

The New Times

October 2021

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



Penrhos Church celebrates the harvest of 2021



Llanvetherine supports a Macmillan coffee morning at Lanes Garage



Stiles around Llanvapley have been made easier to cross

From the Vicarage

For many families up and down the land this time of year is all about letting go.

Little ones are heading off to school, passing through the school gates; older teenagers may be leaving home for the first time, with all that that entails. It all involves a letting go.

Back home at the vicarage, things are strangely quiet, and it's a new beginning for me too!



In recent weeks, as we have been gathering things together ready for the new adventure of university, I kept passing the blackberry bush laden with luscious looking berries.

“I must pick those before Michaelmas Day”, I told myself.

Michaelmas Day falls on 29th September, and there is an old saying, that you shouldn't pick the berries after that date because, depending upon the version you hear:

- (a) The Devil has had his eye on them.
- (b) He has spat upon them.
- (c) Well, he has done something considerably worse to them, but I shall leave that to your imagination!

In other words, they are past their best.

If the berries are left un-picked, and the bushes hold onto them, they wither and shrivel up, and are good to no one.

There is no harvest without a letting go. Potatoes left in the ground will rot away; apples left to hang on the trees will be inedible.

And as I reflected on this, I thought of how it is also true for us and our lives too. Whether it's letting go of our children that they might grow and flourish; letting go of our loved ones that they may be gathered into the harvest of God's eternal love; or, when we ourselves are called home, letting go of all we hold dear that we may tread confidently and freely into that Heavenly country where, in the words of John Donne,

“There shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity in the habitations of thy majesty and glory, world without end.”

With every blessing to you all,

Heidi.

Open Day at closed Llanarth Church drew widespread support

The doors at St Teilo's Church, Llanarth were opened to the community for the first time in several years in early September and the event held in bright sunshine drew enthusiastic support from local people and further afield.

The Cadw Open Doors event, which allowed visitors to view from the tower, porch and chancel doorways, enabled visitors to see how the building is structurally sound but requires conservation work and upgrading to enable new community uses, promote the area's heritage and improve well being of local people and visitors to the historic landmark.

As well as seeing the church in its current state, and learning about planned management of the ancient churchyard to promote conservation, visitors were treated to an exhibition of the plans the Village Alive Trust are developing, and tea and homemade cake, at Llanarth Village Hall.

The redundant Grade II* building was closed in 2014 by the Church in Wales after a survey revealed expensive conservation work was needed. When the church was put up for sale, pre-Covid, the Village Alive Trust, a local buildings preservation charity, stepped in to seek ways to save the historic community building.

A viability study, funded by the Trust and the Architectural Heritage Fund, produced a proposal to repair the church and use it for various community uses. These now include restoring the eight bells which were removed from the tower, and running a bell ringing training centre. A discreet columbarium with rented niches for loved ones' cremated ashes is planned at the chancel end. Other proposals would see a kitchen and WC facility at the tower end, with the nave divided into two floor spaces, to house a café area and a separate flexible space suitable for church festivals, small exhibitions, craft classes and choral concerts. A mezzanine floor at the tower end of the church would enable access to the bell ringing chamber and flexible space for other uses.

An important element of the Trust's plan is to preserve the beauty of the church, including the view of the lovely stained glass window at the mezzanine level, through a glass screen at the chancel arch, retaining the airy feel of the church's lofty nave. In keeping with an historic building, these changes would be reversible in the future should its functions change.



Pat Griffiths, Trust chairman, said Trust members and volunteers were busy throughout the Cadw open doors event to talk to the many visitors who turned out to learn about the project, offer suggestions, support and donations.

“Lockdowns and Covid restrictions on gatherings have hampered our efforts to reach out to supporters,” said Pat. “We have been issuing newsletters and flyers to anyone whose details have been added to our database and the local Press have been excellent in using our articles.

“But, we really needed some proper face to face contact which the open day helped to get rolling. We hope we have dispelled the myths that the church is structurally unsound, and demonstrated how the church would greatly enhance facilities in Llanarth,” she said.

“We have already had volunteers from the local area contact us with practical support, which is invaluable. We need as much support as possible from now on to formulate successful grant bids to retain and reinvent the church, without destroying its heritage. If we do not want to be the generation that allows this centuries old church to be sold off we must act now, with the support of the Church in Wales.”

Anyone who would like to know more can visit www.villagealive.trust.org.uk or email village.alive@btinternet.com or contact Pat Griffiths on 01873 821418.

Ministry Area News

The second Ministry Area Transition Team (MATT) meeting for the North Monmouthshire Rural Ministry Area was held at Skenfrith Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday 2nd September. Seventeen people were in attendance including Fr. Julian Gray (Ministry Area Leader), Richard Price (Penrhos), Revd. Heidi Prince, Margaret Parry (Llantilio) and Thomas Lowes (Llanvapley).

Fr. Julian felt that Bishop Cherry's visit on 29th July had been a great success. During the meeting a governance sub-committee was formed. David Hughes-Jones is a member of this committee. The committee will feed its work back to the MATT and to all our individual churches so that nobody is left in the dark as to what is happening. A finance sub-committee was also formed, which includes Tom Lowes and Margaret Parry. Fr. Julian will now arrange an initial finance meeting with the Diocesan Board of Finance staff.

Revd. Heidi had so effectively sold the Bishop on our ministry area that she has agreed not only to climb the Skirrid with us on Good Friday 2022 but also to be with in the ministry area on many further occasions that week. Julian will accordingly agree a plan of activities with her, which will ideally involve her in a significant event during the week in each of our five groups. It was agreed that our next meeting would be at 7pm on Armistice Day, Thursday 11th November, at St Michael's Church, Llanvihangel Crucorney.

Llantilio Crossenny News



On a beautiful sunny day recently, Emma Davies and Dale Radnor were married at St David's, Llanthony. Both Emma and Dale work locally and have made their home at Trothy Way, Llantilio Crossenny. The very happy couple are pictured leaving the church with pitchforks held high by young farmers. *Margaret Parry*

Llanvapley News

Llanvapley Walking Group This month the group walked on the footpath between Llanvapley and Coed Morgan, along to Llanddewi Rhydderch and back through Llanthewy Wood. The medieval bridge over the Pant brook (pictured) was an interesting discovery for some of us on a lovely four mile walk in the sunny September weather. The views along the way were great and as always the social aspect of the walk was fun and stimulating. Thanks to everyone who came along. The October walk will take place on Saturday 9th October at 10.30am, meeting at Llanvapley Pavilion.



Everyone will be made welcome and we stay safe! If you want to be on our email list please contact me on llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com *Phil Allsopp*



Llanvapley Cricket Club has now finished its season and it has been a successful one both on and off the pitch. The club has played a number of Sunday and midweek fixtures and has managed to consistently field good quality teams. The club is delighted to welcome Jonny, from Monmouth House in Llanvapley, to the club. Jonny is quite useful with the bat and can be seen in the picture above hitting the ball towards the boundary.

Local Footpaths Report Joe (pictured from Pentre Quarry) and myself, Neal (from Lingen Cottage), headed out last weekend to start clearing the stiles on some of the local official footpaths (as per the most recent Ordnance Survey Explorer 1:25000 Map)



Joe had noticed over the last year, that many stiles had become rather overgrown with bracken and brambles. So we headed out on Saturday afternoon, laden with tools and a bag full of excitement and began cutting back the vegetation. We hope that this will ease access for those chums that are out on a jolly mooch. We have already spotted a number of other overgrown areas, so are planning on another stile clearance event in the coming months. Anyone interested in a spot of stile tinkering is more than welcome to grab us if they see one of us imbibing in The Red Hart, alternatively contact can be made via The Llanvapley WhatsApp Group.

Neal Smith

September at Orchard Acre

With more sun than we saw for a lot of August, the warm September days have felt like a blessing to us and our ripening tomatoes. We seem to have escaped the blight for much of this season and our polytunnel veg has done pretty well despite the late start. Basil has made an appearance in our weekly shares for much of the summer as have cucumbers and tomatoes. Some new



autumn crops which are just becoming ready for harvest include bulb fennel, leeks, radicchio and winter squash. We have had enough produce to take on some short term members for the end of the summer and autumn, so we now deliver 28 veg boxes a week! Our season ends in mid November, so only seven weeks to go. That won't be the end of our work for the year as we plan to continue to supply the Angel Bakery with salad bags and deliver some fresh produce to the Abergavenny Food Bank while we still have produce in the ground.

Our 2022 season will begin in late spring next year and we will be looking to increase our membership. We will advertise this when we have finalised the details in the new year and hope to find more members from our immediate community, so watch this space.

As ever you can follow us on Instagram: @orchard.acre and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/orchard.acre> The Orchard Acre Team

(Alice Sidwell from Monmouth House / Orchard Acre will be the guest speaker at Llanvapley Harvest Service on 10th October – Ed.)



Llanvapley Sports and Social Association The LSSA committee met on Tuesday 21st September. Thanks were given to Paul Tod from the Red Hart who arranged to tidy up the hedge and border adjacent to the road. The hall is now taking bookings and the committee is delighted to welcome back local groups such as the WI. The hall and playing field have also been used for a children's party.

Following a meeting in August, **Llanvapley Cricket Club** announced they have been given a grant from the Community Green Energy Advisory Group to install an artificial pitch and nets. The club has agreed to arrange a 'curtain raiser' to next season which will be between the cricket club and a team from the village. This will be on Saturday 28th May 2022.

LSSA lease The LSSA met with representatives from the council in August to discuss the lease to use the playing field. The LSSA asked the council about transferring the ownership of the land from the council to the association. We were told this would be possible and were told about the council's community asset transfer scheme. It was decided to find out more about this scheme.

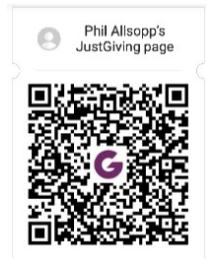
The committee agreed to aim to hold four **LSSA events** during 2022. Initial

ideas included a quiz night and a bingo night. It was suggested we should ask for ideas from the village for other events. Please contact the committee with your ideas.

The committee was disappointed that there has been no response to the request for someone from the village to run the coffee morning. Bethan Foster (committee member) therefore offered to run an **Afternoon Tea on Monday 18th October at 2pm to 3.30pm in the pavilion**. Thanks go to members of the WI and others who have offered to help Bethan. This would be an opportunity to restart the 100 Club. Everyone welcome from all the four parishes.



Cardiff Half Marathon I'll be running a half-marathon along the Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal on Sunday 3rd October. This was the day that the Cardiff Half Marathon was scheduled to happen, but the organisers had to postpone it. As I had been in training, I'm taking the organisers' option of a virtual half-marathon, using my Garmin running watch to verify distance and time. I am raising money for the **Abergavenny Town of Sanctuary**, a group of volunteers who make those seeking refuge in the town feel welcome and help them to settle in. Given what's happening in the world I think this is an important cause. If you agree and would like to donate here's a link to my 'Just Giving' page - Click [here](#) to go to my page or scan the QR above. *Phil Allsopp*



September has been a month of celebrations for Janet and Jim Andrews from Llanvapley. Firstly, on 4th September they were delighted to welcome the safe arrival of their grandson, **Angus James Andrews**.

Angus is the first child of Alistair and Rebecca Andrews who live in Crickhowell. Baby Angus is doing very

well indeed and is quickly adding to his birth weight of 8lb 3oz.

The celebrations continued on 25th September when Jim treated Janet to a meal at the Hardwick to celebrate his 90th birthday. Jim and Janet really enjoyed the superb food



and attentive staff but the the meal was made even more memorable by the arrival of Alistair, Rebecca and baby Angus. Angus was as good as gold and was well looked after by Granny while the others were tucking into their starters.



Llanvapley Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) met on Tuesday 21st September. The development of the Ministry Area was discussed and concerns were raised about financial arrangements. The church's covid risk assessment was discussed in relation to Holy Communion. It was decided to have a Harvest Service in October and to hold a Carol Concert on 19th December at 4pm. A service has also been arranged for Christmas morning. A second faculty has now been received to upgrade the paths around the church following one which granted permission to install two benches in the churchyard. The benches will be installed in the very near future once the bases have all set solid. Peter Marchant is pictured laying the sandstone paving slabs on the eastern side of the church. Thanks also go to Rhys Davies who came along and helped to dig out the bases. The benches were purchased with support from the Community Green Energy Advisory group.



Llanddewi Rhydderch A craft group is to start on Tuesday 28th September 10am in the church. This will be a chance for creative people to get together. It will run once a month. There will also be a coffee morning in the village hall on 20th October at 10.30 to 12 midday. Tables will be spaced to ensure limited mixing. Masks are optional as there is lots of ventilation in the hall. *Caroline Grant*

Llanvetherine News

A very successful coffee morning was organised on Friday 24th September at Lanes Garage to raise money for **Macmillan Cancer Support**. We are delighted to announce that we made £425.00 and there is still more money to be counted.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the event such a success and to everyone who came along and bought cakes and raffle tickets.

Special thanks go to a number of local businesses for their support. The paper cups were provided by MacDonalds and cakes and raffle prizes were provided by Motorcare, ABC, Aldi, Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons, KPG – to mention just a few. *Janet Phelps*



Thanks to **Andrew Dawson** who has sent in a selection of pictures from his garden. Despite the onset of autumn there is still plenty of colour to be seen in the garden. But for how much longer!



Andrew has also been able to photograph visitors to his garden and has sent a picture of a woodpecker. Andrew said “This green woodpecker was enjoying all the ants in our grass but didn't stay long enough for a 'top notch' photo.”



Penrhos News

Sunday 26th September was our **Harvest Festival Service** in Penrhos Church. The church looked absolutely beautiful. We had the sun streaming in through the windows lighting up all the wonderful sunflowers and other decorations the fabulous ladies of Penrhos used to decorate our church. After such a long time without a church service it has been lovely to finally have them again and what made Harvest even more special was we were allowed to sing hymns which is jolly hard work when we still have to wear masks. It was very impressive that Heidi had a sunflower mask on to match the ones in church!



We then went to High House for a picnic lunch. How lucky we were with the weather, it was dry and warm enough for us to sit outside, catch up with friends and walk around the beautiful gardens.

Thank you very much to Richard and Fiona for hosting the lunch and to the ladies for decorating our special church, Margaret Parry for playing the organ so we could sing the Harvest hymns and Heidi for the service. It was a very special day.



WI News

The members of WI have been making the most of the warm weather! Swimming and social afternoons with Angela at Chapel Farm has been a summer joy. The waistlines may not have decreased, however, due to the consumption of wine and cake after swimming! The weather was super for all the swims and it



even held up for the first autumn meeting held outside the cricket pavilion. Members enjoyed a karate demonstration by Keiko, who insisted everyone try it out. Then there was Tai Chi to try (pictured below) and the Jerusalemalema dance, with feet going in every direction. There had to be a sing song of course and cake with the tea and coffee.

The committee are busy planning more interesting meetings for the autumn. Abergavenny's well know sculptor, Harry Isles, has agreed to bring some of his fantastic large, wooden sculptures to the meeting in October when we will be able to touch these magnificent works of art.

There will be more cook books for members to collect. These will make excellent Christmas presents, if you can plan that far ahead.

The WI choir is beginning rehearsals and is hoping to perform some gospel songs at St. Woolas Cathedral in December. The rehearsals will be held at 6pm before WI meetings, covid levels permitting of course, as with all our plans. Meetings will be held inside, at a social distance, with masks. Members will naturally sanitise their hands on arrival. All normal covid rules will apply. See you on the 13th October! *Lin*



The Garden in October

Last month I wrote about the likely plants that will be on show at the Royal Horticultural Show at Chelsea, little did I know, but buried in the Brecon hills was as good a show of autumn flowers as any at Chelsea! I went with a friend to visit Treberfydd House at Llangasty, Tal-y-Llyn near Brecon. We arrived a little early and thought we would explore a little further into the hills and we did not have to go far, because next door was Treberfydd Walled Garden Nursery, which was infinitely more interesting than the house we were about to visit! Alison, I am afraid I do not know her surname, and one other gardener have over the space of eight



years transformed the walled garden into something absolutely magical. Having parked your car in a slightly scruffy car park you pass some old potting sheds bedecked with old earthenware flower pots and galvanised watering cans and then go through an arch, to be greeted with a glorious panorama of colour. Interspersed between copper beech hedges are flower beds full of colour and I suspect that in summer and spring they would be equally interesting. Then between the flower beds are rows of very healthy looking plants in pots, ready for you to take home. She has a huge variety of Salvias, Agastache, echinacea, achillias, and lots of plants that were completely new to me. My friend found a lovely yellow nepeta. Nepeta govaniana which does well in light shade. I bought a beautiful puce pink Salvia S. microphylla 'Carro Potosi'. Carro Potosi is a mountain in Mexico and this salvia was found growing there by James Compton. Alison assured us that although the garden is protected by the surrounding walls, winters can be harsh there – it is 600 feet – and so most of her plants are tough. Do look up the website (www.walledgardentreberfydd.com) as they have bulb weekends in October and other events throughout the year.

In the Spotlight

In this month's edition of The New Times the spotlight has fallen on a member of the clergy who serves in our four parishes. But how well do we really know **Lorraine Cavanagh**? TNT tried to find out more by putting her 'In the Spotlight'.

How long have you been an Anglican priest?

19 years

You have worked in both rural and urban locations.

Which do you prefer?

I have loved both equally.



Where were you born and where did you go to school?

I was born in London. My father was French, my mother American, so I spent a good deal of my childhood between France and England and the US . I went to about 10 different schools (also had a governess at one point) in London, Paris, Washington, Madrid and, later to boarding schools in Essex and Berkshire. I went to Cambridge very much as a mature student.

What is your earliest memory?

Summers in Normandy where my grandfather lived. My pony. The bell at the chateau that alerted the entire village that the family was about to sit down to a meal. There was a gong downstairs as well. I sat at 'la petite table' with my governess. I was always given a small amount of wine to drink, diluted with water. In the evenings, if I had had supper with the grown ups, I was given a 'canard', a lump of sugar dipped in brandy, before going to bed. These are very happy memories!

What is your biggest fear?

The rise, and ultimate dominance, of the Far Right both in the UK and the US.

You have recently moved house. What was the most difficult thing about moving?

I miss my veg garden, although I didn't at first!

Would you describe yourself as a gardener?

Yes. I've always loved growing my own food and I strongly believe that anyone with the smallest plot of ground should try to be, as far as possible, self sufficient, and in solidarity with the very poor of the earth who depend on subsistence farming in order to survive. I try to be with them in spirit when I'm in my veg garden, though I don't have one at present.

Cooking - what is your signature dish?

I love cooking and preparing food, so there are a good few. We're trying to eat much less meat these days. Some of my favourites are: Poached eggs with tamarind and coconut sauce, butter bean and spinach stew with toasted pine nuts, potato stew with herbs and feta, Spelt with chorizo, sweet potato, red onion and spinach, Cajun chicken and chunky bean salsa. And for pudding? My homemade blackberry ice cream, sicilian orange and almond cake, coconut and raspberry cake.



What do you do to keep fit?

I walk our Labradoodle, Togo (pictured), for about an hour a day.

What makes you mad?

The way women and girls are treated in Islamic fundamentalist countries.
Cruelty to any animal.

Do you sing or play an instrument? What sort of music do you enjoy?

Wish I could sing, but no. I love listening to choral music and good contemporary music, especially things with a latino flavour to them.

Do you have any pets?

Togo, our Labradoodle who we are frankly obsessed with.

What occasion has caused you the most embarrassment?

Having to write it down would cause me more embarrassment than any occasion I could call to mind! That being said, I do remember the first time I ever preached without a scripted sermon. It was when I had just been licensed as a lay reader and my notes fell under the chair I was sitting on. I felt too exposed to bend down and look for them, so did the sermon 'blind'. I've never looked back!

If you could invite three famous people to a meal at your house who would they be?

I would be very interested to engage Archbishop Justin Welby in conversation. Rory Steward would be an absolute must. Boris Johnson – on his own.

Apart from the Bible and the works of Shakespeare, what book would you take to your desert island?

Patrick White's Riders in the Chariot, anything by Iris Murdoch, Maggie Ross's Silence: A User's Guide.

What is your favourite hymn?

'How Great Thou Art'

What is your favourite place to eat?

My own kitchen table

What is your favourite place to go on holiday?

Evia, in Greece

Did you stay up to watch Emma Raducanu win the US Open?

Yes, absolutely! And I'm not at all a sports person.

Do you have any special skills?

I am fluent in French and Spanish. I've written a few books.

If you were the First Minister for a day what would you change?

I would make mask-wearing permanently mandatory in all shops and public places where feasible to do so. (Churches, restaurants and pubs would be exempt)

Esgobaeth Mynwy Gwasanaethau Cymraeg Hydref 2021

Hydref / October 12th

Tuesday / Dydd Mawrth

7pm / y.h., St Mary Magor

Harvest Festival / Diolchgarwch am y Cynhaeaf

Church Services in October

3rd October

11am Llantilio Crossenny
Harvest Festival
6.30pm Llanvetherine Harvest
Festival

10th October.

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley Harvest
Festival

17th October

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

24th October

9.30 am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley Holy
Communion

Covid-19

If you wish to attend a service you may like contact the church in advance if you have any personal safety concerns. Notices will inform you of the covid safety measures

Penrhos please contact

Mr Richard Price

whitehousefarmuk@gmail.com 780246

Llanvetherine please contact

David Hughes Jones

davidwhjones@btinternet.com

01873 821 497

Llanvapley please contact Les Taylor

lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com 780376

Llantilio please contact Elsie Latham

elsie.latham@gmail.com 780225

Overheard in The Hog's Head

You are looking smart today. What's the occasion?

Nothing special, I just thought I would make an effort.

We don't normally see you in a shirt and tie. Are you going to a wedding?

Of course not! Is there one?

I like your tie but why has it got mushrooms on it?

That's because I'm a fun guy!



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