

SERVICES in DECEMBER

Sunday 6 December	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>Advent 2</i>	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 13 December	9.30am	Penrhos
<i>Advent 3</i>	4.00pm	Llanfapley Carol Service
Friday 18 December	7.00pm	Llanvetherine Carol Service and Christingle
Sunday 20 December	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny <i>with Carols</i>
<i>Advent 4</i>	6.30pm	Penrhos Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Llantilio Crossenny Crib Service and Christingle
	11.30pm	Midnight Service at Llanfapley
Christmas Day	9.30am	Llanvetherine
	9.30am	Penrhos
	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
<i>Sunday 27 September</i>	<i>No Service</i>	

SERVICES in JANUARY 2010

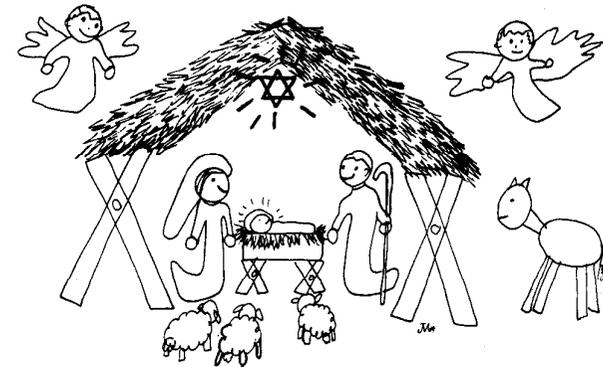
Sunday 3 January	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>Christmas 2</i>	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 10 January	9.30am	Penrhos
<i>Epiphany</i>	11.00am	Llanfapley
Sunday 17 January	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>Epiphany 2</i>	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 24 January	9.30am	Penrhos
<i>St Paul</i>	11.00am	Llanfapley
Sunday 31 January	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny Group Service

Items for the February issue of The New Times need to be sent in by 19 February for printing on 22 February

THE NEW TIMES

December 2009

January 2010



PENRHOS
L LANTILIO CROSSENNY
L LANVETHERINE
L LANVAPLEY

From the Vicarage

All I want for Christmas is.....well what do you want?

There is a lot of talk in our family about 'cutting down', making your own presents and no use of credit cards. For some people, Christmas brings to an end a year they would rather forget and the festival is just another hurdle to overcome.

As I look back over this year, there have indeed been sad things and silly things, but there has also been a number of real causes for celebrations. Here, the sun shone for quite a few weddings, Llanfapley Church was restored, I met a number of people who have been through difficult times and have still come up smiling. Our two pubs continue to be a place where people can meet together in convivial surroundings, there have been grandchildren, exam successes, personal achievements at the agricultural shows, concerts and quizzes, and just endless examples of good friends and neighbours. So Christmas can be celebration—a time to reflect on the many good things we enjoy.

I was glancing at one of those women's magazines the other day. The main item was about how a number of 'celebrities' saw Christmas and how they would enjoy it. I was struck by the number of men and women who admitted that they would go to Church at Christmas, more than I would have guessed.

Your village church is the perfect place to come and spend a short time with the family over Christmas, not just to sing the traditional carols, but also to say thank you for this year and pray for 2010. Christmas Eve afternoon sees the traditional christingle service at Llantilio Crossenny and we shall also be inviting the children to place the Mary and Joseph, along with the shepherds and animals in the Christmas Crib. The Midnight Service this year is in the restored church of St Mabli, Llanfapley, an event that is probably the centre of our Christmas celebrations—you will be most welcome.

I wish you and your loved ones a very happy and blessed Christmas

Your friend and Vicar

David

The New Times does not normally compete with The Racing Post, but we are delighted to hear of successes on the course of horses owned by David and Pam Richards. First at Hereford when 'Another Kate' won at 4/1 and then his other horse Silver Kate won a hurdle race at Chepstow this week, beating some horses trained by very high profile professional trainers. Watch this space!

On a sadder note, the funeral took place of Gordon Evans on 28 November when many friends and family came to pay their tribute to this farmer and gentleman. On the same day the ashes were interred of 'Jack' Griffiths at Llanvetherine. On Saturday 5 December, Jane Thomas' funeral will take place – Jane used to live here before she and husband David moved to Lincolnshire.

Llantilio Crossenny are still looking for some one who is having a new kitchen! If you know of anyone who is getting rid of their old units we would be pleased to hear and would beg to have them given to St Teilo's Church.

Save our Village Campaign

Thank you to so many people who returned the questionnaire about supporting village life. Our application got through several stages and we got to the last 6 before losing out – there is only one village selected for the whole of Wales so we did quite well. Although we won't get the substantial funding, what started out as a rather radical idea seems to have struck a few chords in our villages. The BBC and Big Lottery have encouraged us to continue and suggested sources of funding for such a project. In the New Year, we will publish the results of questionnaire and also make some proposals to begin a smaller project of our own – it is simply too good an idea to let go, so we will come back to you. In the meantime, we will be looking for people to form a small group to get something going – are you interested?

Llanvetherine's Big Draw is on Friday 15 January at the Quiz Night. Always a popular event, it takes place at the Hog's Head starting at 7.30pm. Tickets can be bought from David Hughes-Jones on 01873 821497

*Cwmerra Baptist Chapel have their Carol Service on Sunday 20 December at 3pm. There will be **no** service at St James' Church that day.*

News from Llanvapley

Do you remember the disruption in Llanvapley in the summer when the council was resurfacing the roads? After applying chippings to the road the contractors waited a few days and then swept up the chippings and sold the sweepings to farmers. So the paths around Llanvapley Church have been resurfaced with road chippings kindly donated by Bernard Blackwell from Perth-y-pia Farm, Llanvapley. A big thank you goes to Bernard for his help and Peter Marchant who helped to spread the chippings.

Tom gets on his bike

"Get on your bike" was the advice Norman Tebbit gave to millions of unemployed people in the 80s. Well it seems that students in the 21st century are still following his advice. Tom Taylor from Llanvapley graduated from Sheffield University in 2009 with a 2:1 in Sociology and having surveyed the economic prospects in Wales and Britain, decided to get on his bike and look for work. His journey has taken him to Holland and the town of Leiden where he has found work as a postman. Tom works in the mornings cycling around the High Street in Leiden delivering the mail. In the afternoon and at weekends he also works in a beer shop and a pub. However, his real love is his music and he and his band "Hyperbowl" have taken the Leiden music scene by storm. The band is a mixture of Sheffield graduates studying in Leiden and postmen. Their latest achievement is to be asked to be the resident band in one of Leiden's pubs. Despite all the fame and adulation, Tom is still doing his postal round and feels the advice to "Get on your bike" and look for work is still as relevant now as it was 30 years ago.



After the Christingle.....

After the Christingle service at Llantilio Crossenny on Christmas Eve there will be mulled wine and mince pies at Lower Cwm Farm Barn. Just make your way over there and we will be warmly welcomed to the lovely barn there—children will be especially welcome! It will be a good way to finish the Christingle Service.

David Osborn will be in Westminster Abbey during the week beginning 21 February and visitors will be welcome.

ST TEILO'S CHURCH LLANTILIO CROSSENNY

CRIB SERVICE

AND

CHRISTINGLE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00PM



Friends of Llanvapley Church

Llanvapley Church has been looking for fresh ideas to raise money and has come up with the idea of asking people in the village to put their loose change in a special jam jar. The jam jars have very kindly been distributed around the village by Doug and Jane Rutter and have proved an instant hit. Thank you very much to everyone who has offered to take a jam jar, they are an ideal way to get rid of all that loose change which is weighing you down and wearing a hole in your pocket! Jam jars can be emptied at any stage and the cash handed over to any of the churchwardens. If it's more convenient you can hand it over next time the New Times is delivered.

Snippets from the Llanvapley Preacher's Book

Queen Victoria died on 21 January 1901 at the age of 81 at 6.30 in the evening. It is recorded in the preacher's book that the news of her death arrived in Llanvapley at 9pm that evening and that the bell was rung 81 times.

Lucy Philips is pictured below at her confirmation that took place on the 25th October, at St. Cenedlon's Church, Rockfield. In the picture is Bishop Dominic, Hannah Morgan, Lucy and Simon Guest.



Lucy is also available for babysitting. She is 15 years old. and lives at Pretty Hedges, in Penrhos. She is available through the week (after 4) and also weekends. Please feel free to call on 01600780276

Llantilio Crossenny W.I

At the November meeting Denis Jackson from the Gwent Wildlife Trust gave a most interesting talk about bird ringing and it's importance. Denis is a licensed bird ringer, with a particular interest in house sparrows, waders and gulls. He explained that bird ringing is not only useful in letting us know where birds go in the winter, but answers other questions such as how long do birds live? How many of this year's house sparrow chicks will survive to breed next year and just as importantly, how are these and many other things changing over time? It inspired many members present to become more involved locally. The Federation Day Show on the 14th November was discussed and since then we have learnt that our President Rose Roberts did particularly well gaining a first in the Sugar craft competition and 2nd place in quite a few of the other competitions. The next meeting will be on 9th December at 7pm at the Tithe Barn in Abergavenny. After a tour of St Mary's Church there will be a meal in the Tithe Barn restaurant. We normally meet at Llanvapley Pavilion at 7pm and new members are always welcomed.

Llanfapley PCC launch limited edition print of St Mabli's Church

From an original drawing by local artist James Lowes, this super print is available in a strictly limited edition of 100 copies, all individually signed and numbered by the artist. Priced at only £10 each unframed, with a donation made to St Mabli's Church funds for every one sold. To obtain your copy call Tom or Fiona Lowes on 01600 780337. James is well known for his house drawings and is always pleased to discuss individual commissions - and his drawings and prints can be economically framed by Paul of HS Picture Framing in Abergavenny Market."