

The New Times

August 2015

The parish magazine of Penrhos, Llantilio Crossenny,
Llanvetherine and Llanvapley



Summer sunset over the Skirrid

Photos by DaiPhoto



Green boxes are sprouting everywhere! Find out more inside

From The Vicarage

I can't believe that it is August already.

August is a month of contrasts and contradictions in our part of the world. A time when it is possible to get sunstroke and hypothermia on the same day! When the newspapers either tell us "Phew, what a scorcher" or show pictures of festival-goers splashing through mud in their wellies.

It is a month when children have begun their long weeks of carefree, holiday time, the memory of which lives on into adult life. Picnics and trips to the seaside; halcyon days which were always sunny and happy.

And yet other for other young people it is less carefree. The exams might be over, but they are now anxiously waiting for the results. It always seems cruel to me that the last real summer holidays children have also carry within them the anticipation of exam results. And the intensity of the wait seems to increase every year, with a sense that so much depends on how they have performed in the examination room.

The Gospel story is also one of extreme contrasts. The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which always feels bright and sunny. We experience the looming shadows of Gethsemane, until we arrive at the darkest day of all: the horror and misery of Good Friday, where Jesus hangs on the cross, deserted - the ultimate failure. And then, the indescribable joy of the Resurrection, and the intense, bright sunshine of the first Easter morning.

There is a place for hard work and study. But there is also a time to rest, and to enjoy the warmth and beauty of the summer season. They are all gifts from God. Contrasting? Yes. But contradictory? No.

A Summer Prayer

Long warm days...

The pace of life slows...

A time for picnics and rest in the shade...

Lord, help us to rest awhile in the cooling shade of your presence.

Slow down our restless hearts and draw us closer to you this summer.

Amen.

With every blessing,
Heidi, Llantilio Vicarage
llantiliovicar@aol.com

Llantilio Crossenny News



Sunday 26th July was the day of the Llantilio Crossenny Village Walk & Strawberry Tea. Despite the rain a large number of people came along to enjoy the walk. The five mile route took us through Treadam to Pantycolin Farm then up to White Castle and back down to Llantilio village. Following the walk a delicious Strawberry Tea was served in the Church. As you can see from the pictures above there was a fine spread awaiting the walkers when they returned to the church. Many thanks to the ladies who provided the tea and to all who came along to enjoy the afternoon.

The final total for the **Belarus Project Coffee morning** is now over £800. This will enable the equipment, such as the model on the right, to be purchased for a new training centre. The doctors can then learn to treat babies with club feet. Thank you very, very much all those who made this possible and to those who supported the coffee morning (Ruslan Takhirov)



St Teilos Church Llantilio Crossenny
Friday 18 September at 7 pm
The Forest of Dean Male Voice Choir
With Harpist Emily Harris

Tickets £10.00 to include a glass of wine.

Tickets available from Church members or Daphne Watkins 01600 780218
Elsie Latham 01600 780225.

Llanvapley News

On Sunday 18 July the baptism of **Daisy and Evie Lewis** was held in Llanvapley Church. The picture above shows proud parents, Martin and Jo Lewis and the equally proud grandparents. Jo was particularly happy as it was also her birthday. A special christening cake was designed and made by Janet Andrews. A party was held in the pavilion and the sun shone all day.



As you drive through Llanvapley you may have noticed that a **big green box** has appeared opposite the church on the main road. There is nothing on the box to indicate what it does so we can only presume it must be part of the superfast broadband rollout. But don't get too excited as here are three reasons why it may not work for you. No.1 You're too far from the box. No.2 You're not connected to the box. No.3 Your broadband provider may not be part of the scheme. Even if you are connected it may not be as fast as you think because most websites are so bloated with adverts and cookies you may still be sitting there twiddling your thumbs. Ah well! We still have a big green box to look at.



On Friday 24 July the **Llanvapley Sports and Social Association** organised a BBQ in the pavilion. The weather was awful but everyone packed into the pavilion and had a great time. Thanks go to everyone who supported the event and all those who helped to organise, shop, cook and clear up. It was fun! The LSSA 100 Club was drawn at the BBQ and the winner was Carolyn Barns. Carolyn was not at the BBQ but her husband was delighted to take the cheque and said "We never win anything!". The main raffle prize was won by Doris Evans' daughter Denise who said "I never win anything!" Support the LSSA and maybe **your** luck will change.

Penrhos News

Congratulations to Craig and Charles on their marriage. It was a small event for family and a small band of friends to celebrate their nuptials nearly a decade after their civil partnership. Charles and Craig give their heartfelt thanks to David Osborn for conducting a most moving and heartfelt ceremony, to Heidi Prince for her unswerving support, to Sally Adams for the prayers in St. Cadoc's the Sunday following and to the many in the village and beyond who have offered their love and support.



St Cadoc's church update

Managing expectations is an important skill in so many walks of life. It applies as much to our church restoration as to other situations we encounter. Having had the nave of our church condemned by our advisers as unfit for use and terrifying telephone number cost estimates of repair, we started to become accustomed to the magnitude of the problem. We were ready for all eventualities. Roll the clock forward to late Spring 2015 and following further more detailed investigation by engineers, funded by the Church in Wales, we now have access to cross sectional plans of St Cadoc's church showing all the defects in three dimensional glory and we also have a clearer idea of the decay that needs addressing.

Although still sizeable: from vermin infestation to areas of material rot, the damage is considerably less disastrous than we were first led to believe. The nave roof, although in need of repair, is not immediately at risk of collapse and with relatively minor repair work can be made sufficiently safe for the nave to be reopened.

The cost of essential repairs, sufficient to arrest further decay, is somewhere

between £50,000 and £100,000 - not the gargantuan sums first suggested by the experts, and on which we relied when preparing the Penrhos Questionnaire. The committee is pleased to confirm that although we do need to fund some major works, the nave should be capable of being used again once essential safety works are carried out (hopefully at the Church in Wales' expense) and the scale of funds needed to carry out other essential repairs is less unaffordable than originally feared.

Assuming grants are available, which is yet to be established, and which will be subject to our community matching grants pound for pound, we may collectively need to raise up to £50,000. Although a very large sum, it is on a different scale to the £500,000 plus we were originally led to believe was required.

So what next? We need to: carry out the safety works to the nave to enable it to be reopened, and turn the various elements of essential repairs into a schedule of works, costed and phased, so that as funds become available we can get the repair works under way.

Once the phases and their costs are clearer and the quantum of grants established (for which the Penrhos Questionnaire results are essential), we will need to ask as many of you as are willing to do so to get involved. This will either be by making donations (or encouraging others to make donations), or pledging funds by way of Gift Aid or by hosting or getting involved with events that will raise money for the essential repairs. The Penrhos Questionnaire revealed a great willingness from the village to participate in this.

All help will be gratefully received and any ideas for fund raising please share with the committee. We really want to make this an opportunity to bring our community together and to raise enough money to preserve St Cadoc's for future generations.

The use of the chancel, whilst the nave has been out of action, as a more intimate place of worship has been hugely successful, so much so that it is worth our considering installing doors between the nave and the chancel that can be closed for the smaller congregation at Sunday worship and kept open for larger events, such as the harvest supper, the carol service, weddings, baptisms and funerals and, of course, other wider community uses. This will also need to be costed. Although much needs to be done to restore our beautiful church, the committee hopes you will agree that the enormity of the task does not feel so daunting.

St. Cadoc's church committee - Geoff Adams (chair), Peter Cobb, Charles Horsfield, Bonnie Janes, Pip Rumsey

Llanvetherine News

The Llanvetherine Show took place during a rare sunny gap between windy and rainy days on Saturday 25 July, the dressage event the night before having been postponed owing to poor weather (new date tba). The event was organised by Janet and Katie Phelps supported by Llanvetherine villagers, many of whom volunteered to help with setting up, doing, and clearing up. Many thanks are due to Jono Beatson-Hird and Priscilla Barlow for so generously providing the venue at Llanvetherine Court. The overall winner (second year running) of the Richard Webb shield was Bonnie Probert Price on Linksbury Shazz (pictured). The event raised much valued funds towards Llanvetherine Church and thanks are due to supporters and patrons. Facebook comments since have suggested this is the best small village horse show around!



WI News

This month the WI and local friends, had a wonderful trip to Swansea. This was arranged as a coach was possible, thanks to the community council assistance. A visit to the Dylan Thomas museum was fascinating and enjoyed by all. Then on to Langland Bay, where an excellent meal was had at a wonderful sea-side restaurant. Everyone enjoyed the sea air and many paddled in the sea!

The next event is the National WI Centenary Garden Party on 12 August at Llanvapley. Everyone is invited to join the tea party, between 4pm and 7pm

Services in August

Sunday 2 August

Trinity 9

Llanvetherine 9.30

Morning Prayer

Llantilio Crossenny 11.00

Morning Prayer

Sunday 23 August

Trinity 12

Penrhos 9.30

Holy Communion

Llanvapley 11.00

Morning Prayer

Sunday 9 August

Trinity 10

Penrhos 9.30

Holy Communion

Llanvapley 11.00

Holy Communion

Sunday 30 August

Trinity 13

To be arranged

Joint Service for all 4 parishes

Sunday 16 August

Trinity 11

No service in Llanvetherine

Llantilio Crossenny 11.00

Family Service

Sunday 6 September

Trinity 14

Llanvetherine 9.30

Holy Communion

Llantilio Crossenny 11.00

Holy Communion

Bell ringing 1.00 pm

In memory of Jim Jones

Advanced Notice of an animal service

September 20th in Llantilio Crossenny at 11am.

Coffee Mornings

Llanvapley Wednesday 12 August 10.30 in the pavilion

The summer picnic/barbecue for all of the parishes on 22nd August has been cancelled. Sean and Lorraine hoped it could go ahead but unfortunately they have had to cancel it due to work commitments.

We need your news!

August is the month when examination results are announced. Why not send your congratulations to be published in TNT. Embarrass the kids but never tell them the exams were harder in your day. Its not true!

I know I failed, mark my paper nicey
Please ☹️. I did revise ☹️. ~~Mark my~~

END OF QUESTIONS

Contributions for the September issue of TNT will be needed by 20 August
Website : www.llantiliogroup.info Please send emails to lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com