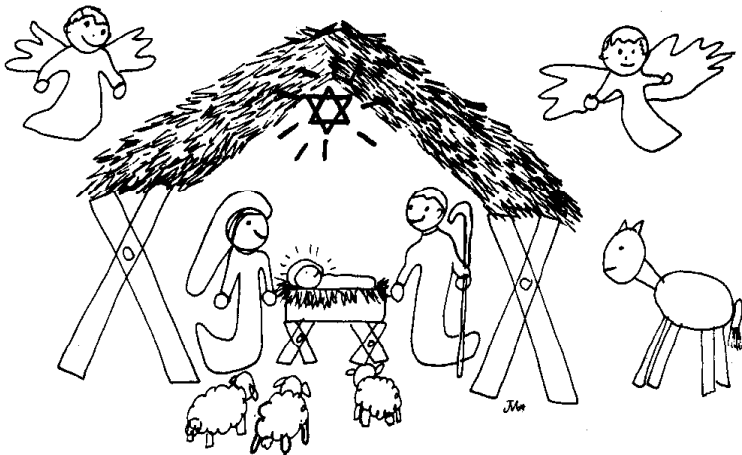


THE NEW TIMES

DECEMBER 2008

PENRHOS
LLANTILIO CROSSENNY
LLANVETHERINE
LLANVAPLEY



From the Vicarage

So what is Christmas going to cost you? We shall all be looking to economise this year and possibly that is not a bad thing. I was looking the other day at an article written by C S Lewis, (He wrote the Narnia Stories – Lion witch and the wardrobe etc) called ‘What does Christmas mean to me. Lewis says that there are three Christmases! There is the Christian Festival which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ: then there is the getting together of friends and family in joyous (sometimes!) reunion: the third Christmas is the madcap, guilt-making round of presents people don’t need or want, too much food and drink – a fair bit thrown away.

As I read these words, written way back in 1946, I couldn’t quite decide whether C S Lewis was being a bit Scrooge-like, or whether there were real messages for the credit-crunch, recession world we now live more than half a century later. If we take seriously the bible passages like the ‘Sermon on the Mount’ then we have to look at how we use money and the resources we have. Our politicians blame the bankers for adopting a live now pay later approach during the good years, many people are accusing the politicians of now doing the same thing. We are all guilty of living in excess but as ever; anyone who suggests this is accused of being a ‘kill-joy’. Strangely enough, Jesus talks about joy a lot, but of a different kind.

So what is a Christian Christmas? It may well be making a donation to a third world charity as a gift on behalf of someone else: it may well be making a present rather than buying it: it may well be writing a note in a Christmas card instead of scribbling for the 94th time.....’and family’.

In fact, writing a letter could be a good Christmas gift to some one – not the circular that trumpets Jemima’s grade 3 flute exam, (important though that may be) or the crowing about the holiday in an exotic place. A Christian Christmas is a personal Christmas, something small done or said that has meaning.

This brings us back to the stable in Bethlehem of course. ‘You will find a babe lying in a manger’ said the angel ‘this will be sign to you’. At Christmas, God gets ‘close up and personal’. His gift to us his himself, and in return, he invites to give ourselves to others.

‘Love came down at Christmas time’

Your friend and Vicar

David

Confirmation

A number of people are interested in being confirmed. If you or someone you know is interested please let David Osborn (01600780240).

It is intended to start preparation groups after Christmas with a view to a Confirmation service in the early Spring, either here or at St Woolos' Cathedral.

News from the Villages

We were sad to hear of the death of Howard Cobner of Llanvapley. Our love and prayers to Margaret and the family.

We have two weddings at Llantilio Crossenny in December! On Friday 5 December, Sara Luxmoore-Ball marries Corey Smalley, and on Saturday 6 December, Kathryn Francis marries Philip Lewis. We wish both couples a happy wedding day!

Llantilio Crossenny PCC has agreed the overwhelming priority is the heating of the church. We are exploring the idea of electric under-floor heating in the nave i.e. underneath the pews. The necessary process is being set in motion. They also agreed to buy a new organ if money can be raised in addition to the organ fund account.

Llanvapley have set a provisional date for the reopening service. It will be on **Sunday 29 March at 11am** when the Bishop of Monmouth, the Rt Revd Dominic Walker will lead the service. The MP for Monmouthshire, David Davies will also be present. The exterior walls are being lime-washed to match in with the stones and the interior decoration will be started this month. Work continues with the tiling of the roof and the repair of stones at the top of the tower.

Don't put money in the Collection! If you use one of the envelopes in the pew or at the back of church, we can claim the gift aid back from the government. This is set at 25% so if you put a £10 note in an envelope in the collection plate we can claim £2.50 at no cost to you.

Cross Ash School said goodbye to a great friend of the school **Mr. Wilf Mayo**. Wilf has been one of the school's bus drivers since the school opened. He and his wife Doreen, have supported the school in many ways, attending church services and school productions and helping with school grounds projects. They are hoping he will help the Reception class to develop their garden. Mrs Isobel Busby the Head Teacher considers Wilf to be part of the school family and will greatly miss his cheerful face and helpful manner as well as his beautiful flowers which brighten up her office!

During the third week in February, from Sunday 22 February, David Osborn will be doing his 'week in residence' at Westminster Abbey. If anyone would like to visit and have a personal tour of the Abbey and a look behind the scenes, please get in touch with him.

Thank you to Gwyneth Cooke and Pam Richards for working hard the communion rails in Llantilio Crossenny church. The Killough Chapel is looking really good and the rails in their polished up condition add much to the looks of the whole chapel.

The Christmas decoration of Llantilio Crossenny church is on Saturday morning 20 December at 10am.

Jono and Suzannah Beatson-Hird have won a holiday in the Maldives...proving that not all prize draws are scams..this one was won because Suzannah promoted a website to the most amount of people..(Schoolstrader.com is an online trading site for parents and staff etc of independent schools...very handy in the Credit Crunch; you can buy or sell anything from your house to a horse, puppies to pencil cases, cricket bats to clothing). Photo in next months TNT...

Cross Country Flight

Earlier this year. Sub Lt. A J Andrews RN flew into Llanvapley and landed his squirrel helicopter opposite his house with kind permission from Sir Henry and Lady Boyd Carpenter.

Alistair was on his final cross country flight before moving onto larger helicopters/ After a brief stop, no time for a cup of tea, Alistair flew on to Tintern before returning to RAF Shawbury, Shrewsbury.

Alistair's ambition is to become a search and rescue pilot with the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm.

Llanvetherine Village Society

A reminder that Llanvetherine Village Society will be organizing a New Year's Day walk. Starting at the Big Bend in Llanvetherine at 11.00am and ending at Llanddewi Skirrid Hall for Bacon Butties.

This proved very popular last year, so if possible, we need numbers. There will be a small charge to cover costs. Contact Jill on 01873 821224.

Services in December

7 December	9.30am	Penrhos
Advent 2	11.00am	Llantilio Crossenny

14 December	9.30am	Penrhos
Advent 3		

For the rest of the Christmas services, please see Page 8.

Cwmmera Baptist Chapel

Carol Service Sunday 21st December at 3.00pm followed by tea and mince pies. All welcome.

Congratulations to Joe & Janet Sobik, of Cwmmera Chapel, for all their hard work in winning the Best Kept Church Yard in Monmouthshire. Well done.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

19 December 7.00pm Llanvetherine
Christingle Service

20 December 7.00pm Carol singing in Llanvapley
Social in pavilion

21 December 4.00pm Llantilio Crossenny
Carols by Candlelight

7.00pm Penrhos Carol Service

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Llantilio Crossenny
Christingle Service

11.30pm Penrhos

Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day 9.30am Llanvetherine
Christmas Holy Communion

11.00am Llantilio Crossenny

Christmas Holy Communion

Llanvapley in tight tussle with Llandewi at the Hogs

As the winter nights draw in the thought of skittles night at the Hogs Head has a strong appeal, particularly when the opponents are the "fun loving" village of Llandewi Rhydderch.

In last year's epic encounter, Llanvapley narrowly beat Llandewi and the rematch was therefore eagerly awaited. Membership of the Llanvapley team was open to any member of the village but in the end it was made up of the usual stalwarts and a couple of ringers and ex Llanvapleyites.

The standard of skittles seems to be improving but clearing all nine skittles proved as difficult as ever until Sue Taylor showed us how to do it. This was quickly followed by Lesley Stoker who managed to pick up a "spare" after making a clearance with just two balls.

At the break Llandewi were trailing but the gap was reduced thanks to a good performance by John Judd who cleared all the skittles. The Llanvapley team were delighted with their team performance and team captain Owen Marsh said, "Llandewi are always great sports and the result could go either way next time".

The evening concluded with a game of "Killer". Twenty-four pounds was in the kitty for the winner and in the end it was down to two players to fight out a nail biting finish. Dan Stephens playing for Llanvapley was once again on top form and he battled it out with Lesley from Llandewi. Dan missed a single skittle and this gave victory to Lesley and Llandewi. Lesley very kindly offered to give her prize to Children in Need.

Penrhos News

Congratulations to Emma and max Flynn on the safe arrival of Sophie Natasha on 9th October, a sister for Holly and granddaughter for Jean and Gerry Flynn.

Congratulations to Catherine and Tim Smith on the welcome arrival of Oscar William on the 4th November, a brother for Archie and second grandson for Richard and Margaret Price.

14th June 2009 Penrhos Church Hog Roast at Bulmers Barn.

Thank you to everyone who shared in the excellent Advent Service on 30 November. Joe Adams sang from 'Messiah' and a Basque Carol accompanied by Jeanette Massochi. A special thanks to Richard and Margaret Price who provided refreshments afterwards. It was good to see representatives of the other parishes there.

Light in the darkness.....you can now see where you are going as you approach Llantilio Crossenny Church! New lights have been installed on the steps and over the front door.

Thanks to Angie Ellis of Ross Labels whose company now prints the magazine.

The funeral of Florence Poyner, formerly of Llanvetherine will take place on Wednesday 10 December in Llanvetherine Church at 2.00pm.

LLANTILIO CROSSENNY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Reflexology was the topic at the November meeting of the Llantilio Crossenny W.I., when local reflexologist Margaret Cummings demonstrated how the hands and the feet were connected to all parts of the body. She encouraged all members to take part. Working in pairs, members took turn to massage parts of the hand to alleviate problems already identified, such as backache and blocked sinuses. Everyone was very impressed and Ann Couldwell thanked Margaret for such an inspiring session.

Among the matters discussed during the business part of the meeting, members were delighted to learn that the craft fair at the Hog's Head had been very successful. It was also decided that the celebration of our 90th birthday would be acknowledged in January with an informal social and then later in the year, when hopefully the weather would be better, a more formal party when we would invite other W.I. groups.

The next meeting will be the Christmas dinner, to be held this year at Warwicks in Talycoed on Thursday 11th December. Llantilio Crossenny W.I. meet at Llanvapley Village Hall at 7pm on the second Wednesday each month and new members are always welcomed

WHO'S WHO?

The Vicar

Rev. David Osborn 01600 780240
07803 618464
Email: d.osborn42@btinternet.com

Please note new email address

The Churchwardens

Penrhos Richard Price 01600 780246

Jean Flynn 01600 780405

Llanvetherine David Hughes Jones 01873 821497

Andrew Dawson

Llanvapley Les Taylor 01600 780376

Fiona Lowes 01600 780425

Llantilio Crossenny Dennis Ball 01873 821236

Richard Barnfield 01600 780365

For Sale

Working cocker pups, black with flashes of white.
KCR. born 4th November. 1 bitch, 2 dogs.

Please call Suzannah Beatson-Hird 01873 821225