

THE NEW TIMES

APRIL 2014



PENRHOS  
LLANTILIO CROSSENNY  
LLANVETHERINE  
LLANVAPLEY

# To the Vicarage

Valete David and Helen

It seems such a short time since the seven years ago that David and Helen came to join us for five years, and yet sadly it is already time for us to bid them farewell! We want to wish them both future happiness and

contentment in their full retirement, and they can retire in the knowledge that they have done a good job and that they have left us an enduring legacy.



During their seven years they have brought together different parts of the Benefice in a different way and more closely than ever before. No doubt many of us will have our store of anecdotes beginning with... ‘Do you remember the time when...’, and we will miss the allegorical references to canal boating, Nottingham Forest, and Westminster Abbey, among others. We will particularly miss David’s sermons always with their tangible messages. During their part-time house-for-duty David and Helen have actually provided a full-time service (Team Vicarage!) and David’s experience has led him, almost inexorably, into first becoming Area Dean and then later Canon of St Woolos Cathedral of the Diocese of Monmouth.

It is difficult to guess how many weddings, baptisms and funerals have passed through David’s able hands during the seven years he has been with us. We have seen many changes in the fabric of the Churches during their time, and more importantly in what happens inside those Churches. Many among us have been encouraged to look at making our own contribution to Ministry and some have felt inspired to take that contribution further with formal training beginning very soon, although sadly, after David and Helen have departed their own Ministry.

David and Helen’s departure coincides also with both an interesting and a challenging time in the Area and Diocesan Ministry, but part of their considerable legacy is the positive approach and courage they have instilled in us to take forward whatever we are asked to do.

David and Helen – thank you, *et Deus vobiscum*. Have a very happy retirement and may you spend all the hours afloat that you want to!

From your Churchwardens and Parishioners in Llantilio Crossenny, Llanfapley, Llanvetherine and Penrhos.

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## **Women's' Institute**

The February meeting was postponed for two weeks due to the bad weather, however, members much appreciated the talk on the Wales Air Ambulance by Mervin and Madeline Thomas. £6 million is needed annually to service the three helicopters of this much needed emergency service.

At the March meeting, Lin welcomed everyone to the meeting especially our new members from the now sadly demised Llandewi Rhydderch group. She also mentioned Jeanette Hood of the same group who sadly passed away quite recently. A team would be going along to the Annual Quiz Night held in Usk at the Memorial Hall. Lin, Ann, Debbie and Chris would attend. Seven members would be going to Llantilio Pertholey WI for a talk on antiques which would be given by Kate Bliss who appears regularly on antique programmes on TV.

Janet gave a run down on finances and although we were ok for now we would soon be needing a fundraiser. The Centenary baton would be carried through Monnow St by our group of WI's all attired in period clothing depicting the century. Our era would be the Thirties. Our guest speaker for the evening was a return visit by Mr. Don Balkwill, a very popular visitor as he brings back memories of yesteryear for us. He had devised a quiz whereby 20 objects were laid out for us to look, touch and see if we knew what they were or what their purpose was.

## **Church Annual Vestry Meetings**

All our churches are required to have an AGM that reports on the fabric of the buildings, finances, and elect officers. All members of our communities are warmly invited to these meetings which are held in each church building.

Penrhos	April 1 at 7.30pm
Llanfapley	April 3 at 7.30pm
Llantilio Crossenny	April 8 at 7.30pm
Llanvetherine	April 9 at 7.30pm at Cartref

At these meetings the arrangements for the services from May onwards and the process for appointing a new Vicar will be outlined. Our lay Ministers, Tricia, Andrew, Sally and Clarinda will be starting the new lay training course in May to further equip them for their work in the parishes.

## The 52<sup>nd</sup> Llantilio Crossenny Festival

The Festival goes back to its roots with opera, classical concerts, jazz, gospel, drama, workshops and a local talent night.

Dorothy Adams-Jeremiah, one of the Festival's founders, was head of what is now Gwent Music Services and we are excited to welcome back youth groups from the same organization to perform at the Festival, as they did in Dorothy's time.

We feel as a well established Festival, that it is important to share our resources and expertise, offering opportunities to children further afield than our local community. We were very happy when 12 year old Callum Rees (a child in care in Ebbw Vale, with a terminal illness and special needs) who won our Charles Farncombe Junior Award For Young Composers in Wales in 2012, asked if we couldn't work on an opera project with his school: Pen Y Cwm Special School in Ebbw Vale. Since February, we have been having great fun doing workshops with the children from Pen Y Cwm Special School (part of the new Super School in Ebbw Vale) in preparation for their performances of the Barber of Seville with local Cross Ash School and professionals from London Opera Productions. Following a request by the school, we will be holding the dress rehearsal in the Hall of this Super School for more than 500 school children!! Quite a number apparently have never seen "live" theatre before, so as a Festival, we're proud to be able to change that!

For all Festival enquiries, please call Eleanor Farncombe on 07779225921 or e-mail [e.farncombe@gmx.net](mailto:e.farncombe@gmx.net). A full programme will be in the May NEW TIMES and there are copies in all churches and both pubs!

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*This year sees the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1. There are memorials in both Penrhos and Llantilio Crossenny, but not in either Llanfapley or Llanvetherine. Is anyone aware of men (or women) who lost their lives in this war from Llanfapley or Llanvetherine? Do let TNT know if there names not recorded please.*

## Llanfapley News

Congratulations to Bill and Brenda Speake of Llanfapley who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 28 March. They have two children Richard and Linda and have spent almost all of their married life in Llanfapley. Bill met Brenda while they were both working in the Every Ready Batteries factory in Haringey in London.

*Chapel Farm in Llanfapley was sold on 18 March following the death of Bryan Jones late last year. The farm was sold for £1,476,000 and was bought by Mr John Young. Coffee Mornings (all at 10.30 a.m.) 9 April Llanvapley 16 April Llantilio at Warwicks 30 April Llanddewi Rhydderch.*

The March and April coffee mornings in Llantilio are in support of the bell tower in Llantilio. The bell ringers would like to repaint of the steel framework on which the bells are hung and the money raised will go towards the purchase of special paint while all the hard work of painting will be done by a team of volunteers. The bell ringers will be ringing in Llantilio on 5 April for the wedding of Daniel Chandler and Bethan Breakwell

*Warwicks Darts Team By the time you read this the darts team will either be in the final of the league knockout competition or will have been beaten in the semi final on 28 March. Warwicks have been the giant killers in the competition this year and their latest victims were The Shoesies from The Three Horseshoes in Monmouth. At the moment the team are dreaming of a place in the final but they haven't booked the open air bus for the victory parade as yet.*

Llanfapley Church Easter Vestry meeting is on Thursday 3 April at 7.30 in the church. The meeting is open to anyone in the parish.

*Another date for your diary : Saturday 10 May Llanfapley Churchyard spring clean 10:00 am - everyone welcome - please bring your own tools - refreshments provided (once you have earned it!) Les Taylor*

**The Llantilio Crossenny coffee morning** was well attended on Wednesday 19th March. There was a lovely, happy atmosphere with a lot of new faces. Thank you to all who brought cakes and raffle prizes. A big thank you to Sue and Alan for letting us use Warwick's.



Following your support at previous events we have received a letter from the Alzheimer's Society thanking us for our donation. The proceeds from the March and April coffee mornings will contribute towards the restoration of the framework which supports the bells at St Teilo's church Llantilio Crossenny. The next Llantilio Crossenny coffee morning will be at 10:30am on Wednesday 16th April. *Alison Booth*

### ***From Richard O'Connor***

*I have entered the 2014 Virgin London Marathon in memory of my beloved wife Avril who sadly passed away in 2010. My aim is to raise money for the Brain and Spine Foundation who provided us with immense support to our family.*

*We would greatly appreciate any donation to this cause which is so close to our heart's. I know it will go towards helping the millions of people affected by associated conditions.*

*God bless, and many thanks once again for your support.*

*Richard O'Connor and Family*

### **Plant and Garage Sale**

This year's Plant Sale at Llantilio Crossenny is on Bank Holiday Monday, 5 May in the Vicarage Garden. It will start promptly at 2.00pm, (but not before!) and also incorporate a garage sale of things that will not fit into or be needed in Helen and David's new and smaller house. A list will be circulated in the week before the sale. Teas/coffees and cake stall as well as a raffle will be available, as ever.

## Llantilio Crossenny Community Led Plan

The Open Meeting, organised and presented by Shirley Hughes from Adventa, took place in Llanfapley Sports Pavilion on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014. It gave an opportunity to explain what a Community Led Plan entailed, and what the proposed process would be.

The Presentation also was an opportunity to discuss what the people of Llantilio Crossenny feel are the village's strengths, weaknesses and how they think the community should create/develop in the future. The meeting identified possible actions in order to benefit the community.

27 people attended, including 4 young people from the village, several Llanfapley residents and Community Councillors Eddie Phillips, Janet O'Connor and Adrian Watkins. 8 people were interested in participating in the steering group to push the Community Led Plan forward, and a meeting will be held in the near future to plan the next step to move this project forward.

If anyone was unable to make the meeting, but would like to get involved in this project, please contact Shirley Hughes 07793 259016 or [Shirley@adventa.org.uk](mailto:Shirley@adventa.org.uk)

### What we like

Strong Community  
Beautiful rural area  
Pubs x 2  
Solitude  
Darkness at night  
Church  
River  
Caring Community  
Rural leisure activities  
Safe environment

### What we don't like

Pot holes  
Speeding traffic  
No play area/open space  
Sheep on the loose  
Late delivery of post  
(especially  
for businesses)  
Stiles on footpaths that are not  
dog friendly  
Blocked footpaths  
No circular walks  
Litter  
Lack of benches/picnic tables  
for visitors  
Dog fouling

### What we would like

Village Hall/Centre  
Park  
Village/Community Shop  
Veg Swap/food bank  
Faster Broadband  
Better mobile phone signal  
Emergency information  
(for emergency vehicles to find  
remote properties)  
Circular walks which are  
dog friendly)

# SERVICES IN APRIL

**Sunday 30 March**                      **10.30am**      **Penrhos**  
**Mothering Sunday Family Service**

Sunday 6 April                      9.30am      Llanvetherine  
*Lent 5*                                      11.00am      Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 13 April                      11.00am      Llanvetherine  
*Palm Sunday readings and procession with a donkey*

Friday 18 April                      2.00pm      Llanfapley  
*Good Friday*                              *An 'Hour at the Cross'.*

**Sunday 20 April**                      **11.00am**      **Llantilio Crossenny**  
***Easter Day***

Sunday 27 April                      9.30am      Penrhos  
*Easter 1*                                      11.00am      Llanfapley

## The Llantilio Crossenny Plant Sale Vicarage Garage Sale

Monday 5 May

In the Vicarage garden

2.00pm



***Fairtrade Easter Eggs are on sale in the Tithe Barn Abergavenny***

***Contributions are welcomed for inclusion in The NEW TIMES by  
20 April.***