

Services for February 2012

Sunday 29 January	No service	
Sunday 5 February	9.30am 11.00am	Llanvetherine Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 12 February	9.30am 11.00am	Penrhos Llanfapley
Sunday 19 February <i>1st of Lent</i>	9.30am 11.00am	Llanvetherine Llantilio Crossenny
Wednesday 22 February Ash Wednesday	7.30pm	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 26 February <i>Lent 1</i>	9.30am 11.00am	Penrhos Llanfapley
Sunday 4 March <i>Lent 2</i>	9.30am 11.00am	Llanvetherine Llantilio Crossenny

Tricia Luxmoore-Ball is overseeing the signing of the contracts that will enable repairs to Llantilio Crossenny Church and re-decorate the interior walls. There will be a PCC meeting of Llantilio Crossenny Church on Thursday February 16 at 7.30pm. On the agenda will be building matters and future dates for the summer.

Mothering Sunday is on 18 March and there will be a Family Service in Llantilio Crossenny at 11.00am that day. We just hope that the daffodils now budding in this crazy season will still be available.

There will be a Jubilee Service on Sunday 3 June at 11.00am in Llantilio Crossenny Church. This will be Community Service involving people from different parts of our community especially the children.

The deadline for the March edition of TNT is **20 March**
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

February 2012



Snowdrops but no snow!

PENRHOS
 LLANTILIO CROSSENNY
 LLANVETHERINE
 LLANVAPLEY

From the Vicarage

The New Times attempts to be a truly community newsletter and not just a diary of church events. This month, the valued contributions appear to be about getting involved in the community. Most people bemoan the loss of a pub or school and then reminisce about how much better things were many years ago when we had a cricket team, skittles and dances etc.



These were clearly good things in their day and the memory of them is very clear in many people's minds. All of them needed organisers and they happened in a time when there was less going on and travel was less common. The times when people do get together in our villages are often spontaneous and hugely enjoyed: we are probably not people who want to live in each other's pockets, and we prize our independence. There is however, a wonderful spirit of such caring friendship here that it spills over into times of celebration.

This month sees the beginning of Lent and I think that it would be better not just to give up things, but do something positive that will make our lives here and elsewhere that much more. A good idea is to give up one meal each week in Lent and gift-aid it to charity: if we each did that the world would be a better place and so might we be!

Do come to the service on Ash Wednesday Evening: this ancient service goes back hundreds of years and encourages us to first look back, sometimes with regret, and then looks forward to Easter and new hope in our lives.

All good wishes

Your friend and Vicar

David

New organ arrives in Llanvapley.

The organ at Llanvapley Church has given good service for a number of years and a long line of organists have worked wonders to encourage good singing from congregations large and small. Recently the organ has been showing signs of old age and has been known to stop working during a hymn to the consternation of the vicar and the congregation. The problem was patched up and the organ has "soldiered" on regardless!

Despite the organ refusing to give up, the PCC began discussions to replace the organ by something more suitable. After much internet research by our organist Robert Walker a replacement organ was found at a price which was considered to be reasonable and affordable. The organ has now arrived and was played for the first time in a service on 22nd January. It is hoped to organise an event later in February order to give people a better chance to hear what it can do.



Anthony Bogdan who sold the organ, Robert Walker, David Wilkinson from Viscount Organs and Peter Marchant of Llanvapley Church PCC

The Five Peaks Challenge

On Saturday 14 April 2012 Llanvapley PCC is organising a charity fundraising event in the Brecon Beacons National Park. The aim is to climb 5 peaks in one day. The peaks are Pen-y-fan, Cribyn, the Sugar Loaf, the Bloreng and the Skirrid. There will be more details of this event in next month's TNT with details of how you can get involved by either joining in or sponsoring the team who will attempt this challenge. All funds raised will be divided between Help for Heroes and Llanvapley Church.

Llanvapley News

Cunning metal thief causes problems in Llanvapley Church tower

I am sure everyone is aware of the crime of metal theft and the problems caused by it. Rural churches in many areas have been the targets for the criminals who are happy to strip the lead off the church roof and pull the gutters down for the sake of a few pounds from a dodgy scrap metal dealer. Most of this happens in the dead of night and it is therefore good to know the police patrol this area at night looking for suspicious vehicles. So far none of our churches have been targeted but a problem has arisen in Llanvapley when a hole was spotted in one of the gutters high on the church tower.

The hole was quite large and it appeared that it had been caused by something chewing away at the lead. It could have been caused by a bird but it seems that the most likely candidate would be one of the squirrels which live in the churchyard. The tower is close to a sweet chestnut tree and it seems one particularly agile squirrel must jump off the tree and onto the tower. It seems squirrels like to chew lead in order to keep their teeth sharp.

Llanvapley PCC has decided not to take direct action against the little furry metal thief – all things bright and beautiful and all that! Instead it has decided to leave samples of lead around in the hope the squirrel will sharpen his teeth on something which will not damage the fabric of the church. Any other ideas?



Village News

Could you be a Community Councillor?

The elections for our local Community Council are on May 3 and residents are invited to put their name forward for election. The Council is consulted and makes decisions about a whole range of matters including planning applications. If you would like to know more please email the Community Council Clerk on katherinejordan1@hotmail.com or write to her at - Mrs Katherine Jordan, 3 Chapel Orchard, Abergavenny NP7 7BQ.

A number of local social events are being planned and one of them is a walk and pub lunch on Saturday 4 February organised by Celia Bryan. It will be a gentle walk starting at 11.00am at Warwick's and finishing at the same place for lunch. Pre-order your food at the pub. Tel. 01600 780227 For menu see www.warwickspub.blogspot.com. Organised by the Talycoed branch of AA (Amblers Association "Take the rush out of rambling") Dogs welcome on the walk (as long as accompanied by a well-behaved owner).

Looking further ahead to the Jubilee Celebrations, a number of ideas are being suggested and following the success of the Royal Wedding Party, something similar is being planned. If you would like to help or have ideas please let TNT know, but whatever you do, don't complain that nothing ever happens or leave it to others to organise!.

We are sorry to learn of Adrian Watkin's farming accident and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Although it is a while ago, TNT would like to record many thanks to all those people who helped with the Christmas Services. Lots of people came to sing carols and hear readings, and perhaps most remarkable of all, where did all the children come from? It was a delight to see so many children holding candles and singing 'Away in a manger'. Our thanks to all those who made Christingles, read lessons, sang carols, made mince-pies and Christmas Punch etc. The choir at the Carol Service in Llantilio Crossenny was much appreciated by a lot of People and will hopefully sing at the Jubilee Service in June.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday this year is on Wednesday 22 February and there will be a service of the imposition of ashes and holy communion in the sanctuary of Llantilio Crossenny Church. We hope that members of all our churches will be able to come and mark the beginning of the season of Lent in this quiet and reflective service.

There will not be a service on St David's Day, 1 March; David Osborn will be celebrating Holy Communion in Westminster Abbey and our MP, David Davies, is hoping to be present along with others from the parish.

LLANTILIO CROSSENNY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our December meeting everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable evening for our Christmas meal at Warwicks, Talycoed. Sue and Alan were great hosts, the meals were delicious and we finished off the evening singing carols led by Lin Morris. At our January meeting we welcomed Michelle Bradley, who is training to become a W.I. Adviser. She gave an interesting talk about the history of the W.I., starting with its origins in Canada and briefly outlined how the W.I. had developed in the U.K. The first W.I. was in Wales at Llanfair -pg in 1915. The first elected chairman of the NFWI was Lady Denman and in 1948 her name was used in the opening of Denman College. Michelle ended her talk with a short quiz.

During the business side of the meeting Jo Dawson from the Gwent committee helped us through the organising and procedures for this year's resolutions.

The next meeting will be on the 8th February when Don Balkwill, Abergavenny Chronicle, will bring a selection of grandmothers' gadgets for us to test our knowledge. Llantilio Crossenny W.I. meet at Llanvapley Pavilion at 7pm on the second Wednesday of the month and new members are always welcomed.

Congratulations to Dennis Ball who reached 80 last month! Dennis still working full time and wish him many more happy years.

News from Llanvetherine

St James's Church was packed

to standing room only on the evening of 22 December for the Nativity-Christingle Service organised by Bethan North and helpers, the worship led by The Revd David Osborn. The traditional nativity story was supplemented by



some novel cameos ensuring

that every child or young adult could join in. This was the first nativity for many years and there were many comments about how well Bethan ensured this was a memorable festive evening underlining the true Christmas Message.

The now traditional Llanvetherine New Year's Day walk involved almost 50 villagers five miles across some of our beautiful local landscape and encouraging festive social exchange. Thanks are due to those landowners who kindly gave permission to cross their private land, providing some lovely and unusual views of the locality. The walk ended at Great Trerhew Farm for bacon butties and mulled wine, many thanks to the Bevan family for their kind hospitality.

The Annual Village Draw and Quiz took place at the Hog's Head on the evening of 20 January attended by enthusiasts who ensured that full concentration was given to searching general knowledge questions – an extra round fully endorsed by all. Thanks are due to Shirley and David Hughes- Jones, Andrew and Sally Dawson and the staff of the Hog's Head. £1200 was raised as well as a very generous and anonymous donation towards the fund for expensive and essential safety repairs to the bell frame in the tower.