

The New Times

March 2020

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



Beautiful crocuses as far your gaze can see in Penrhos Churchyard well worth a visit!



Llanvapley Coffee Morning – naughty but nice!

From the Vicarage

Have you considered joining your local church? If you are reading this you may already consider yourself to be part of your church community as you attend church services. Or you may not 'go to church' but are proud of your local church and are pleased to see it thrive so it is there when you need it. Whoever you are, you are welcome to become members of the church community by putting your name on the electoral roll for your parish. By the way, the parish electoral roll is NOT the same as the Monmouthshire County Council electoral roll which enables you to vote in political elections. Parish electoral roll forms are being made available this month in order to compile the new electoral rolls before Easter. Forms will be available at services and via churchwardens. Please remember, even if you are already on the electoral roll in your parish you still need to apply as the old parish electoral rolls will be archived.

Why might you consider putting your name on the electoral roll and becoming part of your church community? Help with looking after the church and the churchyard is always welcome. This might include keeping an eye on the condition of the churchyard, helping with cleaning or approved repairs*, and applying for grants for restoration or the several projects to provide wider uses for the buildings while maintaining their primary worship function. Being on the electoral roll will also enable you to be a member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). We are all relatively small parishes and our PCC meetings are quite informal, but they are the legal administrative basis for the churches to exist and function. Each PCC is elected from its Electoral Roll. Being on the Electoral Roll doesn't bring any obligations beyond signing a standard declaration, but it does allow you to vote at annual PCC meetings and may bring other benefits when you want to use the church.

This time of year brings us to Lent, and Lent brings us close to the Easter Vestry Meetings for each of our parishes. As the name suggests, these meetings often took place in the church vestry, but none of our churches have a vestry big enough so they are held in the church, or sometimes in a parishioner's home. The Easter Vestry is open to all parishioners on the Electoral Roll, and it is held to elect Churchwardens and review accounts. In more populous places the PCCs are quite structured and are made up of the vicar, other Clergy and the Churchwardens, and other Officers and Laity representatives. The PCC officers and Laity representatives are elected at the annual PCC meeting which normally follows on after the Vestry meeting.

Why not fill in an electoral roll application form and be part of your local church community and come along to your Easter Vestry meeting? Details of dates and times of Easter Vestry meetings are listed on the back page of TNT. We look forward to welcoming you – it's your church!

All blessings and good wishes

Andrew and Les

Andrew Dawson (Assistant Priest) and Les Taylor (TNT Editor, Churchwarden)

*Our churches are all listed buildings and the governance for care of the buildings is delegated to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (similar role to Cadw)

The Right Reverend Cherry Vann was enthroned as the eleventh Bishop of Monmouth on Saturday 1st February. She has sent the following message to the diocese.



*'In an interview with the Argus just after my election as Bishop of Monmouth, I said that I wanted to be a bishop who is visible and accessible. As a way of meeting as many of you as possible in the early months of my ministry here, a number of gatherings have been arranged in different parts of the diocese for us to share in worship, food and conversation. Everyone is welcome on Saturday 14th March at St Nicholas' Grosmont, whether a church-goer or not. I hope and pray that this will be opportunity to get to know one another a little as we begin to journey together into the future that God has in store for us. The Eucharistic service will start at 11am followed by a Buffet Lunch Please hold me in your prayers as I prepare for the enthronement in our Cathedral Church in Newport on February 1st. With my prayers for you all
Cherry'*

Important - Please let the Diocesan Office know if you are attending the service in Grosmont no later than 7 days before that service, to help with catering, by emailing admin.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk or calling 01633 267490

The **Taize group** met on 17th February to continue preparing and practising for the service in Llanvapley on 11th May. The group continues to attract new members and at the latest meeting there were ten people. The standard of singing is improving and everyone is enjoying singing the chants. The following chants have been selected for the service :-

Glory to God
Jubilate Deo
Bless the Lord
Veni Spiritu Creatore
Laudate Dominum



No knowledge of Latin is needed to sing Taize chants but it helps! The next meeting is on Monday 9th March at 7pm. Please contact Clarinda Collin if you would like to know about the group or would like to join.

Llantilio Crossenny News

Llantilio Bellringers will be ringing before the service in Llantilio Crossenny on St David's Day. This year marks 1500 years since the patron saint of Wales was born but the ringers are not planning to ring the bells 1500 times! The ringers were delighted to welcome two new ringers to its practice on 18th February. Nicola Evans and Lynda Caster made very good progress in their first lesson and joined the group in the pub afterwards. Some of the conversation in the pub is about bellringing but most of the talk is really quite general. For example, one of the ringers announced "I have gone veggie because I want to be healthy and live longer" The tower captain (well known for his funny comments) then said "I don't agree with that. I am going to continue having a full cooked breakfast because when I go I want to go out with a banger!"

Win for local rider Local rider Molly Goodwin, from Whitecastle, was thrilled to win the 80cm British Eventing Jump Training Championship last Saturday with her six year old Connemara horse, Kaydees Girl. Molly qualified for the Championship at Hartpury, and jumped two beautiful clear rounds to win her first place. Riders had travelled from all over the country to compete at the event that took place at Moreton Morrell College in Warwickshire – Molly described her win as a 'brilliant start to the season'. Molly's ambitions for the coming eventing season are to work towards qualifying for Burghley BE80 Championships in September, and to move up to BE90. Molly keeps her horse, and trains, with Charlotte Armstrong near Monmouth.



Llanvapley News

There has been a lot of work going on around Llanvapley with lots of lorries and equipment working in the fields near to the river Trothy. The work has been going on for some time and has been clearly visible from different parts of the village. Following a phone call to the **National Grid** we now know that they have been doing work on the foundations to one of the main national grid pylons. All the noisy work has been completed and they should be off site soon.

March 6th is the **World Day of Prayer 2020** and the focus will be Zimbabwe. The people of Zimbabwe have suffered for many years and Llanvapley Church is aiming to support them by giving the collection on Sunday 8th March to the charity Zane. Zane works in the areas of health and community development in Zimbabwe.

Following the successful reopening of the Red Hart over Christmas and New Year the pub was closed for refurbishment before reopening on 21st February. Apart from the smart new signs there have been improvements to the car park, bar, cellar and the main areas of the pub. The first weekend went well despite the welsh rugby team not winning! The opening times of the pub will be as follows :-

Thursday 5pm - 11pm

Friday 5pm - 11pm

Saturday 12pm - 12pm

Sunday 12pm – 11pm



The next **Llanvapley Sports and Social Association** coffee morning will be on Wednesday 11th March at 10.30am. The coffee morning is a very popular event and is a great opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours. Pictured on the right are Doris and Lyra who met at the February coffee morning. Doris is the oldest resident of the village and Lyra the youngest! A lot of work goes into preparing for the event and thanks goes to everyone who contributes by making cakes and by helping on the day. Thanks also to everyone who supports the event from Llanvapley and neighbouring villages.



The LSSA would like to thank Terry Leader, Edwin Jones and Anne Jones for trimming the hedge by the road side before the birds start nesting! Thanks also to Danny Harris who helped to sort out a couple of trees which fell down during the recent gales.

The LSSA Committee met on 21st February and discussed a number of events. The date of the games evening has been moved to Tuesday 28th April. The evening will a fun evening based around playing of board games. Jacket potatoes and curry will be served and tickets are £5. Please bring your own drink. The date of the AGM was set as Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30pm. A date has already been set for the end of summer BBQ which will be Friday 28th August.

Llanvapley Cricket Club have recently held their AGM and are looking forward to a busy season. The club are considering the future of the two railway carriages on the far side of the field and are thinking about setting up nets so they can practice when the field is too wet to use.

Home fixtures this year are as follows :-

7th June Llanfrynach, 14th June Pendaryn, 21st June Ponthir, 28th June Rogerstone, 5th July Abertillery, 12th July Abergavenny, 26th July Lisvane, 9th August Cardiff Casuals plus others to be arranged.

On Friday 7th February a **new staircase** was installed in the vestry of Llanvapley Church. The old staircase had been a safety concern for a long time but thanks to the support of the Community Green Energy Advisory Group we now have safe access to the west gallery and to the tower which houses our historic bells. The staircase was dedicated by Revd. Andrew Dawson at the service on 9th February. Andrew suggested Jesus himself would have been appreciative of the fine work done by the carpenters of Crickhowell Joinery! The staircase will now enable us to allow visitors to see more of the church on open days and at other times.



Llanvetherine News

Three Pools Farm at Llanvetherine Court are hosting a **A Permaculture Feast** on Saturday 28th March 19:00 to 22:30. It features a taster menu showcasing their own farm produce and other local ingredients. The menu will include (amongst other things) Hogget from the farm, goats milk from Gary next door, black pudding from Trealy Farm Charcuterie, Welsh oysters, organic vegetables from Paul and lots of foraged goods! Lloyd from Chesters Wine Merchants will be there and he will be offering an optional British wine pairing and talking you through the wines. Further details and information about booking is available on the Three Pools website.

Penrhos News

In January the BETA International Awards Dinner members of the British Equestrian Trade Association gave a rare standing ovation to BETA Lifetime Achievement Award winner **Richard Cleeve**, Chairman and Founder of NAF. The award honoured Richard's life which he has dedicated to promote equine health and welfare spanning over three decades. NAF, which is based in Monmouth, has pioneered some of the most innovative products in Equine Health and Welfare to date. Congratulations to a true horseman and inspiration, Richard Cleeve.



WI News

The February Meeting of WI saw some new members joining. They are new to the area and were welcome into our friendly Women's Institute. Thanks were given to all involved in providing the dedication and celebration of the centenary wall -hanging, which is now to be seen in St Teilio's Church. There was an opportunity for members to learn how The Society of Friends

or Quakers operate and the history of their philanthropic ways. There was also a chance to see a film of an Elder and his family's history. The new projector that had been recently purchased was used for the first time. This along with a laptop will prove a useful addition to the WI in the 2020s. Next month Richard Jordan will be telling the story of Glen Miller. No doubt with musical interludes!

For more information contact; Lin Morris 01873 850939

Circuit fitness sessions are being held in **Llanddewi Rhydderch Village Hall** on Wednesday from 6pm to 7pm. The session is lead by a fully qualified personal trainer who lives locally. It is a high standard of workout so probably not for the complete beginner but I have got increasingly fitter with doing sit ups, press ups and the plank! We start back on March 3rd. If you book sessions its £30 for 5 and if you pay as you go its seven pounds a class. Llanddewi hall also runs yoga classes on Tuesdays 1pm to 2.30pm. Please contact zgst1celrington@gmail.com for prices and dates in March.

Caroline Grant

The Garden in March

I have just been re-reading Vita Sackville West's books 'In the Garden again' written in 1953. It makes interesting reading and has given me an idea.

Have you got an old hedge which would be too expensive to replace, too heavy to grub out or too much to be layered? Does it consist of hawthorn, hazel and cornus? We have such a one. Last winter we got a brilliant man called Dave to lay the top part of it and it looks beautiful and is thickening up nicely. However, there is just too much of it to lay any more and I am not keen on waiting for three years before it is tall enough to lay either – we would hardly be able to see out and be like Sleeping Beauty's castle. The hazel and the cornus grow about 6 feet at least a year and as I write I am waiting for it to be cut, the wet weather having caused the delay. However, Vita Sackville West suggests planting climbers such as honeysuckle, clematis and roses in the hedge to jolly it up and possibly curb the growth. The later is probably wishful thinking. I am thinking that it might be worth a try. The climbers have to be tough to survive a hedge cut. Vita mentions 'a countryman with a bill hook'. I am afraid mine will have to put up with a tractor. Clematis Montana would be ideal but if it gets cut in February we would get no flowers. Any of the Clematis viticellas would do as now is the time for them to be cut back and they grow very quickly and flower over a long period. Clematis flammula or even the evergreen Clematis cirrhos 'Freckles' would be nice as it does not mind a hack back. We might not get many flowers though. Any of the climbing honeysuckles would do well and what about an Albertine Rose or couple of the species roses? Perhaps the white everlasting pea would work too. Perhaps an order from Parker's wholesale catalogue is on the cards?

Services in March

Sunday 1st March

Lent 1 / St David's Day

Llanvetherine 9.30am MP

Llantilio Crossenny 11am HC

Sunday 8th March

Lent 2

Penrhos 9.30am HC

Llanvapley 11am MP

Sunday 15th March

Lent 3

Llanvetherine 9.30am HC

Llantilio Crossenny 11am MP

Sunday 22nd March

Mothering Sunday

Penrhos 9.30am HC

Llanvapley 11am MP

Sunday 29th March

Lent 5

No services in our parishes

Sunday 5th April

Palm Sunday

Llanvetherine 11am

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 11th March LSSA Coffee Morning in the pavilion

Tuesday 24th March Llanvetherine Easter Vestry at Southleigh 7pm

Wednesday 22nd April LSSA AGM 7.30pm

Thursday 23rd April Penrhos Easter Vestry in the church 7.30pm

Tuesday 28th April LSSA Games Evening in the pavilion (note new date)

Tuesday 28th April Llantilio Easter Vestry at the vicarage 7pm

Thursday 30th April Llanvapley Easter Vestry in the church 7.30pm

Grosmont And District Gardening Club

Forthcoming Events at Grosmont Town Hall 7.30pm

Tuesday 3rd March - Adam Alexander - "Adventures of a Seed Detective"

Adam is well known for his work as a seed guardian for the Heritage Seed Library and has appeared on Gardeners World. He has a passion for growing fruit and vegetables, saving and sharing seeds from his garden and travels. This will also be a special New Members Evening where we will be serving a complimentary glass of wine with nibbles. Membership costs £12 per annum for a single membership and £20 for a couple. If you buy plants from some of the local garden centres you would soon recoup the cost of membership with our members discount. Yet another reason to join us! Visitors (£4) are always welcome too.

For further information email Jenny.corskiebond@btinternet.com. You can also visit Grosmont Village website (Village Groups) or find us on Facebook.

Contributions for the April issue of TNT by 20th March 2020

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