

Services in February 2013

Sunday 3 February	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>2nd before Lent</i>	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 10 February	9.30am	Penrhos : Baptism of Evan Adams
<i>1st before Lent</i>	11.00am	Llanfapley
<i>The Bishop's Lent Pastoral Letter will be read in Churches today</i>		
Wednesday 13 February	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
		Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 16 February	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>Lent 1</i>	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 24 February	9.30am	Penrhos
<i>Lent 2</i>	11.00am	Llanfapley
Sunday 3 March	9.30am	Llanvetherine
<i>Lent 3</i>	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 10 March		Mothering Sunday

The Christmas season in **Llanfapley** came to life on 8 December with an excellent concert of carols and songs given by Vital Spark, a choir from Great Malvern. Thanks to everyone who came along and made this concert such a success.

Llanfapley Carol Service was held on the Friday before Christmas. The service was very well supported by the village and everyone enjoyed the traditional nine lessons and carols by candlelight. The service coincided with the Llanfapley Sports and Social Christmas party in the village hall and a great evening was had by all.

It was our great pleasure to hold a special service on the Sunday before Christmas to celebrate Canon David's 70th birthday. The Bishop of Monmouth gave the sermon and a special birthday cake was presented to David made by Fiona Lowes which featured a narrowboat on the top.

Congratulations to Martin Cull and Sián Edwards on their engagement. The wedding is planned for June next year

THE NEW TIMES

February 2013



**PENRHOS
LLANTILIO CROSSENNY
LLANVETHERINE
LLANVAPLEY**



From the Vicarage 2

A happy New Year!

February sees the beginning of Lent and is a time of re-thinking our lives. Our lives can be compared to a garden in many ways. The best gardens are now being sorted out for the summer:

weeds are being rooted out, debris cleared away and space made for plants and shrubs.

On Ash Wednesday, 13 February at 7.30pm in Llantilio Crossenny, there is an opportunity to reflect on our inner lives and outward actions: a service in which to spiritually renew ourselves in order to become the people God intended us to be. Based on the Holy Communion Service it will involve the ancient rite of making the mark of the cross with ashes from last year's palm cross on each person's forehead as a symbol of penitence and renewal.

It seems a long time ago now but thank you to all those who helped with the Christmas services, especially to the 'three wise men' who put the star up over St Teilo's Church, (what an incredible contribution to Christmas 2012!).

If you know of people in hospital please let the Vicarage know. I am always happy to make a visit – just leave a message with a name and ward number.

If you have signed up to go up the spire, the date is set for Saturday 9 February between 10am and 12 noon

Ash Wednesday

Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.



Your friend and Vicar

David



My daughter Bethan North and her friend Kitty Williams held a Coffee Morning to raise money for Cancer Research Wales and the Oncology Department at Nevill Hall Hospital.

The hall at Llanddewi Skirrid, was booked for Saturday December 8 at 10.30am. and by 10am Bethan and Kitty had everything arranged. Stall holders had set out their wares

and the trestle tables were groaning under the weight of the wonderful cakes that Bethan, Kitty and others had made. There were cup cakes decorated as beautiful as any that I have ever seen, a gingerbread house, sponges, fruitcakes and a whole lot more that had been generously donated. I placed my tin of mince pies down and was immediately told to sit down and enjoy myself.

Kitty had enlisted the help of Eleri, Cerys, Harri, Jack and Sam to collect the entrance fee and “man” the cake stalls whilst Joe and Eli, my grandchildren, took charge of the children’s craft table. They had also been busy making Christmas gift labels which they sold for 20p each. Then the people started to arrive and the hall was soon buzzing with laughter, chat and Christmas music. I was uncharacteristically speechless at the support that was shown.

Kitty and Bethan totted up the money. Amazingly £930 was counted and this was generously made up to £1,000. Over the next few weeks another £150 was collected. A wonderful cheque for £500 was made to the Oncology Department and £650 for Cancer Research Wales at Felindre Hospital.

I would like to give my heart-warming thanks to everyone that supported us on that morning but especially to my dear daughter Bethan and our very special friend Kitty.
Shirley Hughes-Jones



The cast of the Penrhos Nativity Play, produced by Amy Phillips



There was a dramatic arrival at Upper Whitecastle on 21 January. Rob Hoggins safely delivered his daughter Mabel Victoria (7lb 3oz). Chrissie and Mabel are doing well – congratulations to all the family!

.Judy Clement tell us.....The rainfall in Llantilio Crossenny 2012 was 1322mm (or 52.5in) which is the highest figure I have recorded since 1997 when we moved into the village. The year 2000 quoted as higher rainfall across the UK was not higher here (1172mm or 46.14in). The lowest rainfall in the 16 years was 2003 with 607.5mm or 23.9in.

The spire shingles are being put on this month and the contractors are working from the base upwards. There is still time to have a tile inscribed and they are in church. The deadline is the end of the month: they cost £5 each and you can write whatever you feel appropriate about yourself on them!

Rob Heath is recovering slowly from an ankle operation and we wish him well as he hops around.

Penrhos News

Congratulations to Jenny and Windsor, on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Harry Windsor Howells, born on 3rd January at 7lb 4oz. A first grandchild for Colin and Yvonne Phillips, of Pretty Hedges, Penrhos and a first great-grandchild for George and Ruth Phillips, Dairy Farm Penrhos.

On a sadder note, Patricia Ridley -Jones died earlier this month and her funeral will be on Saturday 2 February, 11.30am at the Forest of Dean Crematorium.

Penrhos had its first Nativity with the Carol service. What a brilliant job Amy Phillips did organising the children and getting them to perform the most beautiful story. Holly Flynn did an excellent job narrating the story. We then went on to High House Barn for mulled wine and mince pies - thank you to Richard and Fiona Cleeves for letting us use the Barn and thank you to the ladies who decorated the church for the Christmas period.

New Arrival in Llanfapley

Ria and Gareth O'Reilly of Sunnybank, Llanfapley are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Charlie. Charlie's arrival has made Andrew and Annette Melmorth of Forest Coal Pit and Jeff and Barbara O'Reilly of Blackwood, delighted first time grandparents. Charlie was born in

Neville Hall on December 22nd. Mother and baby are both doing well.

It is good to see Jim Andrews back home and recovering from a rather difficult hip-op: he is progressing very well now.

The Bishop of Monmouth will be giving a series of Bible Studies at five venues across the diocese looking at some of the Letters of St Paul. These will take place over five weeks and each evening will begin at 7.30 pm and finish by 8.15 pm. The local venue is in Raglan and will take place on Mondays 18, 25 February 4, 11 and 18 March at St Cadoc's Church Raglan.

The Christmas Eve Crib service in Llantilio Crossenny is different. It involves the children, and how it is lovely to see them. They are welcome to run around the church, exactly as it should be- no telling off or reprimands to be quiet!! . The service starts with a lovely welcome by the vicar, making it clear that everyone is welcome in the church, whether they are young or old, noisy or quiet, regular or a stranger. The children do the readings, the singing and the placing of the characters in the crib. For someone who rarely goes to church it is very welcoming, unobtrusive, and right. It is the involvement of the children that makes it. This year, we had readings by the Trumper family, singing by Molly Brickley-Clark and prayers by the Heath family - while they all played a major part and really took everyone's breath away, the best moment, and the moment I will always remember all the time, and every single year, is the placing of the Christmas characters in the crib. The congregation waits with baited breath to see what the children, in their innocence, will say when deciding who goes where. It is always an individual moment, and no two moments are the same- sometimes there are comments about the sheep or their exact breeding, the camel, and this year, whether or not to place the rogue dinosaur in the crib! No-one can ever know how the children will react to the moment, and that is exactly how it should be. Mothers and fathers, grandparents, aunties and uncles and other family members are so proud to see their relations even just taking part. The adults do their bit by singing the carols and taking part in the service, but it is the younger element of the congregation that make it- you just never know what they are going to say! The innocence they display in the world is astonishing and really reveals the message of Christ's mass. Christmas would really not be complete without it- it is honestly the best part! J C-B

The snow put paid to Llanvetherine's Quiz Night but Warwicks are holding their quiz on Wednesday 30 January at 7.30pm Tickets are £2 and proceeds will go to a local charity.

The Llantilio Bell ringers go from strength to strength and are delighted to announce the appointment of Richard Booth as tower captain. The group are making good progress and are starting to learn how to play in rounds. The bells in Llantilio are thought to be quite light compared to other churches but it hasn't stopped a number of minor problems. The movement of the bell is controlled by a wooden stay which holds the bell at the top balance point. They sometimes break and the team have had to learn how to replace a broken stay which is found next to the bell high up in the tower. Our thanks to Gwynn Sayce and his team for all their help.

On Friday 28th December the LSSA held its annual post Christmas walk over to the Crown Inn at Pantygelli. The weather was mild and everyone was ready for refreshments once the pub was reached. The event will be held again in December and is not to be missed!



Children's Corner

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed the school holidays. You may think that a picture of the Three Wise men is a little strange for this time of the year.

The 6th of January is when we celebrate Epiphany. Epiphany is a Christian Holiday that falls on the 6th of January each year. This is the twelfth day after Christmas and concludes the season. This day is associated with the visit of the wise men to the Christ child. Through the three kings, Christ revealed himself to the gentiles (people who were not Jews).

Please colour, paint, decorate this picture and take it along to your church to be displayed. If you would like something a little different to a picture to colour, such as a word search, within the next months New Times Newsletter, please contact me. I look forward to seeing your work in the Churches.



Name.....

Age.....

Telephone Number.....