

 **THE NEW TIMES**


AUGUST 2007

**PENRHOS
LLANTILIO CROSSENNY
LLANVETHERINE
LLANVAPLEY**

SERVICES IN AUGUST

Sunday 5th August	09.30am Llanvetherine 11.00am Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 12th August	09.30am Penrhos 11.00am Llanvapley
Sunday 19th August	09.30am Llanvetherine 11.00am Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 26th August	09.30am Penrhos

From the Vicarage

Thank you to so many people who have sent cards and good wishes following my recent operation. All went very well and at present I am making good progress. I will need to go back in for a second 'tidy-up' operation in the near future but so far so good. I have been quite humbled by the care from so many people in the parish, both shown to me and to Helen.

Thank you to those who have taken services - I am most grateful to them. I hope to take the occasional service in August, but it will be September before anything like normality can be resumed. In the meantime, I am always happy to see people here at the Vicarage - just give me call and we will put the kettle on! We hope that you will come along to 'Tea at the Vicarage' on Saturday or Sunday 11 and 12 August between 3pm and 5pm.

Like so many people before me, I have found the NHS so incredibly efficient and professional. From the surgeon to the district nurse, I have received such wonderful care.

I have reached the stage now where daytime TV has finally been consigned to the bin - who watches the stuff? If you are not a sports fanatic you will agree, I'm sure. I can recommend a number of books though and that has been a good experience: Andrew Marr's 'History of Modern Britain' is a great read and the DVD of American broadcaster Edward R Murrow, 'Goodnight and Good luck' I commend to you!

For the rest, I have watched the rain decimate things and wonder how those affected by the floods will cope. Closer to home, we are all aware of the potential damage to livestock

and crops in our own fields. We live in such an uncertain world that sometimes knocks our faith, but I am also aware of how God's goodness sustains us, even in life's darkest moments, and in those moments, God is at the centre of things, inspiring, encouraging and loving people.

And finally, to all of you who came to church and left your umbrella, I came across a quotation from Judge Bowen, who said

*The rain it raineth on the just
And also on the unjust fella
But chiefly on the just because
The unjust steals the just's umbrella*

Your nearly well Vicar

David

Other News from the Vicarage

Don't forget the Hog Roast on Sunday 26 August. Llantilio Crossenny will be holding the event at the Hog's Head, (where else?) starting at 12.30pm.

Harvest Service is being celebrated at Llanvetherine Church on Sunday 2 September at 4.00pm

DIARY DATES

11/12th August >>Afternoon Tea at the Vicarage

26th August >>Llantilio Crossenny Hog Roast

2nd September >>Llanddewi Skirrid Village Fete

2nd September >>Llanvetherine Harvest Service

Thank-you

If you have a thank-you, you would like us to publish, please let us know. Should it mention a specific person by name, TNT would ask you to check first to gain approval from that person beforehand.

Llanvapley Cricket Club



The weather is doing it's utmost to decimate the Cricket Season, thus far, however with Summer due to start in August this year, fixtures for August are as follows: -

5th Isca Crows

12th Cardiff Casuals

It would be great if someone from the Cricket Club could send match reports for inclusion in TNT.

Service of Confirmation

On Sunday 21 October, the Bishop of Monmouth will be coming to our group of parishes to take a Confirmation. Already there are 3/4 adults who are interested in being confirmed and it is an opportunity for people to perhaps do something they have always intended doing but never got round to it.

In the Early Church those who were entering the Christian faith were baptized and confirmed at the same service. After a time, the Church in the West separated baptism and confirmation except in the case of adults. Infants are normally baptized and the promises made on their behalf by parents and godparents who promise that they will teach them the Christian faith and when old enough encourage them to make a personal commitment and be confirmed by the bishop.

At a Service of Confirmation today there are often candidates of all ages and some will already have been baptized whilst others will be baptized and confirmed at the same service. We are seeing an increasing number of adults coming for confirmation and there is no upper age limit.

The Service of Confirmation follows a period of preparation. This will be an informal group and should be fun and stimulating and you will be able to ask difficult questions and engage in discussion.

If you are interested then please call David Osborn on 01600 780240 and have a chat about it.

St Bartholomew's Day

Bartholomew was one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus. The festival of St. Bartholomew is celebrated on August 24.

St Bartholomew is believed to have travelled on a mission into Armenia, and to have there suffered martyrdom by being flayed alive. A knife, consequently, became the emblem of St. Bartholomew.

This has made St Bartholomew the patron saint of butchers (and tanners).



St Bartholomew's day is a joyous day for foodies, with something, somewhere, for everyone

St Bartholomew is, the patron saint of Florentine cheese makers, so you could, if you are cheese-inclined on this day, have some good Pecorino to celebrate.

At the abbey of Croyland, there used to be a distribution of knives each St. Bartholomew's Day, in honour of the saint.

Children at Sandwich, Kent, run a race around St Bartholomew's chapel to win a currant bun.



Lee Gap Fair, West Ardsley, near Wakefield, Yorkshire on St Bartholomew's Day is the first of two ancient horse fairs.

'Burning the Bartle', In West Witton, Wensleydale, on the Saturday following St Bartholomew's Day, a guy-like effigy stuffed with rags and soaked in paraffin, with eyes lit with electric bulbs, is carried down the main street via numerous pubs to chants about its fate. At Grassgill End the Bartle is stabbed and then set on fire.

Smithfield and St Bartholomew's Day Fair

A short walk north of St Paul's, the space now called West Smithfield is today a largely bypassed square and park. The three great institutions that dominate the area now - the meat market, St Bartholomew's Church and St Bart's Hospital - were all established in Smithfield by the late 12th Century.

Today's meat market, with its grand Victorian halls, has evolved from what chronicler William FitzStephen described in 1174 as a "celebrated rendezvous" where country traders went to sell cows, sheep, pigs and agricultural goods.

It was also where earls, barons and knights were "drawn to the show and sale of fine horses", he said - and in one of the earliest records of horse racing, young men would gallop around the open space.

The church, a gem that is now hidden behind an ancient gatehouse, was founded as an Augustinian monastery in 1123. St Bart's Hospital was established with it - but has long since outgrown its origins.

Reports of miracles, served to enhance the church's reputation and coffers. Within a decade, pilgrims and the sick gathered there on St Bartholomew's Day and an annual cloth fair sprang up in the churchyard.

The cloth fair was hugely important for merchants, but the myriad of stalls, plays, freak shows, music and chaotic revelry that grew up around it soon became the main attractions. Known as Bartholomew Fair, it was one of London's most famous holidays until it was closed in 1855.

June Wedding

The sound of the church bells ringing on a glorious summer day greeted family and friends as they gathered at St Teilo's Church on 9th June.

We were there to celebrate the marriage of Ali and Bif (Llantilio folks will have heard a lot of this couple in the last few months!)

The church looked wonderful, enhanced by stunning floral arrangements, the service was exactly right, thanks to David Osborn's ability to put everyone at their ease.

A quote from one of the thank-you letters said 'Everyone should have a vicar like that to marry them'.

I know Alison and Christopher were so grateful to David for guiding them so well, both on the day and before hand.

Following the traditional photographs and a cascade of rose petals on the church steps, everyone proceeded the short distance to Park Farm to continue the celebrations on the lawn.

We were blessed with the most perfect day, making a dream come true for the new Mr and Mrs Wilkins and a memorable occasion for their well wishers.

Daphne Watkins

e-mail us at llan.news@yahoo.co.uk
If you wish to receive TNT via e-mail

Llanvetherine Strawberry Tea Party

The weather lifted miraculously on the afternoon of, 22 July, for the Llanvetherine Strawberry Tea Party in aid of St James the Elder Church.

Thanks to the generosity of Susannah and Jono Beatson-Hird, a traditional spread of fresh strawberries, scones, jam and thick cream was washed down with hot tea - very welcome on a cold unseasonal afternoon.

We were delighted to see David and Helen Osborn for a short while, with David making one of his first trips out following his recent surgery.

Readers are invited to guess the owners of the enclosed teeth! Pictured also is Susannah serving teas at the front of The Court.

(The e-mail copy unfortunately does not include these excellent photographs. Please catch up with a 'back-page' contact to obtain a paper copy of TNT.)

TNT

TEA AT THE VICARAGE

In the Vicarage garden at
Llantilio Crossenny
(Weather permitting!)

*Saturday 11 August and
Sunday 12 August*

3pm - 5pm



*Tea, homemade scones, cream
and jam, a selection of cakes*

£3.50 per person

*All proceeds to Llantilio
Crossenny Church refurbishment*

St Mabli's Restoration Funding

Many of you will have received a copy of the Heritage Lottery Fund Press Release, announcing the success in obtaining a Stage One pass of £100,000 towards the restoration project.

We have already accepted an 'in principle grant offer' of £30,000 from Cadw last October. Following further representations for additional funding, they have also offered Stage One grant support up to a maximum of £76,000.

A Stage One pass means that the money has been earmarked for the project, but competition at this stage is tough, and whilst a Stage One pass does not guarantee funding, it is an indication of positive support for the scheme.

A final bid under the Stage Two procedure to secure the grants from both Cadw and the Heritage Lottery Fund (Wales) is currently being prepared.

The work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust

St Mabli's has been awarded a grant of £2,500 by the *Historic Churches Preservation Trust* towards the restoration project.

They have asked us to publish an article to draw your attention to the work of the trust and invite you to become "friends" or otherwise contribute to their efforts.

What follows is an abridged version of their draft. If you would like a copy of the full article please contact Peter Marchant on 780411.

Background

The Historic Churches Preservation Trust offers funds for essential repairs to the fabric of churches and chapels in England and Wales, regardless of denomination and grade. It was founded in 1953, and has awarded *over £25 million to more than 12,000 churches*. It receives no financial assistance from the government or the church authorities, and survives entirely on voluntary contributions.

The Work of the Trust

The trust firmly believes that churches, although ancient, remain critically important to present day society on several different levels; they are *not* just about “bricks and mortar”, but perhaps more about “bricks and mortals”:

- ***The Holy***. 12 million people visit our churches each year. They often sign the visitors’ book with comments about the peace and tranquillity of the church. Churches fulfil an important spiritual role, not just through the provision of formal religious services but as havens for quiet meditation, prayer and thought in a busy world.
- ***The Community***. Many rural areas are losing their shops, pubs, banks and post offices. Sometimes the church is the only public building remaining in such communities. In the inner cities, churches fill a crucial social role supporting the homeless, drug and alcohol dependents, one parent families, and many more vulnerable people. In these cases, the church is often central to its community; geographically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.
- ***The People***. A church is all about people; those who designed and built it, embellished and modified it, repaired it worshipped in it and have been baptised, married and buried in it; in some cases over a period of more than ten centuries. Many churches are redolent of times past, events

and people, and the gravestones and monuments of individuals and families constantly remind us of this. The tapestry of 16,000 churches in England and Wales spell out the sweeping history of these countries and the people that created them. *These churches are our history, our culture and our art, all in one building.*

- **The Treasures.** On the final level are the stone, wood and glass crafted by artisans over the centuries, and their irreplaceable contents. It is the coming together of the architecture and the people that makes the work of the HCPT so vitally important. The treasure that is the building itself can take the breath away; wonders of form, grace and balance, true monuments to the vision and architectural skills of our great-grandfathers, working with hand tools and simple machines. They all share two things in common – they were all built to the glory of God, and they are all in daily use.

The Challenge

English Heritage has estimated that the cost of outstanding works required to churches in England and Wales is over £370 million! The Trust receives approximately 600 enquiries per year which turn into around 300 grant awards. The average cost of work in 2005 was £128,000 per church, and *a third of the applications are from communities with a total population of 500 or less.* From their own resources and local fundraising, these churches raised an astonishing £6.9 million and are looking to raise a further £7.4m from HCPT. Against this, HCPT has less than £2m to offer. This stark figure shows the scale of the challenge HCPT faces. HCPT has had to focus its help only on the most deserving cases. The repairs must be to the essential fabric of the building; the work has to be of an urgent nature and professionally specified; the church must also apply to Cadw and the Heritage Lottery Fund. There are many projects which the Trust would like to support, but cannot currently because of lack of funds.

Become a Friend of HCPT, send a donation or remember us in your will

A minimum subscription of £15 per year (£25 in the first year) will keep you up to date with the Trust's activities and progress, through the *Review of the Year* and *Newsletter*. Even the smallest donations coming to the Trust are more than welcome. If you can afford to send a donation more regularly, the Trust can supply a banker's order form. Donations can be made via the leaflets displayed in the church or by the Trust's website listed below. Please don't forget to sign the Gift Aid declaration if you are a UK taxpayer. Much of the Trust's income is in the form of bequests from donors. This generosity is a very tangible and living memorial. Leaving a legacy is very simple, and the Trust has prepared a short leaflet, explaining how to do this.

In Conclusion

HCPT's declared aim is "Keeping Churches Alive". Churches are not just "bricks and mortar", but a cause to be passionate about. Please help HCPT to help more communities like your own.

Contact Details

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June Weather Statistics (Wales)

A warm and mostly dry first of the month, then cooler and changeable with some heavy rain at times

August looks like the bearer of summer weather for the UK, the Azores high, may be heading our way. The high is expected to gradually edge northwards during this period bringing the potential for much anticipated drier and warmer conditions.

Wales Mean Temperature Series (series began in 1914)

The provisional mean value for the month is 14.0 °C

1.3 °C above the 1961-1990 average.

Wales Rainfall Series (series began in 1914)

The provisional total for the month is 170.5 mm

205% of the 1961-1990 average. Second wettest June in series. Wettest June in series was during 1998.

Wales Sunshine Series (series began in 1929)

The provisional total for the month is 159.0 hours

90% of the 1961-1990 average.

"If the first week of August be warm then winter will be white and long"

