

Services in April 2011

Sunday 3 April	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny Family service with Infant Baptism
Sunday 10 April	9.30am	Penrhos
<i>Lent 5</i>	11.00am	Llanfapley
Sunday 17 April	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
<i>Palm Sunday</i>		Village procession with donkey
Friday 22 April	2.00pm	'An hour at the Cross'
<i>Good Friday</i>		
Sunday 25 April	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>Easter Day</i>	9.30am	Penrhos
	11.00am	Llanfapley
	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny <i>With Easter Egg hunt</i>

MOTHERING SUNDAY

This year's Mothering Sunday is 3 April and there will be a family service in Llantilio Crossenny at 11.00am at which each child will be given the traditional posies of flowers for their mother. We will also be baptising Clara, the daughter of Lizzy and Peter Miln



The Llantilio Crossenny Plant Sale

MONDAY 2 MAY

2.00pm

Teas served and Prize Draw

The deadline for the May edition of TNT is **20 April**
The parish website is www.llantiliogroup.info

If you would like to receive TNT on email send David Osborn an email with your email address. d.osborn42@btinternet.com

THE NEW TIMES

April 2011



Spring arrives in Llantilio Crossenny

**PENRHOS
LLANTILIO CROSSENNY
LLANVETHERINE
LLANVAPLEY**

From the Vicarage

A long time friend, Giles Fraser, wrote an article in the Guardian newspaper recently about Lent. I thought I would take up where Giles left off and continue his thoughts in to Easter.

‘Sometimes, it is better to do without. Sometimes, want is good for you’ wrote Giles Fraser. These are the familiar messages of Lent. Allowing a particular desire to go unmet may have short-term pain. However the longer-term gain is that we get to examine the structure of our lives and better recognise how it can re- shape our them and our relationships.

Mostly, this discipline is linked to an obvious need – ‘I must lose weight’ or ‘We need to spend less’ - but there is an equivalent spiritual discipline: we can restrict our needs to reach for ready-made answers when faced with the distressing unknown. Some people don't care that there is much about the universe they will never understand. For others this not knowing is experienced as an excruciating lack that cries out to be filled. And for those who feel this way, the danger of filling up desire with cheap and easy explanations is a temptation every bit as powerful as hankering after cigarettes and red wine.

Reactions to the continuing tragedy in Japan and New Zealand are a case in point. Some people just don't feel the force of the question "why?", or else speak of dumb nature as if that were the end of the matter. For others, "why?" is a cry that shrieks out from the core of their being and will not be averted by a calm description of the ways of the natural world. For those of us who cry out thus, there is always some-temptation to go for some shallow off-the-peg explanation, to try and set the world back into its recognisable form, to stabilise things around a familiar symbolic order. And yet to dismiss these feelings as meaningless or mistaken is just another glib and shallow answer.

Giles Fraser suggests we go back to the book of Job. It is in that book that we find one of the most important statements of faith in the bible. Job says, ‘I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he will raise me up on the last day.’ Handel uses the verse in ‘Messiah’ (*I hope you are going to come and listen to it on 10 April*) and it stands out as a message headline for our Easter celebrations. Honest doubt is far better than slick easy answers, and in the Easter story, the incredulity of the first disciples rings true, as it slowly dawns on them that the claims of Jesus are true. It's no good just saying ‘I'm not religious’ - we need to explore what faith is and the spiritual nature of our inner selves.

A happy and joyous Easter

David



LLANTILIO CROSSENNY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the March meeting of Llantilio Crossenny W.I. Anna Tucker talked about Embroidered Heirlooms. Her earlier education and career had been more academic than arts; she became more involved with arts and craft when she left work to start a family. The City of Guilds Embroidery course took her several years to complete, but set her on a complete new career change. Anna lives at The Pant at Cross Ash where, in a converted barn, she now runs courses with her friend and colleague Virginia Hole. Anna was able to demonstrate how the projects resulted into stunning textiles, which could be used for cushions, bags, decorated boxes or just framed and hung as a painting. The use of colours was wonderfully rich and vibrant. Background fabrics were enhanced with dyes, resist printing, stencilling and sponging and then enriched with embroidery and beads. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th April, when Peter Ralph will be talking about the Forest of Dean, Heritage and People.

Messiah

The *Messiah* concert will be on
Sunday 10 April at 3.00pm in Llantilio Crossenny Church
The concert will be followed by tea.
We look forward to seeing you at this musical delight.
Tickets are £5 payable at the door and include tea

Congratulations to Adrian and Val Cooke on their Silver Wedding !

You've Got the Time

If you are struggling with Lent and feel that your resolve is slipping, how about a last minute extra resolution? Why not have the New Testament read to you? The Bible Society recently commissioned an audio version of the New Testament performed by over 30 actors, which can be downloaded in 40 instalments to your computer or I-Phone or any other listening device that supports MP3. Each instalment is about ½ an hour long and I can't think of a simpler or more moving way to read the New Testament.

Highly recommended! If you want to try it, you can download it from **You've Got the Time** at www.biblesociety.org.uk/ygtt

Sean Cavanagh