

# THE NEW TIMES



## FEBRUARY 2008

**PENRHOS  
LLANTILIO CROSSENNY  
LLANVETHERINE  
LLANVAPLEY**

Sunday 3 FEBRUARY	09.30am	Llanvetherine
Sunday before Lent	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 10 FEBRUARY	09.30am	Penrhos
Lent1	11.00am	Llanvapley
Sunday 17 FEBRUARY	09.30am	Llanvetherine
Lent2	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 24 FEBRUARY	09.30am	Penrhos
Lent3		
Sunday 2 MARCH	9.30am	Llanvetherine
Mothering Sunday	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny

# From the Vicarage

## Lent For Living

'I'm selling my television and buying a cook book' joked a parishioner recently. There are a lot of cooking programmes on TV but equally a lot of time is given to dieting and healthier life styles. In Lent, it has been the tradition to give up something, not always successfully though. The idea is that throughout the six weeks of Lent, which begins this year on 6 February, we concentrate our minds on less worldly things in the preparation of Easter.

If you are not of a religious frame of mind, or don't go to church, (and these two things are NOT necessarily the same thing) then the season of Lent in the Christian Calendar may well pass you by.

However, how about Lent for the *'not sure I'm religious crowd'*? Studies show that people who neglect their spiritual or inner life are less happy than those who recognise their spiritual nature as important. The trouble is though; that the God who the Church appears to portray may not be the God the people who don't go to Church think might exist. Lots of people believe in God but don't darken the church door - they have a spiritual nature, which is often very aware of the world around them and its inner meanings.

So *Lent for the not so religious?* It sounds an interesting idea. What might it be? Overleaf is a list of 5 points you might think about.....

- 1) Give up something or have less of something like chocolate or alcohol
- 2) Use what you save on 1 to do something that helps another person or group to benefit
- 3) Spend 5 minutes a day in silent reflection on your own. Just ponder on life's good things and the people who love you
- 4) Tell the people who are important in your life how much they mean to you
- 5) Have one outrageous 'binge day' during the six weeks of Lent.

Religion, and particularly Christianity is about affirming life not denying. Bertrand Russell the philosopher, who struggled with religion all his life, was, according to his daughter sometimes on the edge of acknowledging that God existed. He was put off not by the idea of a loving God, but by the life denying, prejudiced and cold-hearted people who he knew claimed to be Christian. Our spiritual lives are important wherever we are on the belief scale. Perhaps Lent is a time to reflect on ourselves and the meaning of our existence as human beings.

Your friend and Vicar

*David*

## News from the Villages

There was a celebration last month at Llanvetherine when Cerys Jones Powell was baptised. It was good to see all the family and many friends there - and a village church in good heart.

1008 mm! That's the figure for rainfall recorded at Llantilio Crossenny last year. Monmouth was a little less at 992.8mm, which is the 5th wettest year since records began in 1929. Thanks to Roy Nicholas for keeping us up to date.

The Llantilio Crossenny Social Club is holding a Bingo Night on Friday 15 February in the Hog's Head starting at 7.00pm.

Penrhos PCC meets on Monday 18 February at 7.30pm - venue to be arranged.

Llantilio Crossenny Church now has a new guide to the Church. It has some stunning colour photographs and there are copies at the back of Church costing £1 each.

The big event for Llantilio Crossenny next month is the visit of the Cowbridge Male Voice on St David's Day, Saturday 1 March. The concert by this well-known choir begins at 7.30pm and tickets can be obtained from PCC members costing £10 and this includes an interval glass of wine. Do come along and support this event, which is in aid of the building fund of the church.

At the PCC meeting of Llantilio Crossenny, Trish Luxmoore outlined the steps they need to take in order to refurbish the church. We studied her impressive flowchart with interest.

Quotes are being obtained and grants will be applied for in due course. The work includes a complete lime washing of the inside, and upgrade to the heating and the installation of a small kitchen and toilet.

In the meantime, Llanvapley are further on with their refurbishment. A sterling job is being done to ensure the quotes obtained square with the grants promised and hopefully the work will start in the early summer.

The Women's' Institute had a good meeting last month reviving memories of wartime London. In February, the meeting on Wednesday 13 February is about armchair aerobics - now there's a thought!

Mothering Sunday is early this year! There will be services at Llanvetherine and Llantilio Crossenny to celebrate Mothering Sunday when the children will receive the traditional bunch of daffodils to give to Mum.

At the end of March, Llanvapley will be dedicating their new bible. This has been bought by a number of Llanvapley people whose names will appear in the flyleaf - many in memory of loved ones. The dedication will take place in the Group Service on Sunday 30 March at 11.00am - the only service that day in the group.

