

NEW TIMES



What's on

Forthcoming Services – All Welcome

5 th November	9.30 Llanvetherine	11.00 L C
12 th November	9.30 Penrhos	10.30 Llanvapley 11.00 L.C
19 th November	9.30 Llanvetherine	11.00 L C
26 th November	9.30 Penrhos	
3 rd December	9.30 Llanvetherine	11.00 L C

Licensing Service

Thought for the month:

“One who lacks the courage to start, is already finished”.

Message from Rev David Osborn

As I write this we are in the last throes of packing – and by the time you read this, Helen and I will hopefully be settling into the Vicarage. We are told that we are doing two of the most stressful things in life, moving house and starting a new job and it feels like it at this point.

We are really looking forward to living in Monmouthshire and being part of the lives of all four village communities. The welcome we received when we first came to see the parishes in the early summer was most moving and we have begun to share the enthusiasm of the wardens we met that day. Inevitably, the appointment of a new vicar is a complicated one, but I would like to pay tribute first to my predecessor Heidi Prince for all the dedication and prayerful ministry that she exercised during her time with you. I would like to think that I can continue to build on the excellent foundations she laid.

You will want to know a little about us and so I am taking this opportunity to introduce Helen and myself. We live in Bracknell, Berkshire where I have been the Rector since 1997. This is a team ministry and I have a number of vicars and lay ministers as part of the team in a very urban area. Bracknell was a new town in the early 1950's and is as different as it can be to your communities.

This September, I celebrated 40 years in ministry during which I have both been in urban and country parishes, as well as in Education. I was assistant director of education in the diocese of Carlisle, chaplain in an independent school teaching religious education and then as director of studies in Oxford of the training of non-stipendiary clergy.

The time was right to retire from full-time ministry, but the prospect of stopping ministry altogether was something I couldn't contemplate. So the opportunity to minister in the Llantilio group of parishes 2 days a week plus Sunday was most appealing. Most of my present parishioners cannot see me doing 2 days a week! Whatever the needs of the parishes, I will be there to respond whether it's a day I'm working or not.

Helen has worked as a Practice Manager of a busy GP practice in Bracknell and retired on 31 October.

Outside of the Church our interests are varied. We achieved a cherished dream this year in buying a new narrow boat, (which is called 'Dusky Mist' after our late beloved dog) and the boat is moored in Rugby. We are looking forward to developing the vicarage garden and Helen would like to pick up her sugar-craft again. I am a golfer of a very average kind, and I have played for the Church of England team against the Church in Wales in recent years – I hope to join a local golf club to continue hacking away. Above all we look forward to seeing a little bit more of our children – all grown up now – and our grandchildren. They will no doubt be seen from time to time.

In another part of the 'New Times' you will find the Christmas Services and I hope to meet a good number of you during that time. Christmas-time in Church is a wonderful and magical season and I hope that we can celebrate the coming of Christ into our world with carols and celebration. It is a time when we look back and thank God for all the blessings of this world, a time to give not only presents but ourselves to other people. Christina Rossetti wrote that evocative carol which has its last verse:

Penrhos, Llantilio Crossenny Llanvetherine, Llanvapley, December 2006

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

We look forward so much to beginning ministry in the four villages and hope that you will be able to come and share in the Licensing Service on December 2 at 2.30pm in Llantilio Crossenny. A number of people from Bracknell and other places hope to be there : the Bishop of Monmouth will license me, and also sharing in the service will be the parish wardens along with the Archdeacon, Registrar, the Dean of St Woolos Cathedral with clergy from the Abergavenny Deanery.

Your friend and new Vicar

David

Llanvetherine - Newspaper collecting group

If you live in the Llanvetherine/Treadam area you will know only too well that you have to drive to Mardy if we want a daily newspaper. I was wondering if anyone in the Llanvetherine/Treadam area would like to join a 'newspaper collecting' group. Please contact Chris Carnac if you are interested on 01600780332

Llanvetherine News

The Bonfire Night Party at the Court was a roaring success with parishioners coming out of the woodwork to view the amazing glow. Mulled Wine, soup and homemade Parkin was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Susannah and Jonno for their hospitality and effort. A quiet time at the village but the drains are being emptied along the main road with yes, honestly, traffic Lights in Llanvetherine! There is also talk from the Community Council of a speed limit to be imposed. (The first draft of the area to be covered by the limit included a bridleway so it will affect more than was originally thought.) As we look forward to the arrival of our new vicar, Christmas and the Carol Service in our Church, please look out for notices re times. At the time of going to press the Carol Service will be at 7.00p.m. on Friday December 22 (the day school breaks up) and the Christmas morning service at 9.30 a.m. Not many "orders" have been received for the newsletter. Please contact the Churchwardens to arrange collection, to avoid disappointment!

Llanvapley News

Llanvapley says thanks

As many of you are aware 2006 has been an important year for Llanvapley Church. In March the church reopened after restoration work was completed and the first service was organised for 12th March. Unfortunately, snow arrived over night and Llanvapley awoke to a blanket of snow which caused the service to be cancelled. David Meredith from Llanarth was due to take the service and so we had to wait until April before he could take charge of the first service of the year. Since that time David has taken a number of our services and became, along with his wife Megan, an important part of our congregation. At the service on 12th November David lead his last service before the new vicar takes over in December. Llanvapley PCC took the opportunity to present David and Megan with a gift of a rather splendid cake (made by Barbara Spells) as a token of thanks and appreciation for everything they had done for us during the year. I am sure David and Megan will be back soon amongst our congregation.



Postcard from Llanvapley

It rained and it rained and rained and rained
the average fall was well maintained
and when the tracks were simply bogs
it started raining cats and dogs
after a drought for half an hour
we had the most refreshing shower
and then the most curious thing of all
a gentle rain began to fall
next day was also fairly dry
Save for a deluge from the sky
which wetted Llanvapley to the skin
and after that the rain set in.

Anon

Who's Who? – The Churchwardens

Penrhos	Richard Price	01600 780 246
	Jean Flynn	01600 780 405
Llanvetherine	David Hughes Jones	01873 821 497
	Andrew Dawson	svdawson@tiscali.co.uk
Llanvapley	Les Taylor	01600 780 376
	Barbara Spells	
Llantilio Crossenny	Dennis Ball	01873 821 236
	Richard Barnfield	01600 780 365

Smile Please!

A couple were having their Sunday morning breakfast when the wife went to get her Sunday church clothes on. When she returned, the husband was still in his dressing gown.

"Aren't you going to church this morning?" asked the wife.

"No, I'm not going this morning. In fact, I'm not going to church anymore at all."

"What do you mean, we've gone to church for years, so why the change?"

He responded, "Look, there are people at that church who don't like me, and frankly, there are people at that church that I don't like, and I'M NOT GOING!"

She answered back, "I'll give you two good reasons why you need to go to church. One, you're 42 years old. Two, you got to go, you're the vicar."

Nothing in the newsletter?

If you think there is nothing of interest in the newsletter then we need your help. There is so much happening in our different parishes and villages and The New Times aims to bring local information together. It doesn't take long to write a report or to send a photograph. So please don't be shy!

Drop us a line by post (2 Firs Road, Llanvapley), email (llan.news@yahoo.co.uk) or telephone (01600 780376).