigger: part of an enormous community of faith. Expressing ourselves in different ways, following different traditions but, nonetheless, all members of one family. And what we do, here, in our own small way, is really important, not just for us, but for the other members of our Christian family.

With every blessing,  
Heidi

What wonderful Easter celebrations we had in all four of our churches.

It all began on Palm Sunday in Penrhos, where we were joined by Della the donkey, who enabled us to capture more fully the events of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. Our thanks go to Clarissa and Julian Fonseca who gave Della a helping hand in travelling all the way from Llanvetherine.

Good Friday started with our walk up the Holy Mountain, as we recalled the



journey of Jesus to the cross. In the afternoon Revd. Andrew Dawson led a moving meditative service through the village of Llanvapley, to the foot of the cross. We imagined the thoughts of various people involved in Jesus crucifixion. In the evening we were treated to an amazing performance of Stainer's Crucifixion in Llantilio Crossenny, thanks to Jeanette Massocchi's group of singers. It really was powerful, and another way to enter into those dreadful events of Good Friday.

My thanks go to everyone who enabled us to hold such a variety of services over HolyWeek, and who ensured that each church was able to have a service on Easter morning.

## Llantilio Crossenny News

The beautiful weather over the Easter weekend encouraged large numbers of people to come along to the events telling the Easter story. On Good Friday, forty one people took part in the "Stations of the Cross" while walking up the Holy Mountain, taking it in turns to do readings and prayers and to carry the cross. On reaching the summit, hot cross buns were enjoyed while socialising and admiring the magnificent views. At 2.30 pm we gathered at Llanvapley Church for a service 'At the foot of the Cross' led by The Revd. Andrew Dawson. At 6.30pm Jeannette Massocchi and her singers gave a performance of "Stainers Crucifixion" in St Teilos, it was a truly memorable evening with a feast of music for Good Friday with some very talented singers. On Easter Day at 11am a large congregation came to a beautifully decorated St Teilo's Church for Easter Communion led by The Revd. Heidi Prince and The Revd. Andrew Dawson. An Easter egg hunt followed the service with more socialising afterwards in the brilliant sunshine outside. Many thanks to everyone for taking part and helping in so many ways to make Easter such a memorable occasion in our united parishes.

**Des Latham** would like to thank everyone for their good wishes he received on his 80th birthday. Pictured with Elsie and their two sons Ian and Andrew.



**Reports have been coming in announcing the arrival of Spring.** These include the following : 'I saw a swallow last week at Werngochlyn farm near Bryn y Gwenin'; 'We have had the house martins arrive, almost three weeks earlier than last year. Just six seen so far, but increasing numbers daily'; 'I heard my first cuckoo on Easter Day' and 'Found a second kingfisher nest on our farm'. Welcome back to all our feathered friends!

**Maureen Barnfield**, a long time resident of Llantilio Crossenny (she moved here with her family in 1964 to Hostry Cottage), died on April 9<sup>th</sup> aged 88 years. She was a much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was buried at St Teilo's on Maundy Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>. This followed her husband Brian's death in 2017 (carpenter and builder). They were married for sixty seven years and brought up a family of four children at Hostry Cottage. Maureen had been a dinner lady at Brynderi School in the 1960s and Post Mistress at the local sub post office attached to Hostry Cottage for twenty years from the late 1960s. and was well known by many people. A member of the WI, she much enjoyed their varied activities and Lin Morris, chair of the WI, gave a moving tribute to Maureen at her funeral. Thanks especially to Revd. Heidi Prince for officiating.



### In case you have forgotten!



**Llantilio Bell Ringers** rang at St. Teilo's on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April before the 11am service. On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April the ringers were delighted to welcome a visitor from the United States. Brendan Quinn (pictured on the far right) was visiting with his friend, Tom Taylor from Llanvapley. Brendan was amazed by the skills of the ringers and joined them in the pub afterwards. On Maundy Thursday a



bell was tolled in Llantilio. This was in response to a message from the Archbishop of Wales to encourage all churches to toll a bell for seven minutes at around 7pm, as a simple sign of both sorrow for and solidarity with the people of France and, particularly the cathedral community at Notre

Dame following yesterday's devastating fire. Thanks go to Richard Booth, the tower captain for performing this duty. The ringers will be practising on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May from 7pm to 9pm. Please come along if you are interested in joining the ringing team.

## Llanvetherine News

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March there was a **Mothering Sunday service** in Llanvetherine. During the service posies were given out and a special bouquet of flowers was given to Jeanette Massocchi to mark a very special birthday!



We had a joyful **Easter Day** service at St James, with the great pleasure of welcoming holiday makers who had spotted our road sign. Sally and I are very happy to announce the recent engagement of our daughter Alice to Richard, with their wedding planned for the Autumn. *Andrew Dawson*

A poem has been written about **a much loved kitchen table** in Llanvetherine. Hope you enjoy it. Thanks to Julian Fonseca for sharing it.



Our kitchen table bought  
thirty five or more years ago  
is round  
and made of wood.  
At times we have been  
fourteen around you  
when needed,  
arms tucked in  
and all squeezed together,  
conversations, sometimes funny,  
sometimes sad and tearful  
but always interesting,  
to us.  
You have shared all  
our family triumphs and  
tribulations, joys and sadnesses,  
long comfortable meals and

snacks snatched on our way  
to work or school.  
You have followed the  
thread of our lives;  
the passing of one generation  
and the arrival of another.  
You bear the marks of  
children's paint and pen  
wearing them like battle  
scars;  
Solid like a friendly pugilist,  
You have become and remain  
an old and rather discreet friend  
upon whom we may lean  
at all times  
and on all occasions.

## Llanvapley News

**Llanvapley coffee morning** on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April was well attended. Thanks to everyone who made the cakes! The first monthly LSSA 100 Club draw took place and was won by Wendy Doyle. Wendy is a stalwart of our coffee mornings and always helps in the kitchen with the washing up. Wendy was delighted to receive her £50 prize and promised to buy herself a jumper she had an eye on. The last time Wendy won anything was in 1968 when she picked Red Alligator when it won the Grand National. She recalls using her winnings to buy a jumper! Thank you to everyone who has supported the 100 Club. There are still nine more chances to win!

**Llanvapley Walking Group** Many thanks to those who responded to last month's article about the new Llanvapley walking group. We met for a discussion on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April and then ten of us went for a circular walk from the village. We found a number of overgrown stiles to deal with and replaced some missing waymarks along the way. Hopefully in the future walkers will find the path easier to follow. Nine people went on an evening walk on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April from Llanvapley to Llanddewi Rhydderch. We all enjoyed the chance to stretch our legs and have a chat while maintaining the footpath and ensuring that our community and visitors can enjoy the beautiful Monmouthshire



countryside. Our next walk will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May from Llanvapley Church (parking available at the Pavilion) starting at 10.00am. If you want more details please contact the walking group at: [llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com) *Phil Allsopp*



*Walk around Llanvapley, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April*

**The Llanvapley Sports and Social Association** held its AGM on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The Chair of the LSSA, Elaine Leader addressed the meeting and reported that the committee had decided on significant expenditure to maintain/improve the pavilion in the past year but that funds were still good. Election of officers took place and the committee were delighted to welcome Nicola Evans and Linda Caster as committee members. Gen Marchant has retired from the committee and was thanked by the trustees of the LSSA for her contribution to the association.

This year the **annual churchyard tidy up** will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00am – 12 noon.

Llanvapley churchyard is looked after by the Parochial Church Council on behalf of the village and the families who have relatives buried there. Visitors to the Church are always pleased to find the churchyard tidy and well looked after.



This is thanks mainly to the work of David Lewis who cuts the grass but there is much more to be done and that is why we have an annual tidy up. The work which we do is not onerous and you are most welcome to join us. It is in fact a very enjoyable morning with a break for coffee and cake (of the lemon drizzle variety!) and a chat. Please bring along your favourite tools, ask what needs doing, read the health and safety advice and off you go! Hope to see you there.

## Penrhos News

Many of you will have enjoyed watching the brilliant Tiger Roll win the Grand National on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Tiger Roll was ridden by Davy Russell who started off riding ponies around his parent's farm. **Holly Flynn from Penrhos** has been riding ponies for some time now and has managed to win a pony race at a rather famous racecourse. Pip Rumsey recently interviewed Holly.

### **How long have you been racing?**

*I started pony racing 4 seasons ago aged 10.*

### **What made you decide to start Pony Racing?**

*I thought it looked like lots of fun.*

### **Explain how Pony Racing works?**

*You and your pony have to qualify by doing a training day, where you are shown correct racing position and exercises to help you with your balance then you ride your pony on the gallops to show that both of you are safe and in control. Once you have passed you are then free to enter a race, Races are held at point to point meetings or on racecourses with races to suit all abilities from first timers to open races. Anyone aged between 9-15 can take part and any pony as long as they are under 148cm. Races can be any distance from 4 furlongs to 12 furlongs.*

### **How do you get your pony fit?**

*We spend a lot of time hacking, starting off with weeks of walking then building up to trotting and then working them on the gallops.*

### **What is the highlight of your career so far?**

*Winning at Ascot earlier this month. (pictured in the winners enclosure)*



### **What would be your dream race to win?**

*The Cheltenham Gold Cup or the Grand National*

**Longhouse Farm, Penrhos**, NP15 2DE will be open on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June as part of the National Garden Scheme. This scheme aims to support a number of nursing and health charities. Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors a record annual donation of £3.1 million was made by the national scheme in 2018. Longhouse Farm has a hidden two acre garden with a south facing terrace, a collection of pelargoniums, a millrace wall, pond and spacious lawns with extensive views. There are colourful and unusual plants in the borders, a malus avenue and a recently revamped productive vegetable garden. A woodland walk is being created with a stream, hidden ponds and massed bluebells in spring. Teas on both days. Admission is £5 for adults, children free.

**Palm Sunday** was celebrated at Penrhos Church on 14<sup>th</sup> April. April began with a fall of snow on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> and it was no surprise to find the weather equally cold on Palm Sunday. The only one who was properly equipped for the cold weather was Della the donkey who escorted the congregation around the churchyard and into the Church. Following the service, hot refreshments were served which were gratefully accepted by many frozen fingers. Della must have enjoyed herself as she was reluctant to get back in the horse box!



Community Green Energy Advisory Group  
Community Benefit Grant 2019

**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 years grant allocation in the above areas  
Full details of how to apply, eligibility, sums available etc. Can be found on the  
website [www.communitygreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.communitygreenenergy.co.uk)

Application forms will available from 1.06.2019 and the deadline for  
submissions is 14.07.2019

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



## The Garden in May

This is the best time of year with fresh green leaves on the trees and the hedgerows, blossom everywhere, bees buzzing, birds building nests and hope of what the year ahead will bring us. If only time would sit still for a while.

Our tulips have been really successful this year, particularly a mixed batch of parrot tulips in two large pots near the house. Although a number of 'Angelique' tulips were eaten by someone just as they were about to burst open, the remaining ones look good. I suspect the culprit was a cock pheasant who had been in the garden pottering about pretending to be good and all the time having a feast on fat pink buds behind my back. I wonder if any of you heard Anna Pavord speak in the Chapel in Abergavenny just before Easter.



I planted some lettuce plants over the Easter weekend and they were almost demolished by slugs overnight. I put a couple of slug pellets round each plant and the following day had caught some whoppers. If you do have to resort to slug pellets, it is much more effective if you only put out a few. I have also tried used ground coffee and grapefruit halves, but suspect the pellets are still the best. A few weeks ago I sowed some purple podded peas in a drain pipe in the greenhouse. After they had come up, and been hardened off, I slid them into a little trench in the garden with some hazel twigs to climb up. I have done this before and it seems a good way of preventing the mice getting them before they have germinated and also you don't disturb the roots on planting. I have got some broad beans coming up too, although it would have been better if I had sowed them last October. Somehow I never got myself organised. Climbing French beans – again purple podded - can be sown this month. I think the purple ones taste better and they are much easier to pick as you can see them more easily. My next task is to clear the greenhouse and get it ready for tomatoes. I usually buy plants from the Abergavenny Garden Centre, they have quite a good selection.

I am missing one third of my vegetable patch because our grandson 'landed' in one section and damaged the rabbit proofing. I live in hope that it will be repaired before too long! Carrots, beetroot and spinach will have to wait.

## WI News

This year is Llantilio Crossenny WI's centenary. It was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> May by an exhibition of the archives from the past 100 years. Everyone was able to read the WI minutes from 1919 through to the present day. There were also interesting financial accounts to view. The realisation of how things were so long ago was a real eye-opener to many of our visitors. There was even a photo of Lady Ada Mather Jackson, who started Llantilio Crossenny WI and then went on to be one of those who began the Monmouthshire Federation of WIs. Photos and information about Llantilio Crossenny Estate were also available to view. The Mayor of Abergavenny, Teslin Davies attended and was pleased to congratulate everyone for their efforts on arranging the extensive exhibition. George Beale, Abergavenny library volunteer was also there, with his extensive knowledge of local history. The display of members' craft items was amazing, showing the talents of members past and present. Musical photos showed the recent achievements of the choir. Visitors were served with soup, bread and tea with cakes and the committee and members worked all day to provide the refreshments. The evening viewing of the exhibition featured the unveiling of a wall hanging. Members were asked last year to provide a square to describe our WI. Sally Dawson worked endlessly to make these into beautiful wall hanging.



The public viewing the next day saw many coming to view, gather socially and have their lunch. The next date for everyone to get together is the Garden Party on 15<sup>th</sup> June beginning at 4pm and on into the evening. There will be fun, games, music and lovely food.



The choir were a choral support for the show 'Alice in WI Land' on the eve of the

Wales WI National Conference. The choir were excellent and were accompanied by Margaret Parry and led by Ruth Hoggins. Dianne Sillman and Shez Westoby gave a brilliant performance of Calendar Girls! The choir were all presented with a red rose.

The next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May will be the AGM. There will be an auction of the beautiful collage picture of Bees and Trees, by Julia and lovely flower arrangements and will be auctioned.

# Services in May 2019

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

9.30 Llanvetherine  
11am Llantilio Crossenny  
2pm Baptism of Dylan Lane Mayo  
Llanvetherine

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

9.30 Penrhos  
11am Llanvapley Holy  
Communion

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>

Penrhos PCC 7pm Church

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Llanvetherine  
11am Llantilio Crossenny

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Penrhos  
11am Llanvapley Morning Prayer

## Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 1st May** Llanddewi Rhydderch Coffee Morning 10.30am

**Thursday 2nd May** Discussions on Climate Breakdown 7pm Abergavenny  
Community Centre presented by Abergavenny Quakers

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May** Llantilio Plant Sale 2pm at the Church

**Saturday 11th May** Llanvapley Churchyard tidy up

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June** WI Garden Party 4pm Llanvapley Pavilion

**Friday June 28<sup>th</sup>** Monmouth Male Voice Choir 7.30pm at Llantilio Church

## Grosmont And District Gardening Club

In April 2019, Helena Gerrish gave an interesting talk about how H. Avray Tipping developed the garden at High Glanau and how she researched the history of the garden and restored it back to its original design.

### Forthcoming Events

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May** 6.30pm Visit to Glebe House, Abergavenny (a NGS garden)

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** 10am -12noon Summer Plant Sale Home-made cakes, refreshments at Grosmont Town Hall and children's craft table – all welcome!

We have members from a wide area but visitors and new members are always welcome. Contact Marion [marion.stainton@btinternet.com](mailto:marion.stainton@btinternet.com) 01981 241161 or Jan 01600 750295 for further information or visit Grosmont Village website (Village Groups). We are also on Facebook.

**Tip of the month** - There is now a bloke who sharpens garden shears, tools etc - indeed he says "anything metal" Previously I have never know where to get this done. He's at Millbrook garden Centre on Thursdays and Monmouth market Friday and Saturday. He works out of an old ambulance. *(Thanks Paul Ed!)*

*Contributions for the June issue of TNT by 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019*

*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***