

THE NEW TIMES



JANUARY 2008

**PENRHOS
LLANTILIO CROSSENNY
LLANVETHERINE
LLANVAPLEY**

SERVICES IN JANUARY

Sunday 6 January <i>Epiphany</i>	09.30am Llanvetherine 11.00am Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 13 January <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	09.30am Penrhos 11.00am Llanvapley
Sunday 20 January <i>Epiphany 3</i>	09.30am Llanvetherine 11.00am Llantilio Crossenny
Sunday 27 January	09.30am Penrhos

From the Vicarage

Welcome to 2008 and a Happy New year to you. The initial prospect of a new year is not at all attractive in one sense. The world seems in turmoil, not only in Pakistan, but violence world wide and on our own doorstep: the financial markets are volatile and we are concerned about debt, either our own or other people's. We worry about our children and grandchildren, our pensions and I guess, our well being generally.

If all this gloomy, then of course, there is nothing new in this list. The Christmas story in our gospels doesn't end with the angels and shepherds but continues with the desperate flight into Egypt by Mary and Joseph with their little child. The Wise Men would surely have told them of their suspicions about Herod and his plan to kill every child under two years old

In his Christmas message, Pope Benedict encouraged every one to make time for God in this New Year, but I wonder how we do that? I think that the first thing is to spend a brief moment each day in prayer or reflection. Research indicates that those people who do this are happier and able to cope with life much better than those who don't. The world and the different universes are such incredible creations that we need to look beyond for inspiration and encouragement. I have always appreciated the words used by King George VI in a Christmas Message when he quoted Minnie Louise Haskins. I commend her words to you for the start of 2008. A very Happy New Year.

*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

*And he replied, 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into
the hand of God
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known
way!'*

*So I went forth and finding the Hand of God
Trode gladly into the night
He led me towards the hills
And the breaking of day in the lone east.*

*So heart be still!
What need our human life to know
If God hath comprehension?*

*In all the dizzy strife of things
Both high and low,
God hideth his intention."*

Yours in Christ

David

News from the Parishes

Thank you to everyone who shared in the Christmas Services. We think that many more people came this year and most services were packed!

At **Penrhos**, we had the traditional carol service with Peter Cobb at the organ. Once again we were indebted to Richard and Fiona Cleve for the use of their barn for mince pies and mulled wine - the perfect place!

Llanvapley was very full for their candle-lit service and we had two musical treats. The Selby Sound hand bells were excellent and Alicia Lowes' wonderful voice in her singing of 'O Holy Night' was quite out of this world. We enjoyed the social down at the pavilion organised by the LSSA.

Llantilio Crossenny crammed so many children and families in for the Christingle that we almost ran out of Christingle oranges. Our thanks to the Cobb family for making the Christingles again - the service is one of the highlights of our village Christmas. The children sang Away in a Manger to the accompaniment of the Selby Sound hand bells. The flowers from Alex and Caroline Cooper's wedding added much to the church for all the Christmas services.

Llanvetherine held the midnight service and again we filled the nave and choir stalls. The rain didn't dampen our spirits as we observed this most holy night on Christmas Eve.

Thank you to our readers, to Margaret, Jeanette and Peter who played, the flower arrangers and the wardens who did so much to make Christmas very special in their village church.

Helen and David, along with +Dominic enjoyed their stay in The Gambia, West Africa. The Llantilio Social Club gave the proceeds of their November raffle and this was taken to the school to pay for the education of Efrancy Jarju for one year who is here in the picture with her teacher and Helen - note her Dad's football shirt! 3400 children go to the school in two shifts and have little in the way of paper. pens etc. We will try and get more pictures and a progress report about Efrancy - she is 8 and her father and mother are members of the Roman Catholic Church in the Gambia - part of a very small minority in the muslim Gambia.



At Llanvetherine last month we had the baptism of Megan Yeomans the daughter of Garry and Jessica Yeomans, whilst at Penrhos, James Tobias Probert, the son of Graham and Sarah Probert, had his baptism on December 9.

At Llantilio Crossenny we enjoyed the splendid wedding of Alexander Cooper and Caroline Bailey and we wish them both well for their future together.

There were one or two successes in the Shows in recent weeks. Chris Ball of Upper Cwm farm had two first prizes and reserve prizes for his sheep and the Cook family also did extremely well in their show classes.

The **Women's Institute** had a very good Christmas dinner at The Warwicks for their December meeting and they meet again on 9 January in Llanvapley. The Llantilio Crossenny Social Club had their Christmas Carols at the Hog's Head which was excellently produced by Eleanor Farncombe.

We are fortunate in having two establishments, The Warwicks and The Hog's Head which are so welcoming and a joy to go to for all the community.

The PCC of Llanvapley meet on Thursday 17 January in the Old Vicarage at 6.00pm and the PCC of Llantilio Crossenny meet on Wednesday 30 January on the Killough Chapel at 7.30pm.

During the week of February 4 - 11 David Osborn will be 'in residence' at Westminster Abbey as Chaplain. One or two people have expressed an interest in a personal conducted tour around The Abbey and attend one of the services. If you are interested in this please call David and arrange a time and date. You could make it part of a longer visit to London!

There is Wine Quiz Evening on Friday 1 February at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. We hope that many people will join us in sampling wine and guessing in a very light hearted way which of three alternatives is the true description of the wine. There will be a light supper and other surprises during the evening.

Don't forget St David's Day 1 March when the Cowbridge Male Voice Choir will perform in Llantilio Crossenny in aid of the building fund. Tickets available this month!

Tickets cost £10 and are on sale from members of the PCC.

Are you interested in helping in the development of countryside walks based around the parish church of St Mabli's in Llanvapley? There is an extensive network of public footpaths in the Llanvapley area and the idea would be to select routes, which could be recommended to visitors to the church. Help and ideas are needed at all levels to make this idea work, particularly from those whose land might be involved. If you are interested in helping or would like to know more please contact Les Taylor, 2 Firs Road.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help in our shop – OXFAM, 14, AGINCOURT SQUARE, MONMOUTH, NP25 3DY

Do you have 4 hours, or less, once a week, to help us in the shop, either serving on the till or upstairs in our workroom sorting, pricing clothes or bric à brac, books, jewellery, toys etc?

We are a happy group. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided too. Come along and see what we do and if you are interested in any aspect of our work, we'd be delighted to welcome you. Hope to see you soon,

Anne Bale, Shop Manager.

