

Services for December 2011 and January 2012

Sunday 4 December	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>Advent 2</i>	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 11 December	9.30am	Penrhos
<i>Advent 3</i>	11.00am	Llanfapley

Sunday 18 December <i>Advent 4</i>	9.30am	Llanvetherine
	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny Carols
	4.00pm	Llanfapley Carol Service
	6.30pm	Penrhos Carol Service
Wednesday 21 December	6.30pm	Llanvetherine Carol Service and Nativity Play
Christmas Eve	4 00pm	Crib Service and Christingle
	11.30pm	Llantilio Crossenny Midnight Service at Llanvetherine
Christmas Day	10.30am	Holy Communion Service at Llanfapley

Sunday 1 January	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>Christmas 1</i>	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 8 January	9.30am	Penrhos
<i>Epiphany</i>	11.00am	Llanfapley
Sunday 15 January	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>Epiphany 2</i>	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 22 January	9.30am	Penrhos

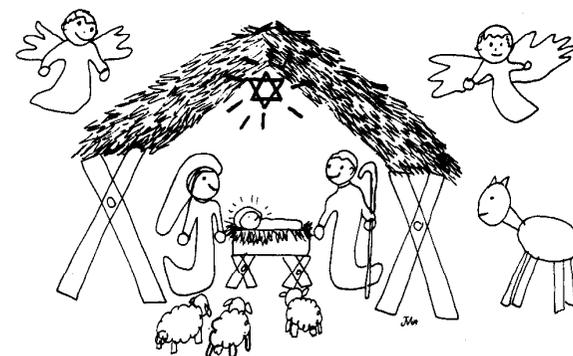
The deadline for the February edition of TNT is **20 February**
The parish website is www.llantiliogroup.info

If you would like to receive TNT on email send an email with your email address.
To d.osborn42@btinternet.com or phone 780240/ 07803618464

THE NEW TIMES

December 2011

January 2012



**PENRHOS
LLANTILIO CROSSENNY
LLANVETHERINE
LLANVAPLEY**

From the Vicarage

I am not a shopper by natural inclination, but I am fascinated by shoppers themselves and the whole business of what is on the shelves—its quantity and quality. Like most men I leave it too late of course to go Christmas shopping, but the frenetic pace of shopping for Christmas from September onwards is quite remarkable. Just five minutes in either Cardiff or Bristol shopping precincts leads me to wonder, 'what economic crisis?'



It is a favourite topic of Vicars at this time of the year: people are urged to put Christ back into Christmas when Xmas is mentioned—all that kind of thing. Of course they are right, but sometimes it sounds so much like the 'Rev Kill-joy' at it again. One of the most refreshing things for me on television has been *Rev*, the series where an East End vicar struggles with faith in the city. There is little romance in the story and real religion is only discovered through some difficult and profound experiences. Likewise, the message of the real Christmas story is very uncomfortable, which is why I guess people have invented another kind of Christmas so different from the original.

John Betjeman wrote a poem about Christmas which begins

*And is it true? and is it true? The most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue, A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea Become a Child on earth for me?*

Betjeman derides *the bath salts and inexpensive scent and hideous tie so kindly meant*. Rather, he sees Christmas as God giving everything to gain the whole world. Perhaps the real Christmas message is somewhere here, the giving of genuine things in love to celebrate the most precious gift of all, the love of God in our lives in Jesus Christ.

Your friend and Vicar

David

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

The Llanvetherine Annual Draw and Quiz is on 20 January at the Hogs Head starting at 7.00pm. It is with much gratitude that the Church acknowledges all the help from all concerned at this time. The help of sellers, buyers and those who have donated prizes is very much appreciated. Of course if there is anyone who wishes to help or donate prizes then any further help will, as always, contribute towards the success of the event.

Thank you to Gemma Lane who organised the village Christmas Shopping Trip to Birmingham on 6 November.

LLANTILIO CROSSENNY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at the October meeting was Gill Suttle, a travel writer, who gave a vivid account of her journey through Mongolia. Her book, "Steppe by Steppe – A Slow Journey Through Mongolia" described her experience mainly on horse back, which was a great joy as horses have always been an important part of her life. She travelled and stayed with Mongolian families and her slideshow was evocative of the culture and as well as showing the stunning scenery. Gill's presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone at the meeting and she was admired for her determination to undertake this journey whilst suffering from M.E.

The December meeting will be a Christmas meal at Warwicks, Talycoed on Tuesday 13th December.

The first meeting of the new year will be on the 11 January when Michelle Bradley will give a talk and presentation on the History of W.I

Thomas Adams had a brain scan last week, 3 months since the end of his proton therapy in Oklahoma. The scan showed no tumour which was very good news, but it did show a shadow which was bad news! The shadow may be some sort of abnormality in shape brought about by surgery or protons and they will rescan in 2 months time. So, a lot of relief for Ted and Becca, but a little disappointment too. Meanwhile, Thomas knows nothing of scans, is very well and has a lovely grin. We thank you all for your loving thoughts and prayers.

Sally and Geoff Adams.

Penrhos will be singing carols on Christmas morning at 9.30am in Church led by the Adams family.

The Christmas Choir

Would you like to join the choir for Christmas? Jeanette Massocchi is direct the choir and invites people to come and join.....especially men! Tricia L-B is acting as co-ordinator as Jeanette does not do email. The former email list appears incomplete so do get in touch with Tricia on 01600 780240 or tricialuxmoore@btinternet.com Rehearsals will be in the comfort of Jeanette's studio and the service the choir will sing at is 18 December, 11am at Llantilio Crossenny. The next rehearsal is on Wednesday 30 November at 7.00pm

Llantilio Crossenny Church. Final submissions are being made to accept a quote for the first phase of the building works in the church. Over the winter, the rainwater goods and associated things will be repaired, windows mended and the church internally decorated : all this will be 'bats permitting! Thanks to Tricia Luxmoore Ball for doing all the hard work.

The funeral of our Dean Jeremy Winston, Dean of the Cathedral will take place on Wednesday 30 November. Jeremy has been a good friend to our parishes and he will be sorely missed by many people.

You may like to know that Mark Soady will be licensed by the Bishop of Monmouth as the new Vicar of St Mary's Abergavenny on Friday 6 January, and on 16 January, Chris Walters will also be licensed by the Bishop as the new priest in the Govilon Group.

David Osborn will be at Westminster Abbey during the week of February 26 and will be celebrating Holy Communion there on St David's Day 1 March. If you would like a guided tour around the Abbey please let him know.

Each of our churches pays what is called a 'Parish Share' to the Church in Wales each year. Like everything else, this has gone up—in this case by about 5%. It is sometimes said that the church is always 'asking for money': this is not so here, but the churches belong to the village and are an important part of our heritage. There is no government grant of any kind and the churches are entirely dependent on local people. We ask regular churchgoers to increase their giving by 5% this coming year and we also invite villagers to contribute to their village church and gift aid anything that they give.



18 December

- 11.00am Llantilio Crossenny
Carols Service with Choir
- 4.00pm Llanfapley Carol Service
- 6.30pm Penrhos Carol Service

22 December

- 6.30pm Llanvetherine Christingle
and Nativity Play

Christmas Eve

- 4.00pm Llantilio Crossenny
Christingle and Crib Service

**11.30pm Midnight Holy
Communion in
Llanvetherine**

Christmas Day

- 10.30am Christmas Day
Holy Communion Service
Llanfapley

Llanvapley News

Sports and Social Association

The LSSA committee met in November to discuss forthcoming social events in the village. The role of the committee is to maintain the village hall / sports pavillion - which means paying all the bills and making sure the hall is kept tidy. Without the LSSA the pavillion would not be open and the field would be given back to the council and no doubt be returned to its original use. The council requires the LSSA to maintain the field in good condition and to this end there has been a great deal of work taking place to clear the ditch which drains into the brook. A number of people were involved in this activity but particular thanks go to Owen Marsh who brought in machinery to ensure the ditch remains clear for some time to come. The LSSA have organised a number of events in the coming weeks which are open to anyone in the Llantilio group of parishes. The committee hope you can support these events.

Saturday 3rd December - 2.15 pm - Village Walk to Llandewi Rhydderch and back Llandewi village hall has a brand new bar which will be open for the Wales - Australia match will be shown on the big screen

Saturday 10th December - 7pm - Curry Night in the pavillion. Bring along your favourite curry dish to share and warm up for Christmas!

Thursday 29th December - 11am - Village walk to Pantygelli return by taxi. This event is fast becoming a part of Christmas in Llanvapley. Enjoy a healthy six mile walk around the Skirrid and then relax with a meal and drink in the Crown. Everyone welcome.

Everyone in Llanvapley will wish Doris Evans a speedy recovery after an operation in November. Doris spent a short time away recuperating with family after the operation but she is now back home and on the mend. Myron Leader is making slow but positive progress and is much supported by his loving family and friends.

Wulfstan Cooper was welcomed in baptism last month at St Mabli. Wulfstan is the son of Alexander and Carolyn Cooper and the grandson of Graham and Bubbles Cooper.

The Christmas Day Group Service will be held this year at Llanfapley starting at 10.30am

Christmas Recipe - We Three Kings Ale

A refreshing blend of three types of grain and three types of hops. A stellar ale well worth following!

7 pounds of crushed pale malt
1 ounce of crushed crystal malt
8 ounces of maize
2 ounces of Goldings hops
1 ounce of Fuggles of hops
Half an ounce of Bramling Cross hops
Yeast
8 ounces of soft brown sugar

Mash the grains for an hour at 66 degrees centigrade and then strain. Boil the sugary liquid for an hour and half with the first two hops. Add the final batch of hops in the last 15 minutes. Strain the liquid and add the sugar. Add the yeast when cool. Leave for a week and then siphon into a barrel with an extra couple of ounces of sugar.

Warning.....not to be given to new born babies!

From Tom Taylor.....I made the vegetable moussaka featured in TNT a couple of months ago and I'm pleased to say I can heartily recommend the recipe! I made it for my family when some friends came to visit in the autumn and it was a hit. It was a straight forward recipe to follow and the cheese sauce topping is something I hadn't tried before. One of my favourite things about moussaka (and other Greek specialties) is the presence of nutmeg and oregano which don't feature too much in English dishes. It's really refreshing to taste such flavours! Being a mediterranean dish it wasn't too heavy and goes very well with a salad but is hearty enough to be eaten at any time of year. In the past I have made moussaka using a different style of topping - adding a beaten egg to Greek yogurt which is then spread over the top. This makes the dish slightly lighter but is arguably less traditional. Anyone who hasn't tried making moussaka should attempt this recipe - it's a great meal to add to your repertoire!