

# The New Times

February 2023

The parish magazine of the Llantilio Crossenny,  
Llanvetherine, Llanvapley and Penrhos Group  
*within the North Monmouthshire Ministry Area*



**Llantilio Church welcomes the new ministry area**



**and Selby Sound are back and sounding sweeter than ever.**

## From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

February begins with the light of Candlemas, when we recall the story of Mary and Joseph taking their young baby to the temple. The old man Simeon, faithful to the end, recognises this young child as the Messiah, whom he had been promised he would see before he died. Simeon's words are familiar to many of us as the Nunc Dimittis said at evening prayer and often heard at a funeral service: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation..."

Promises kept, faithfulness rewarded.

As we travel through this month some will be marking Valentine's Day with cards, gifts, meals and flowers for their loved ones.

Yet, whether we have a loved one on earth or not, we all have a Valentine – our heart's desire is Love Himself - God is Love, and Love is God, and our hearts will be restless till they rest in Him.

Although we may not always understand His ways, as Simeon discovered, God is faithful and will keep His promises.

May we have the eyes and faith to recognise Him in our midst, and, like Simeon, may we stay faithful to Him unto our lives' end.

With every blessing,

*Heidi*



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The January 15<sup>th</sup> episode of BBC Wales 'All Things Considered' featured Revd Lorraine Cavanagh as the special guest of Delyth Liddell. In the interview Lorraine discusses her childhood and her faith. The program can be listened to on BBC Sounds or one BBC website.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0079fx0/episodes/downloads>

## Ministry Area News

### North Monmouthshire Ministry Area Inauguration

St Teilo's in Llantillio Crossenny hosted the 14th of the 16 ministry area inauguration services for the diocese, as the North Monmouthshire Ministry Area was formally launched.



In a full church, four people, representing different areas of the new grouping, spoke of the journey so far for the ministry area, mentioning some of the challenges and fears but also how well people had already begun to come together. An example of this was the ministry area 'Pop Up Choir' led by Philip Norman, who were singing at their third service in the area and which has been a real success in bringing people together, as well as enhancing the worship.



A presentation was also made by the Bishop to Leila, a 5 year old from one of the local schools, who won the competition to design a new logo for the Ministry Area.

In the service, the Bishop spoke of recognising the challenges faced already and also of the need for more work ahead, but assured those present of the benefits of building lasting relationships through the conversations that will take place over the coming months, something which other Ministry Areas have already begun to experience. A really positive service was followed by wonderful refreshments and an enjoyable time of fellowship.

*Diocese of Monmouth*



# Llantilio Crossenny News

## Llantilio Carol service

The Carol Service at St Teilo's led by Revd Heidi was held on a very cold evening in December and saw a large congregation come along to enjoy a lovely evening of carols and readings. We also had the pleasure of the WI choir who entertained us with some lovely Christmas renditions. Mulled wine and mince pies were served following the service and much chatter in the Killough Chapel rounded off a very pleasant evening. Christmas morning saw a large congregation come along for Christmas Communion at 10am led by Revd Heidi who engaged the children present in lighting all the advent candles and placing the baby Jesus in the crib. Many thanks are due to everyone for taking part in the services, to the ladies for cleaning and decorating the Church so beautifully including the lovely Christmas tree which was once again kindly donated by Dennis and Scott Walker, and also to Revd Heidi for the lovely services as always. *Elsie Latham*



## Christmas Steet Party was a great success

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December Llantilio held a street party centred around the nativity scene which was set up outside Hostry House. Thank you to everyone involved and to those who supported the event. Over a hundred people came out to join their neighbours for mulled wine and to see Father Christmas who arrived in his tractor! Lots of children got involved singing carols and playing instruments, a great time was had by all. *Lauren Hughes*



## Llantilio Churchyard

The beautiful railings surrounding St Teilo's Churchyard were erected in 1992 by David and Pam Richards in memory of their son Mark who tragically lost his life in Belize while on active service. Following Pam's passing in May 2022 David has had the railings and gates extended to the far part of the Churchyard and, as you can see from the picture this has further enhanced our beautiful churchyard. Many thanks to David for authorising this in memory of Pam. St Teilo's is extremely grateful for your generosity. *Elsie Latham*



## Selby Sound

The Selby Sound handbells are ringing again! A taster session held at Llanvapley Pavilion was so successful that a regular practice session will be held every Friday at 4.00 p.m. starting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Selby Sound was formed forty five years ago, Elsie Phillips is one of the founder members and she demonstrated how, with plenty of practice, it is possible for one person to play four bells at once.

If you would like to join us, just come along and give it a try, - you will be made very welcome. Everyone who attended the first session enjoyed it so much they want to come again - that is quite a good advert! *Margaret Parry*



## Llantilio Church Bellsingers

Llantilio Church Bellsingers were delighted to visit the Foxhunter Inn at Nantyderi on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December for their Christmas meal. It was a most pleasant evening as the ringing team and friends met to celebrate another successful year of clanging. Thanks go to Sue and Alan at the pub for their excellent service.



The ringers meet every Tuesday at 7.30 and new ringers are always welcome. The practice in early December was cut short after an over enthusiastic ringer broke a part of the bell mechanism. Ringing for the following Sunday was in doubt until two of the team climbed up to the bell chamber with nuts, bolts and a spanner and managed to replace the broken stay (pictured). The team were delighted to ring at the special service on 15<sup>th</sup> January and are looking forward to ringing at monthly services, a wedding on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and at the Coronation. There are eight members of the team and the aim is always to have at least six when ringing. On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January all eight ringers turned up and the team were able to play all eight bells. This is an unusual occurrence and one which must have delighted the residents of Llantilio.

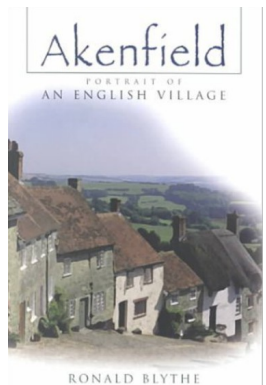


### **A sad footnote**

It has recently come to light that a resident of the vicarage regularly complains on Tuesday evenings when the team meet to practice. Instead of making phone calls or sending emails, the afore mentioned resident has decided to start barking which is very disturbing for the vicar!

### **Bellinging is an addiction!**

One of the ringers was recently discussing a book she was reading – Akenfield a portrait of an English village by Ronald Blythe. She was drawn to a part of the book which mentioned bell ringing. *“The ringing men must reach stages of exultation which are on a par with those of cannabis, but if this is so there is no outward evidence to prove it. The less extreme degrees of pleasure derived from the art of campanology are similar to those derived from chess.”* It goes on to say that ringing is an addiction *“from which few escape”*. *“Many of the old ringers couldn’t read or write.”* Please don’t let this put you off ringing in Llantilio!



# Llanvapley News

## The Red Hart Christmas Raffle boosts Llanvapley Church

Visitors to the Red Hart over the Christmas period were all given the opportunity to buy tickets for the Christmas raffle thanks to the hard work and powers of persuasion of Kate Morris. The pub were hoping to raise a few hundred pounds and had selected its neighbour, the church, as the good cause. In the end Kate managed to sell a thousand tickets which is an amazing feat! Prizes for the raffle were generously donated by regulars and friends of the pub and the raffle was held on Christmas Eve.



The pub was packed with everyone hoping to get an early Christmas present. There was a lot of fun as the tickets were drawn and a local chef was delighted to hear his ticket had been selected. As he went to collect his prize someone at the bar shouted 'Its a course of cooking lessons!' Paul, Leah and Kate were invited to Llanvapley Church to hand over the proceeds from the raffle.

Kate was able to present the church treasurer with an envelope containing the amazing sum of £1000.16! The church thanked the pub for its very generous donation and were able to discuss how the money could be used. Two of the suggestions were to have a plaque to remember two soldiers from WW1 and a new noticeboard.



## Fundraising party at The Old Rectory

On the evening of Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December Tom and Flossie Lowes invited members of the church and the village to a pre-Christmas drinks party in aid of Llanvapley Church. It was a most pleasant evening and everyone enjoyed meeting and socialising. The evening raised £231 for church funds and in the words of one of the guests - "Thanks to both you and Flossie for your generous hospitality, it was a really enjoyable evening for everyone!"

## Llanvapley Carol Service

Llanvapley held its Carol Service on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. The church

was beautifully decorated for the event and a large congregation assembled to sing the traditional Christmas carols and to listen to the Christmas story. Thanks go to Phil Norman for playing the organ and to all the readers who read so well. A collection was taken to support the work of 7 Corners Youth Centre in Abergavenny. Revd Michael Marsden is a trustee of the centre and was invited to explain the work of the organisation. The collection raised £173 and Llanvapley Church would like to thank 7 Corners for its excellent work in supporting young people in Abergavenny. The church agreed to match the donation from the congregation at the carol service and sent a cheque for £173 to the Red Cross to support its humanitarian work in Ukraine. Following the service mulled wine and mince pies were served and everyone enjoyed these delights which were provided by members of the church.

### **Flowers in the church**

Llanvapley Church would like to thank members of the village who decorated the church for services at Christmas and in January.



### **Parochial Church Council Meeting**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January St Mabli's Parochial Church Council met for the final time. This ended a very long period during which many people from the parish have served on the PCC and helped to support and maintain the Church in Llanvapley. The PCC has been replaced by a church committee following the introduction of the new ministry area. Details about the duties and responsibilities of church committee members have not been provided as yet.

### **Church events for 2023 – dates for your diary**

Churchyard Spring Clean - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 10am

Church fundraising evening – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm in the church.

Strawberry Tea - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 3pm.

### **Llanvapley Church supports biodiversity in its churchyard**

Following a suggestion from Penny Harding the church has agreed to change its mowing practices to encourage a greater range of flowers and to



provide habitats for birds and insects. A small patch of unused grass has been selected on the eastern side of the churchyard and it is planned to make changes to mowing this season. Everyone likes to see a neat and tidy churchyard which enables visitors to appreciate what it has to offer but it is also important to ensure we all play our part in increasing and supporting wildlife.

### **Llanvapley Churchyard improvements.**

Work on the northern entrance to the churchyard is currently in progress. The work aims to make the entrance safer to use. The steps are to be modified, a new handrail fitted and the wall is to be rebuilt. The cost of the work is £4000 plus VAT and has been mainly funded by a grant of £4,000 from the Community Green Energy Advisory Group. VAT is not recoverable on work done in the church and the Church agreed to fund the VAT part of the costs.



### **LSSA News**

#### **Christmas in Llanvapley**

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December a large crowd of villagers assembled near the entrance to the playing field to witness the switching on of the Christmas lights. It was a very jolly occasion with lots of singing followed by refreshments in the pavilion. Thanks go to Neal Smith for setting up the Christmas lights and the laser lights, Pete and Gen Marchant for the mulled wine, those who contributed food, the community council for funding the purchase of the tree and the lights and finally the county council for providing electricity free of charge. It was a cold night but thankfully it was dry. The lights were on for more than three weeks, 24 hours a day. The cost of the electricity has been estimated to be less than £4 thanks to the choice of hundreds of tiny LED lights!



## **New Audio Visual system in the pavilion**

The LSSA has now completed a project to install a projector, screen and sound system in the pavilion. The project was jointly funded by a grant from Halls Together and LSSA's own funds. Users of the hall are now able to use the system for presentations and for entertainment. The committee is looking to obtain licences to enable it to have movie nights in the pavilion in the near future. Thanks go Tod Fire and Security for installing the system.

## **LSSA Afternoon Tea**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January an afternoon tea was held in the pavilion. Apart from tea, cakes and sandwiches there was lots of convivial conversation and the new day for the afternoon tea has been well received. Thanks to everyone who provided food and donated prizes for the raffle. The new projector enabled the raffle prizes to be drawn on the big screen by computer to the amusement of everyone! The next afternoon tea is on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm at which the 2023 100 Club will be launched. Everyone is welcome from the four parishes and beyond.

## **Hiring the pavilion**

Llanvapley pavilion is proving to be a popular choice for local groups and for those looking to hold family events. Please contact the LSSA secretary if you would like to know more about hiring the pavilion.

[llanvapleyvillagecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:llanvapleyvillagecommittee@gmail.com)

## **New ideas for activities in the pavilion**

The LSSA is looking to expand community events in the pavilion and is looking for people to help to run them. If you have any ideas please let any member of the committee know. Some ideas which have already been put forward are a Pop-up (ie now and again) Tea & Toast Morning and a book reading club. Any other ideas?

## **Llanvapley Walking Group**

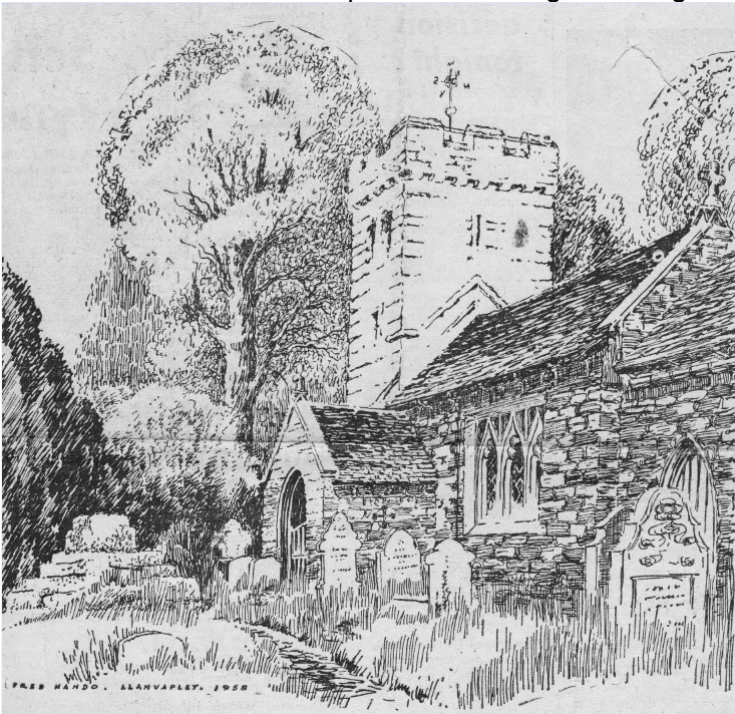
January was a month of two halves with a deluge at the start followed by a frosty dry fortnight and as our walk was in the middle of the month on the 14<sup>th</sup> we kept to the lanes, walking down Ty Tac and around the back lanes to Llanddewi Rhydderch. Our hardy walkers enjoyed a very pleasant morning with great scenery and friendly chat. The next walk will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am – meet at Llanvapley Pavilion (parking available). There are already signs of the forthcoming spring with snowdrops coming out and daffodils emerging so expect another invigorating walk around our beautiful countryside area. Everyone is welcome.



*Phil Allsopp, [llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com)*

## **An old newspaper cutting links Llanvapley and Newport County**

If you ever have to sort out lots of old paperwork you often come across little bits of history. Marilyn Hughes came across a scrap of an old newspaper from 1958 amongst her mother's papers. This was from the South Wales Argus and featured this drawing of Llanvapley Church by Fred Hando. Fred Hando was awarded an MBE in 1953 for services to education and to Monmouthshire, and by then his words and drawings had been a regular feature in the Argus for a number of years, as they would be until just days before his death, in February 1970. In 2014 Fred's first cousin once removed, David Hando, president of Newport County AFC, retired teacher, and former Newport councillor, published a book about his 'Uncle' Fred. In an attempt to ask for permission to publish the image below, I discovered David died in January of this year and many tributes have appeared in the press. Chris Barber, local historian and author, has published books about Fred Hando and his journeys around the county. Llantilio, Llanvertherine and Penrhos are all mentioned but Llanvapley seems to have been missed out despite Fred visiting the village.



*Source: South Wales Argus, (c) South Wales Argus 1958*

The church has of course changed since Fred drew this picture. There are a couple of things which readers may spot – there are no longer gates on the porch, the weathercock on the top of the tower has disappeared but there is now a cross on the monument on the left. Are there other changes readers can see?

## Penrhos News



We had a very well attended Carol Service followed by Mulled Wine and mince pies at High House Barn. Thank you very much to Richard & Fiona Cleeve for hosting and providing a delicious, warming and medicinal mulled wine. It was good to catch up with so many people.

*Pip Rumsey*



## Penrhos Weather

The never ending rain seems so long ago after a week of constant freezing weather. Richard Price has provided a rainfall measurement for the last 3 months.

November 2022 - 7.5 inches

December 2022 - 5 inches

For the first 2 weeks in January we had 3 inches.

And of course, Penrhos has already had a fall of snow and is hoping that is it for this winter!



## Llanvetherine News

Attendance at Christingle was a full house with children and their parents from not only our own parishes but well beyond. The service was led by Andrew sporting a colourful string of lights for a preaching scarf, and Revd Heidi played the organ. The congregation was treated to a recital of carols and Christmas songs played confidently on the guitar by Lloyd Hughes Jones, while the people sang softly along with him. People gathered afterwards to chat and enjoy festive treats with thanks to Jess, Verity, Shirley and Sally. The church was beautifully decorated for the season by Annie Morgan.



The Christmas Day Holy Communion service was taken by Andrew who preached on Censuses old and new, and thanks to modern technology we were able to have three Christmas hymns played by a memory stick on the new organ, the sound filling the church, and looking for all the world as if Sally was playing (but she was in fact making sure the memory stick was working properly.)

The New Year's Day walk took place from the 'Big Bend' as has become the tradition. The route planned by Chris Lewis and David Hughes Jones and included a visit to see the goats and kids at Pant Farm. Walkers and non walkers all met up at Llandewi Skirrid village hall. Warming refreshments and a buffet lunch were kindly provided and served by Marjorie and Tom Bennett.



The Annual January Church Draw took place at the Hogs Head at 8.00 pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, with thanks to all those who bought and sold tickets and donated prizes, and especially to David Hughes Jones for all the considerable work he puts into organising the draw every year, the most important regular fund raiser for Llanvetherine Church. *Andrew Dawson*

## Llantilio Crossenny WI News

The WI have had a busy but fun couple of months. The December meeting gave members a chance to create their own Christmas origami. With Keiko instructing, some amazing pencil pots and Father Christmas creations were made. Many thanks to Keiko for helping us fold paper in this magical manner. There were Christmas goodies to eat too, supplied by the committee. Many thanks to them. The choir led the harmonious singing of carols, with Margaret at the keyboard. The choir also sang at the Gwent Federation Carol Service in Newport. Poor Margaret tried to do battle with their keyboard, but in the end used our own which she had thoughtfully brought with her! Singing at St. Teilio's Carol Service was a much easier event. The choir so enjoy being invited to sing in our own church.



January saw our annual dinner falling on 25<sup>th</sup> January, Burn's Night and we are not a group to miss an opportunity! Members were welcomed by Dave in full regalia, playing the bagpipes and Doug addressing the haggis. The staff of the Kings Arms were very understanding and also enjoyed the evening. Although they had thoughtfully given us our own room with the doors closed!

The tradition, during entertainment, has always included the singing of the 12 days of Christmas, with cards to prompt the members. But this year it was a little different. Unbeknown to the choir, there were new cards, relating to WI in particular, with a new title of the 12 days of Michaelmas, even though Michaelmas falls many months away! But there was much laughter at this new innovation. Maybe this will be the new tradition?

The choir also led everyone in singing Mull of Kintyre, a song with a Scottish flavour that everybody knew.

The next meeting will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> February at the pavilion in Llanvapley. The speaker has an amazing personal story to tell, so do come along at 7pm and hear her tale. Guests are welcome.

Feel free to contact, Lin president ; 01873 850939 /07840641856  
Lin.tedit@btinternet.com



## The Garden in February

One of the first signs of life in our garden are tiny little round, golden yellow balls which slowly emerge like buttercups surrounded with a bright green ruff. In time they stand proud and sparkle in the winter sunshine. These are the Winter Aconites. They came from my late sister's garden in Northhamptonshire and were planted underneath a huge copper beech. In truth it is not an aconite at all and is more related to the common buttercup being of the Ranunculaceae genus, and its proper name is *Eranthis heymalis* meaning winter flowering. Like the true aconitum, Monkshood, it is



poisonous and has been used in the distant past against asthma attacks and an anti – arrhythmia for atrial fibrillation. *Eranthis* from the Greek ‘ar’ meaning ‘spring’ and *Anthos* meaning ‘flower’, it symbolizes hope, rebirth and new beginnings and is indeed a cheerful little plant. It comes from France, Italy and Yugoslavia, whereas the *Eranthis cilicicus* which has narrower leaves and a larger flower, comes from Turkey, Northern Iraq and Afghanistan. It is one of the woodland plants that William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll liked to use in the more informal naturalised gardens, after the fashion for carpet bedding waned in the early 20th century. *Eranthis hyemalis* has been growing in this country for centuries and is now rare in the wild, but if you can get it going in your garden, it will reap rich rewards at a time of year when there is little around to cheer. They say it likes a well drained alkaline soil and is happy under the canopy of deciduous trees, particularly horse chestnuts. Ours are planted under a magnolia and our soil is not alkaline but verges on the acidic but they are beginning to seed themselves. It is no use planting them when they are dry, as like showdrops, they prefer being planted ‘in the green’ meaning when they are either in flower or just after they have flowered. Vita Sackville West wrote that it is better to transplant seedlings than to try to plant mature plants, as they like to be left undisturbed. I was given a box full of plants which had sown themselves in a flower bed and were still in flower, and planted them about 10 years ago, and since then have dug up a few and split them just after flowering to get them going. What I am aiming for is a carpet of them interspersed with snowdrops. Gardening is sometimes a bit of a waiting game, but we are slowly getting there!

## What is the Alexander Technique?

We had some friends to stay before Christmas, and it was such a joy to watch their young children playing – with the ease and spontaneity which of course we all possessed once! The Alexander Technique is a method that teaches you how to rediscover that ease, and can lead to improved posture, less aches and pains and better general well-being. Nowadays, the technique is often seen as a treatment for back pain: when I tell people that I am an AT teacher, they often pull themselves up, and say something like – oh dear my posture's terrible! However, the technique is also taught widely in performing arts colleges, and increasingly in mainstream schools with an emphasis on helping young people to deal with the pressures of life. My own experience having first had lessons 30 years ago is that it helped me deal with work related back pain, and avoid a recurrence, and also manage performance anxiety and stressful situations in a more positive way.

The technique was devised by a Tasmanian actor called F M Alexander in the early 20th century. Mr Alexander suffered recurrent bouts of laryngitis, often exacerbated by performing on stage. He realised eventually that the cause was not medical, but chronic tension in his neck affecting both his voice and breathing. He developed a method to prevent this chronic tension so that he no longer had problems when speaking, and his longstanding respiratory problems also went away. He went on to teach many fellow actors and well-known people of the day like George Bernard Shaw, Lily Langtry and Aldous Huxley.

A course of lessons with an Alexander Technique teacher can give you the skills to recognise habitual patterns of movement and ways of being that might actually be having a negative impact on your health, and rediscover the freedom of movement that we all had as young children. As a taster, I will be offering a 3-week introductory course at the Community Centre in Abergavenny starting on the 23rd February. If this sounds of interest, please give me a ring, or email.

Jenny Goodwin - Whitecastle

### Put a spring in your step!

learn how the **Alexander Technique** will help you

- to find that moment of calm space to
- move and breath more easily,
- improve your posture and sense of well being



On: 3 Thursdays 12 noon-13.15 - 23/2; 2/3 and 9/3  
At: Abergavenny Community Centre NP7 5BY  
Cost: £45 for 3 classes

For more information and to book: contact the teacher Jenny  
07891 016768 or [jenny.goodwin@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.goodwin@btinternet.com)

[jennygoodwin-alexandertechnique.co.uk](http://jennygoodwin-alexandertechnique.co.uk)



# Llanvapley and District Gardening Club



After a successful few months since the launch of the gardening club in October we are now looking forward to an exciting and busy year with some varied interesting talks and garden visits.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7pm where the speaker will be Sue Maberley from Nant y Bedd, she will be talking about Wild Gardening at Nant y Bedd. A full programme for the year has been arranged and details will be handed out to members at the February meeting.

Guests are most welcome to come along to a meeting at a cost of £5. Annual membership is £20 and £35 for a joint membership. The meetings are held at Llanvapley Pavilion at 7pm on the first Wednesday of every month. Any queries contact Marion Ashton on [marion.ashton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marion.ashton@yahoo.co.uk)



*A typical member's garden!*

## From your County Councillor

I love the first signs of Spring - lambs, snowdrops and earlier sunrises - but over the last month we have also had periods of extreme cold and a few days of potential flooding. As the rivers were rising, council staff and emergency services were on 24/7 standby, ready to evacuate residents in Monmouth and Skenfrith if needed. Fortunately, there was only limited flooding and the council quickly turned to clearing up the mess left by all the water.



One of the impacts of cold and rain is on our roads. All over the ward, residents have been contacting me about potholes and crumbling verges. I report every case to the highways team, but I'm conscious that they don't have the capacity to repair them all and so the waiting list is growing. Given the impending cuts to council budgets, the situation is likely to get worse.

Because of rising inflation and increased demand for some council services, the council has faced a potential £26 million shortfall for 23/24 if it is to do the same as this year. Increased support from the Welsh government has reduced that gap to around £11 million. The Labour administration is proposing to address the gap by increasing council tax by 5.95% and reducing spending in a number of areas. There is no easy answer to balancing the books and every choice will make some unhappy. My main concern is that big cuts to the social care budget will affect some of our most vulnerable residents.

You can find out more and have your say at

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2023-2024/>

At the last council meeting, I joined with Independent and Conservative councillors to vote down Labour's proposed '*Community and Corporate Plan*' which sets out their priorities for the council until the next election in 2027. While I thought the plan takes us in the right direction, it did not provide enough specifics on what they want to achieve and what they would prioritise if hard choices are needed. Given this, we could not support the plan. I am meeting with the leaders of all other parties later this week to see if we can work together to produce a better plan.

Warm wishes, *Cllr Ian Chandler*

*ianChandler@monmouthshire.gov.uk*

*Tel: 01291 448270 Twitter: @Ian\_Chandler Facebook: IanChandlerGreen*

## Whitecastle Community Council

The next meeting of Whitecastle Community Council will be at Cross Ash Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. If you wish to discuss any local matters with members there is a 10 minute public speaking time at the start of the meeting. An agenda for this meeting will be published nearer to the date. [www.whitecastlecommunitycouncil.co.uk](http://www.whitecastlecommunitycouncil.co.uk)

# **The Village Alive Trust Ymddiriedolaeth y Pentre Byw**

a company limited by guarantee registered in Wales No. 5148543

## **Calon Llanarth**

Friends - I thought it long overdue to give you an update on the Village Alive Trust's project to conserve St Teilo's Church, Llanarth, for community use.

Firstly, our initial Expression of Interest to the National Heritage Lottery Fund in the Summer was not successful, there are several reasons why, I believe. For example, demand is outstripping supply of money to Wales as regards NHLF; some projects need extra funding post Covid; the restricted Expression of Interest form could not do justice to the breadth of the project and likely community benefit and the NHLF committee did not, we feel, consider the true calibre of our Trustees when it comes to being able to handle governance, cash flow etc. for a big money project. We feel some firming up of outcomes and wider publicity on the benefits of the project, and ability of Trustees, may be needed before we submit again.

So, we have gone back to basics!

The Rev. Jean Prosser has stepped back from the day to day board meetings and research for the project, but continues as Trust Company Secretary. The four Trustees, David Binding, Vivienne Morgan Jones, Ken Prandy and myself, plus Eric Evans and Edward Holland of Holland Heritage make up the Project Board. We will be meeting with Monmouthshire County Council officers involved in planning and community issues in January in the hope that they can add weight and knowledge to the project. All named partner groups will also help our case. This meeting is being arranged by Chris Jones, a 'place maker' and consultant, who is acting as a critical friend to the project. We aim also to apply to the Architectural Heritage Fund for a development grant to build on the previous feasibility study, and further meetings with interested user groups. Adam Hitchings, of AHF, is very supportive so we hope that grant help should be attainable next year.

I hope that this brief update reassures you that we are still busy working on achieving our aims, despite Covid setbacks and difficult times regarding grants. Thank you for your continuing support.

*Pat Griffiths*

Chairman and Trustee The Village Alive Trust 01873 821418 /  
email: [village.alive@btinternet.com](mailto:village.alive@btinternet.com)

## News from 23 years ago

Many readers of The New Times will also remember reading its predecessor 'Newsaround'. The parish magazine at that time was produced by Revd Heidi, Zoe Mayo and David and Cathy Parry. In those days the magazine was printed by Jenny and David Pilgrim and distributed throughout the four parishes. Two copies have recently resurfaced while sorting out some old paperwork and they make interesting reading.

As you would expect much has changed in the last 23 years but much has stayed the same. In July 2000 Llanvetherine celebrated the Millennium in the Henllan Grounds. There was a children's entertainer, a village photograph and music and dancing. There was also a list of people who were congratulated on everything from a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, qualifying as a vet and there was also a diamond wedding! There was also a funny story which is published below – the old ones are the best!

The July and September 2000 editions are now available on our website if you would like to find out what was happening all those years ago. Click [HERE](#) to go the parish magazine archive page.



July 2000

## A Funny Story

There was a Scottish tradesman, a painter called Jock who was very interested in making a pound where he could. So he often would thin down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time.

Eventually the Church decided to do a big restoration job on one of their biggest churches. Jock put in a painting bid and because his price was so competitive, he got the job. And so he set to, with a right good will, erecting the trestles and putting up the planks, and buying the paint and... yes! I am sorry to say, thinning it down with the turpentine. Well, Jock was up on the scaffolding, painting away the job nearly done, when suddenly there was an horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jock fair off the scaffold to land on the lawn. Now, Jock was no fool. He knew this was a judgement from the Almighty, so he fell on his knees and cried, "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty Voice spoke, 'Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!'

## Church Services in February

### **Sunday Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Septuagesima**

9.30am Llanvetherine  
Morning Prayer  
11am Llantilio Crossenny  
Holy Communion

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Sexagesima**

9.30am Penrhos  
Morning Prayer  
11am Llanvapley  
Holy Communion

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Quinquagesima**

9.30am Llanvetherine  
Holy Communion  
11am Llantilio Crossenny  
Morning Prayer

### **Ash Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb**

7pm Llantilio Crossenny.

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Lent**

9.30am Penrhos  
Holy Communion  
11am Llanvapley  
Morning Prayer.

### **Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> Second Sunday of Lent**

9.30am Llanvetherine Morning  
Prayer.  
11am Llantilio Crossenny Holy  
Communion.

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

7pm Llanvapley - Taize Service



(c) Dai Martin

St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny in January

You can find out more about our churches on our website [www.llantiliogroup.info](http://www.llantiliogroup.info)

We are also on Twitter @LlantilioG

*Contributions for the March issue of The New Times by 20<sup>th</sup> February*

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