

The New Times

November 2020

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



New linens for St Teilo's Church



a new market garden in Llanvapley



and a vintage harvest in Llanvetherine

From the Vicarage

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun...

...so wrote a chap* who went to the same teaching hospital as Sally and me, and even taught there before going on to more aesthetic things. That was of course just a year or so before us, although his marble bust was one of several displayed in the entrance hall of the medical school building.

But, yes, amidst everything else, it really does look like autumn is here, the golden leaves falling ever faster with the wind and rain. The season when formal warm woollen overcoats come out for outdoor remembrance ceremonies, when Royal British Legion poppies begin to adorn our ordinary clothes. It's also the season, new since my childhood, when youngsters go out and about unwittingly to celebrate Saints' Evening (Hallowe'en) but with customs that might have begun long before Christianity reached our shores.

As the summer closes, there's no doubt that the changing season has many connections with remembrance — remembrance of our loved ones, remembrance of those we have known and respected, remembrance of the 44,000 who have already lost their lives to Covid-19 this year, and remembrance of those who died in 20th and 21st century conflicts defending our freedom and safety.

Looking beyond our own shores, perhaps we should remember too all those who have died because their lives are so unimaginably desperate that they are driven dangerously to seeking sanctuary in other countries.

The Church has various ways of marking this season and there's still some uncertainty about how many of those we will be able to keep, but that doesn't stop us from pondering this season of shorter, colder days at our leisure, perhaps even setting aside our own time to remember our own and others' loved ones, with respect, with fondness, and with love.

Blessings to you all,
Andrew



*John Keats spent some time living, training and practising as a licensed physician and surgeon at Guy's Hospital in south London.

Christine Everitt has sent in the prayer which she would like to share.
Christine works in Nevil Hall Hospital and featured on the front cover of the May edition of TNT wearing a mask.

The Right Reverend Richard Bott is the current Moderator of the United Church of Canada. He composed this beautiful reflective prayer for when we put in our masks. It reminds us that even in the most difficult times, we can be innovative in how we continue to show God's love.... even when most of our face is hidden. I hope you like it.

Christine

Creator,
as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament
in the wearing of this cloth –
 let it be “an outward sign
 of an inward grace” –
 a tangible and visible way
of living love for my neighbours,
 as I love myself.

Christ,
since my lips will be covered,
 uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile
in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
 help me to speak clearly,
 not only with my words,
 but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,
as the elastic touches my ears,
remind me to listen carefully –
 and full of care –
 to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth
 be shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds,
 be filled with your love.

In your Name
and in that love,
 I pray.

May it be so.
May it be so

Llantilio Crossenny News

New Linens for St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny

The new linens comprise a magnificent altar frontal, two lectern frontals, chalice veil and burse. When Beryl Nicholas died four years ago Revd. Heidi decided that donations received from family and friends should be devoted to the purchase of a new set of white church linens.



However, Mrs Margaret Parry considered that the purchase of these items from a commercial supplier would have been 'machine made'. For items to enhance the church for generations ahead, she undertook to embark on the project to produce the items herself. Also it was an acknowledgement and tribute to Beryl herself, who was an excellent needlewoman.

Before even one stitch was sewn, Margaret undertook a great deal of preparation work, including deciding on the design for the new linens that would be suitable for St Teilo's. She also took an online Goldwork course and consulted with a member of the Royal School of Needlework on the best materials and methods to be adopted. An essential item needed was a special pair of glasses to see the very close work. After all the preparation, Margaret began the labour of love. It was very exacting and delicate work, especially using the gold thread. The work took four years including the time when Margaret unfortunately broke her wrist, which took time to heal, much to her annoyance.

So delicate and fine is the embroidery that the concentration required would only allow short periods of work at any time. The result is fabulous! With each stitch meticulously and carefully positioned in its very exact place.

We, the Church, and especially the Nicholas family and Beryl's friends are very proud of the result of Margaret's labours. We would like to put on record our sincere thanks to Margaret for her dedication and hard work in producing these wonderful church linens.

Roy Nicholas

Margaret adds: it was an absolute honour to undertake this project in memory of Beryl, I not only learned new techniques but really enjoyed the challenge. So much so, that the other altar frontals are in line for an update but don't ask me for a timetable, as and when!



Successful Grant Application The Parochial Church Council of St Teilo's were delighted to learn that their application to the Community Green Energy Advisory Group for help with the cost of the new toilet facility had been successful. The work to convert the small shed at the top of the church steps into a toilet had been an aim for some time.



With generous donations and various grants, there was still a substantial shortfall and the Community Green Energy Advisory Group grant of £11,000 is gratefully acknowledged by our treasurer.

The works are now almost complete and also includes an improved access to the lower churchyard. The tarmac slope up from the car park is now used by us all, much easier than using our beautiful stone steps. The PCC is delighted with the standard of the work by H G Edwards Ltd and their staff, a job well done. When restrictions allow the toilet will be open at all times, so that the walkers who constantly use our car park, can always have access. Their donations over the year are a welcome boost to our funds and they in turn, not only appreciate the facility, but in normal times are usually drawn into Church when their comments in our visitors' book are very complimentary.



The grant bodies usually require us to have an opening ceremony and lots of publicity but due to current restrictions that has to be put on hold. There is however hot debate about who will sit on the "throne" when a local dignitary officially opens the toilet (door), and the photographer clicks. Odds are on Elsie Latham, but there are a few outsiders!

*Margaret Parry
Thanks to David Williamson for providing the photos*

The planned service in Llantilio on 25th October had to be cancelled as a result of the new restrictions. This meant that all the hard work of the PCC and the cleaning team was put on hold for the time being. The church bellringers were also disappointed not to be able to return to action. The bells have been silent for some time and will need to be checked before being rung again. It is not only the ringers who are getting rusty!

Sarah Heath from Trewaelod Farm, Llantilio Crossenny has decided to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK after her cousin, Ian Groves who worked at Usk college, sadly passed away in the summer as a result of the cancer. After talking about this to people Sarah became aware of the importance of making people aware of the cancer and helping people and families deal with the problem. Survival rates have improved enormously for most cancers. Sadly, for pancreatic cancer, this is not the case. November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and Sarah will be doing a sponsored walk to support the charity. Please show your support by making a donation to her page which is on the Pancreatic Cancer website. Click on the picture to go to her fundraising page or copy and paste the web address below. Sarah aims to walk 24 miles and to aim £1000. She is already half way to her fundraising target - well done Sarah!

<https://pcam.pancreaticcancer.org.uk/fundraisers/sarahheath>



Llanvapley News

A new Market Garden in Llanvapley

2020 has offered us all many surprises and challenges. Lockdown gave us all more time at home which for us, as for many, meant more time in our garden. Our passion for healthy, home grown food has grown into a plan to up-scale our kitchen garden and to set up a Market Garden called Orchard Acre which will provide veg boxes from late spring 2021. We want to grow sustainable, healthy food for our neighbourhood and we believe that food production on a small, local scale is vitally important to the resilience and health of our communities. As this time of Covid has shown



us, we are too reliant on long supply chains and a centralised food system which is inherently fragile. We want to offer the community fresh, healthy and seasonal food which is better for us and for our environment.

So who are we? As some of you will know, I am Alice, daughter of Penny and Richard who moved to Llanvapley in 1986 along with grandparents, goats, chickens and many other plants and animals. Since then our land has been both productive and a haven for wildlife. Since moving back to my family home a few years ago my partner Jonny and I have been growing, gardening and putting down roots in the local area and in December 2019 welcomed our daughter Lyra to the family. The invitation to stay at home during the lock down gave us a space to reflect and be with this land and the plan to up-scale our kitchen garden to a market garden was born. With Jonny's training and experience in organic horticulture and our family's experience and passion for food growing, it just made sense.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) We are deciding to run our Market Garden as a CSA, a distribution model growing in popularity across Wales and the rest of the UK. A CSA is a partnership between consumers and producers. CSAs vary in their models of food supply but at the heart of the movement there is a desire to re-connect communities with the food they eat while supporting the people that grow it. Consumers become members of the CSA by making a commitment to purchase a 'share' in the harvest for that growing season. This model shares both the rewards and risks involved in farming between the grower and the members. The growers know that they have customers for their produce and members are ensured a weekly supply of fresh seasonal vegetables.

Orchard Acre CSA Box Scheme We will be asking our customers to commit to joining our CSA as members for a season, in return you will then receive a weekly veg box (or 'share') of the harvest. The produce will be grown and processed by hand at our garden in Llanvapley. Our shares will be available seasonally for 25 weeks between May and December for either local delivery or collection from the garden. As part of your membership you will also have the opportunity to join us in the garden for work days and community events, with opportunities to learn more about sustainable gardening and food production, and make deeper community connections.

Join us We are looking for 25 members for our first year, members will have the option to be actively involved in the project or just receive your weekly veg box share and that's it.

Might joining Orchard Acre CSA be for you? Do you want to receive a weekly veg box packed with fresh, seasonal and incredibly locally grown produce? Are you interested in learning more about food growing? Would you like to be a part of ensuring the success of our small food growing enterprise? If this might be for you please contact us, you are also welcome to visit our garden to see what we are up to. Contact orchardacremarketgarden@gmail.com

Sheds have suddenly become fashionable in 2020. We have all discovered the pleasures of having somewhere to escape to or to work as we all try to deal with lockdown and its many restrictions. As a result the demand for sheds has skyrocketed and waiting lists seem to be getting longer and longer, with delivery times stretching into 2021.

With this in mind, the **Llanvapley**

Sports and Social Association is therefore delighted to announce the arrival a brand new shed which can be found below the pavilion. The shed will enable the LSSA to 'declutter' the pavilion and to store any outdoor furniture inside in the winter. The next committee meeting will be on 20th November in the hall.



Llanvapley on a sunny day in the winter with Mill House on the left

The Red Hart will be running takeaways throughout lockdown offering various styles of food to give everyone something to enjoy and look forward to. These will include curry nights, Mexican, roast dinners on Sunday, fish and chip supper nights along with a pub grub, pizza and burger nights. You can find out what is happening by looking at the boards outside the pub or by going to the Red Hart Facebook and Instagram pages. For those who aren't on any social media and are maybe staying at home, you can text or call 07966 433 390 and Leah will be delighted to let you know what is available. The pub will also be offering the Butty and HPA Ales at £3 a pint throughout lockdown. Takeaway beer, cider and lager will be available in two pint cartons for £6. From Friday 30th October, The Red Hart will have fresh bread available to buy along with homemade cakes, and fresh coffee all available for takeaway. Friday to Sunday, 10am to 2pm. The Red Hart hopes everyone is safe and well.



In the next few weeks Llanvapley will be saying goodbye and good luck as one of the best know members of the community leaves the village. **Diane Morgan** moved into Mill House with her late husband, John, in the late 60's and will be leaving the village after living here for 53 years! Diane won't be moving far and is looking forward to having a smaller garden when she moves into her new house on the Plas Derwen estate in Abergavenny. During her time in the village Diane has seen a lot of changes and a lot of people come and go. Mill House itself is a reminder of the times when farmers would bring their crops across the fields and the local stream would provide the power to grind the corn. Diane will still retain strong connections with the village and hopefully we will see her back in the village soon.

Sunday 18th October will be remembered as an important day in the long history of Llanvapley Church. On this day a service of Morning Prayer was held at 11am. Seventeen people attended and the service was led by Revd. Heidi. This might sound like a normal service but it was unusual for many reasons. Firstly, it was the first service since 8th March when new restrictions were put in place. The Mothering Sunday service on 22nd March had to be cancelled service and so it carried on throughout the spring and the summer. Secondly, the whole congregation had to wear masks and there was no music, no singing and no coffee and biscuits after the service. Preparations for the service started weeks before with the drawing up of a risk assessment. This was followed by a 'deep clean' of the church. This involved the usual dusting and polishing but also disinfecting surfaces. The deep clean must have been successful as a crisp packet was discovered which was from a supermarket which no longer exists! Social distancing meant that people had to let the PCC know they were coming so a seating plan could be drawn up. Notices had to be put up to remind people to stay 2m apart. The congregation had to sanitise their hands, sign in and give their telephone numbers. They were then escorted to their seats by the churchwardens. Despite all this, Revd. Heidi put everyone at their ease and we were soon worshipping and listening to the lessons from the Gospel like a normal service. Alleluia! Reaction to the service was positive. Everyone was delighted to be back together and were all pleased to hear some good news for a change (see below). Well if we can do it once we can do it again! The next service will be on 22nd November. The fourth Sunday of the month – as normal. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this service possible.



Local girl **Alice Taylor** and her partner Joe Cook recently announced their engagement, much to the delight of both their families. Alice was brought up in Llanvapley and Joe is from Hollingworth in Cheshire. They are hoping to be married in Llanvapley Church in the summer of 2022 - however as they live in Leeds they are having to start making their wedding plans from a considerable distance! We send our love and congratulations to them both.



Llanvetherine News

Harvest 2020 - Is it that time of year already I ask? We shall remember this year for so many reasons and in particular for us a late frost in the first week of May, decimating our Rondo and Pinot Noir Précoce, both early varieties and which were well ahead in the growing season in the earlier part of the year. Our Rondo variety made a significant attempt to perform following a second bud burst. Plump juicy grapes displaying a wonderful bloom, Robust Rondo certainly lives up to its name. Pinot Noir on the other hand presented small bunches of grapes, however they were nectar to taste and they say less is more, quality above quantity. Hey ho that's farming and we just have to move on. What we have found this harvest is that our yields are small but of tip top quality. Following grape analysis, before harvest and after initial de-stemming and first press, 2020 is certainly a vintage to follow. We harvested approximately 2-3 weeks earlier with most varieties this year and so nature has been kind in many ways. This year harvest has been a challenge with social distancing a high priority, we have managed to welcome 'adopt a vine' holders at varying harvest mornings, harvesting within their family bubbles. We welcomed the BBC Countryfile film crew to kickstart our harvest of Siegerrebe, our white wine grape, and planned to complete the harvest with a film crew from ITV. Robb's becoming quite a celebrity! Thank you all for your kind words and patience as our website temporarily crashed due to so many visitors all eager to purchase our quality award winning Welsh wines. We feel privileged to have the Countryfile Calender 2020 released once plucked from the vines by Charlotte, fantastic photography an ideal Christmas present.

Hot off the press Oz Clarke has released his latest book and WOW do we



have a feature, Wales' White Castle vineyard is certainly a good read. We were privileged to have Oz visit us last year and taste and discuss our Welsh wines, something we will never forget. Oz has become a friend and a champion of Welsh wine.

Robb and I would like to thank all of you who have supported our business throughout these uncertain times, we really do appreciate your continued custom. Autumn has certainly fallen in the vineyard, the change of leaf colour will inevitably create a tapestry of colour across the vineyard. Our online shop will be focusing on new release wines in time for the festive season and so watch this space. Bubbles Sparkle and "perfect for fire side lazing" are just some of our classic new releases, need I say more..... A tipple of what you enjoy most is the best medicine in our books and the good news is we still have the free postage offer available for online sales, check it out for more details.

Take care, keep yourselves safe and well and we hope to see you all soon.

Robb & Nicola Merchant

I am sure many of you will have seen the advertisements on television urging us to carry on the **Macmillan Cancer Support** coffee morning tradition this autumn. This year, more than ever, the money is really needed and people were urged to be creative as normal coffee mornings could not be held. Llanvetherine has always been creative with its fundraising coffee mornings. Many of you will remember the coffee morning in the barn at Pant Farm. This year, Lane's Garage in Llanvetherine decided to be imaginative and produced take-away cake boxes. They were delighted to raise £350 for Macmillan. This is the 3rd year running for this coffee morning and this year was the most successful. Vicki Crabtree gave a wonderful raffle prize of an afternoon tea for two which was won by Marjory Bennet from Llanddewi Skirrid. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the cakes and those who bought them!

Janet Phelps

St James's Church Service Seating Plan

Llanvetherine Church was due to hold a service on 1st November. Planning for the service involved the usual Covid risk assessment, deep cleaning, printing out notices as well as the normal arrangements such as flowers and service sheets. An important part of this covid safe service was a seating plan which would enable the congregation to be socially distanced. As you can see from the seating plan a lot of work went into making sure that the bubbles were kept apart and didn't burst!

		Vestry	
Wardens		11	
Sanitizer & Masks		10	
Font		9	
South Entrance		8	
	6	Aisle	7
	5		6
	4		5
	3		4
	2		3
	1		2
Pulpit			1
		Front of Church Nave (East) (No entry into Chancel or Sanctuary)	

Gardening Thoughts for November 20

Already leaves are dropping and soon we shall be sweeping up and tidying up the borders ready to put them to bed for the winter. November is the month to look at seed catalogues and think about plans for the following year. Planting new roses might be on your 'to Do' list. A friend of mine, in order to raise some money for charity during lockdown, asked a lot of friends to name their most favourite roses, paying a £1 for each rose. The list made quite interesting reading and included many old favourites. Rambling Rector came out top, followed closely by Gertrude Jekyll and Iceburg, then Mme Alfred Carrier, New Dawn, Paul's Himalayan Musk, Buff Beauty, Zephirine Drouhin, Constance Spry and Canary Bird. There were hundreds of other roses but the above came up again and again. Of course, now there are lots of David Austin Roses and as they are still relatively new, their names are not as well known.

Rambling Rector is a very vigorous rambler, covered in fragrant white flowers in July. Paul's Himalayan Musk is another rambler but the flowers are a soft pink. Gertrude Jekyll is a relatively new shrub rose, introduced in 1986. The large blowsy flowers are a rich pink. Mme Alfred Carriere is a fairly vigorous noisette climbing rose with clusters of creamy white double flowers which are very fragrant and like Gertrude Jekyll flowers continuously. Iceburg is a modern floribunda rose introduced in 1958 which is very free flowering from June to October as long as you keep deadheading. You can buy standards or even climbers. New Dawn is a very pretty pale pink climbing rose with shapely buds and delicate small leaves. It is not as vigorous as the ramblers above and very well behaved. Buff Beauty is the only Hybrid Musk in the top ten (Penelope came further down the list) Its flowers are a beautiful apricot yellow colour and is still flowering in our garden in October. Zephirine Drouhin is a gorgeous cerise pink climber which is fragrant and would even be happy on a north facing wall. It is also thornless which is a bonus. Constance Spry introduced in 1960 is a modern Shrub rose which flowers in June and has a heady scent. Canary Bird is a very early flowering shrub rose with very pretty single flowers and dainty little leaves.

So there you are, a few suggestions if you are thinking of buying a rose or two for next year. Winter is the time to plant bare root roses as long as there is not a frost.



WI News

The WI president Lin, ran the risk of travelling to Switzerland and has just returned minus Covid 19.....hopefully! The risk was due to the fact her foster son was having an operation and needed support, otherwise it would be a risk not worth taking at this time! But the Swiss air in the mountains is a cure in itself. Of course we continue to be on hold with meetings, as the Covid rate increases again. But that does not mean we are unable to remain in touch. Jan Currie is doing a wonderful job in keeping us all amused online. Do keep the anecdotes coming please. Also Marion has kindly said she will begin this season's quizzes for us. She manages to provide all sorts of mind searching questions to keep our brains working! Amazingly, Margaret Parry has been working hard on the Llantilio Crossenny WI banner. It is well on the way but we shall be looking for members who would like to add a contribution of a small flower or two. More news on that to come. This month's WI Life includes a survey, which all members are encouraged to fill in and post off. It helps the National Federation to keep providing us with the appropriate activities. With regard to our own WI, the committee will be having a zoom meeting soon, so if members have any thoughts, needs or ideas please get in touch with Lin on 01873 850939 or Lin.tedit@btinternet.com

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 has 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 their 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

A walk from White Castle

Here's just one suggestion for a walk for anyone itching to get out locally, beginning and ending at White Castle. In these times, the beneficial effects of walking in our ever-changing beautiful local landscape cannot be overstated.

A walk around White Castle is very therapeutic – despite the original purpose of the building being conquest and domination, it now exudes a special and tranquil presence on the landscape below. Walk westwards from the car park past the castle and the small white cottage along the grassy lane, through the large field and turn right at Duke's Barn, following the sign for Offa's Dyke path. On a clear day there's a fantastic view of the Black Mountains. Follow the signs for Offa's Dyke path past the converted long barn and through the small field behind it and down through the next field which also has amazing views of the mountains and of Skirrid. At the bottom of the hill, instead of going through the gate on the Offa's Dyke path, turn right along the hedge boundary to the gate in the corner of field. Keeping the River Trothy to your left, go through the next two fields and over a stile and you'll find the remnants of a medieval water mill. Now go over the river bridge and turn sharp right, following the course of the river still but now it's on the right. Through a couple of fields and over the stiles and you'll be walking through the White Castle vineyard. On my recent very rainy visit I decided to walk up the lane back to White Castle from here, but the path continues over the lane and through Upper Trelew and Berth-glyd Farms, meeting the quiet lane between Brynderi and White Castle at the Old School building where a right turn leads you back along the lane to the Castle. That's just over 3 miles. If you want to do this walk and would like an annotated OS map, please send me an email at the address below.



The autumn colours are amazing this year, even if the weather isn't always so good. Now that many of the fields have been ploughed and pastureland is getting churned up good walking boots or wellies are advisable. But don't let the shorter days stop you. Walking is so good for us in these challenging times – and let's hope we can resume the walking group soon and enjoy the sociability it provides.

Phil Allsopp

Llanvapley Walking Group / llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com

Services in November

November 8th Llantilio Crosseny Remembrance Sunday Service

Please meet at 10.50am in Llantilio Churchyard. If you wish to attend, please contact the vicar beforehand.

November 15th Llanvetherine 9.30am Morning Prayer

Please contact David Hughes-Jones if you wish to attend this service. 01873 821 497, e-mail: davidwhjones@btinternet.com

November 22nd Llanvapley 11am Morning Prayer

Please contact Les Taylor if you wish to attend this service. 01600 780376, e-mail: lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com

November 29th Llantilio Crossenny 11am Advent Sunday

Dedication of altar linen made by Margaret Parry in memory of Mrs Beryl Nicholas. Please contact Margaret Parry on 01873 855207 elmsfarm@btconnect.com if you wish to attend this service.

December 6th Llanvetherine 9.30am Morning Prayer

Please contact David Hughes-Jones if you wish to attend this service.

At the moment, in order to keep everyone safe, and to ensure there is space, we need to know in advance the names of those wishing to attend the services.

Llantilio Group Website

Apart from publishing a parish newsletter, our group of churches has a parish website and a twitter account. (details at the bottom of this page). The website and twitter account are linked so if you visit the website the latest tweets appear as a feed on the right of the home page. The New Times is available on the News page and there is a link to past editions which can be viewed and downloaded. There are also links to our four churches. There is a lot to read and discover on these pages. For example, there is a guide to Llantilio Church, details of all the graves in Llanvapley churchyard and the history of Llanvetherine Church. We have recently changed the company which hosts the website. The website is now faster and easier to edit. Thanks go to Jess Teague and Andrew Meek from GMP software for their help, support and advice which has made this possible.

You can keep in touch with what is happening in our church communities via our website **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**

*Contributions for the December issue of TNT by 20th November 2020
Please send your emails to lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com*