

The New Times

July 2021

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



The sun shone in Llantilio to celebrate Neal and Lizzie's big day!



Llanvapley's old friends find a new home

From the Vicarage

One of the great joys of being a vicar is witnessing the love between a couple on their wedding day, and sharing in their celebrations.

It seems even more poignant when you have known the bride since she was seven years old, as was the case when I officiated at the marriage of Lauren Cooke.



Recently, we have had a number of weddings, and it has been refreshing to hear couples say:

“We don’t want any fuss. This past year has reminded us of what is important, we just want to say our vows to one another in the presence of God.”

And while some have been disappointed with the restriction on numbers, others have been dismayed when I told them that no, it couldn’t just be the three of us present, they would also need two witnesses.

I am convinced that the deep love felt between two people who willingly want to give their lives to each other, is but a reflection of the Divine love which the Lord has for us all. He longs to share His life with us, to love and cherish us in sickness and in health, for the rest of our days.

And as the bride and groom vow to love one another “till death us do part”, I quietly think, “No, the love does not end at death, love is stronger than death, it never ends”.

“For faith, hope, love, abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

With every blessing,

Heidi

Ministry area plans Our group of parishes is working with 14 other parishes to form the North Monmouthshire Ministry Area. There has been concern within our group about these plans. However, we have agreed to work with our Ministry Area leader, Father Julian Gray from Llantilio Pertholey, and have nominated two representatives to work as part of a transition team to help to establish the way the new ministry area functions. Margaret Parry from Llantilio and Tom Lowes from Llanvapley have volunteered to represent our group. The transition team hope to meet in July.

Ministry area plans in our area appear to be behind other areas in Monmouthshire. Take for example the Usk Ministry area which already has its own website – www.uskma.uk. When the **Usk Ministry Area** was formed it consisted of nine parishes (or groups of parish churches) in and around Usk. These included Usk with Gwehelog, Gwernesney and Llangeview, Llanbadoc, Llangwm Isaf and Llangwm Uchaf, Llangybi with Coed-y-Paen, Llanllowell, Llantrisant, Tredunnoc, Wolvesnewton. The Usk Ministry Area has now changed. Llangwm Isaf and Llanllowell churches are closed and Gwernesney, Llangeview and Llangwm Uchaf are looked after by the Friends of Friendless Churches. Gwernesney Church was taken over the charity in December 2018. It is a grade 1 listed building and dates from the 13th century. The Diocese of Monmouth has said ministry areas 'are not about closing churches'.



Llantilio Crossenny News

St Teilo's Church There wasn't a cobweb or speck of dust to be seen anywhere following the quarterly spring clean in St Teilo's on Friday 11th June. Many thanks are due to the wonderful group of ladies who came along to cheerfully carry out the various tasks of brass cleaning, polishing and dusting, hoovering and washing and ironing the altar cloths. Many thanks to you all, your help is greatly appreciated.

Recently a hand written note was pasted over the donations box in St Teilos car park criticising someone who had parked there to walk the Offa's Dyke path. As churchwarden I would like it to be known that this was nothing whatsoever to do with our church. We sincerely apologise to the offended party and to say that we welcome both church visitors and walkers alike. *Elsie Latham*

Llantilio Crossenny Community Council The next council meeting will be held at 19.30pm on 20th July. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings. If you wish to discuss any local matters with members there is a 10 minute public speaking time at the start of every meeting. Further details of this meeting will be on the website prior to the meeting.

The community council held its **Annual General Meeting** on 25th May in Cross Ash Village Hall. Lauren Cooke, was elected as Chair. Chris Lewis in his chairman's report gave thanks to all councillors for keeping the council going via Zoom meetings and to the Clerk for making it a success. *'Sadly, this is likely to be the last yearly AGM for this historic council that has been in existence for over 100 years. M.C.C., who conducted the boundary review, has no idea of how parish boundaries will work and no information has yet been made available on how the changeover will take place'*. The AGM was followed by an ordinary council meeting. Full details of the meeting can be found on the community council website. The community council discussed a number of highway matters including pot holes in Penrhos and Llantilio Crossenny. The community council is also considering new road signage for Treadam Lane (unsuitable for any vehicle) and Top of Old Camp (new sign pointing towards Llantilio Crossenny).

Congratulations to **Chris Hughes and Lauren Cooke** who were married on 29th May at Llantilio Crossenny Church. They had a small close family only wedding service followed by afternoon tea for the new Mr & Mrs Hughes at Nantyderi Farm.



Llanvapley News

Llanvapley Church held two services in June. The first was a service of Morning Prayer and the second was a service of Holy Communion. The church was delighted to welcome Revd. Peter Cobb, who led the service of Holy Communion. Peter said that the service was in a way 'historic' as not only was it was the first service of Holy Communion and the first time hymns had been sung since the start of the pandemic but it is was the first time in 50 years that he had turned up for a service without his surplice!

The **church maintenance group** is working to put in an application for a faculty to allow the restoration of paths around the church and to install lighting at each churchyard entrance. On 28th June, the group met with Stefan Horowskyj to discuss its plans. It is hoped to submit the faculty in July.

It all started on a stormy night in February 2020 when an old ash tree, which stood next to the brook on the edge of Llanvapley playing field, finally fell down. Ever since then the **Llanvapley Sports and Social Association** has been trying to clear the brook and tidy up the bank. Earlier this year the tree was removed from the brook and then Paul Ball from Llangattock Lingoed was brought in to chop up the tree into firewood. On 10th June the LSSA was delighted to deliver the firewood to local log sheds. Thanks go to Steve Anthony from Wernrheolydd who kindly came along with his trailer and helped man handle all the logs. The LSSA is concerned about the amount of effort it is taking to manage the trees which it is responsible for. The council lease the land to the association and have been contacted to discuss how this burden can be lightened. However, the council have been unable to come out as yet due to staff shortages.

For many years before the pavilion was built, **Llanvapley cricket club** used to change and have afternoon tea in railway sheds on the far of side of the field. Since the pavilion was built the sheds have fallen into disrepair. However, one of them has continued to be used to store the machinery needed to maintain the field. The cricket club have decided to replace the two sheds with a container which was sourced locally. The railway sheds no doubt spent years rumbling around the rail network before being used in Llanvapley. However, the sheds had one final journey to make. They were lifted up by a JCB and put



on a trailer and transported to a local farm where they are to be renovated and hopefully used as holiday accommodation. Hwyl fawr!



Llanvapley Cricket Club Fixtures in July

Sunday 11th Porth 2.30pm

Thursday 15th Glangrwyney 6.00pm

Sunday 18th Llanfrynach 2.30pm

Thursday 22 July v Clytha Arms 6.00pm

Sunday 25th Ponthir 2.30pm

Spectators are always welcome but please observe social distancing. Llanvapley Cricket Club welcomes new members.

Swift Attraction The photo on the right shows a nesting box specially designed for use by swifts that has just been put up at The Old Rectory in Llanvapley. Unfortunately it will be too late for use by these wonderful birds this year, but we hope they may do a “recce” and come back to use it in 2022. The once common European Swift, *Apus apus*, is in serious decline in the UK, mostly it seems due to modern building practices and the holes and crevices suitable as nest sites at high level on walls and under roofs on older buildings being blocked up. Nesting boxes are easily made but do need to be correctly designed and mounted at least 18 feet above the ground with a clear drop below them –



the one we bought cost £27 from Amazon. Swifts are often confused with swallows and house martins but the swift once recognised is an incredibly aerial bird with long scythe like wings, a short tail, and very fast flight, often screaming when flying in a family group. As summer migrants the window to see them each year is very short, usually from mid May to mid August before they return to Africa. *Thomas Lowes*

Llanvapley Walking Group Our June socially distanced walk was around the farmland to the east of Llanvapley, over the River Trothy bridge (which you can see us approaching in the photo) and up to Tre-adam and back over some different fields. The views were great and there was lots of interesting chat along the way. The weather was good too which helps but can't always be guaranteed.

This month the walk will take place at 10.30am on Saturday 3rd July from Llanvapley Pavilion where there is parking available. New walkers always welcome – we will be walking about 4 miles at a leisurely pace, everyone is very friendly and welcoming and it really is a great way to spend a Saturday morning. I'm also planning a weekday evening walk sometime in July, which may well be combined with making sure the lanes and pathways are litter-free. If you are interested in finding out more please contact me on llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com



Phil Allsopp

Neal and Lizzie from Lingen Cottage, Llanvapley would like to send a very large thank you to the delightful Revd. Heidi for bringing together our two families to celebrate our marriage in St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny on Saturday 12th June. The weather was perfect, Heidi's words were magnificent, the virtual male voice choir



echoed within the church walls and the afternoon tea and scones were amazing. We both feel incredibly lucky to be part of such a splendid community. *Neal Smith*

Llanvetherine News

Llanvetherine Church was delighted to be the special venue of the wedding of Lowri Downward and Samuel Robinson on Wednesday 23rd June. Lowri is the daughter of Brian and Sue Downward. Sue is the daughter of Trevor and Anne Beavan of Great Trethew Farm, Llanvetherine. Congratulations to Lowri and Sam.



Janet and David Phelps are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their third grandson, **Ryan David Morgan**. Ryan was born on 9th June 2021 at Nevill Hall hospital and weighed 8lb 3oz. Congratulations to Ryan's mum and dad, Katie Phelps and Anthony Morgan. Pictured is David with Oliver, Jay and 2 week old Ryan.



Congratulations to **Eli North**, grand daughter of Shirley and David Hughes Jones who has qualified for the Pony Club Championships in dressage. Eli was riding her Aunty Janet's horse, K J Celtic Opposition which was homebred in Llanvetherine. Eli won the first class, and then her team won the novice area team competition. Other team members were Mollie Arnup, Bronwen Jones and Sophie Roderick.



Penrhos News

Fresh, Free Range eggs for sale, locally produced in Penrhos! Laid by very happy and spoilt chickens. These eggs are used in The Red Hart, Llanvapley in the kitchen. I deliver locally, however, people can also collect from the Red Hart if they get in touch a day in advance. I charge £1.20 for 1/2 dozen, £2 for a dozen, and £5 for a tray (30). And my phone number (for orders) is 07399280326. The photo on the right shows the difference between a shop bought egg and one of mine.

Kate Morris



Penrhos Church was delighted to be the special venue for the wedding of Claire Bayliss and Morgan Jones on Saturday 27th June. Claire is from Cherry Tree Farm, Trostrey and Morgan is from Coed Cefn Lodge, Tregare. Claire, Morgan and Evan are now residing at Burrium Gate in Usk. Congratulations to Claire and Morgan!



WI News

At last Llantilio Crossenny WI have met up again! The picnic at Park Farm was a great, but socially distanced, event! Many friends were able to meet up and catch up with each other and there were so many smiling faces. Thanks to Daphne and Adrian for providing the venue in their lovely garden. Our next meeting, on the



afternoon of the 14th July, will be at Chapel Farm, Llanvapley. Angela has invited members to come and swim or simply watch. If, however, the weather should let us down, we can have it the following Thursday 22nd July (please note the change of day and date). To accommodate the numbers the sessions will be divided into three time slots - 1.45pm to 3pm, 3pm to 4.15pm and 4.15pm – 5.30pm. Some members have already given their preferred time. Lin will send out allocated times by email and will need confirmation of the suitability of that time, for each person. Don't forget your towel!

The next event on the 11th August will be a visit to Highfield Gardens, Goytre. So far there are 15 definite and three possible names on the list. If members have not yet given Lin their names, please do so. Each person should pay their own £5 on entry and bring their own picnic. There is a barn for inclement weather. Those who are able to do so please car share. If you need a lift please let Lin know and it will be arranged.

Looking forward to the autumn. We hope to be able to meet outside the Cricket Pavilion in September and as for the winter months, the committee will decide how best to offer members safe meetings. Ideas would be appreciated. Keiko and Joe are working hard on the cookbook and the committee has decided to have extra copies printed. Members will receive these at no cost. Hopefully this huge task will soon be completed.

Last month's WI Life included Lynne Stubbing's goodbye letter. Friends of the WI may remember she was the national chair of the WI who attended our centenary garden party and exhibition. How lovely that she included this event as one of the outstanding ones she had attended during her time in office. We made the national, girls! Well done!

Looking back we have had some super times. These will continue, be assured. We just have to make the best of what we can do and not fret over the limitations. So keep smiling and see you all soon. *Lin; 01873 850939*

July in the Garden 2021

No doubt now you will be busy with your secateurs dead heading roses, pruning back summer flowering shrubs that are over – all too soon, and don't forget those long strands of wisteria which can grow at alarming speed and twine themselves around drain pipes and generally get out of control. In late July and August, I like to cut back any long shoots on espalier apple and pear trees, and have been known to climb our big Bramley Apple tree to keep it in check. Cut back new shoots to about two leaves from the old wood, leaving any with fruit. This is summer pruning. By removing superfluous growth, light and air are admitted to the tree, resulting in well ripened buds and well coloured fruits. It is also a good idea to thin the fruits as well. July is the time to hard prune stone fruit trees, like Damsons, plums and greengages. It may seem brutal, but this way they should not succumb to silver leaf disease. Vita Sackville West wrote in 1954 that 'A true gardener must be brutal and imaginative for the future'. It is so true and something I find difficult at times, particularly when a plant has seeded itself. You can be overrun by *Alchemilla Mollis* (pictured) and I am also finding that *Galiga Orientalis* - Goat's Rue is taking over my blue border and I shall have to be ruthless.



Talking of Rue, *Ruta graveolens* 'Jackman's Blue' is a really pretty shrub with blue grey leaves but insignificant flowers. It is the foliage you are after. However, be careful, it can cause your skin to blister and I have now banned it from our garden since I got blisters all over my legs once having brushed against it. *Graveolens* means heavily scented or strong smelling. It is not a nice scent and interesting that some say a few sprigs will drive out flies. *Thalictrum* – Meadow Rue is quite another plant, with very delicate tall ferny grey foliage and sprays of tiny fluffy flowers. We inherited two varieties of *Thalictrum delavayi*, one with yellow flowers and the other with pale mauve. Both are good foliage plants. *Acanthus* – Bear's Breeches – is a wonderful architectural foliage plant but it comes with a warning. Plant it with care because if you move it, you will always leave some of the long roots behind and it won't give up! It is handsome nevertheless, no wonder it was used in decorative carvings over the centuries.

In the Spotlight

In this month's edition of The New Times the spotlight has fallen on one of our hard working and dedicated churchwardens. But how well do we really know Pip Rumsey from Penrhos? TNT tried to find out more by putting her 'In the Spotlight'.

How long have you been a churchwarden? According to Facebook memories that popped up today, I have been a church warden 5 years today 20th June!

What do people say when you tell them you are the churchwarden of Penrhos Church? Does that mean you have to go to church?

What is your earliest memory? Sneaking out of bed and sitting on the stairs watching what was on the TV - it was Tales of the Unexpected and there was a glass container with a person in it and it was being filled with water until they drowned. I soon went back to bed traumatised. I think was about 4 years old.

What is your biggest fear? Drowning - in a glass container!

How would you describe your house? Dog Friendly!

How would you describe your garden? Well put it this way I won't be opening my gardens on the NGS any time soon.

What is your favourite supermarket and why? Aldi - Because I love the fact I can buy my groceries plus a laminator and a two man tent which I don't need!

How do you keep fit? I don't really keep fit at the moment, I just aim to get through the day. I do walk Bryn my Spaniel and before Covid I used to enjoy Pilates.

What makes you mad? Long Covid. I hate not being able to do the things I used to do because my body won't let me.

What sort of music do you enjoy? Anything upbeat especially if I know the words so I can have a good sing. I miss not singing hymns - particularly ones I know!!

Do you have any pets? A dog and a horse

What occasion has caused you the most embarrassment? Quite a few years ago I was on the M25. I had been sitting in a traffic jam for 6 hours and I really needed a wee. Not a tree or undergrowth in sight. I decided I



would never see any of these people again so I went on the hard shoulder. After that I think every woman in the traffic jam also went!!

What keeps you awake at night? Normally Dean my partner's snoring!

What is your favourite food and favourite drink? Favourite food is sausage, mash and onion gravy. Since getting Long Covid I'm not able to drink alcohol. My favourite drink used to be a bottle of rosé but now it would be zero alcohol Erdinger.

What is your favourite place to eat? Anywhere where I haven't had to cook it!!

What is your favourite place? So many to choose from but I think my favourite place is on the back of my horse.

Have you been watching the Euros and cheering on Wales? No but I have been watching Royal Ascot and the tennis at Queen's.

What is your favourite film or TV series? At the moment I'm enjoying Jeremy Clarkson's Farming on Amazon.

Tell us about your hobbies? I take Bryn to dog agility, his aim is to entertain the rest of the group - he loves to be the clown. My aim is for him to do as I ask/tell him. What I enjoy most is going out for a ride with my mother, my sister Jess and Megan my niece and having three generations out together. It's a very special time.

If you were the First Minister for a day what would you do? Put our Covid rules in line with England's then we all know what we can and can't do.



Next month, the spotlight will be shining on a very important member of one of our parochial church councils – the treasurer! Every PCC, charity and every organisation has a treasurer who looks after the finances. The work of a church treasurer involves much more than simply counting up the collection after each service. Find out more next month.

Church Services in July

Sunday July 4th Trinity 5

9.30am Llanvetherine Morning Prayer
11am Llantilio Crossenny Holy Communion.

Saturday 10th July

11am Llanvetherine
Baptism of Millie Dawson
12.30pm Llantilio Crossenny
Wedding of Lucy Phillips and Stewart Hodges.

Sunday 11th July Trinity 6

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Sunday 18th Trinity 7

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 25th July Trinity 8 James the Apostle

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Covid Safety Measures

If you wish to attend a service please contact us in advance.

For Penrhos please contact Mr Richard Price
whitehousefarmuk@gmail.com 780246

For Llanvetherine Please contact David Hughes Jones
davidwhjones@btinternet.com
01873 821 497

For Llanvapley please contact Les Taylor
lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com 780376

For Llantilio please contact Elsie Latham
elsie.latham@gmail.com 780225

Overheard in The Hogs Head

Is Llanvetherine really a village? Surely it isn't big enough.

Of course it is – it has a beautiful church and it used to have a pub.

I know that, I used to drink in the King's Arms but is it really big enough?

Yes it's actually quite big. There are loads of houses. I know what you are thinking, it hasn't got a centre. That's because the village is long and thin, a bit like a cigar.

If it is long and thin, like a cigar, shouldn't it be called a hamlet!

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 August issue of TNT by 20th July 2021
Please send your emails to lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com*