

# The New Times

October 2020

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



**Alleluia! Some of our buildings have passed their covid risk assessments and are ready to welcome you back!**



**Find out what is inside Llantilio's phone box**

## From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

How I love this season of colour, and the scents of Autumn. I must confess that during some of the beautiful evenings we have had in recent weeks, I have been unable to resist temptation, and put on my walking boots and headed for the mountains. Coming down by moonlight has been just magical.

Our Harvest thanksgiving is one of the highlights of the year, and it has felt very strange not to be marking this season in church, and singing all the wonderful harvest hymns. Yet, how good it is that we do miss these special times; how right that our worship together is not a matter of habit or routine, but a matter of deep longing to worship, pray together and give thanks to our wonderful God.

### Re-opening of church buildings

Alleluia! Some of our buildings have passed their covid risk assessments!

The parishes of Llanvapley and Llanvetherine have been granted permission to open their doors for worship, whilst Llantilio Crossenny is awaiting news.

The conditions to re-open require a lot of preparation, and I want to thank all those who have worked hard to enable us to worship together once more.

It almost goes without saying that things will be different to what we are used to. As with every indoor venue, unless there is a medical reason, we will need to wear a face-mask.

The other thing which will be different, is that we are not permitted to sing – though we are, of course, able to listen to music.

It would help greatly, and avoid potential disappointment, if you could let us know in advance if you would like to attend a service.

For services in Llantilio Crossenny please contact Revd. Heidi Prince 01600 780240, e-mail: [llantiliovicar@aol.com](mailto:llantiliovicar@aol.com)

For services in Llanvapley please contact Mr. Les Taylor on 01600 780376, e-mail: [lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com)

Services in Llanvetherine Mr. David Hughes-Jones 01873 821 497, e-mail: [davidwhjones@btinternet.com](mailto:davidwhjones@btinternet.com)

A full list of our services for October can be found on the back page.



## Llantilio Crossenny News

As many of you know, Llantilio Crossenny has a **telephone box**. However, the box is empty now that everyone has mobile phones and the internet. So why is there still a phone box in Llantilio? The simple answer is that people like them. But the question is 'What shall we do with it?' OK – hands up if you have an idea.

*"It could be used as shelter for walkers on the Offa's Dyke".*

Thanks that's a good idea. The box is right next to the footpath.

*"It could be used as a library and people can exchange books"*

Another good idea, thank you.

*"It could be used as an art gallery".*

Well we are coming up with some good ideas.

*"It could be used to hold the community defibrillator".*

That sounds like an interesting idea.

Any more ideas?

*"It could be used as a place to pick up your recycling bags".*

Excellent - I think we will give that a go!



So don't forget if you have run out of your recycling bags then pop along to your friendly red phone box and save yourself a trip to town. Now isn't that a good idea! *Thanks to Dai Martin for sending the pictures*

### James Powell Educational Foundation

The governors invite applications from parents residing in the parish of Llantilio Crossenny United for assistance in the maintenance of children in further education, i.e. University, College, 6<sup>th</sup> Form and Apprenticeships.

For an application form please apply to  
[Jamespowellfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:Jamespowellfoundation@gmail.com)

Completed forms must be returned by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Please note applications received after that date will not be accepted.

## Llanvapley News

As part of Llanvapley Church's **safeguarding policy**, three people have to put themselves forward to have their criminal records checked. This would normally involve sending off documents in order for the diocese to make an application to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Procedures have been changed this year as a result of the pandemic. Each of the three PCC members agreed to a Zoom meeting at which they were able to hold up the

required documents to provide proof of identity. This worked surprisingly well and was completed in a couple of minutes. It is nice to report on a positive effect of the pandemic!

Llanvapley's oldest resident, **Mrs Doris Evans** celebrated her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. Doris was able to enjoy many cards and presents while she sat outside in the sunshine chatting with her neighbours. Well done Doris!

Llanvapley Church was delighted to receive a grant of £9,800 from the **Community Green Energy Advisory Group** for funding for a project to improve public access to, and appreciation of, the churchyard. The church will be improving the footpaths around the church, install seating and lighting and improving the safety of the steps into the churchyard. Visitors and residents of Llanvapley are welcome to visit the churchyard which contains many interesting



trees, historic graves and many varieties of fungi including the remarkable Dryad's Saddle (pictured). Llanvapley PCC is looking forward to providing appropriate seating so visitors can enjoy the special quietness of the churchyard. The position of the new seats has not been decided. The picture to the right shows seating in Llangattock Lingoed churchyard where the seats have been placed around the edge, on the sunny side of the churchyard. Suggestions where we might place our seats are most welcome.



Most days in Llanvapley are quiet, even at busy times of year like harvest and ploughing times. However, Llanvapley was particularly quiet on September 17<sup>th</sup> when it was noticeable that many residents seemed to be out for the day. This coincided with the arrival of lots of trucks and equipment which were part of a convoy from **Western Power Distribution**. Their aim was to renew a key part of the electrical distribution system in the



village. Hence the exodus of residents who were left without electricity for the day. For most people this was not a problem but for essential users like the pub, Western Power were happy to install generators to keep vital equipment working. At 4pm the power was back on and the quiet of Llanvapley was broken by the sound of kettles boiling water for afternoon tea! Thanks to Western Power for their hard work.

## Llanvetherine News

Unfortunately due to the current situation, we had to cancel all our on-farm courses this year but as the saying goes, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade or even better, make cider. With that in mind, I'm happy to announce that we finally have a full premises license to sell alcohol and are currently working on branding for our cider and perry, this was our lockdown project. Brainstorming future business ideas always seems to work better in the cider house after a pint or two and a business plan is now in place with some exciting ideas for the future, watch this space. The orchard is looking great and the perry trees are laden with pears. We are now on



countdown to scrumping season and cider making in October and November. It has been made on the farm since 1696 when farm worker's wages regularly included cider. This was apparently brought to an end in 1887 when the Trunk Act made it illegal but Jim still seems to think it still stands.



Quality control will remain a very important part of the job! Please contact us direct if you would like to buy cider as we are adhering to Covid-19 regulations. [Kate@katescountryschool.co.uk](mailto:Kate@katescountryschool.co.uk)

*Kate Beavan*

We were sorry to learn that **Anne Beavan** of Great Tre Rhew Farm has recently suffered a fall at home and had to be admitted to hospital where she underwent surgery. We understand that she is in good spirits and at the time of writing is recovering well and hopes to be home soon. We wish her a speedy recovery and keep her and Trevor in our prayers.

## The New Times Travel Writing Competition

On the 17<sup>th</sup> September, Colin and I went on a trip to North Wales, our first stop was at Criccieth. The following day we embarked on the Snowdon Mountain Railway, at Llanberis. It was a lovely warm day, and fabulous views of the valleys, the scenery was fantastic, we could not have picked a better weekend to go. We then travelled to Llandudno. As we travelled back from the Great Orme we came across the lovely little church of St Tudno's and the vicar was actually taking the service outside while we were there. We then went on to Brecon to catch up with friends we had made on our Australian trip 8 years ago!

*Colin & Yvonne Phillips*



*Colin and Yvonne were delighted that their report won them a £10 prize which they have donated to Penrhos Church!*

## The Garden in Autumn

As I write there is talk of more restrictions on our freedom. Those of us with gardens are blessed as are we who live in the relative security of the countryside. The one place to forget all the misery is in the garden

The October stars here are Nerines (pictured) and sedums plus the autumn leaves of Parrotia, Fothergilla, Liquidamber and various Malus. Nerines are from South Africa, in East Cape Province where they grow in the mountains even in the dry rocky soil. The species *Nerine bowdenii* is hardy and as a result of crossing with other species there are now quite a few hybrids of varying colours from dark pink to white. 'Fenwick's variety is larger and more vigorous with deep pink flowers. They prefer a sunny wall and seem to be



happy with very poor soil. The leaves appear in summer and then die down just before the flowers appear in late September. After 4 or 5 years they may need splitting up in the spring as they get overcrowded and produce fewer flower stems. Part of the genus Amaryllidaceae, their distant cousins are Amaryllis belladonna, another native of South Africa which also likes a sunny wall and appears out of the blue in October the leaves having died down months before. When we first came here 17 years ago, I did not know what they were and picked a flower bud and watched it emerge. Other stars this September have been the Kaffir Lily, Schizostylis coccinea. Another native of South Africa, they like a bit of moisture as in the wild they grow on the banks of streams up in the mountains. We have the red form 'Major', 'Mrs Hegarty' is clear pink and 'Viscountess Byng' has pale pink flowers. Our Parrotia persica is quite a mature tree and the leaves are just about to turn a beautiful golden colour, the Fothergilla is not far behind with bright red and burnt orange leaves, the Liquidamber now at least 60 years old and quite majestic, turns to dark red almost purple leaves. One prays for a few dry days so that one can appreciate these trees in their glory before the wind and rain blows them away.

The sedums are the easiest plants to grow and so rewarding at this time of year. Butterflies love them too. Autumn joy, Atropurpureum and spectabile are favourites. I have a feeling that they are now called Hylotelephium but I am too old to change.

## WI News

WI meetings have not been able to resume and it looks as though it will be a while, until everything is back to normal. But some members have managed to meet up in different ways. Some have have got together in small groups at home. If you wish to do this Lin would like to know if you want to be included in a small 'bubble'.

Those of us who not only belong to our own WI choir but also the Tenovus choir have had some singing Saturdays! Linda Vista Gardens, in Abergavenny has proved a perfect and pretty venue, to sing in a circle. It is surprising how sun and song can lift the spirits! Let us hope that the sun continues and Covid does not prevent it from happening further.

The WI has a project to help keep us all focused for the next months. Gwent Federation will have it's centenary next year. Lady Ada Mather Jackson (pictured), our founder, also helped found the federation. So it will be another celebration year for us. The federation have requested that each WI in Gwent displays their banner, at a celebration



service in St Mary's Church, Abergavenny, in February 2021. So we will be busy making a banner to represent our Llantilio Crossenny WI. Margaret Parry has kindly said she will lead this project. Margaret has just finished the new alter cloths for St Teilius. An amazing glory in Gold! Hopefully, if the church is able to reopen soon, we can all see the beautiful cloths.

Members will also be asked to help with the banner, by sewing some small flowers. These can be simple or elaborate and will adorn the edge of the banner.

As the Summer comes to an end Lin will be asking anyone who can, to provide a quiz for the coming months. We were grateful to Marion Ashton, who did a wonderful job, keeping us all amused during lockdown with a variety of different quizzes. And also thanks, to Jan Currie who has kept us supplied with anecdotes from the internet !

If any members have any ideas of what other ways we can survive the Autumn do let Lin know please. Meanwhile keep smiling until we meet again.

Lin can be reached at [Lin.tedit@btinternet.com](mailto:Lin.tedit@btinternet.com) / [Lin.tedit@gmail.com](mailto:Lin.tedit@gmail.com) / 01873 850939 / 07840641856

### **Lin's Lockdown Savoury Muffins to leave on doorsteps**

250 ml of milk

The juice of one satsuma or 1/2 lemon

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoons bi-carb

2 tablespoons poppy seeds

50 grams Abergavenny goats cheese

175 grams grated sweet potatoes

200-250 grams feta cheese 75 grams melted butter

2 eggs

Pinch of salt

Mix together the milk and juice.

Then mix all the other ingredients ( except butter and eggs)

Add the milk and juice.

Beat the butter into the eggs then add into the mixture.

Divide this into 12 strong muffin cases.

Bake at 190 °C for approximately 25 minutes.

Share around neighbours ,friends and family! Yummy when warm or cold!



# **COMMUNITY GREEN ENERGY ADVISORY GROUP COMMUNITY BENEFIT GRANT 2020 – ROUND 2**

**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 SECOND ROUND OF 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 1.10.2020 AND THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS 30.11.2020 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

## **Cross Ash School News**

September saw the long awaited return to school for all pupils and staff. As you can imagine, much planning, thought and care have gone into this return and so far it would seem to be a great success. Routines have been altered but pupils and staff have adapted well, showing great spirit and attitude.

This term would normally see Castle Captain speeches from our Year 6 pupils, School Council selections across the year groups, Harvest Festival preparations and Christmas festivities being looked forward to; but all this has had to change. Castle Captain speeches have been undertaken and the results will be announced soon. These were recorded behind closed doors rather than performed to the whole school. The video recordings were then shared with the classes and the voting took place in the class bubbles. With regards to Harvest we are busy thinking of alternatives to our usual celebration at Skenfrith church – a wonderful event that will be sorely missed this year.

Now that we are all back and the children are more settled, we shall be inviting Year 6 pupils to make this regular contribution to the magazine and we look forward to seeing what they decide they would like to share!

With very best wishes,  
All the staff and pupils at Cross Ash Primary.

# Services in October

## Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>

St. Luke's Day

Llanvapley at 11 am

## Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>

Llantilio Crossenny at 11 am

Dedication of altar frontal, chalice veil, burse and lectern frontal, made in memory of Mrs Beryl Nicholas.

*Please note this service is **PROVISIONAL** as it depends on approval of its risk assessment.*

## Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>

All Saints Day

Llanvetherine 9.30am.



A reminder of harvest celebrations from the past  
Llanvetherine Church 2016

You can keep in touch with what is happening in our church communities  
via our website [www.llantiliogroup.info](http://www.llantiliogroup.info)

Our website has the latest news, links to online resources for worship  
as well as information about all our churches.

We are also on Twitter [@LlantilioG](https://twitter.com/LlantilioG)

*Contributions for the November issue of TNT by 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
Please send your emails to [lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com)*