

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

As I write, it's a beautifully sunny day, and the signs of Spring are all around us.

Yesterday, for the first time this year I opened the windows to let in the fresh air and sunshine – it felt good!

We have endured for too long the cold, dark days of winter – not just physically, but emotionally and maybe even spiritually too. But now, at long last, the new shoots of hope and new life are springing up from what appeared to be barren ground.

It brings to mind the words of Kahlil Gibran,

“Like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity.”

Our lock-down has often felt as if we were the ones “dreaming beneath the snow”; the ground around us being cold and hard, the terrain before us tough.

Yet there are signs that the warm weather is also releasing us from our long hibernation.

And just as the shoots of the flowers seek the light and warmth of the sun, so may our hearts and souls turn towards the goodness of our Creator, and trust in his love for us all.

“Cast all your anxiety upon the Lord, for He cares for you.” (1Peter 5:7).

With every blessing to you all,

Heidi

Llantilio Churchyard is the place to visit on St David's Day if you want to see a host of golden daffodils. This year should be even better following new planting last year. However, at a nearby church, just outside our parishes, a local resident has gone further and last autumn planted a thousand daffodils in celebration of the patron saint of the church – St David. Where would you go to see a these daffodils? Turn to the last page to find the answer.

(If you were wondering how long it takes to plant a thousand bulbs then it is two days with the help of a special drill attachment off eBay.)



Monmouth Diocese – all change to our parish churches?

The February edition of TNT reported on proposals from the Diocese that affect our churches. Churchwardens in all our four churches have become increasingly concerned after finding out that the proposals could mean that our church PCCs will no longer exist and all our funds would be managed by the new group known as the Ministry Area Council.

The Diocese has now released further information. Full details of the changes can be found online in two documents known as the 'Governance toolkit' and the 'Finance toolkit'. They can be downloaded by clicking on the link below.

<https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/ministry-areas/>

Following this, there has been much activity, which the New Times can share with our readers:

Churchwardens met on Sunday 21st February to discuss the new information in the 'toolkits'. In these discussions it was decided to send a joint letter from the churchwardens of all our parishes to Bishop Cherry.

In the letter, the deeply held concerns about the recently received Ministry Area proposals and toolkits were expressed. It was felt that the Diocese had chosen to spring these radical and revolutionary changes upon our community without meaningful consultation, at an extraordinary time and in a somewhat unfeeling way.

It was considered that the documents provided gave no indication as to how the day to day practical management of our contribution to local communities would function and did not explain how our locally raised funds would be ring-fenced, in order to avoid them being used outside their intended communities. If money raised locally could not be accounted for on a strictly local basis, there was fear that local giving would reduce significantly, and so inexorably lead to the very church closures and consequent drop in income to the Diocese that the Ministry Area proposals ostensibly was seeking to avoid.

The letter recognised that the church currently faced many problems, but respectfully submitted that the removal of financial autonomy from small but financially sustainable groups of rural parishes, such as ours, could not be considered part of a sensible solution to problems faced by the wider church.

There was a desire to assist the Diocese in any way possible, but the wardens did not see how, on the basis of the information currently available, they could comply with an imprecise "decree" from above that undermined their roles and responsibilities and would rob us of our financial independence.

Bishop Cherry replied speedily to the letter and attempted to explain how the concerns would be dealt with.

She recognised that the questions and concerns were legitimate. She advised they would be addressed directly in the meetings that were scheduled for each of the Ministry Areas and acknowledged that it was unfortunate for us that the proposed Abergavenny Ministry Area's meeting was after Easter. For this reason, she had recently met with some of the clergy of the Abergavenny area, along with the Diocesan Secretary and Archdeacon, to discuss the plans with them and how they might work. The aim of this meeting was to ensure that clergy would now be in a better position to discuss our concerns with us. Fr. Julian Grey (Llantilio Pertholey), as the Ministry Area Leader, and Revd. Gaynor Burrett (Grosmont) are both fully behind the plans, and would be working with us over the next weeks to clarify some of the detail and hopefully reassure us over some of our concerns.

Once the scheduled April meeting with the Abergavenny Ministry Area group has been held, she has assured us that the congregations in the group will have the chance to be fully involved in working out together how the plan can be implemented in our particular Ministry Area, in ways that work for us and honour the church's life in our rural communities.

She pointed out that, although there are broad principles that apply to all Ministry Areas, as much flexibility as is possible has been allowed for. This will respect the very different contexts that make up our diocese, such as our rural communities.

Meetings are also being planned specifically for the treasurers, so they can talk through, with the diocesan staff, how the finance arrangements are going to work.

She wrote that whilst the plans signal changes that might feel unwelcome, we should be assured that the Diocese wants the best for all our churches and for them to have a sustainable future.

Churchwardens have arranged to meet again on 14th March to discuss the Bishop's reply in detail.

The diocese has arranged a virtual Ministry Area meeting on Thursday 15th April 7.30pm. At this moment we understand that it will be possible for up to six people from each parish to attend this meeting. Full details on how to get involved will be given in next month's TNT.

Please contact Revd. Heidi if you wish to voice your opinions on these changes or if you wish for further information llantiliovicar@aol.com 01600 780240.

Suggestions for change Following the announcement of changes in the governance of our churches, TNT has been contacted by a Llantilio resident who has commented on a number of aspects of how the Church in Wales is run.

- The Church should employ full time leaders/preachers and risk finding the money to pay for them. It is called Faith!
- Cassocks and gowns should not be worn routinely for everyday occasions such as visiting or normal services: a dog collar and jeans is more than sufficient
- Prune back on the upper hierarchy of the diocese – too many layers under the Bishops.
- Cut back on investing in man-made investments. Building bigger barns is not helpful – people are the ones needing ‘investment’
- Concentrate and invest in local people. Spending time getting involved in their own activities and lives. This cannot be done from afar. I have always maintained that once you get “more bums on seats”, the income looks after itself. Most people think that if they receive a visit from the local vicar it will be because they want to raise money for the church roof. “That’s all they want me for” would not be an uncommon reaction
- Church leaders should not blindly follow what they are told to do by the rich and powerful or the government. There should be a healthy attitude of questioning everything and keeping one eye on the Bible and its relevance to what is happening in the world. No one should be afraid to present alternative viewpoints for debate.
- Open up the churches immediately. Hold services outdoors where possible – do not insist on useless mask wearing.
- Encourage all to believe that God is in control. More use of the Bible in services – not just boring predictable readings dictated by the local diocese
- More well-known hymns – reduce 'thees' and 'thous' in hymns and prayers – perhaps using different musical instruments which many (non-church goers) would be happy to participate in.
- Less frequent use and modernisation of the ancient Communion service
- PCC members could be an unofficial group of feedback advisors? More centralisation is not necessarily a good thing – especially if the motive is to ‘save money’. The local vicar should be more able to make changes to suit the local situation. One size fits all approach is gone! People do not want to be controlled by “those in authority” God gave us free speech – we should use it.

Riding Lights Theatre Company is based in York but is very well known in our four parishes. In November 2016 they came to Llantilio Crossenny Church and presented a performance of Simeon's Watch. Those of you who were there will no doubt remember the excellent acting, the power cut in the first half and the sound of hooting of owls in the second half! They last appeared on Mothering Sunday 2016 (pictured) when they did a short performance as part of the service.



A new play known as '**Breaking Day**' has been created by Riding Lights for this lockdown Easter and a trailer is available on their website.

www.ridinglights.org/breaking-day-trailer

The complete performance will be available to watch at no cost for all residents of our four parishes. Just contact any of your churchwardens, and you will be sent a link so that you can watch **Breaking Day** on your computer, tablet or Smart TV, at any time convenient for you, between 5pm March 19th and 5pm 15th April. There will be no charge, but donations to any of the parishes would be most welcome! Here are some details about the play.



As day begins to break on Good Friday, the occupying Governor's tenuous grip on authority is slipping. It's festival time in Jerusalem but his wife is plagued with disturbing dreams. Amid the demands of the Sanhedrin and the murderous cries of the mob, the lines between personal and political in Pilate's house start to blur. The teacher at the centre of it all remains silent. Confused by the hopes and fears of her people, a Jewish servant in the Praetorium clearly knows more than she should. Pilate wrestles with a quandary of his own devising, while outside momentum is gathering – the power of the Capitol in tension with the will of the people.

With stark intimacy, **Breaking Day** casts a surprising light on the death of Jesus from inside the Governor's household, immersing us in the decisions that led to crucifixion. Filmed remotely in an innovative lockdown style, **Breaking Day** is a virtual passion play performed by Riding Lights Theatre Company for Easter 2021.

Sean Cavanagh

Where will you be on Sunday 21th March?

On Sunday 21st March most of us will be at home. This is because it is a Sunday and during the period of Covid-19 restrictions most of us are following the rules and staying put. This year Sunday 21st is important because it is the day of the national census. Sunday has been chosen as it is the day when it is most likely we will be at home.

This is a very different situation to the story told in the Bible (Luke 2:1) in which a census was taken by Caesar Augustus, which forced Mary and Joseph to leave their home in Nazareth and go to Bethlehem. The census at that time was for the purpose of tax. 2021 years later the census is still about money. However, it is more about how the government is going to spend its money rather than how it is going to raise money.

There are a lot of questions in the census. There will be questions about the household and the people who live in it. This year for the first time we are able to do our civic duty online, although paper copies will be available. I would expect everyone to think carefully about all the questions but I would guess that for many question 16 would certainly make you stop and think. Below is a table showing the results of Q16 for the 2011 census.

Total: All usual residents aged 3 and over	53,961,451	100.00%
Christian	32,360,924	59.97%
No religion	13,347,198	24.73%
Religion not stated	3,815,773	7.07%
Muslim	2,516,595	4.66%
Hindu	782,696	1.45%
Sikh	406,282	0.75%
Jewish	252,383	0.47%
Buddhist	242,381	0.45%
Other religion	237,219	0.44%

In 2011 there were more than 32 million people (60%) who considered themselves to be Christians. However, a third of the population either have no religion or did not state a religion. It wouldn't be surprising to find examples of people from all the major religions in our four parishes - certainly it would be easy to find a Buddhist in Penrhos.

However, it would be surprising to come across someone who would have ticked the 'Any other religion' box. According to reports from the last census, 'Jedi' and 'Heavy Metal' were popular choices amongst the people who said they had a different religion to the choices given!

What To Do About Lent?

Revd. Lorraine Cavanagh has written the following article which appears on her blog and which can be found at <https://bit.ly/3bhxGUE>

People are too tired, discouraged and generally fed up to be able to take on Lent. But the season is upon us, so what are we to do with it?

I admire those who can claim that Lent is a time of renewal and refreshment. Right now, I doubt many of us can think of it in that way, if we're honest about it. We have had almost a year of Lenten privation, but without the sense of joyful anticipation and purpose that should normally accompany this season. People are too tired, discouraged and generally fed up to be able to take on Lent. But the season is upon us, so what are we to do with it?

Here I'm not just writing what I imagine a lot of Christians are feeling. I also sense that many people look forward, if those are the right words, to a period of abstinence in the calendar year. We all need to get a grip on ourselves from time to time and Lent provides us with an ideal opportunity to do this. But right now many of us simply don't have the emotional reserves to do it.

This being said, I think there is more than one way to think of Lent and to set about making the best of it. The first consists in braving out the inevitable feelings of guilt and worthlessness that accompany this season, however we choose to think of it. If I give something up and after a couple of weeks give up on giving up, I feel bad. If I banish Lent altogether and pretend to ignore it, after a couple of weeks I feel just as bad and, added to that, I also feel I'm missing out on something positive and good. This year, the last thing we need to be feeling is guilt but we don't need self-induced 'feel good' techniques either, as these seldom work even at the best of times.

In these times of deprivation there are three things that we really do need: companionship, a sense of purpose for our lives and the experience of hope. Given the present circumstances, I don't think giving things up, aiming at spiritual goals that are way beyond our capabilities, even when we are at our best, and generally trying to become someone that we're not, are going to deliver on any of these fronts. So why not try something more modest, and more humble this year?

Christians reading this post will remember that Jesus tells us to take upon himself his 'yoke' which, he says, 'is easy' and in doing so to pattern our lives on his gentleness and humility of heart. You may think that this is a soft option, but it is in fact quite hard. For one thing, it will not give you anything much to feel pleased about in regard to having achieved anything, because the point of the exercise has nothing to do with achievement. The 'yoke' is the Cross which, at face value, is the opposite of achievement. It is the sum total of failure, all of our failures, both real and imagined.... (read more by following the link above)

Llantilio Crossenny News

10,000 steps..... Yesterday I got home from work, and after a cup of tea, set out for a run! The light was going, but it was so refreshing after a day working to feel the chill on my face, smell hay, hear the birds and see the cows and calves in their sheds; AND I met a neighbour, and we had a chat which was very nice. I wouldn't normally run after work, but I had only clocked about 3,000 steps, and had committed to 10,000 a day as part of a group raising money during Lent for **CAFOD's Walk for Water Campaign**. This local group was started by Julie Lunt who some of you may know from Taize singing. There are about 20 people in the group, many from the Catholic Church in Llanarth, and others like me, friends. The hope is that we may be able to walk together at some point. The significance of 10,000 steps can be understood by watching a little film that shows an Ethiopian man, Abdella, who has to walk over 10,000 steps with his donkey every day to fetch water. (<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/about>) I thought it would be easy to achieve that daily goal – it's not! Even with work, and a run, I have only done 8,000-9,000. The only day I managed 10,000 was when I have both run and walked. Still, it's only day 6. Today I had a lovely walk from Whitecastle

towards Llanvetherine, (pictured) and realised that I have stopped walking as much because we no longer have a dog to draw me out. So it's a good thing to have a goal. If you would like to support this wonderful fundraising initiative, you can donate directly through the link below.



Jenny Goodwin

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/llanarth-and-friends-walk-for-water>

It is now just over 8 years since **Llantilio church tower** was completely refurbished. All the shingles were taken off and replaced by orange coloured oak ones. At the time people were asked to 'sponsor a shingle' and to write names on the back of the shingle.



Visitors to the church will notice the colour of the tower has mellowed since



2013 but the names on the shingles haven't faded and will still be there in a 100 years' time the next time they are replaced.

Llanvapley News

On 3rd February SSE Business Energy visited the church to install a **smart meter**. The appointment was made following confirmation that 'it would work'. The young engineer who arrived pointed at his mobile phone and said 'I think I can get some 4G'. Then a minute later he said 'I can't get a signal'. He was told he wasn't likely to get a signal in the 100 year old north vestry where the meter was. Nevertheless he said 'I have come all the way from Bristol so I might as well give it a go'. Two hours later the smart new smart meter was installed and was reading 0.00 KWh. Was it working? 'Sorry it needs a signal and there isn't one'. Llanvapley Church now has a smart meter but won't be able to take part in the revolution in energy control which was promised. So what have we learned? It's probably not a good idea to get a smart meter at the moment until there is a reliable mobile phone signal. However, there is some good news. The company who organised the appointment is happy. The company who fitted the meter is happy. The electricity company is happy. The politicians are happy and the government is happy. Why? Because all the boxes have been ticked!

Llanvapley Church mysteries Last month TNT reported about the mystery of the label on the yew tree. Thanks to some clever detective work, this has been solved. The label was in fact the original one which we believe was put on the tree by Mrs Lake. The label fell off and then a kind Llanvapley resident found it, took it home and cleaned it. The label was given some new screws and fitted to the yew tree. Since then there is another mystery which needs to be solved. Following an inspection of the church a trail of conkers was found leading to the front door. On opening the door a pile of half eaten conkers was spread around. Any ideas? Could it be the same little beastie who was responsible for this hole discovered in the church in 2019?



The **Llanvapley Sports and Social Association** committee held a virtual meeting on Friday 5th February. This was the first time the committee had met since November. It was reported that all bills were paid up to date. The hall currently remains closed for business. The first time that the hall is likely to be used will be for the Election on 6th May 2021. With this date to work towards, a working group for Covid-19 and health & safety issues met on Friday 19th February to ensure that the use of the hall meets the Government Guidelines. There are no plans to run the popular 100 Club or hold any raffles at the moment.

The field The LSSA is still waiting for the council to schedule an onsite meeting to discuss the lease. The LSSA is particularly concerned about the

conditions of the lease. It was agreed to accept an estimate of £420 plus VAT to remove the tree which has fallen over the stream. All wood to remain on site. A pollution incident has been reported to the Rivers Authority. They have not responded.

Maintenance The hall is regularly checked and seems to have survived the winter with no water problems. The annual clearing and cleaning of the gutters have been carried out by James Lowes at a price of £30. The play equipment is currently unusable due to water logging. The defibrillator is now on the National Register and appears in online searches. The equipment is regularly checked. The committee agreed to put a sign on the gate to make passers-by aware of its location.

1. Llanvapley Sports and Social Association

CRICKET CLUB PAVILION AND VILLAGE HALL
LLANVAPLEY

Llanvapley

NP78SH

Closed - Check opening times

 Send to mobile

 Services offered

 More Information

 Map/Directions

The 2020 **Annual General Meeting** on 22nd April was cancelled because of the pandemic. It was agreed to hold the 2021 AGM on **9th April at 7.30 pm via Zoom**. Notification of the Zoom AGM to be sent out to all members on the electoral roll for Llanvapley and former residents still involved in the village. Nomination forms to be distributed electronically or by hand. Several members of the Committee would like to step down this year so it was felt that every effort should be made to encourage new committee members to join. The Cricket Club are to be invited to attend the AGM Zoom meeting. Cricket club members who do not live in the village are not able to vote. However, it was felt it would be beneficial for them to attend as guests. The committee is in the process of setting up an email list to enable it to communicate with as many LSSA members (ie Llanvapley residents) as easily as possible. Residents must give their permission to be on this list and the committee urges everyone to be on the list. LSSA emails will in future come from 'The Secretary' and the email address will be :-

llanvapleyvillagecommittee@gmail.com

It would be helpful for members on the email list to add the above address to their contacts / address book in order to prevent LSSA emails ending up in spam / junk mail folders.

Events The Committee agreed to set dates for the usual BBQ and Autumn Quiz. Whether these events take place would be dependent upon Government Guidelines.

End of Summer BBQ – Friday 27 August 2021

Quiz – Friday 22 October 2021

LSSA events are open to everyone not just village residents.

It was also agreed to float the idea of re-instating the **Village Fun Day**. Fun

Days were annual events back in the 80's and 90's. Pram races, produce competitions, games for the kids, pony rides, bouncy castles and games of 'splat of the rat' – what fun! The event wasn't just organised by the LSSA committee but the whole village. The last time this happened was on 30th August 2009. By complete coincidence the 30th August 2021 is on Bank Holiday Monday which was always the date for Fun Day. This means we could reuse the sign below with a little alteration. Is this an omen? Or should just stick with the End of Summer BBQ?



Orchard Acre Market Garden Updates

The garden is emerging into spring, with snowdrops making way for daffys and crocuses. The bees are starting to get busy, hooray for our pollinators! With this past waxing moon, our first seeds were sown. Tomatoes and peppers, which we are taking care of inside on the windowsill and broad beans, leeks, chard, spinach, lettuce and beetroot are all in the polytunnel. We have also been busy clearing soft fruit from the kitchen garden to build the last of our beds for the season, these have been transplanted to other areas of the garden. There is still a little time to plant soft fruit and trees, but the sap will soon be rising so make sure these jobs are high on your garden to-do-list.



We still have a few spaces left for our veg boxes this season, so get in touch for more information:

orchardacremarketgarden@gmail.com you can also find us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/orchard.acre>

Llanvetherine News

Llanvetherine Church may have been in hibernation, like all our churches, over the winter but churchwardens and others have been busy. The picture on the right shows road works on the road past the church. After a great deal of time and effort Llanvetherine church was given the 'green light' to have a water supply installed in the churchyard. Extending the supply to the church itself would be the next stage.



Llanvetherine Churchyard It all looks good in the churchyard for March as the crocuses, primroses, celandines and snowdrops have already made a tentative appearance. Violets are a little shy and yet to display their flowers. The daffodils are also making progress but we will need to wait a while for their blooms. Having mentioned the native/wild and planted flowering plants there is also an impressive array of other “flowers” but it may be a timely reminder that artificial flowers are not permitted according to the Church in Wales regulations. There is also a lake in the churchyard showing that the water table is quite high at the moment.



David Hughes-Jones

Revd. Andrew Dawson would like to say a big thank you to those many people in our four parishes who sent cards and best wishes for his 70th birthday in January. Andrew hasn't been able to say a personal thank you owing to his current state of health, and he would like return his best wishes to you all. Andrew sent along this picture of Llanvetherine Church which was taken from the more unusual south side.



Three Pools in Llanvetherine have written an interesting article about plants for the winter. This is the first installment of a new feature all about the plant life at Three Pools. It highlights six plants within a wider category and gives interesting facts about each. The full article can be seen on their website <http://bit.ly/3usvfqZ>



White Castle Vineyard Hooray!

Spring is on the horizon and at White Castle Vineyard Robb and I have been pruning on dry days since early January. A dry day is prime time for winter pruning as it reduces the spread of any likely disease, they say a rain drop can carry a disease spore 3 metres on the wind. A pruning wound is an ingress opportunity for disease. Why is early



spring is the best time for pruning you may ask? The vine is dormant. It's not putting energy into producing buds, leaves, flowering or new canes just yet. There are no diseases or fungal pathogens in the air in winter. Late summer and autumn are the worst time of year to prune because airborne pathogens reach their peak at that time. Over the next few weeks vines are about to start waking up after the winter rest and the chances are they will need feeding to get them on the march into spring. When the sap rises growth starts to be renewed and vines need some substance for healthy foliage, and flowering in the weeks and months ahead.

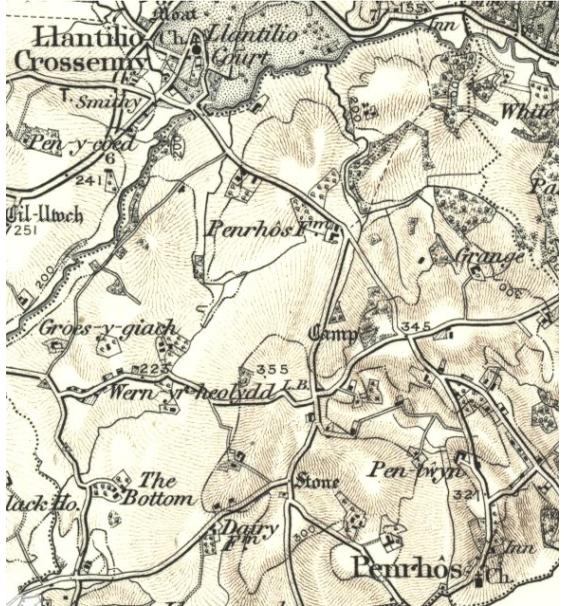
Like all businesses we are looking forward to welcoming visitors to the vineyard as and when allowed this year, and whilst waiting for the green light we are planning our vineyard experiences to share with you. As many of you may have watched our most recent exposure to the nation on Alan Titchmarsh "Love your weekend" you would have seen the priceless expression of Samantha Bond aka Moneypenny whilst tasting our Regent Red wine saying "that's good" and that is what sold our Regent to the nation. In reality our website crashed with so many wanting to purchase our wines. We are expecting to be featured in an ITV production during April 2021, so keep an eye on our social media. In the current climate we have held Zoom wine tastings and these have proven to be well attended, details of these will be on our White Castle Vineyard news page with dates for your diary if you wish to join us Next date 6th March 2021. Until next time keep safe and well and we look forward to greeting you to our vineyard and Cellar Door in the not too distant future.

Penrhos News

Now that the weather is improving and the days are getting longer you may like to extend your daily exercise to take in the delightful parish of Penrhos. Penrhos hasn't had its own vicar since 1963 but is delighted to be in the Llantilio group as it has very close geographical links. The church and the churchyard are well worth a visit at this time of year to see the wonderful carpet of crocuses.

Churchwardens have noticed problems with the church. Unfortunately, stone work has fallen from the tower. This has

meant that they have had to rope off the tower area of the churchyard. It is hoped to be able to remedy this problem in the near future.



March in the garden

The wonderful thing about gardening is that it never stops, the seasons keep turning and by March we will see great swathes of daffodils in the hedgerows and people's gardens.

I prefer the smaller older varieties of narcissus and have planted an orchard with only small native bulbs, mostly subspecies of *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* which is a true native of this country as well as Western Europe. There are at least seven different subspecies – 'major', 'moschatus', 'pallidiflorus', 'princeps' and *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* subsp. *pseudonarcissus* (I really do not know why it had to be repeated!). *Narcissus obvallaris* is our native Tenby Daffodil and may even have had one of the latter as a parent. These are all small delicate daffodils and so much better for a small garden than those big



blowsy ones that you can buy by the sackful at a garden centre. *Narcissus 'Telemonus Plenus'* was introduced in 1620 and is a double *pseudonarcissus*. I found a congested clump growing beside a neighbour's house. I helped him split them up and replant them and in exchange he gave me a few bulbs which have now multiplied happily in our little orchard. Other 17th century introductions include *N. 'Eystettensis Queen Anne's Double'* and *N. 'Butter and Eggs'* a double form of *N. incomparabilis*.

I have planted *N. tete a tete* in a rock garden, along with beautiful white *Thalia* and *N. poeticus* (pheasant's Eye) amongst some silver Birch elsewhere in the garden. The latter introduced in 1916, is scented and flowers later. There is also a double variety – *flore plena*.

I am sorry to have bombarded you with lots of Latin names. When I decided to write about Daffodils I knew I was heading for disaster! There have been many thousands of different breeders who have in their turn bred many thousands of different daffodils. It is a well loved flower which has been in our gardens for centuries and called numerous names such as Daffydowndilly, Easter Lily, Sunbonnets and Queen Anne's Flowers to name a few. The story of Narcissus, son of Cephissus and Leiriope, who was so beautiful but unable to love is well known. He spurned poor Echo who pined until only her voice remained and then Artemis revealed his reflection in a pool and he fell in love with himself. The name daffodil comes from the Latin *Asphodilus* or *Affodilus* and the Greek *Asphodelus*. The plant apparently grew in the meadows of the underworld which belonged to Persephone, the Queen of Hell!

Church Services in March

Our church services are not following the usual pattern at the moment. There will only be two services this month both of which will be in Llanvapley. The services in Llanvapley will be joint services for all of the four parishes. It is hoped to hold services over the Easter weekend with the possibility of three services on Easter Day. Full details will be given in the April edition of The New Times. It is important for everyone who attends services to make their own decisions about whether they feel it is the right thing for them. Circumstances have changed since services were last held. Church services are allowed to continue providing they have approved Covid-19 risk assessments in place. Please do not attend services if you have symptoms or have recently been in contact with anyone who has had symptoms

Sunday 14th March Mothering Sunday Llanvapley 11am

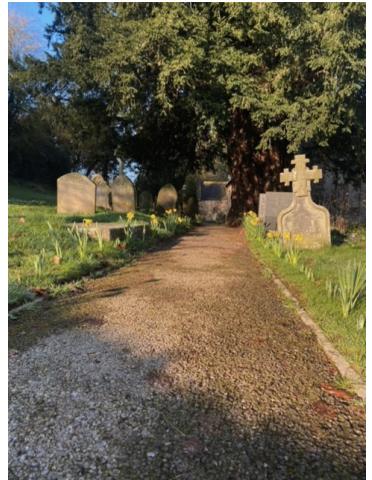
Sunday 28th March Llanvapley Morning Prayer 11am

Llanvapley has an approved limit of 20 for services. Please contact the churchwardens if you would like to attend any of these services (lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com)

Good Friday 2nd April Online Service of reflection

Easter Sunday 4th April tba

St David's Church, Llanddewi Rhydderch is home to 1000 new daffodils which have been planted by a local resident who wanted to help to make the church look its best on St David's Day.



You can keep in touch with what is happening in our church communities via our website **www.llantiliogroup.info**

Our website has the latest news as well as information about all our churches.

We are also on Twitter **@LlantilioG**