

The New Times

May 2015

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



Busy Bee by Daiphoto

Llantilio Plant Sale

Reasonably priced, home grown plants.
Bank Holiday Monday, 4 May at 2.00 pm
Light refreshments.

From The Vicarage

Well, we're still sorting through boxes here at the vicarage; and, to be honest, I'm quite appalled by how much 'stuff' we have accumulated over the years. How I wish I were a minimalist! From clothes I have (sadly) outgrown, to childhood trinkets, and things I once thought were a 'tidy bargain' never to be used.

I think of people fleeing from their homes with only the few items they are wearing, and it makes me feel ashamed of all the clutter I have. So I resolve to go through things and rid myself of things that I will never use, or wear. Yet deciding what is precious from those items which have served their purpose and can now be recycled isn't always easy; and a lot of seemingly useless things have memories attached to them. Letting go is difficult.

In a way, religion too, can be cluttered by things that don't really matter in the greater scheme of things. Isn't this what Jesus was criticising the Pharisees for, when he accused them of "...Straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!"

Sometimes life events and the passage of time lead us to question things we once held dear. And, just as when we declutter our homes we try to differentiate what is precious and valuable from what we no longer need; in the same way, sometimes our faith too needs to be decluttered. Faith changes as it grows, and we change with it; that's no bad thing.

The prophet Micah was confronting this same issue nearly three thousand years ago. His words about what is important to God are as true today as they were then:

He has showed you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love
kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6: 8).

With every blessing,

Heidi

Llantilio Vicarage

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Skirrid Walk on Good Friday



On Good Friday, 3 April at 9am in the morning a group of people from our parishes joined members of Llantilio Pertholey Church on a journey to the top of the Skirrid. The walk was in the form of a service which recalled the events of Good Friday. The group quickly discovered how difficult it was to sing and walk at the same time especially on the steep section through the wood. Nevertheless, in the end the summit was reached and the service was concluded around the trig point. A cross was carried to the summit by members of the group. The cross had been made out of wood from a Christmas tree which had been erected in Llantilio Church.



Llantilio Crossenny News

Festival Update :Tickets have sold out for the opera but there are still a few tickets available for "Gospel meets Jazz" on 10th May and the Children's opera "Hansel and Gretel" by Humperdinck on 16th May. There are also limited tickets available for "Treadam Barn goes Ronnie Scott's" with Kai Hoffman and her band from Ronnie Scott's and the Red Rug Trio as supporting band on 15th May. The audience will be sitting at tables of 10 with an evening meal served during the long interval at Treadam Barn. Also tickets are available on the door for our Sunday concert in St Teilo's Church with the Greater Gwent Brass Ensemble. Please visit www.llantiliofestival.co.uk for more details. If you would like to take part in our open mic night on 16th May at Treadam Barn, please call Eleanor on 07779225921 as performance slots are filling up fast!

This year we would like to make Llantilio Festival Evensong on Sunday 17th May at 6pm in St Teilo's Church a local and intimate affair. The preacher is Revd. Sarah Gillard-Faulkner, who is the Bishop's chaplain, sub-prior of the Holywell Community in Abergavenny, and a prison chaplain! Her background is in music and drama. We would like local young people to take part in this service, so if anyone is willing to read, lead prayers, play a musical instrument, please don't hesitate in letting me know Heidi, the Vicar on 780240 or Eleanor on: 07779225921.

A request has been received from Government for bells to be rung to mark the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day). **Llantilio Bell ringers** are hoping to be able to ring the bells on Saturday 9 May in the afternoon.



The bell ringers who rang for the plant sale in 2013

Llanvapley News

Saturday 9th May Llanvapley churchyard tidy-up 10am - 12 noon



Llanvapley churchyard is maintained by Llanvapley PCC for the benefit of everyone who lives in the parish. Parishioners (i.e. persons normally residing in the parish) are entitled, as of right, to be buried in the churchyard. There is no discrimination made between the burial of a member of the Church in Wales and of other persons. Therefore, the churchyard in a sense belongs to everyone. Many of the graves in the churchyard are still regularly maintained by the families of those buried there but others are sadly neglected. The annual churchyard tidy up is an opportunity for everyone in the parish to do their bit to make sure that the churchyard is neat and tidy for parishioners and for visitors.

Please come along with your gardening tools and spend an hour or so helping to make the churchyard look as tidy as it does in the picture above. It's not all hard work. There will be a chance to have a chat and to relax with a cup of coffee and maybe a piece of the now famous "lemon drizzle" cake.

LSSA News - **The 100 Club** The first monthly draw took place at the April Coffee morning. By chance, number 100 was picked out of the hat and a very nice cash prize went to Tom Lowes. Meanwhile, the big news is that the LSSA has bought a new kettle! Thanks to everyone who has supported the 100 Club which has enabled this new kettle to be purchased for use at coffee mornings.

On Tuesday 28 April a service of celebration and thanksgiving was held at St Mabli's for the life of **Mary Harding**. Mary was once asked what she did in the war to which she answered "Which war?". Mary died on Easter morning at the age of 102. "The veil has lifted".

The **first cuckoo** was heard in Llanvapley on Sunday 26 April. Any other nature news?

Llanvetherine News

The funeral of **Ada Jones** took place in Llanvetherine on Tuesday 7 April. Ada once lived at the King's Arms. The service and burial were conducted by the Rev Mrs Heidi Prince on a beautiful spring day and a large attendance reflected Ada's importance and respect in the area.

Lay Ministry: a meeting to discuss the development of Lay Ministry training took place in Llanfoist Church Hall on Saturday 18 April led by Diocesan Adviser Charlie Shepherd and Revs Jean Prosser and Chris Walters. Among a large number attending, two people represented the Benefice. The future for locally based training to several levels of ministry looked very optimistic.

Andrew Dawson wonders if there are any other '**Google Earth addicts**' in the four Parishes? The four churches (and villages) seemed to be under-represented in the Panoramio photography facility in Google Earth but there is now at least one photograph of each of the churches. There are some beautiful photos of the area generally by people like David Owen and several others.

Note on Google Earth for those not familiar with it: Once you have installed Google Earth (free), search for your chosen place. You need to tick the 'photos' box on the left hand panel of the Earth window and photos appear as tiny square icons imposed on the satellite view. You need to click on the icon to see the photo.

Paradoxically, it can take a while for accepted photos to become readily visible until there have been many viewings, so newer photos can only be accessed from 'higher altitudes' (aka 'zoom out levels') as part of a group represented by a larger photo icon. Some experimentation is needed. Once you have found one photo it can be easier to click on the photographer's name which will bring up all their photos in a separate window."



Llanvetherine Churchyard in the spring by AD

Penrhos News

Penrhos Garden Open Day with afternoon tea. High House and The Old Vicarage have their gardens open on Sunday 3 May 2-6pm. Everyone welcome.

You may like to know that Penrhos have a fantastic **village website** which is www.penrhosvillage.co.uk



WI April News

At the April meeting we had a very interesting talk on the properties of Aloe Vera. There were games and prizes given, which was fun. The Annual Council Meeting of the Gwent Federation was attended by Lin, Jan and Marion. Lin gave a report to members. We were glad that the chair for Wales upheld our policy that WI should be fun! A group of members had worked hard to make an excellent display, of the centenary of Dylan Thomas; which the other members could enjoy at the meeting. The next meeting will be on the 14th of May. It will be the AGM following by singing to guitar music with Dr Huw Morgan.

There will be a **coffee morning** at Janet O'Connor's, Broadlands , Llantilio Crossenny on the 17th June at 10.30am. It is being organized by Chris Brammer, to raise funds for the Belarusian Orphanage Project. Lin Morris is the coordinator and has just come back from Belarus. There is a great need to train people who live or work, with children, who have a disability. The charity have been doing training on clubfeet, to doctors, and on autism, to educators and parents. This has been going on for some years and they hope to get support, for work with Down's Syndrome, next.

SERVICES IN MAY

Sunday 3 May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Llanvetherine 9.30

Llantilio Crossenny 11.00

Sunday 17 May

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Llantilio Crossenny 6pm Festival

Family Evensong

Sunday 10 May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Penrhos 9.30

Llanvapley 11.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 24 May

Day of Pentecost Whitsunday

Penrhos 9.30

Llanvapley 11.00 Holy Communion

Saturday 16th May

Diocesan Conference St, Hilda's
church hall Griffithstown.

Sunday 31 May

First Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday

10.30 Joint service Llantilio

Crossenny

A family service; suitable for people of
all ages

Coffee Mornings

Wednesday 13 May Llanvapley Village Hall 10.30

Wednesday 27 May Llanddewi Rhydderch 10.30

Wednesday 17 June Broadlands, Llantilio 10.30

Important government advice to farmers

“If you can put one foot on seven daisies it is time to turn the cattle out
from winter housing into the pastures”

This is a little story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**,
Anybody, and **Nobody** which could be applied to the production of TNT.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that
Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.
Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.
Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that
Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody
when Nobody did what **Anybody** could have done

Contributions for the June issue of TNT will be needed by 20 May

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