

# The New Times

April 2022

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



**Find out why the goats were so excited in Llanvetherine**



**and who has been raising money for Ukraine Red Cross in Penrhos**

## From the Vicarage

“And when human hearts are breaking under sorrows iron rod; then we find that self-same aching, deep within the heart of God.”

*Bishop Timothy Rees*



As I sit and take in this glorious sunshine we are having and witness the signs of spring all around us – the birdsong, the beautiful blossom, the lambs literally springing with life - I can

hardly believe the atrocities that our brothers and sisters are having to endure in Ukraine; where death, suffering and destruction, are deliberately and maliciously being inflicted upon them.

Of course, we only know what is happening, because of the people who tell us, and report back as first-hand witnesses of what is happening.

Journalists, and local people show us the dreadful evidence of life and death and daily suffering, as well as the tremendous courage and fortitude of Ukrainian people.

This month we enter into the most important week of the Christian year. Holy Week takes us from the celebrations of Palm Sunday, through the desolation and betrayal of Jesus on Maundy Thursday in the Garden of Gethsemane, the horrific crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday, the emptiness and grief of Holy Saturday, and to the unexpected joy of Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Of course, we only know about these events because of the people who were witnesses to them - the disciples and followers of Jesus who told others of what they had heard and seen.

We too are witnesses to the love and life of God - a God who suffers with us, and who loves us beyond measure.

May our witness, our reporting, be with our lives as well as our lips, that others may know the Good News of God's all-embracing love.

With every blessing,  
Heidi.

### **Holy Week**

This year we are very privileged to have Bishop Cherry leading us all the way through the events of Holy Week. I am greatly looking forward to this most holy of weeks. Please do join us if you can - you will be most welcome.

**The North Monmouthshire Ministry Area  
Holy Week 2022**

*All services led by Bishop Cherry with local clergy assisting*

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April ~ Palm Sunday**

St. Teilo, Llantilio Crosenny. 11.00am Holy Eucharist with Palm Sunday Ceremonies and Procession. Followed by tea / coffee in church.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April ~ Holy Monday**

St. Cadoc, Llangattock Lingoed. 7.30pm Holy Eucharist and Reflection. Followed by tea / coffee at the Hunter's Moon.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April ~ Holy Tuesday**

Cathedral Church of St. Woolos, Newport. 11am Chrism Eucharist with renewal of Clergy vows and Blessing of Oils.  
St. Martin, Cwmyoy. 7.30pm Prayers Before the Cross, Holy Eucharist and Reflection. Followed by tea / coffee in church.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April ~ Holy Wednesday**

St. Teilo, Llantilio Pertholey. 9.30am Holy Eucharist and Reflection. Followed by tea / coffee in church.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April ~ Maundy Thursday**

St. David, Llanddewi Ryhdderch. 7.30pm Holy Eucharist of the Lord's Supper with Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar and Watch of the Passion until midnight.  
Preceded by tea / coffee in church.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April ~ Good Friday**

Skirrid Holy Mountain. 9.30am Stations of the Cross walk to the summit. Followed by 'bring and share' lunch.

St. Nicholas, Grosmont. 2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy.  
No refreshments afterwards.

St. Teilo, Llantilio Crosenny. 6.00pm Stainer's Crucifixion.  
*'a truly memorable evening with a feast of music' – TNT May 2019*

No refreshments afterwards

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April ~ Holy Saturday**

St. Teilo, Llantilio Pertholey. 7.30pm Easter Vigil with Blessing of the New Fire, Lighting of Paschal Candles and Renewal of Baptismal vows and the First Eucharist of Easter.

Followed by wine / soft drinks.

# Llantilio Crossenny News

## Plant Stall at Llantilio Church Bank Holiday Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2pm

Beautiful Plants, cake Stall , teas and refreshments , and a raffle

Can we ask for some of our excellent gardeners to help us with this year's Plant Sale. If you are planting seeds, plug plants or dividing up herbaceous perennials this spring, could you spare a couple of pots. We have relied on a couple of stalwarts to provide a lot of plants in the past, now we asking for a little help from lots of people. Let us know if you can help us, or just bring your plants to the sale, there will be other stalls as well, the cake stall is not to be missed.

*Elsie Latham and Margaret Parry*



In Aid of The Queens Jubilee Weekend in Llantilio Crossenny area

we ask you to join us at our.....

## Easter Egg Bingo

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Eyes Down at 7pm

At The Hogs Head, Treadam, NP7 8TA.

Great Prizes, Raffle, Bar and Children's Bingo.

Fun for all the Family during Easter holidays!

For more info contact Lauren: 07971607157





*By Command of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
we are inviting you to celebrate her Highness's  
Platinum Jubilee with us....*

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (Evening)

Beacon Lighting, bonfire, bring your own picnic & drinks and look out for all the beacons in Monmouthshire from the highest points in our area.

2 locations- The Mount, Penrhos & near Park Cottage, Llantilio Crossenny

8pm for the 9.45pm Beacon Lighting along with the rest of the United Kingdom!

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June (Morning)

Jubilee Ramble- Everyone welcome 2 legs/4 legs short walk around Llantilio. Starting at 10am at St Teilo's, finishing at St Teilo's bring your own picnic for after!

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June (Evening) @ The Hogs Head

Platinum Party at the Palace will be showed on a cinema size BIG screen, 7pm onwards, local live band 'The BBC' will be playing, catering & ice cream van available, the bar will be open for beverages!

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June (Morning)

All Parish Churches will join in St Teilo's for a celebratory church service with prosecco afterwards. 11am service.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June (Afternoon) @ The Hogs Head

Big Jubilee Lunch- 12pm onwards bring your own picnic, we will have games for children and the 'big' children! Best fancy dressed child, craft stalls, children's cooking/craft competitions and ice cream van. The bar will be open for any beverages you wish so we politely ask you not to bring drinks with your picnic.

Every event is free of charge for you to be able to come with all the family and enjoy this momentous celebration! Look forward to seeing you all there!!



# Llanvetherine News

## The Royal Visit to the goat farm

On 31<sup>st</sup> January we received a rather cryptic text message from the Director General of the NFU with no explanation apart from a possible VIP visit. We were then emailed the following week asking if we would host the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on St David's Day!

Next, followed a recce by their senior aides and their social media crew, police and lots of security, about twenty in all. We were asked if we would invite a few people who help on the farm, and other key suppliers. Then began three weeks of tidying and cleaning!

The day of the visit began with four police cars arriving at 8am with sniffer dogs, to check out the farm buildings and the house - a sheepdog, two spaniels, and another that didn't look too friendly! The Duke and Duchess had been scheduled to arrive at 11.20 but due to the bad weather in London the helicopter was delayed leaving by half an hour.



There was great excitement as we heard the cars coming down the drive. When they got out of the cars, we were immediately struck with how tall they both are! Introductions were made, and we took them first to the barn where we rear our replacement female goat kids.

Here they met Dimitri Antypas and Jodie Emery, who both work for us, and they enjoyed a chat with them. Our farm vet was also there to meet them. Then we went up to the main goat shed where they saw our herd of milking goats. Here we introduced them to Michael and Ed Westoby, who do our contracting work, planting and harvesting our crops. Also Ben Sutton, from the John Deere tractor dealership at Raglan.



From there we went into the milking parlour, where our children Tommy and Megan (who had been allowed a day off school) talked them

through the milking process. A quick look over the cattle shed doors at our Welsh Black cows, then we headed down to the house.

Before going into the kitchen for a cup of tea, we introduced the Duke and Duchess to our parents and sisters. Over a cuppa we discussed the current situation of British agriculture and the difficulties facing it. They both had an excellent understanding of farming and wider rural issues.

Then they went into our B&B where they had a private lunch, which had been prepared by Vicky Crabtree, and got changed for their next visit in Abergavenny.



They were scheduled to be with us for 50 mins, but actually stayed for an hour and a half! What a fabulous couple! We could happily have spent all day with them. They were so easy to chat to, very relaxed and friendly and were genuinely interested in everything that everyone had to say.

They were everything that we had hoped they'd be and such fantastic ambassadors for Great Britain and the Royal Family.

*Jess Yeoman*

## **Litter in Llanvetherine**

The countryside has long been regarded as a place for some to dispose of their litter. This thoughtless action makes a mess of the area where we live and whilst most of us hate the sight there are comparatively few that get up and do something about it. However Llanvetherine has Zoe Mayo who does a weekly patrol and collects all the litter that tarnishes our verges and hedgerows. The local residents wish to acknowledge Zoe's efforts and thank her for all her hard work in enhancing the area despite the ignorance of passing motorists or whoever they are.

Some time ago Zoe gave me a copy of a poem she has written and is happy to share it with readers of the parish magazine.

*David Hughes-Jones*

### **Litter Picking**

Whilst walking and cycling around the lanes  
All I'd see was discarded litter  
It completely blighted the countryside  
Which made me feel quite bitter.  
Why would anyone want to do this  
spoil our beautiful land  
I don't really understand it.  
But decided to take it in hand.

Set to work with carrier bag and gloves  
This equipment wasn't the best  
So contacted Monmouthshire County Council  
was issued a picky stick and hi-viz vest.  
Every week I walk the length of the village  
Cleaning up after people who don't care  
Ubiquitous bottles, cans and McDonalds  
and even abandoned underwear.  
It's a very good way of keeping me fit  
as I cover about eight miles each week  
by the time I get to the end of the year  
I'm going to need a new pair of feet.  
I find it quite a social pastime  
People toot, shout, wave, stop to chat  
Words of thanks from locals and strangers  
Most greatly appreciate that.  
Weekly I will carry on with the task  
Of returning our verges to their former glory  
Wonder if I'll ever achieve this aim, well  
that's rather a challenging story

*Zoe Mayo, October 2019*

## **Anne Beavan**

On behalf of the Beavan family, I would like to thank you all for the messages and kind words after Anne's passing. Donations have exceeded £1000 for The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution in Anne's memory.

I was not expecting to be writing about the passing of Anne, so soon after losing Trev. They spent 63 married years devoted to each other and the farm. Dearly missed by us all, it is now very strange here without them. They probably saw more changes in agriculture than any other farming generation and we will miss the tales of traditional farming practices with horses which were superseded by the arrival of the tractor.

Anne was an Aberystwyth graduate with many talents including painting and writing poetry. I would like to share with you the first verse of a poem she wrote. 'Joys of farm life by a farmer's wife'

'Born a farmer's daughter, became a farmer's wife. Knowing all about it, still chose the farming life. Mud upon the carpet, straw all down the hall, vacuum cleaner packs up, it drives me up the wall. Bread is in the oven, kettle's on for tea. Ducks and hens need feeding, another chore for me.'

Rest in peace both, always loved and never forgotten.

*Kate Beavan*

## Llanvapley News

**Llanvapley Church** was delighted to welcome back Revd. Andrew Dawson on 13<sup>th</sup> March. This was the first time in over two years that Andrew had been able to celebrate Holy Communion at St Mabli's, during which time he had been unwell. Andrew was assisted by Revd. Heidi who played the organ. St Mabli's Church would like to thank Andrew for taking the service and wish him well in his continuing recovery. On 27<sup>th</sup> March there was a special service for Mothering Sunday at which posies were given out. Thanks go to Flossie who made the posies and also to Janet Andrews who made blue and yellow ribbons which were handed out. The PCC had decided to donate the entire collection to the Ukraine Red Cross and were delighted to be able to give £160 to the appeal. Thanks go to James Lowes for his annual power washing of the church steps which was completed at the end of the month.



**Llanvapley Church Parochial Church Council** met on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> March. This was the first meeting of the year and the first one since September 2021. The next meeting will be the Easter Vestry on 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in the church. Please come along and find out more about the church.

**Llanvapley Walking Group** A lovely walk through the woods and fields in early March took in primroses, daffodils and many other signs of spring, which have since become far more abundant especially given the weather we've been enjoying lately. The group included a range of ages as you can see from the photo and everyone enjoyed what is always a great social occasion. The next walk will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, and we will meet at Llanvapley Pavilion, where parking is available, at 10.30am. Hope to see you then. [llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com)



## **LSSA News**

The LSSA committee met on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the pavilion. A number of events have been organised in the pavilion as part of the Doorstep Training scheme. There are two craft workshops on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. There are also three gardening workshops on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June. A series of musical workshops will be held starting Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Full details are shown below. These events are open to everyone and are all free thanks to the support of Monmouthshire County Council, Newport Council and European funding from the Welsh Government.

## **Afternoon Tea**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2pm – all welcome – come along for a cuppa and a catch-up in the pavilion.

## **Orchard Acre Market Garden March Update**

With some beautiful spring days and warmth returning, March heralds much awakening in the garden. We have a sea of young plants in the propagation tunnel, potatoes and broad beans and peas planted outside, and our overwintering garlic and onions coming on. We are currently sowing a second round of seeds including spinach, peas, spring onions, lettuce and beets, and our outdoor sown carrots are just beginning to germinate.

We have been finalising membership of the CSA for this year and we have grown to thirty members this year. We are also growing additional crops to send to local people who need it and will be able to access food via the food bank and the Cwtch Angels Community Fridge. Many of last year's members have signed up again and our additional places are now almost filled with people who received veg from us for a short period last season. We have just opened up membership for the final few places, so if you are interested you can contact us at [orchardacremarketgarden@gmail.com](mailto:orchardacremarketgarden@gmail.com)



# Free! Macrame Hanging Basket Workshop & Jubilee Wreath Workshop

@ Llanvapley Pavilion, Llanvapley NP7 8SH



## Macrame Hanging basket workshop 20<sup>th</sup> April 10am

The workshop is a simple introduction to macrame. Create a hanging basket suitable for a 7" flower pot and also learn some knots that you will be able to use to go on to develop into bigger and better creations



## Jubilee Wreath Workshop 21<sup>st</sup> May 10 am

Create your own Jubilee themed wreath, using hedgerow cuttings and accessories (including fabric knots) you will create a lasting Jubilee themed door wreath, the base of which you will be able to tweak and twist to reuse over the coming months for any future celebrations you wish to mark.

To book, contact: [lucindajames@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:lucindajames@monmouthshire.gov.uk) or  
01633644779

Funded through the Llanover Digital Inclusion project. A community partnership initiative



# Free! Gardening Events with Cherry Taylor @ Llanvapley Pavilion, Llanvapley NP7 8SH Wildlife Gardening, 4<sup>th</sup> April- 7pm

Lots of people want to know how to garden to help wildlife, but often people are not sure how. Others worry that their garden cannot be beautiful AND wildlife friendly, but Cherry's Monmouthshire garden demonstrates this is possible. Learn the principles, methods and see examples in this talk.



## No Dig Workshop, 10<sup>th</sup> April- 9.30am

Learn the no dig basics, how to turn a blank canvas into a beautiful no dig flower & veg garden. Cherry will guide you through the stages of growing & harvesting lettuce using Charles Dowding's methods. Then move outside to make a no dig bed together & plant some young salad plants. You will learn how to:

- Make No Dig beds or Convert Existing
- Deal with pests & weeds without chemicals
- Sow & pick out at the optimum time
- Plant at the appropriate spacings
- Harvest & store your lovely fresh salad



## Rewilding Talk- 20<sup>th</sup> June- 7pm

Rewilding is a bit of a buzz word these days, but what does it mean? Is it even relevant to the average gardener & landowner? Could you rewild your own patch? Cherry has been exploring these issues with Gwent Wildlife Trust & has recently returned from the 3,500 acre Knepp Estate – the rewilding mecca in the UK – full of inspiration, ideas and images. But most importantly, she will be able to relay the advice from the Knepp ecologists on how to apply these principles to a smaller amount of land, or garden.

**To book, contact:** [lucindajames@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:lucindajames@monmouthshire.gov.uk) or  
**01633644779**

Funded through the Llanover Digital Inclusion project. A community partnership initiative



# From Llanover to Llanvapley

Learning and playing Welsh tunes together at Llanvapley Village Hall,  
following in the footsteps of Lady Llanover who was  
a huge promoter of Welsh traditions.

Llanvapley Village Hall, Abergavenny, NP7 8SH  
Saturday April 30: 11am - 4pm with lunch break

Free introductory presentation and workshop session  
organised by Clera, the Welsh Traditional Instruments Society  
Cymdeithas Offerynnau Traddodiadol Cymru

Tune book provided and also a support website  
with playable music files and follow-up sessions.

Number limited by hall size: reserve your place  
through Eventbrite or by email to [post@clera.org](mailto:post@clera.org)  
Further information on [www.llanvap.sesiwn.com](http://www.llanvap.sesiwn.com)



## Penrhos News

### Hanami Festival comes to Penrhos

In Japan the cherry blossom is celebrated each spring with announcements over the media that the blossom is ready. People flock to enjoy the spectacular displays of canopied cherries from below and picnic beneath an umbrella of white and pink blossom. In Penrhos we go one step further. You can enjoy the spectacular blossom not only from below but also above at Woodlands Farm. Sit beneath the gently curved branches that seemingly are weighed down by their blossom or climb onto the raised deck and look down, as if high in the sky above pure white clouds of blossom.



*From above.....*



*.....and below*

Timing is everything, so choose your moment. The gardens at Woodlands Farm are open every day for a fortnight from 9<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Day included) between 11am and 3pm. All proceeds to NGS charities supporting nurses. Light refreshments will be available in the pavilion bedecked with origami paper cranes, including Japanese tea served from tea bowls made in the pottery at Woodlands Farm. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

*Charles Horsfield*

**National Garden Scheme  
Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
Open Garden  
The Old Vicarage, Penrhos. NP15 2LE**

This is a marvellous spring garden, and we will offer light refreshments as well as our own plants, in aid of St Cadoc's Church. It is in full flower now, so let us hope there is still lots for you to see on Easter Day.

*Georgina Herrmann*

**Update on my journey to the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea.**

On March 5<sup>th</sup> I went to my first World Scout Jamboree prep camp in North Wales. This was for all of Unit 10 and there are 36 scouts and explorers in this unit. On the camp we did lots of team building activities. One involved passing a hoop around the circle of us without letting go of each other's hands. We also did a group activity to decide on the name for our unit and we have called it Dinas Emrys. Finally we were all given a new necker which we have to take to every scout camp we go on.



To raise funds to enable me to go to the World Scout Jamboree in Korea I have been making key rings out of paracord. I have been selling these paracord people for £5 each with 50% of the money going to the Ukraine Red Cross to help those affected by the war. Some people have been very generous and donated more and I have raised just over £200 with over £100 going to



help those in Ukraine. I have also been making bird boxes which I am going to sell at the Woodlands Farm Open Garden which is open every day from 9<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Why not visit the garden as it is a chance to see amazing cherry blossoms and is also when the spring bulbs should be at their best.

If you would like a paracord keyring, please email me at  
viks@sun-fish.co.uk

If you would like a bird box please come to the  
Woodlands Farm Open Garden in April.

Albie Howe

### Other news from Penrhos

On Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> Emma and Sophie Flynn set off at 6.30am to leave for Buckfastleigh point to point in Devon. Sophie was riding in the 148cm and under pony race, and unfortunately her pony, Indie, didn't like the very wet ground but although they weren't placed they did finish. Holly rode in her second point to point and had to pull up three fences from the finish as again, the wet ground was very testing. Holly is hoping that they will have better ground for their next race in a couple of weeks. Good luck Holly and Sophie! Albie Howe

### Fun Fact

Did you know that there are around 600 species of oak, genus *Quercus*? All are native to the northern hemisphere, but only two species are native to Great Britain and three other non-native oaks are commonly found in the UK. In the apple orchards near Penrhos is one of the largest oak trees in South Wales. Sadly, it doesn't seem to have fresh growth and may have died but when measured in 2006 its girth was 10m and was said to be between 800 and 1000 years old. It is still an incredible sight that is home to hundreds of different animals and plants. Albie Howe



Albie has offered to bring the latest Penrhos news to the pages of the parish magazine. If you appreciate what he is doing and would like to donate to enable him to go to the World Scout Jamboree in 2023 then click [HERE](#) to his fundraising page.

## WI News

After a quick search for another venue many members were able to attend the March meeting at the community centre in Abergavenny. There was another change to the programme as the intended speaker had tested positive for Covid. However, it was agreed Lin should share her experiences and photos of Switzerland. Also included was the story of why she has been going there for the last twenty years! So she told the story of her adopted son, who was a refugee from East Germany. Naturally, there were Swiss chocolates too.

Many of you have supported our Ukrainian member Zhenya. She has been able to support her son, sister and 95 year old mother who remain in Ukraine. She also went to Poland to help her daughter and grandson, who are trying to get visas, to come to Abergavenny. It seems you need a degree in English to be able to understand the application forms! Her family fled with very little, so Zhenya was able to buy them pyjamas, slippers warm coats etc. Zhenya herself now has her third visa to remain in the UK after six years living here. Which will need renewing in a few years. She would like to thank WI friends, who helped her learn every possible fact about the UK, much of which they did not know themselves!

Many members went to Highfield Gardens last year and enjoyed Roger Lloyd's explanations of the beautiful plants. The April meeting will see Roger speaking and his talk 'The Impatient Gardener' will be very interesting to many. The garden openings always contribute their takings to charity and with his fee from WI funds he will no doubt use it in the same way. So we are hoping members will come to Llanvapley pavilion on the 13<sup>th</sup> April to hear his talk. We should also know how WI is to be involved with the local Jubilee celebrations. So be prepared to help and have fun.

The WI choir is meeting every two weeks to prepare for the Gwent Federation service on the 28<sup>th</sup> May at St. Mary's Church, Abergavenny. If there are any other members who wish to join the choir, do come to the next meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm at the pavilion. The song 'Lean on Me' is easy to sing!

I would like to give a gentle reminder that £22 subs are now due for the coming year and should be sent by bank transfer or cheque to Jan Currie. Any questions call Lin on 01873 850939. Also it would be appreciated if any members are able to contribute to the next afternoon tea on 11<sup>th</sup> April in Llanvapley. The next Tai Chi will be 6<sup>th</sup> April 7pm open to all. Come and feel relaxed while you gently exercise.

Do still take great care, this Covid virus is still very much around. We will continue to be careful at meetings. *Lin*

## The Garden in April

As events in Europe get more and more depressing, there is nothing like a few hours in the garden to clear one's mind, particularly with the glorious weather we have been having this week. I have been battling with celandines and pruning early flowering shrubs and roses. I have ordered some compost to put on the flower beds, I know I am a bit late to do this – better done in the autumn but I never seem to have time then. If you put compost on thick enough it does suppress the weeds and it certainly improves the soil and makes it easier to pull up those horrid little celandines!

Spring is the best time for bulbs and most of them are so easy to grow, it is well worth investing in them and they will give you years of pleasure. *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* and *N. obvallaris* are now in full bloom in our little orchard and hundreds of snakeshead fritillaries (pictured) are just about to burst into flower. I planted them nearly 20 years ago and they have spread everywhere so must be happy. Also around the stump of a much missed quince tree are a growing mass of *scilla sibirica*, their little blue heads just above the long leaves of saffron crocus which flowered in the autumn.



Chinodoxa, Glory of the snow is very similar but sometimes has a white centre. If they are happy with you, they will multiply and look stunning around the base of a tree. Muscari – the common garden grape hyacinth is flowering now and I planted another kind in the autumn but I am not sure it is what I ordered. It may be *Muscari armeniacum*. It has broader leaves and slightly darker blue flowers. One bulb I miss is *Ipheon uniflorum* which I had in our last garden. It is white with a blue streak down the centre of the petals and the leaves have a slight hint of onion. I brought a few *fritillaria imperialis* with me when we came here nearly twenty years ago. They are flowering but have not really multiplied, possibly I should dig a few up and plant them somewhere else in the garden. I found *fritillaria pyrenaica* when we came here and have tried to spread them around with varying success. *F. persica* is another elegant one which is not too difficult to keep. I discovered *cammassia* in the flower beds when we came here and should have planted them in the grass as they naturalise well. In a border they look really untidy as the leaves are very long and hang around for some time. If you buy any, try to get the darker blue kind. Other bulbs to look out for are *Leucojum* the snowflake, alliums of varying kinds large and small, anemones, *Ornithogalum* – star of Bethlehem and that is before one starts on crocus, tulips, iris and lilies.

## In the Spotlight

In this month's edition the spotlight has fallen on a very well known figure in our local area who was until recently the chair of Llantilio Crossenny Community Council. But how well do we really know **Chris Lewis**? The New Times tried to find out more by putting him 'In the Spotlight'.



**How long have you been a deacon in Cwmmaera Baptist Chapel in Llanvetherine?**

I have been a member for 57 years and deacon for 25.

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

Born in the cottage hospital Abergavenny, went to Brynderi School and then St. John's Abergavenny. I have lived all my life in the parish.

**What is the story of your house? How long have you and Jill lived there?**

Trevine was bought by the family in 1968, condemned in 1973 and remained derelict until 2009 when we rebuilt it, moved in 2010. It was the only farm in the area not to belong to the Llantilio Estate, once was owned by the Paymaster General of the Royal Navy and was let annually for over 50 years. It has wonderful views over Monmouthshire.



**What is your earliest memory?**

My earliest memories are of a brown sheepdog called Rusty and going to the Queen's coronation celebration on the cricket field in Llantilio, bonfire and fireworks.

**As a farmer you must always be busy. Do you have a daily routine?**

Not now, I was dairy farming at Tyderi, Llanvetherine for 36 yrs until 2003.

**Are you going away on holiday this year?**

No place like home, just like having days off.

**Do you have a favourite sport?**

Rugby and clay pigeon shooting

**What is your favourite food and do you have a favourite place to eat out?**

Sunday roast. Hall Inn Gwehelog

**How do you keep fit?**

Chasing sheep!

**Have you ever met anyone famous?**

Princess Anne and Prince Phillip, both at YFC events in the 70s.

**What sort of music do you enjoy?**

All music - favourite song - One Day at a Time by Lena Martell. My favourite band is Freddie Mercury and Queen

**You must have plenty of animals on the farm but do you have any pets?**

My dogs, a 12 year old collie called Spot who is with me all the time and a new collie pup called Ben. Jill has two donkeys, Lilly and Lottie.

**What occasion has caused you the most embarrassment?**

I can't say!

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

Jeremy Clarkson, Jeremy Paxman and Max Boyce.

**Do you have any special skills?**

Hedge laying and showing livestock.

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

I wouldn't change anything.

**Do you have any interesting facts about yourself you can share?**

I am the current president of Wales YFC. I am also the president of the Balwen Sheep Society and been a Community councillor for 30 yrs.

## Llanddewi Rhydderch Village Hall Events

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April **Real Magic Queen** - Doors and Bar open 7pm - Tickets on sale £18 via Eventbrite - click [HERE](#) to purchase your tickets.

**Easter Wreath Workshop** at Llanddewi Rhydderch Village Hall - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 1pm The Workshop is free but donations for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal would be welcome. If you would like to attend the workshop, please email [lesley@tycaeofficeservices.co.uk](mailto:lesley@tycaeofficeservices.co.uk) to register.

**Film Night** - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April - West Side Story Doors and Bar Open 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. All welcome

**Coffee Morning at the village hall** - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 12noon All welcome For further information please contact [carolineatgrant@gmail.com](mailto:carolineatgrant@gmail.com)

### Calon Llanarth

The Village Alive Trust continues work to secure the closed St Teilo's Church at Llanarth as a restored and useful landmark building with a project aptly named Calon Llanarth... Heart of Llanarth.

A Grand Draw to aid fund raising will be drawn at 12 noon at a Coffee Morning at **Llanarth Village Hall on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**. As well as coffee and cake and the main draw, there will be a varied stall of books etc to browse and a raffle for small prizes. Everyone is welcome to come to the Coffee Morning from 11am. Information from Pat Griffiths 01873 821418.

### Come to Llanarth Open Church Day

St. Teilo's church, Llanarth will be open again on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00 – 11.00am.

### Grosmont & District Gardening Club

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April

7.30 Grosmont Town Hall

### *Jack Willgoss from Wildegoose Nursery*

Hardy Perennial & Scented Violas

All welcome – visitors £4

**Revd. Lorraine Cavanagh** has recently made a podcast which features Bishop Cherry. Lorraine now does regular podcasts which can be found [HERE](#). Episode 9 is the one with Bishop Cherry.

Lorraine also did an interview a few days ago for Premier Christian Radio talking about the course she is putting together on ministering through trauma. Which can be found [HERE](#).

# Church Services in April

## **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Lent 5**

9.30am Llanvetherine  
11am Llantilio Crossenny

## **10<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday**

11am Llantilio Crossenny  
Holy Eucharist with Palm Sunday  
Ceremonies and Procession. Followed  
by tea / coffee in the church.

### **Holy Week**

**For full details of the events in Holy  
Week please go to page 3.**

## **Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

9.30am Llanvetherine  
Easter Communion  
9.30am Penrhos  
Easter Communion  
11am Llantilio Crossenny  
Easter Communion  
11am Llanvapley  
Easter Communion

## **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

7pm Llanvapley Easter Vestry Meeting  
in the Church

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

9.30am Penrhos  
11am Llanvapley

## **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Llantilio Crossenny Easter Vestry  
meeting 7pm in Church

## **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Penrhos Easter Vestry Meeting 7pm in  
the Church.

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

9.30am Llanvetherine.  
11am Llantilio Crossenny

## **Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup> Bank Holiday**

2pm Plant Sale  
Llantilio Crossenny Church

## **The Church Electoral Roll**

The church electoral roll is not to be confused with the electoral register maintained by local authorities which lists those entitled to vote in elections like the elections for community and county councillors on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

In 2022 and every five years afterwards, each parish is required to undertake a complete 're-write' of its electoral roll. Being on the electoral roll means you are able to stand for election to your parochial church council and you can attend the annual general meeting which is known as the Easter Vestry. If you attend church you should consider putting your name on the electoral roll. Joining the electoral roll is an important way of confirming your commitment to your parish church community and to the vision of this church. Electoral roll forms will be available at services in the next few weeks. The roll is no longer displayed publicly in church.

You can keep in touch with what is happening in our church communities via our website [www.llantiliogroup.info](http://www.llantiliogroup.info) Our website has the latest news as well as information about all our churches. We are also on Twitter [@LlantilioG](https://twitter.com/LlantilioG)

*Contributions for the May issue of The New Times by 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022*

*Please send your emails to [tntparishmag@gmail.com](mailto:tntparishmag@gmail.com) or [lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com)*