

The New Times

April 2021

The Parish Magazine of Llantilio Crossenny,
Llanvetherine, Llanvapley and Penrhos



Find out who has been spring cleaning Llanvapley Church



From Penrhos to Pen y Fal

Find out who has been stepping out this spring

From the Vicarage

“He has put a new song in my mouth.” Psalm 40.

A week or so ago, a news story captured my attention. It was about an Australian bird who has forgotten its song. There are now so few Regent honeyeaters, that they rarely hear what their song is supposed to sound like. As there are so few of them, they don't have the opportunity to learn from others of their kind.

This started me thinking about how much I have missed singing our wonderful hymns.

In one of our services, as the organ was playing a well-loved song, I was aching to join in, to sing the beautiful words, and hear the voices of others singing in praise. I surprised myself by how much I have missed that part of worship. The music, the harmony, the listening to others raising their voices in praise and thanksgiving.

And then, every day, I listen to the magnificent birdsong which surrounds us. It's better than any symphony that we can compose.

The blackbird singing his heart out, whilst also taking time to wait in attentive quietness for the response, is just one among many of the most beautiful sounds we are blessed to hear.

Our Heavenly Father has given us all a song to sing, echoing the music of His love.

This Easter time, our Creator yearns for us all to join in – even those of us who are tone deaf! For the music He writes can be heard in the life and death and resurrection of His Son. Take time to listen to his song, so that you can make it your own.

With every blessing,

Heidi



Ministry Area Changes On 15th April at 7.30pm the Diocese of Monmouth will be hosting an online meeting to discuss the recent changes which will affect the governance and financial arrangements for our parish churches. Details of these changes can be found on the [diocesan website](#).

This matter has been reported in previous editions of TNT and there is a great deal of concern about the impact of these changes. The meeting will be an opportunity to listen to answers to questions which have been submitted beforehand.

Our churches have already contacted the diocese to seek clarity on aspects of the changes. Churwardens met on 27th March to discuss questions which already been submitted and further questions for the meeting. Many people have asked the question about donations to a particular church. In an email to a church treasurer it was stated that if donors have indicated that they wish their gifts to be restricted to their parish church then they will be recorded as restricted funds and can only be used in accordance with their wishes. On 26th March the diocese released a document in its weekly email round-up which provided more information on this matter. One of the FAQs is shown below.

The Ministry Area will take all our church's money.

This is not the case. Each church's money will be managed with the same diligent approach as your current PPC. The accounts will be equally transparent and church treasurers will be able to log on to the new finance system. The system enables the analysis of income and expenditure to a church level and therefore each church can see their own financial position within the wider Ministry Area.

Ask yourself, do you want to take another church's money that you know has been given by faithful worshippers or raised through hard work from their local community? The answer is - of course not, so why would you think others would want to do this to you?

The primary aim of forming Ministry Areas is not about combining our finances to take away control from the local church. It is about coming together so we can be stronger, more sustainable and reach more people. It is about working together to support each other and to help grow the church. Ministry Areas will bring together our valuable human resources into larger and more diverse Ministry Teams and stronger and more powerful trustee bodies.

Revd. Julian Gray (our ministry area leader) is collecting names of people who want to attend the Zoom meeting. We are allowed up to six people from each parish. If you would like to attend, please let Revd. Heidi know as soon as possible. (llantiliovicar@aol.com)

If you are unable to attend the meeting you can still ask a question by using an online form before 8th April. Click [here](#) to access the form. There may not be time to answer all the questions. Here is an example of a question which hopefully will be answered.

What is the role of the new church committee? How is it going to be governed? What responsibilities does it have? Who is going to be responsible for health and safety, fire safety, insurance and safeguarding?

This Lent, the Llantilio Group of Parishes has paid for a licence to allow everyone to watch **Breaking Day**, a new passion play produced by Riding Lights Theatre Company. The play was produced during lockdown and features three actors in separate locations. The play was rehearsed on Zoom and filmed by the actors themselves,



It is available for anyone within the community served by the Llantilio Group of Churches to watch for free until the 15th April. If you enjoy watching it, please consider making a donation to your local church. Please do not share this link with others outside our community. But if you have friends who are interested, do encourage them to visit the Riding Lights Website <https://ridinglights.org/breaking-day/> Where they can purchase a ticket for their family and friends.

Good Friday in our four parishes usually features a morning walk up the Skirrid followed by a special service in Llanvapley in mid afternoon. This year will be different because this will not happen but on a positive note you will be able to take part virtually in a special service of reflections and music for Good Friday. This video has been produced within our parishes and is available on the Youtube streaming service. The video features the piano and organ playing of Jeanette Massochi and the reflection is lead by Revd. Lorraine Cavanagh. Click on the picture to take you to the video. Please add your comments if you wish.



Llantilio Crossenny News

St Teilo's Church - Once again our thoughts turn to restrictions easing and being able to plan a return to services in St Teilo's. Following the roof repairs and the Church being closed for the past three months it was time to organise a good spring clean.

On Tuesday 16th March our lovely group of stouthearted ladies came along with their polishes and dusters and once again restored our Church to its former glory . Many thanks to the ladies for once again giving their time and energy we are indeed very grateful to them.

Spring has truly sprung in St Teilo's churchyard, the spring flowers are a joy to behold and with the grass all neatly cut it really lifts the spirit to have a little wander there. We are very grateful for the many hours of work put in by David, Gary and Wynn for all that they do particularly through the summer months.

On Easter Sunday morning at 11am our Vicar Heidi will be conducting Easter Communion, if you would like to come along to that please phone Heidi on 01600 780240 or Elsie Latham on 01600 780225 to book a place as we are restricted to a certain number owing to the pandemic.

Elsie Latham

Llanarth & Friends Walk for Water Challenge How many steps does it take you to reach the nearest water tap? In our house, the furthest distance we need to walk is 17 steps and we also have a tap in the garden. A clean, safe water supply is something we can easily take for granted. However, it is estimated that in 2021 almost a third of the world's population doesn't have ready access to this basic, life-giving resource. This means that many people have to walk long distances, often through oppressive heat and difficult terrain, to get water for their families. The time and energy involved is impossible for us to imagine.

This Lent a group of parishioners and friends from St Mary & St Michael's Catholic Church in Llanarth took part in CAFOD's Walk for Water Challenge. The basic challenge was to walk 10,000 steps (about 5 miles) every day for 40 days in order to raise money to buy essential equipment such as solar-powered water pumps and water storage containers to support those in need. Not everyone who wanted to take part would have been able to walk that distance so we decided to tackle it as a team. Each member had to commit to a certain number of steps as a personal stretch. For some that was 10,000, for others, fewer steps but just as much a challenge and commitment. In total, as a team, we set our target at 2,560 miles!



The early days of Lent were wet, wet, wet! I thought the team's enthusiasm might fall at the first hurdle, but no, there has been a fantastic commitment. For people juggling work and childcare, it has been quite a challenge, with some team members taking the torch out at night to complete their steps for the day. The 40 day-ness was also demanding and required some perseverance, especially in the latter stages. However, as we approach the end of our challenge, I am delighted to report that all 18 team members have nearly completed their steps and we have exceeded our distance target by almost 500 miles!

We have been delighted to raise money for such an important cause and to walk in solidarity with people who have no choice but to walk for water. Due to lockdown we haven't had the pleasure of walking together until very recently, but throughout we have had a sense of connection and working together for a common goal. It has been wonderful to welcome friends and family from beyond Llanarth - from Jenny Goodwin (pictured on the right with Julie) in Whitecastle to a former parishioner living in Switzerland. There have undoubtedly been physical and mental health benefits too, as we have watched the winter landscape gradually transformed with the coming of Spring. Should you wish to contribute to this important cause, it's not too late to visit our fund-raising page! Wishing you all a very happy Easter.



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

Julie Lunt

Llanvapley News

The Townshend family were associated with **Llanvapley Church** throughout the 20th century. Revd. Edward Mansel Townshend was the vicar of Llanvapley from 1898 until his death in 1947. His wife, Jessie, died in 1933. They had nine children : Daisy 1891–1964, Noel 1892–1965, Violet 1894–1985, Charles 1897–1956, Grace 1899–1963, Sybil 1901–1948, Hilda 1903–1944, Ernest 1905–1992 and finally Samuel Richard Trelawney (Dick) 1908–1992. Dick Townshend lived in the Old Rectory until his death. However, Dick had a much earlier 'dice with death' in 1910 when, at the age of two, he fell down the church steps. It is not recorded why this happened but it was probably because of the slippery nature of the steep steps. Fast forward 111 years to 2021 and the church steps still need to be taken with

care as they can still be slippery. Llanvapley Church would like to thank **James Lowes** for his very kind offer of power washing the steps, rainwater channels and the entrance porch with his professional quality equipment. James, like many other people in the parish, is delighted to offer his services for free to help maintain his local parish church. He is working hard at the moment spring cleaning patios and offers his services at competitive rates. He can be contacted by email on jameslowes24@gmail.com. James is keen to prevent people falling on slippery patios and thereby putting more pressure on the NHS. However, he is aware this can also happen to small children who might not enjoy an early 'dice with death'!



Running is a popular way of keeping fit in Llanvapley, and Firs Road in particular is used by old and young. **Catherine Price** is regular runner on Firs Road but has decided to have a change of scene for a special reason. Here is Catherine's report.

"I ran the NHS HealthUnlocked running forum's virtual spring half marathon. As we had been released a bit from lockdown I decided to do it on the flat canal. I also decided to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. I set myself a target of raising £200 but am amazed to have now got to £380! We are caring for a family member with Alzheimer's at the moment and know the charities are crying out for funding for research and support. The weather was not the best today, but it was a beautiful run, and nice and cool! If anyone would like to donate to the Alzheimers Society they can either donate to me or go to the Just Giving website and search for Catherine Price Spring Half."



Orchard Acre Market Garden Update Our polytunnel is filled with young plants and the broad beans are being planted out as I write this. On the hardening off benches we have leeks, peas, salad, onions, broccoli, chard, beetroot and Kohlrabi. March has been a busy month with seed sowing, the



final veg beds being built and our wash and pack area (shown in the picture below) being built. If you'd like to know more about Orchard Acre Market Garden you can email: orchardacremarketgarden@gmail.com
Facebook: [@orchardacre](https://www.facebook.com/orchardacre) Instagram: [@orchard.acre](https://www.instagram.com/orchard.acre)



The Llanvapley Sports and Social Association's committee met on Monday 29th March via Zoom to discuss current matters and to prepare for their Annual General Meeting. The date of the AGM is different to the one that was published in the March edition of TNT. The new date is **Friday 23rd April at 7.30pm**. The meeting will not be in the pavilion but will be held virtually on Zoom. Members of the association, i.e. everyone who lives in Llanvapley, are asked to make a special effort to attend the meeting to support each other at this difficult time. Members of the association who are on the email list will be sent details of how to connect to the Zoom meeting two weeks before the AGM. The email will also include links to the agenda, minutes of the last AGM, the accounts and the all important form to nominate the new committee members for the new year. (Apologies to those on the email list who were not able this to access this in the last email – the link will work this time!) The LSSA is very keen to welcome new committee members. If you want to support the village by joining the committee then ask two fellow village members to nominate you. Please contact the LSSA secretary (llanvapleyvillagecommittee@gmail.com) if you are not on the email list but would like to join it.

Events The Committee would like to remind TNT readers of two events listed below. Whether these events take place will be dependent upon Government Guidelines. Ideas for other possible events were also discussed such as playing a game of rounders and running a wreath making workshop. Any more ideas? LSSA events are open to everyone not just village residents.

End of Summer BBQ – Friday 27 August Quiz – Friday 22 October

The LSSA Committee also discussed **signage** on the playing field and pavilion.

A new sign has been placed on the gate to remind people of the location of the defibrillator. The sign also reminds everyone of the important steps that should be taken if anyone comes across an unconscious person who is not breathing normally – ring 999 – start CPR - switch on the defibrillator – follow the instructions. Anyone can use the defibrillator. No training is necessary.

You may be aware that a **new smoke-free law** was introduced in Wales on March 1st. The LSSA has been asked by the council to place a 'no smoking' sign at the entrance to make users aware of the law. The law only applies to playgrounds that are maintained by local authorities or Community Councils. This is not the case with



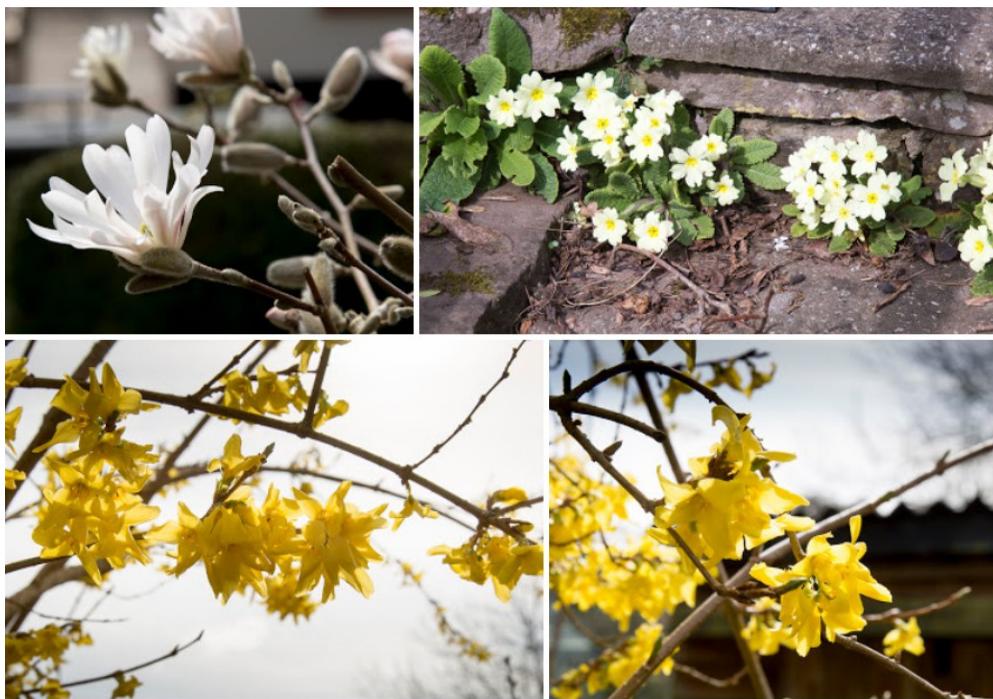
the playground located on the playing field. The committee decided it was not happy to put up the sign as it mentioned a fine of £100 for a breach of the law, as technically the law would not apply. However, it was decided to place an advisory notice on the gate in the hope of discouraging smoking on the playing field and playground.

Llanvapley Church held two services of morning prayer on Sunday 14th and 28th March. The services proved to be very popular and the congregation was delighted to be back together again, albeit socially distanced. Whilst places of worship can, by law, open for worship, funerals and weddings, Welsh Government continues to advise, in alert level 4, that: *"those who are responsible for places of worship should consider whether there are alternative ways of holding worship services."* The changes announced on March 27th mean that Wales is moving from alert level 4 to alert level 3. However, much of the alert level 4 guidance is still in place. After a review of the services in March, Llanvapley PCC has decided not to hold services in April as we are 'not out of the woods yet', but will be looking at alternative ways of holding services for May. This may include outdoor socially distanced services.

Llanvapley Church Parochial Church Council will be holding its **Easter Vestry meeting on Thursday 22nd April** at 7pm via Zoom. This meeting is normally held in the church. Permission has been given to hold a remote meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to elect members of the PCC and to approve the church accounts. The meeting is open to qualified electors of Llanvapley Parish and communicants who are not a qualified elector of that Parish. Anyone who is not a qualified elector of the parish may speak at the meeting, but not vote. If you would like to attend the Easter Vestry meeting please contact any of the churchwardens or email TNT. Details on how to join the meeting will be sent by email.

Details of the meeting will also be displayed in the porch of the church and on the church website.

Llanvetherine News



Thank you to Revd. Andrew Dawson who has been out in his garden with his camera. Our gardens are certainly changing as the spring arrives and the warmer weather. Andrew has selected pictures of Forsythia, naturally sown Primroses, and Stellate Magnolia, which is a particular favourite of his wife, Sally

Penrhos News

Dementia Walk 2021 On 20th March, Kate Morris, Martha Goode and Sophie Rodrick (pictured on the cover of TNT) walked just over 23 and a half miles up the Bloreng and the Sugarloaf to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society (see the map below). The girls chose this charity as it had long been close to all of their hearts. The group started at about half past 9 in the morning and finished around 8 o'clock at night! The girls are all 15 years old and are pupils at King Henry school in Abergavenny. Their original target was £150 and so far they have raised just over £1,600. The donation page isn't finished until March 31st. They can't believe how much they have raised, but it is all for an amazing cause and they are so grateful for all donations. Below is a link to their fundraising page if you like to find out more.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mw582743>



WI News

Although WI has not been meeting in person, members on email have been receiving daily 'pick-me-ups' to keep their spirits high. A smile a day is worth so much. Jan Currie has been sending these out for us and Marion Ashton continues to keep our brains working with quizzes. So many thanks to them both.

The committee continues to meet virtually on Zoom and makes hopeful plans for the future! The AGM in May will be by email and post, to vote for the committee and president. As last year they are willing to remain in office,

if the members wish so. All except Janet O'Connor who is stepping down, after decades of service. She has been on the committee and has served as treasurer and president for many years. However, there is no doubt she will remain an amazing support to WI. We are very grateful for all she has done.

Members past and present are being asked to send Lin their favourite recipe at lin.tedit@btinternet.com or by post. These will be compiled into a book and printed for members. Also art work and photographs will be included and gratefully received! So come on, let's make this a record of what we can do in lockdown! We need your contributions to make it special! This is our chance to do something positive during this time of pandemic. We saw, in our centenary exhibition, the examples of just what this WI has achieved in the last 100 years. So this book will stand for what we can do now.

Now we must look to the future and all that we can do and what we can achieve! There is hope on the horizon, that we will meet again soon. But meanwhile, why not invite another member to your garden ,as this is now allowed. You could practice the Jerusalem dance together! Or just have a natter, of course. But do stay in touch with each other, by whatever means. A friendly voice on the end of the phone is an especially nice treat.

Lin

Thoughts for the Garden in April

This last month has whizzed by and now everything is about to take off in the garden. I have been helping our son and daughter in law improve a flower bed near their backdoor. It had been full of heathers and prostrate conifers and was rather dull, so they have been busy digging out masses of roots and replenishing the soil with some compost and bone meal.



Herbs seemed to be a good idea - many do not need rich soil -and already purple sage and common sage are growing well. Apple mint has been put in a confined place and hopefully will stay put, ditto some chives. thymes, Archer's Gold and Silver posy, have survived the winter. Thymes are not normally long lived as they object to hard pruning and do not like the wet winters. A Rosemary is about to take off plus a couple of Lavender Hidcote and now this spring we can start to add more.

Angelica is a hardy biennial and once you have it you should never be without. The plant is statuesque in flower and even if you do not use it much in cooking, it is well worth having. Calamintha is a really pretty little plant and smells delicious. It is well worth seeking out. Marjoram - oregano vulgare and O vulgare 'Aureum' excel as garden plants and soon you will

be pulling bits out everywhere. Lovage is brilliant, the leaves make delicious soup and you can keep it under control by cutting it back midsummer. Fennel - *Foeniculum vulgare* and *F. vulgare Purpureum* - bronze fennel are beautiful to look at and well worth having. French tarragon – *Artemesia dracuncululus* can be a little tender but most useful in the kitchen. Hyssop is a pretty bushy low growing shrub with blue spikes. I lost two this winter which is strange as it should be pretty hardy but it comes easily from seed. I also lost a curry plant *Helicrysum italicum*. Santolina – cotton lavender is a good ‘filler’ with grey leaves that are slightly aromatic and apparently good for keeping moths at bay. A few edible flowers like violas and tagetes planted here and there and it should look quite pretty. Beware of Bay trees, they grow enormous if you are not careful but they are almost essential in the kitchen so find a space for a tree or large bush somewhere in the garden.



Cross Ash News

January saw Cross Ash Primary School going into our second lockdown. This was not what we had hoped for at the start of a new year, but we were ready and prepared for action. Our teachers and pupils use the See Saw platform for online learning and this allows tremendous scope for a variety of lessons to be uploaded, as well as the opportunity for immediate contact and interaction between class teachers and pupils – and this proved really successful once again.

At the end of February we saw the return of our youngest Foundation Phase pupils to the building and school began to feel a little more “normal” again. Then finally, on the 15th March, Junior pupils were also allowed to return. It has been a delight to hear the school alive with the voices of the children – even if we still aren’t allowed to sing!

During the lockdown we kept really busy. We celebrated the Eisteddfod in a totally new way. This time it was all completed online and the standard of work was just amazing. A selection of the categories to enter were cookery, DT, photography, art, handwriting, musical recitals, joke telling and even teacher impressions! It was a tremendous success and you can see Headteacher Mrs Presdee and our



winning Castle Captain from Grosmont Castle in the picture on the previous page. The smile says it all! During our time away we also celebrated International Women's Day, British Science Week and World Book Day. Since our return we have managed to squeeze in a grounds day to develop our wonderful outdoor areas, and the amazing new outdoor classroom and Junior climbing equipment have started to take shape (photographs next time!). We are so very grateful to our dedicated PTFA who work so tirelessly to raise money to fund projects such as these. Before we break for Easter we shall be enjoying an Easter Egg hunt and the much loved tradition of the Cross Ash Egg Rolling Competition.

We have no idea yet what the summer term will bring, but we will continue to make the most of each day and continue to celebrate all that has been achieved during this very strange time.

With best wishes from the staff and pupils of Cross Ash Primary School.

Church Services in April

Good Friday 2nd April

Online Service of reflection

Easter Sunday 4th April

Llantilio Crossenny 11.00am Holy Communion

Llanvetherine 9.30am Holy Communion

*Please contact David Hughes-Jones if you wish to attend this service. davidwhjones@btinternet.com
01873 821 497*



Happy Easter to everyone in the four parishes

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**

*Contributions for the May issue of TNT by 20th May 2021
Please send your emails to lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com*