

The New Times

November 2021

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



Llantilio Church celebrates the harvest of 2021



and Phil celebrates supporting Abergavenny Town of Sanctuary

From the Vicarage

I can hardly believe that we are in November already – where has the year gone?

We live in an age where so much of life happens so quickly: fast food, fast fashion, fast internet speed, fast delivery, - indeed, some people talk so quickly that you can hardly understand a word they are saying!

I'm all for the slow movement myself. Life can only be lived one moment at a time, so, if you can, try and savour it, rather than rush on to the next moment.

As I write, on the eve of the COP26 summit, we are all painfully aware of the damage we are inflicting upon the natural world. So much of it has been due to our desire for quick, convenient living.

We forget so easily that the earth is sacred, it is our home, and whatever we do to creation we do to ourselves. As Chief Seattle put it:

“This we know the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”

Let's do everything we can to cherish this beautiful world, one day at a time, one moment at a time.

With every blessing,

Heidi



A prayer by Orin L. Crain

Slow Me Down

Slow me down, Lord!

Ease the pounding of my heart

By the quieting of my mind.

Steady my harried pace

With a vision of the eternal reach of time.

Give me,

Amidst the confusions of my day,

The calmness of the everlasting hills.

Break the tensions of my nerves
With the soothing music
Of the singing streams
That live in my memory.
Help me to know
The power of sleep,
Teach me the art
Of taking minute vacations
Of slowing down
To look at a flower;
To chat with an old friend
Or make a new one;
To pet a dog;
To watch a spider build a web;
To smile at a child;
Or to read a few lines from a good book.
Remind me each day
That the race is not always won by the swift;
That there is more to life
Than increasing its speed.
Let me look upward
Into the branches of the towering oak
And know that it grew great and strong
Because it grew slowly and well.
Slow me down, Lord,
And inspire me to send my roots deep
Into the soil of life's enduring values
That I may grow toward the stars
Of our greater destiny.

Ministry Area News

In October, Tom Lowes from Llanvapley attended an initial finance meeting with the Diocesan Board of Finance staff. This was arranged by Fr. Julian from Llantilio Pertholey, our ministry area leader. The next meeting of the ministry area transition team (MATT) will be at 7pm on Thursday 11th November, at St Michael's Church, Llanvihangel Crucorney.

Llantilio Crossenny News

On Sunday 3rd October the **Harvest Festival Service** was held at St Teilo's church. The six church bells rang before the service and a cup of tea was enjoyed afterwards. A bit of normality.

The church looked wonderful decorated in the harvest tradition, with beautiful flowers, vegetables and fruit. Of course, the church does not by magic look so beautiful and clean. On Friday morning the cheerful troops were rallied, eight in all. The polish was out, brushes and hoovers deployed - who needs an aerobic class! The flowers, fruit and vegetables were arranged and we even managed a quick cup of coffee and a chat afterwards. What a team. A great bunch of girls!



That afternoon the sun was shining and I walked up to the church and took some photos as a way of practising my photography skills. Thank you to everyone who provided the flowers and produce.

Myfanwy Williamson

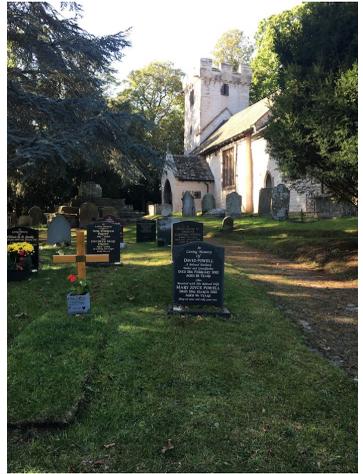


One of the many jobs of the vicar is to supply our four churches with everything which is needed for services. This includes communion wine, wafers and so on. As you can see from the picture, candles for the altar are also included. When Revd. Heidi appears with the candles it is hard to resist repeating the old 'Two Ronnies' joke and to say "I didn't ask for these I asked for fork handles!" Luckily Revd. Heidi is happy to go along with this joke for the umpteenth time.



Llanvapley News

Llanvapley Church is delighted to announce that the project to install two benches in the churchyard has been completed. The three seater teak benches have been placed on sandstone paving on opposite sides of the church. The benches have been placed carefully to provide a good view of the church from different angles. The picture on the right shows the view from the bench near to the car park. Visitors to the church and churchyard are now able to enjoy the beauty and quiet of this special place. The church would like to acknowledge the financial support provided by the Community Green Energy Advisory Group. The benches were made by Memorial Benches UK which is based in Ticehurst, East Sussex. The total cost of the project was £1330. The cost of each bench was £450. Additional costs included ground fixing anchors, engraving on the top rail, paving slabs and building materials. Thanks go to Peter Marchant for supplying his tools, skill and hardcore.



If any of our readers have installed a bird bath in their garden in the hope of attracting visitors to the garden, then they will no doubt remember the delight at seeing a bird appear within minutes of it being filled up with water. The same delight was felt in Llanvapley recently. Shortly after the completion of the work on the benches up popped a visitor in the form of Russell Jones who was cycling around the area. Russell was delighted to take a rest and to enjoy a short break before flying off!



A **Harvest Thanksgiving service** was held in the church on Sunday 10th October. Thanks go to Flossie, Brenda, Sue and Gen for cleaning and decorating the church which looked fantastic. The congregation were delighted to be able their favourite harvest hymns for the first time since 2019. Thanks go to Alice Sidwell from Monmouth House / Orchard Acre who gave a very interesting address in which she described



growing up in the village the work she and Jonny are doing. Thanks also go to Janet Andrews who made a lovely harvest loaf. It would be nice to be able to show you a picture of the harvest loaf but it was devoured so quickly after the service there wasn't a chance. The service was taken by Revd. Gaynor Burrett from Grosmont Church. It was a pleasure to meet Gaynor again and she was thanked for taking the service while Revd. Heidi played the organ.



Can you think of a fun way of raising money for your local church?

James Lowes from Llanvapley is a regular fundraiser and supporter of Llanvapley church. Every year, while on holiday in Scotland, James organises a pelmanism card in which the cards are spread out face down and must be turned up in matching pairs. Each contestant is asked to donate £5 and a total of £50 was raised. Well done James!

Llanvapley Walking Group For our October walk, we went up towards Manor Farm and then back through fields and down the quiet lanes. The autumn colours were just beginning to show and with crops harvested it was quite easy to negotiate the footpaths.

Our next walk will be on Saturday 13th November and will begin, as usual, at Llanvapley Pavilion at 10.30 - parking is available. On recent walks we have managed to pick up a significant amount of litter most of which was dropped by passing cars. This month we will have the correct equipment to collect any litter we see along the way and make sure it gets to be recycled if possible. We will be joined on the walk by County Councillor Sara Jones who is keen to support the village in improving the environment and the roads. If you would like to join us, please do. For more information about the walking group, the email is: llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com.





Thanks to all those who donated to the **Abergavenny Town of Sanctuary** to sponsor my half marathon on Sunday 3rd October. The run, part of the 'virtual' half marathon in lieu of the postponed Cardiff half-marathon, was completed in 1 hour 53 minutes and there was a lovely reception from friends and supporters as I crossed the finishing line at Abergavenny Castle (see front page). Looking forward now to completing the re-arranged half-marathon in Cardiff, hopefully in March. *Phil Allsopp*

The **Llanvapley Sports and Social Association** were delighted to hold an Afternoon Tea in the pavilion on Monday 18th October. The event was quite well attended and it was good to catch up after such a long period without being able to meet up. Thanks go to Bethan and Lynda for organising the event and the WI members who made cakes and sandwiches. It was decided to hold a similar event on Monday 8th November and Monday 13th December. Please put the dates in your diary and everyone is welcome.



Thanks to **Lynne Shuker** who has sent in some of her recollections of the village when she was growing up. Lynne would love to see any pictures from the time. Can you help? Contact the parish magazine if you can.

“Growing up at Crossways Farm Llanvapley I was pleased to be a member of St Mableys Merry Makers run by Mrs Lake at Monmouth House for the local children. We used to meet in the shed at the side of her house and she used to arrange games and activities for us to take part in. Other members included the Llanddewi boys. It all came to a sudden end when Mrs Lake arranged a party for us in her garage around the back of the house and someone went to the Red Hart and bought something cider and we all got drunk and threw the bottles over the hedge into Dudley

Blackwell's field. I'd be interested to know what memories others have of St Mabley's Merry Makers. I seem to remember we used to play croquet on the lawn at Monmouth House.

In addition I was a member of the youth club run at Llanddewi Rhydderch Village Hall and wondered if anyone had any memories or stories about that? They held discos and events at Llanddewi Village Hall. Any photos would be great too.

The original village hall was by the phone box the reason it stopped serving the village was that local farmer Billy Powell from Duffryn Farm started the rural life museum there meaning it wasn't available for the local community any more. Lots of the local farmers contributed items of interest included my father Francis Jones, Crossways Farm and each item had a label attached "donated by ...") it later moved to Usk. However, prior to it being a museum and lost for community we had fabulous children's Christmas parties there and my Dad was Father Christmas as he was on the village hall committee.

The field behind the council houses and the cricket club - the field used to belong to a local father Wyndham Pembridge who I believe have it to the village but that might be wrong. He was best friends with my father Francis Jones who supported the cricket club and donated a tractor and roller for the grounds. My father was given lifetime membership of the Llanvapley cricket club in response. We used to have great annual cricket club dinners. I remember one upstairs in the hotel in Agincourt Square (now weatherspoons) and one at The Lamb and Flag and many more."

Why not try Tai Chi? Tai Chi sessions are now being held in Llanvapley Pavilion. For those of you who don't know, Tai Chi combines deep breathing and relaxation with flowing movements and is a great way to get supple and stay active. On 3rd November the session will be run Annie Gorton Harding who is Tai Chi teacher. There are further sessions on 17th November, 1st and 15th December. Everyone welcome. Only £3 per session. Contact Lin for further information 01873 850939 or 0784064185

Llanvetherine News

The funeral of **Trevor Pryce Beavan** (29/5/1936 – 29/9/2021) took place on Sunday, October 10th in Llanvetherine Church

"On a beautiful sunny autumn day, we all said our farewells to Trevor at Llanvetherine Church. Thank you to everyone for your love, kindness, attendance, cards, letters, flowers, and



donations to the church. Trevor enjoyed his life and I'm sure he would have been proud of the wonderful send off you all gave him. Thank you again."

Anne Beavan

WI News

Harry Isles and his sculptures were a great success at the October meeting. Harry was very entertaining and explained the how, why and what of the sculptures. The members were very appreciative and asked questions, also giving their own views on experiencing seeing these magnificent works of art. So much so that some members would like him to return next year. One of his sculptures will be given to the Chartist Museum in Newport another will be displayed in Abergavenny Library.



The WI choir are working hard on their gospel songs for the Gwent Federation Carol Concert in Newport Cathedral 2pm on the 4th December. Members are asked to let Lin know, if they wish to attend as seats have to be booked with the Federation secretary. The choir are sounding really good and are the main feature.

Next month Lauren Cooke will be showing the members how the defibrillator should be used. We will also hear the story from a WI friend, whose life was saved.

Our dear friend Elsie Phillips sadly lost her husband Eddie and also her brother. Eddie and their son Nigel were always on hand to lend and set up their gazebo for our out door events. Elsie was grateful for the flowers from WI and knows the members will do what they can for her.

The committee would like to acknowledge the work and give thanks to Jane Barnard, who is stepping down as minutes secretary. The committee are also planning the annual dinner in January and have agreed that the Kings Arms is a perfect venue for us. More details later.

Members who also enjoy the Tai Chi sessions will be pleased that Annie Gorton Harding will be teaching us on the 3rd November. Do let Lin know if you would like to try this relaxing form of exercise.

Lin Morris President

01873 850939/ 07840641856.

The Garden in November

I have been confined to barracks recently because of a broken knee cap and instead of cutting back all the herbaceous stuff and tidying up and putting the garden to bed, it has been left to its own devices. However the garden is full of colour. *Salvia involucrata* (pictured with nerines in the background under purple vine) is looking wonderful and so are the nerines and kaffir lilies, *Schizostylis coccinea* 'Grandiflora'. There is even a last flush of roses, particularly *Rosa Bonica* so there is a lot of pink.



I noticed that the apples that I pruned back in August have sprouted again and I will have to give them another trim, also *Rosa*

Cooper's Burmese was not cut back hard enough and is trying to grow over the roof of my shed. I think next year they should be pruned back a little later. With warmer summers the growth period for many plants seems to be longer. I have just taken cuttings of a large blue salvia – *S. candelabra* which I have had for years but it is in the wrong place with not enough space. I am assured that given space it will stand proud and look as spectacular as its cousin, *S. involucrata*. Young plants of penstemons that I have been growing on are beginning to flower and I must try to find some good well drained places for them. I have one growing in very poor soil which has been there for years and it is very happy. Whereas another darker one in a flower bed is looking decidedly unhappy and I think it is because the soil is too rich and moist. Unfortunately I lost the labels of the young plants and have no idea what colours they are! Monty Don would not have approved. Penstemons are sub-shrubs and most of them are hardy. You can easily propagate them by cuttings or even taking seeds. If you dead head them they seem to go on flowering for months on end.

This year I left a large area of lawn uncut. We cut half of it a few weeks ago and left the rest under some oak trees. It will be interesting to see what happens next year. The bees seem happy anyway. I might try to get some plugs of yellow rattle and other wild flowers to suppress the grass. There is already plenty of bird's foot trefoil.

In the Spotlight

In this month's edition of The New Times the spotlight has fallen on one of our newer churchwardens. But how well do we really know **Sally Dawson** who is one of the churchwardens at Llanvetherine Church? TNT tried to find out more by putting her 'In the Spotlight'.

How long have you been the churchwarden for Llanvetherine Church?

Five years – I took over from Andrew when he was ordained.

How long have you lived in the village and where did you live before.

We've lived in Llanvetherine for 24 years, so still newcomers. This was our twelfth house move since we married, with homes in Kent, London, Chester, Manchester and Cardiff, so it's good to have settled down.

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

I was born in Dartford, Kent, in the same hospital where I later trained as a midwife. I went to school in Orpington, the same school as Dina Asher Smith and Emma Raducanu, but athletic and tennis coaching ran at a lower level then.

What is your earliest memory?

My earliest memory is staying at my grandmother's house when my mother was having twins and playing with my grandmother's four golden retrievers.

You always seem so calm. Does anything annoy you?

I'm glad I appear calm but my closest friends can tell when I'm annoyed.

How would you describe your house?

Our home. We have lived here longer than anywhere else and bit-by bit have made it our own.

Do you enjoy gardening and what do you enjoy most about the garden?

I love gardening. When we moved here our garden had been known as 'the dock field', it wasn't a garden. Andrew had a vision for our garden and the two of us created it. Everything in it we have planted, with plants often given to us by friends, relatives and neighbours.

Cooking - what is your favourite dish?

I enjoy cooking and have a lot of favourite dishes, one our longest standing favourites is a chicken and parsley casserole – first cooked in our rented



flat in Bexleyheath.

How do you keep fit?

Gardening!

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

I only sing in church. I used to play the piano. I like all sorts of music but particularly opera.

Do you have any pets?

No pets, just Andrew.

What occasion has caused you the most embarrassment?

Too many to recall! Recently, saying hello to masked people who turned out not to be who I thought they were.

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

Rowan Williams, Michelle Obama, Jonathan Van Tam.

Do you have a favourite drink?

Tea, or gin and tonic, but not together.

What is your favourite place to eat?

Heron's Cove, Golleen, West Cork, Ireland.

What is your favourite place to go on holiday?

A tossup between West Cork or Madeira.

Do you follow any sport?

The Six Nations.

Do you have any special skills?

Contemporary Textile Art – I got the bug when I did the City and Guilds course several years ago and subsequently exhibited with my group 'Naturally Sew', and worked commissions.

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

I'd want to tackle rural poverty, create affordable housing and improve care for older people.

If you could go back in time and give one message to your younger self what would it be?

I'd try harder to learn foreign languages.



Llanddewi Rhydderch There is lots going on in Llanddewi Rhydderech Village Hall in November. On the 5th there is a Bar Night, on the 17th there is a Coffee Morning and on the evening of the 18th it is Film Night at which they are screening Nomadland. The autumn internationals are also been shown on their big screen. Everyone welcome.

Esgobaeth Mynwy Gwasanaethau Cymraeg Tachwedd 2021

Tachwedd / November 13th

Saturday / Dydd Sadwrn

9.30am / y.b., St Thomas Monmouth

Eucharist: Remembrance / Ewcharist: Sul y Gofio



St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny

The annual service of remembrance will take place here on 14th November.

This is joint service for all of our four parishes.

Church Services in November

Sunday 7th November

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 14th Remembrance Sunday

9.30am Penrhos
10.55am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 21st November

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday 28th November Advent Sunday

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Parish Contacts

Penrhos

Mr Richard Price
whitehousefarmuk@gmail.com 780246

Llanvetherine

David Hughes Jones
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01873 821 497

Llanvapley

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Llantilio

Elsie Latham
elsie.latham@gmail.com 780225

Overheard in The Hog's Head

"There seems to be a lot of new places to stay around here. Log cabins, hog pods, shepherd huts, caravans, glamping as well as cottages.

Have you heard about the new one in Llantilio? It describes itself as 5 star accommodation but it's really cheap. So I rang up to find out more.

What did they say?

Well I asked them how come it's 5 star but really cheap. They said 'Our guests are worried about ventilation. They should enjoy their stay as on a clear night you can see 5 stars through the hole in the roof!'

Best wishes to **Dale Jones**, the landlord of the Hogs Head who is recovering from a fall. Dale has spent time in hospital but the news is that the pub is still open and he is on the mend!



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 December / January issue of The New Times by 20th November 2021
Please send your emails to lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com*