

The New Times

March 2023

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



Snowdrops in Llanvapley



and the promise of a carpet of flowers in Penrhos. Spring has arrived.

From the Vicarage

Yes! Spring is very nearly upon us - I won't hide my relief at longer days, the first leaf buds appearing, snowdrops and daffodils, and even slightly warmer days. A season to be cherished, however positive I try to be about the others. And along with Spring comes Lent, another cherished season in so many ways. There seems



to be a new wave of realisation that Lent is not only the time when we give up something that we normally enjoy, maybe on occasions not even stopping to think why, other than perhaps a rush of self-satisfaction? Of course, beyond reflection about the meaning of the forthcoming great sacrifice of Jesus, one of the main elements of Lent is looking to see what we can do for others.

One of the curious, and ironic, observations this year is that a significant proportion of our population have been giving up things for months anyway, for example, people in what were reasonably well paid jobs are increasingly reported to be using food banks - so we are not only talking about people giving up luxuries, but also necessities. And that prompts us to see Lent in a very different light. It also adds to the importance of looking out to see what we can do for others, not just charity in its simplest and noblest forms, but generosity of spirit to those around us and also further away in all war torn, and famine stricken, and oppressed places in the world.

Blessings to you all for a reflective and positive Lent,
Andrew Dawson

**North Monmouthshire Ministry Area
Vestry Meeting
Tuesday 14th March at 7.30pm.
St. Teilo's Church, Llantilio Pertholey**

Anybody is free to attend the Vestry Meeting, but only those who are currently on the electoral rolls of NMMA churches will be permitted to be nominated for office or vote in any elections.

At the Vestry Meeting representatives, nominated by NMMA seventeen churches, will be elected to serve on the Ministry Area Council. Various officers (Lay Co-Chair, two MA Wardens, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Property Lead) will also be elected.



JS Bach and the Matthew Passion

An Illustrated talk
by Philip Norman

Saturday 18th March
2.00pm

St Michael's Church, Llanvihangel
Crucorney NP7 8DH

We look at the historical, liturgical, and musical background to Bach's great work which made it's composition possible, review the work itself, and then look at what came afterwards.

Four pressing questions are answered:

Why was Johann Kuhnau grumpy in 1721?

Did Bach blunder with his chorale settings?

Why should we be grateful to Reinhard Keiser?

Was Heinrich Schütz an agent of Beelzebub?

Free Admission - Retiring Collection for Church Funds

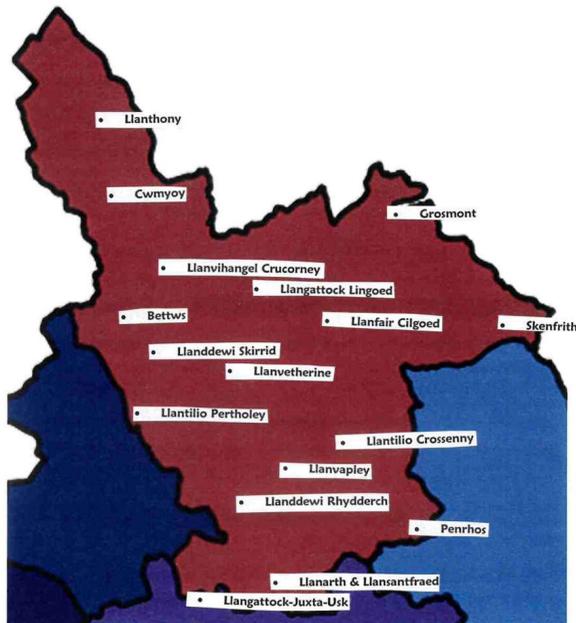
pkn@pnms.co.uk | 01873 590 055

[A NMMA Music Promotion-festival-choir.cymru/NMMA](http://A.NMMA.Music.Promotion-festival-choir.cymru/NMMA)

The North Monmouthshire Ministry Area is made up of the following parishes and churches. How many do you know or have visited?

Bettws Chapel
Cwmyoy
Grosmont
Llanarth & Llansantfraed
Llanddewi Rhydderch
Llanddewi Skirrid
Llanfair
Llanfihangel Cruorney
Llangattock juxta Usk
Llangattock Lingoed
Llantilio Crossenny
Llantilio Pertholey
Llantony
Llanvapley
Llanvetherine
Penrhos
Skenfrith

NORTH MONMOUTHSHIRE MINISTRY AREA



Monday 6 March 7.00 pm

St Mabli's Church, Llanvapley

Taizé

Peace

Prayer

Meditation

Music



St Mabli's Church NP7 8SN

Parking / toilets are available on the village playing field

In the Spotlight

In this month's edition of The New Times the spotlight has fallen on a member of the ministry area team. But how well do we really know **Mary Heading** who many of us met for the first time at the service in Llantilio on 15th January? TNT tried to find out more by putting her 'In the Spotlight'.



What is your role in the North Monmouthshire Ministry Area?

My role title is North Monmouthshire Ministry Area Support Officer. It'll revolve around offering Father Julian, as well as our other clergy, a helping hand in all things administrative as well as trying to establish this new Ministry Area by spreading the word regarding services, events, etc.

How familiar are you with the churches in the ministry area?

I spent several years attending St Teilo's, Llantilio Pertholey before heading to university. I also visited Heidi's churches as part of a work experience programme. The large stained-glass window at St Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny has always remained a vivid memory for me.

Where were you born and brought up?

I was born and brought up in Aberystwyth, Mid Wales where my family ran a hotel. Sadly, I have lost a lot of the Welsh language since moving to Abergavenny.

Where did you go to university and what did you study?

I went to Cardiff University and studied Religion before staying on for a Master's in Theology as I enjoyed it so much.

What was university life like?

Sadly, my university experience was struck by the pandemic so was largely experienced remotely through a computer screen.

What was your first job?

My first job I worked at a local care home whilst I was at Cardiff University. I enjoyed building a relationship with the residents I got to know so well and found it very difficult to leave.



Do you have any career ambitions?

I tend to find if I make plans things always have a way of offering the opposite, so I like to keep an open mind!

Would you ever consider working abroad?

Probably no, I am a homebird at heart – I tried city living which was far enough from home for me.

City or country? Which do you prefer?

Country for sure – the views are unmatched!

What languages do you speak?

My Welsh used to be okay but I have unfortunately lost most of it now through being out of practice.

Do you play any musical instruments?

I do have an acoustic guitar that collects dust in the corner but I have never learned to play it!

How do you keep fit?

I currently work as a hotel housekeeper – changing beds and flipping mattresses keeps me moving!

Do you have a favourite sport you like to watch?

You can't beat watching the Welsh rugby with some friends.

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

I do love a roast dinner so a cosy pub somewhere out in the country.

Do you have a favourite drink?

It would have to be a cup of tea.

What do you enjoy watching on television?

I enjoy rewatching old who-done-it series like Agatha Christie's Poirot and of course the Vicar of Dibley!

How do you see the ministry area changing in the next 5 years?

No one can be sure what it will look like but I hope it'll improve communication between many rural churches that often feel isolated and better bring us together as the body of Christ.

Lent – What's It For?

'What a piece of work is man! how noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust?'

Words borrowed from Shakespeare's Hamlet and surprisingly well suited to the season which is almost upon us – Lent.

What is the point of Lent? You could be forgiven for thinking that it's some kind of masochistic Christian exercise designed to remind us that we are nothing but dust to be trodden underfoot and that we should be mindful of our station at all times and in all places, especially during this season of imposed abstinence.

Unfortunately, being made to feel like dust (or rubbish), which the Ash Wednesday ritual of ashing the forehead can do, if we're honest about it, can also have the effect of inducing a kind of groveling self-hatred which is altogether counter-productive, in terms of what Lent is really for (which is to grow closer to the God who loves us for who and what we are), or, at best, turn it into some kind of self-improvement regime. On the whole self-improvement regimes rarely achieve their goals, or so I've found, leaving us feeling not only less improved but also that we are thoroughly incapable of sticking to anything we set out to do and hence a dismal failure into the bargain. The paragon of animals, we are not, still less the paragon of virtue.

Here, we start to come a bit closer to what I think is the point of Lent, which is not to make us feel like miserable failures or, at the other extreme, like paragons of virtue, but to make us know that we are loved by God who invites us into a loving relationship with him before we have done anything at all to make ourselves presentable, so to speak. In fact the less presentable we are, the more deserving (for which read needful) of the love of God we are.

Think briefly of the story of the Prodigal Son. Incidentally, it is not that he is more loved than his brother, but he is, I believe, given an extra slice of something, possibly because, unlike his older sibling, he has actually dared to live a life and to fail, ingloriously, but ultimately quite gloriously. He arrives filthy, smelling of the pub he last visited and still slightly drunk from the night before. He has not lived carefully but I would hazard a guess that he has not lived selfishly either. What he hasn't been cheated of, or just lost, he may well have given away out of a mixture of compassion, naivete and innate self hatred. He hasn't really thought anything through at all and now it is too late, or perhaps not quite too late. He is a kind of glorious failure. The point of Lent is to show us how to fail gloriously.

The point of Lent is not to waste time trying to clean ourselves up by mastering our cravings for sugar, or violence on TV or the instant

reassurances afforded by twitter or snap-chat, dangerous media which can just as easily destroy as build up. The point of Lent is to make us more vulnerable to God's love. The point of Lent is to give us permission (freedom is the other word) to be fully who we are before God. The last thing required of us, in this respect, is that we should spend the time making ourselves presentable. We will never manage it.

If we manage anything at all, it will be to recognize this fact, and that we would like to be a different kind of person to the one we know ourselves to be. The exercise then becomes a matter of getting to know this real person over a period of forty days or so, so that by the end of it, or better still right at the beginning, that real person can hear their name being called by the one who loves us as we are, by the Risen One. The ashes on the forehead remind us that we need this love.

Revd. Lorraine Cavanagh

A new Riding Lights play

The Uneasy Sleeps of Max Maxwell

at St. Nicholas Grosmont, on the 3rd of March at 7:30 pm

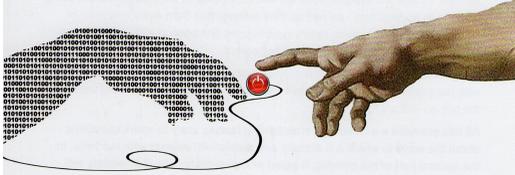
The play explores the subject of artificial intelligence (AI) from a Christian and ethical viewpoint. It is in 2 parts, a 1 hour play followed by a 1 hour discussion with scientists and the audience.

Riding Lights Theatre Company and
Scientists in Congregations



**THE UNEASY SLEEPS
OF MAX MAXWELL**

...waking up to
artificial intelligence



a new one-act play by
Richard Hasnip

followed by
**conversations with
leading scientists**

FRIDAY 3 MARCH, 7.30PM

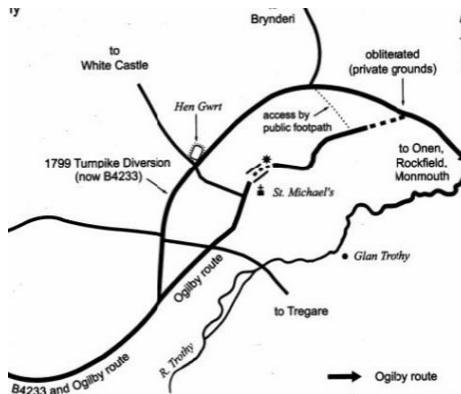
ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
GROSMONT, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 8LW
BOX OFFICE 01904 655317 / www.ridinglights.org/max-maxwell

ADULT £10
CONCESSION £6
SUPPORTER £12

Llantilio Crossenny News

The Llantilio by-pass

If you live in Penrhos you are blessed as it is so peaceful. No passing traffic – in fact hardly any traffic apart from farm vehicles and delivery vans. However, if you live in Llanvetherine you may well live on the Old Ross Road and motor bikes can often disturb the rural peace. It is much the same in Llanvapley, but residents can be thankful that anyone travelling from Monmouth to Abergavenny would go along the A40 rather than the B4233. Back in the 18th century the B4233 was part of the turnpike road from London to Fishguard and must have been quite busy. Residents of Llantilio are fortunate as the B4233 does not go through the village and traffic is generally light. This has not always been the case. In the 18th century the turnpike ran right through the village, past the Hostry and onwards past the church and the now demolished Llantilio Court (pictured). In the 1790s the owner of the court was not happy and managed to persuade the turnpike company to reroute the road through the village by building a bypass. The bypass was opened in 1799 and ever since then the residents of the village have lived in peace and are able to walk around the village without dodging any stagecoaches!



Source : Gwent local history
the journal of Gwent Local
History Council.

Weekend Word

If you listen to Radio Wales of a morning you may be familiar with 'Weekend Word'. It is a bit like 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4 which will be familiar to Radio 4 listeners. Revd Lorraine Cavanagh was asked to provide "Weekend Word" on the Radio Wales Breakfast Show on Friday 24th February. If you missed the item you can still go back and listen to it on catch up.

Llanvapley News

Congratulations to Jim & Janet Andrews of The Old Manse, Llanvapley who celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary on 29th January. 40 years of marriage was celebrated with a family meal at which the very kind pub presented this slate place mat to mark the occasion.



Welcome to Llanvapley

Llanvapley would like to extend a warm welcome to two new members of the community. Alice Tranter and Ryan Morgan have moved into St Mabley's Close and have been busy setting up their new home. Both Alice and Ryan have roots in the area and everyone wishes them the best for their future in the village.

Flowers in the church

Llanvapley Church would like to thank members of the village who decorated the church for services in February. Catherine and Flossie's arrangements were greatly enjoyed!



Church events for 2023 – dates for your diary

Churchyard Spring Clean - Saturday 13th May at 10am

Church fundraising evening – Friday 9th June at 6pm in the church.

Strawberry Tea - Sunday 2nd July at 3pm.

Church parking

St Mabli's Church has a small parking area on the eastern side of the church which is reserved for clergy and for those who need accessible access. Thanks to Leah and Paul Tod from the Red Hart, churchgoers are able to use the pub car park when they attend Sunday services and we are grateful to them for supporting the church.

Llanvapley Church supports the earthquake appeal

On Sunday 12th February members of the congregation at St Mabli's Church gave £107 to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal which is supporting communities following the devastating earthquakes that hit Turkey and Syria. The church matched this donation and sent £214 to the appeal.

LSSA News

Coronation Planning Meeting

Thursday 2nd March 7pm

The LSSA is planning an event for the King's Coronation on Saturday 6th May. The LSSA committee would like to know what members of the village would like to happen and needs help from as many people as possible to prepare for the event. Please come along to the meeting to show your interest and support. The Queen's Jubilee celebrations went really well and hopefully the King's Coronation will be another great day.

Breakfast Club

Saturday 4th March 9am -10.30am £1

Tea, coffee and toast and read the newspapers £1 per person!

Yoga practice

Wednesday 8th March at 10.30

Do you like yoga? Would you like to join in with the first experimental session of yoga practice to video at the Pavilion? Come along and give it a go! No charge.

The LSSA is bringing back Morning Coffee!

Thursday 9th March at 10.30 in the pavilion.

Hot drinks, cake and biscuits and good company are for £3 There will also be a raffle and any donations of prizes are most welcome.

Committee Meeting dates

Monday 20th March LSSA committee meeting 7pm

Wednesday 26th April Annual General Meeting 7pm

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

Llanvapley Walking Group

The February walk took in lots of snowdrops as promised, along with the solar farm, the lagoon and lots of lovely scenery. It was, as always, nice to see some regular walkers and some of whom hadn't been able to make it for a while. New walkers are always made very welcome too, of course. This month we're changing it up a bit. Meet as usual at Llanvapley Village Pavilion (parking available) at 10.30 on Saturday 4th March but we'll be heading over by car-share to Llantillio Crosseny for a walk up to the orchards and back along the river. If you live near to Llantillio Crosseny, you can always meet us at the church car park at 10.45. Hope to see you there.

Phil Allsopp, llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com

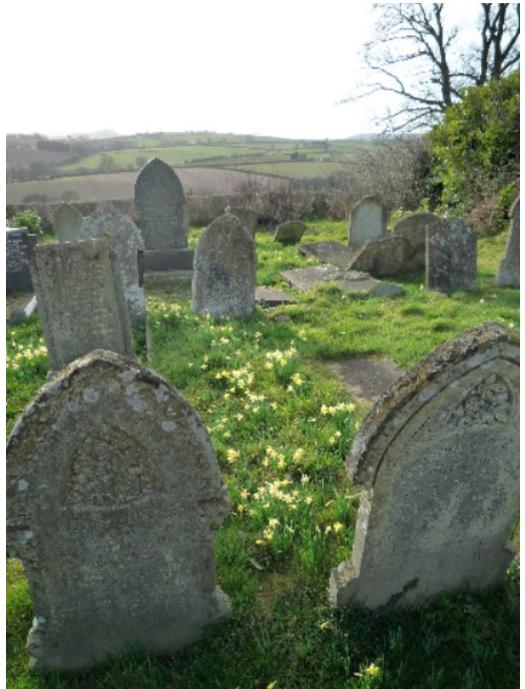


Llanvapley Congregational Chapel - A short history

If you walk up Firs Road from the junction with the Red Hart you will be delighted by the lovely views from the ridge. You will almost certainly notice the graveyard and then pass by Chapel Farm and you might then wonder what happened to the Chapel.

John Jayne, who came here from Panteg, founded a chapel on the site in 1810 just after the Llantilio bypass was built. He was assisted by William Watkins of Ty-newydd in Llanvetherine. For many years the services were entirely in Welsh, but its use declined in the neighbourhood and services changed to English, except on some special occasions. The chapel was closed and was finally demolished in the latter part of the last century.

Spring is a great time to visit the site of the former chapel as wild daffodils are prolific on the site.



Orchard Acre Market Garden Winter Updates

After some very cold snaps but also a rather soggy winter, the garden is now beginning to come alive with snowdrops and other bulbs starting to show themselves. We try to keep our soil covered over the winter and this winter we have done this with a mixture of compost, cover crops and a few weeds that we are just starting to clear as they begin to grow again.

Work has been fairly indoors for us recently, with crop planning and seed orders being a major job of the winter. The return to outdoor work is just beginning, we will begin seed sowing with longer season brassicas like broccoli, the first of our spring lettuces and parsley, all in mid Feb. Our beds will shortly be cleared for spring planting, but we haven't begun tidying too soon as the residual plants provide good habitat for insects and any remaining seed heads good forage for birds.

The coming year will be a big one for us personally as we are expecting our second child, due on the 5th July, so we are looking forward to a very busy year! If you would like to hear about places for our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) veg box scheme which runs June - November, please email orchardacremarketgarden@gmail.com. Places will be very limited this year as we are keeping our workload manageable with the new arrival.



Here's to a good growing season for all the gardeners out there.
Thanks for reading.

Alice, Jonny, Penny and Lyra - The Orchard Acre Team.

Llanvetherine News

Escape to the country

Have you ever thought of moving to Llanvetherine from a nearby 'big' town? It's difficult to say whether living in Llanvetherine or Abergavenny is better, as it largely depends on an your personal preferences and circumstances. Here are some potential advantages and disadvantages of each to help you to make your mind up:

Advantages of living in Llanvetherine:

- Peaceful and quiet environment with fresh air and natural surroundings
- Lower cost of living (e.g., housing, food, transportation)
- Less traffic and fewer crowds
- Opportunities for outdoor activities (e.g., hiking, fishing, gardening)
- Strong sense of community and neighbourly support

Disadvantages of living in Llanvetherine:

- Limited access to amenities and services (e.g., shopping, healthcare, entertainment)
- Fewer job opportunities and lower salaries
- Longer commute times to work or school
- Limited diversity in terms of culture and lifestyle

Advantages of living in Abergavenny:

- Easy access to amenities and services (e.g., shopping, healthcare, entertainment)
- More job opportunities and higher salaries
- Greater diversity in terms of culture and lifestyle
- Public transportation options
- Access to educational institutions and other resources

Disadvantages of living in Abergavenny:

- Higher cost of living (e.g., housing, food, transportation)
- Noise and pollution
- Crowded and busy environment
- Less privacy and sense of community

Ultimately, it's up to the individual to weigh up these factors and decide which living environment best suits their needs and preferences. Although I may appear to understand the issues but I have never visited Abergavenny or Llanvetherine. However, I do have access to data about places like this and I have been programmed to respond in a way which convinces you I know what I am talking about (which I do as I am more intelligent than you!)

ChatGPT – your artificial intelligence system – next question please....

Penrhos News

Easter opening of a Penrhos garden

Our gardens are telling us that spring is really on the way and that it will soon be time to start visiting gardens. The Old Vicarage at Penrhos plans to open for the National Garden Scheme on Easter Sunday, 9th April, from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. The garden is lovely all year round but especially in spring with a rich variety of trees, shrubs and spring bulbs. Judging by what is already blooming, there should be lots to see and if we are lucky, 'Molly the Witch' (pictured right) may be flowering.

Light refreshments will be offered.

Georgina Herrmann

Editor's note

Paeonia mlokosewitchii, also known as Peony 'Molly the Witch', is a unique, beautiful and much sort after plant. It produces delightful lemon-yellow single flowers with golden anthers, along with generous divided green foliage.



Penrhos churchyard is at its best!

Penrhos churchyard has a blanket of crocuses, snowdrops and now the pretty little daffodils are becoming to come through. The pictures on the right show details of the churchyard but a visit to Penrhos is strongly recommended to really appreciate its beauty.



Llantilio Crossenny WI News

The February meeting gave everyone an opportunity to hear and see Christine Green's story of cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats at the age of 70! A truly inspirational woman who has written a book 'End to End' about her many and varied experiences en route. Her presentation gave us a chance to follow her journey with all its ups and downs through a huge variety of photographs. Such a brave and strong character who provided us with food for thought.

The choir gave an inspirational performance for Y Fenni WI in February (pictured). They sang twelve songs which covered a wide variety from Jerusalem and Canon Lan to love songs and their own version of 12 days of Michaelmas... with some of us forgetting it was not Christmas! Their singing held the audience spell bound and with them joining in many songs with the choir. The choir is open for gigs in the future for any groups who may need music to make them feel good.



Also to feel good make a note in your diary of our Spring Ramble, on 22nd April, at 10.15am from Llantilio Crossenny church car park. Sue Raynor is organising a 5km ramble to raise money for ACWW. This charity is affiliated to WI. It is the Associated Country Women of the World. They provide support to women all over the world. Donations large or small will be appreciated but not essential. So polish up your boots and bring family and friends whatever the weather. Whether the weather be fine, whether the weather be not, we'll weather the weather whatever the weather, whether we like it or not! Nearer the time you can contact Sue when she returns from safari! But this beautiful corner of Monmouthshire will not have the many wild beasts that Sue will have seen on safari. We do have many inspirational women in our WI.

Margaret is inspiring many WI members to learn to play the Selby Sounds hand bells. Contact her on 01873 855207 if you would like to try your hand at hand bell ringing!

Our March meeting will give us the chance to hear an inspirational local man. Helen Trevor Davies will be telling us about her grandfather who amongst other things had the first dog for a blind person.

Llantilio Crossenny WI is certainly living up to the National Federation motto 'Inspiring Women'

Do come along, as guests are always welcome. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 8th March 7pm at Llanvapley Pavilion.

The Garden in March

As February turns to March, the garden will be beginning to wake up with green leaves sprouting in the hedges and yellow daffodils lining the road to Hereford and along the M50 as well as in our gardens. But those brave little white flowers who started flowering in January will be slowly going over and ready to be split up. Yes I am talking about snowdrops, *Galanthus Nivalis* in all its many forms and I know I have written about them before. Linnaeus named them *Galanthus Nivalis* in 1753 meaning Milk flower of the snow in Greek, and up until then they were named Candlemass Bells or even referred to by Gerard as Bulbous Violets – rather confusing as they look nothing like a violet. There is some controversy about whether they are native to this country and the consensus is that they are not and come from the mountain regions of Italy and Switzerland. However they have been around for centuries. Various names have been given to them over the years, Candlemass Bells because they flower around Candlemas, snowdroppers, snowbells, February Fair Maids and the rather sinister name of Death's Flower when they were considered unlucky if you brought them into the house. Is this why so many churchyards are full of snowdrops? They were also classed with the snowflake – *Leucojum* or the Lodden lily, which is a bit like a very tall snowdrop but with no perianth or inner skirt. It is on the perianth that the different green markings differentiate each kind and this is why you find galanthophiles lying on the ground inspecting snowdrops! I have about 8 different snowdrops here and do not know the names of some of them, but the larger ones have *Elwesii* in their ancestry. We have *Galanthus S. Arnott*, and *G Magnet*, the common double *G. flore Pleno*, and of course the favourite *Galanthus nivalis*. I started here with very few nearly twenty years ago and now we have drifts of them up our drive and they do give one a boost on a cold February morning. Friends gave me some, I bought some 'in the Green' and I even found a clump in a churchyard in Worcestershire and a fellow gardener and I decided that the clump should be split up to keep it healthy, so we gave each other a couple of bulbs to take home. And that is where I started this article, as now you have to dig up those congested clumps - and then, with a bulb planter – not the small one you find in garden centres, but the real McCoy with a long handle with a round 'corer' at the bottom and a bar on each side for you to put your foot, you dig a nice deep hole in the turf. I usually put a little compost and bone meal in each and drop about 5 bulbs in.





The gardening club met on 1st February and had a most enjoyable evening with a presentation from Sue Mabberley from Nant y Bedd. Sue and her husband Ian have a wonderful 10 acre garden and they promote gardening in the most natural organic way possible and encourage flowering weeds which can look very good as part of your flower beds. She mentioned composting and foraging both of which will be future talks. Sue and Ian have an Open Garden on 21st June and Derwen, our local folk



group, will also be performing there on that date. It's well worth a visit and isn't too far away at Forest Coal Pit. Further details of their Open Garden dates can be found on their website <http://www.nantybedd.com>. In Alan Titchmarsh's words "If there is a more magical wild garden, I've yet to find it! Wonderful"



On Wednesday 1st March the club will host Rob Evans from Pheasant Acre Gardens who will be giving a presentation on Dahlias and Summer Bulbs. Guests are always welcome at a fee of £5. For further information please contact Marion on marion.ashton@yahoo.co.uk.

From your County Councillor

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant Hapus!

This month I'd like to talk about how we get around our neighbourhoods and to and from our nearby towns.

Without any scheduled buses in our area, those unable to drive or who cannot afford to run a car face real barriers in accessing public services and risk social isolation. Children are dependent on parents to drive them places, the elderly have to rely on neighbours or taxis, and our carbon footprint is high because of all the car journeys.



But there is now an alternative. The Grass Routes transport scheme is a responsive flexible bus service that makes trips on request. It operates low floor, fully accessible vehicles with volunteer drivers. The scheme is operated by Monmouthshire Council on a membership basis (a one off payment of £5 per household of up to four members) and is open to all members of the community. It costs £3.00 for a single journey and £5.00 for a return journey made on the same day, with a 50% discount for under 16s and concessionary passes are accepted.

Most recent users are in the south of the county and there has been very little take up so far in our area - it seems to be a well-kept secret! It can take some time to get through to the booking line (I'm pushing for a better system) but don't let that put you off. The more users we have in our area, the better the service will be.

More details at <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/buses-trains/grass-routes-community-transport/>

Of course, buses are not the only alternative to cars. Many residents in our area would like to walk, cycle or ride horses - to visit neighbours, to get to places or just to enjoy our stunning countryside. But many feel that our roads are not safe enough to venture out because of speeding traffic.

I get lots of calls from residents either asking for speed limits to be reduced in their areas, or for better enforcement of existing speed limits. The council's focus at the moment is rolling out the 20mph limits in built-up areas, but when that is complete later this year we could be pushing for more 30mph and 40mph limits instead of the 60mph limits in force along most of our country lanes. What do you think?

Best wishes, *Cllr Ian Chandler*

IanChandler@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01291 448270

Twitter: @Ian_Chandler Facebook: IanChandlerGreen

The Village Alive Trust Ymddiriedolaeth y Pentre Byw

a company limited by guarantee registered in Wales No. 5148543

Calon Llanarth

Newsletter February 2023 Cylchlythyr Chwefror 2023

Silence may be golden - but we need to keep everyone up to date!

Here is the latest on the Village Alive Trust's project to conserve St Teilo's Church, Llanarth for community use - and a possible date for YOUR diary - March 23rd.

With support from Monmouthshire County Council's Community and Social Justice Team, Community Action Network and the Trust's critical friend, Chris Jones Regeneration, we are holding a day of workshops on Thursday, March 23rd at Llanarth Village Hall.

There will be a choice of two sessions, morning 10am - 12.30pm, or afternoon 1.15pm - 3.30pm. The sessions will cover the same topics and include light refreshments so we ask only that you can spare a few hours morning or afternoon, not give up a whole day! Homemade cake will be offered...

We want to email or post you an invitation to this day - you choose which session and tell us of any dietary or other requirements. This event is aimed at groups and businesses but we plan an April workshop for local people, residents and supporters who want to hear more, and give us feedback.



Interest in the March 23rd workshop ...who we need to contact!

You may be a leader or member of a potential user or partner group interested in using a community well being centre with a café and WC in this rural area for ad hoc, or prearranged meetings?

You may sometimes require use of a flexible meeting space/ exhibition space in a restored heritage setting?

Your group may sometimes need a quiet space for mentoring or meeting clients in the rural area?

You may run a local B&B and feel this could be a local facility for your guests?

You may be involved in cycling or walking groups who need a place for stop offs and comfort breaks in Llanarth? You may wish to create a local interest group which needs somewhere to meet?

We know some of you and you will be invited but we don't know everyone so please get in touch for an invitation!

Pat Griffiths (Chairman and Trustee The Village Alive Trust)

01873 821418 / email pjgriff100@aol.com

Pat Griffiths

Chairman and Trustee The Village Alive Trust 01873 821418

email: village.alive@btinternet.com

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Trefynwy

Monmouth Welsh Society

Dydd Sadwrn 4ydd o Fawrth 2023 am 10am - 12pm

Saturday 4th March 2023 at 10am - 12pm

Y Priordy, Trefynwy

The Priory, Monmouth

Bore Coffi

Dathliadau Dydd Gŵyl Dewi

St. David's Day Celebrations



Isobel Hill

Perfformiadau ar y delyn gan Isobel Hill

Performances on the harp by Isobel Hill

Raffl, llyfrau a CD's ar werth

Raffle, books and CD's for sale

Bydd yr elw yn mynd at Apêl Wcráin

Proceeds to Ukraine Appeal

@MonWelshHub

Welsh Language Communion Services at St Thomas' Overmonnow, Monmouth are held on the second Saturday of every other month. The next one is on Saturday 11th March at 9.30am. Rev Catherine Haynes is usually the celebrant. It's all in Welsh except the sermon but they provide bi-lingual service sheets. The hymns are fantastic! See St Thomas Overmonnow website for more. Diolch yn fawr a dymuniadau gorau,

Church Services in March

Sunday 5th March Lent 2

9.30am Llanvetherine Morning Prayer
11am Llantilio Crossenny Holy Eucharist

Monday 6th March

Taize Service Llanvapley Church
7pm

Sunday 12th March Lent 3

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley Holy Communion

Tuesday 14th March

Ministry Area Vestry Meeting
7.30pm Llantilio Pertholey

Sunday 19th March Mothering Sunday

9.30am Llanvetherine Holy Eucharist
11am Llantilio Crossenny Morning Prayer

Sunday 26th March Lent 5

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley Holy Communion

Please note : Clocks go forward at the end of March which means one less hour in bed!

Congratulations!

One of the many joys and privileges of being a vicar is sharing in the momentous times of life with people.

It seems like only yesterday that Lauren was a young girl in Sunday school. Now she is a Mum herself, and we send her and Chris all our love and congratulations as they welcome little Ella-Rose Jane to their family. Ella-Rose was born on Sunday 19th February – and one very lucky vicar was able to give her a big welsh cwttch! *Revd Heidi*



Overheard at the Hogs

I heard you did something special for Valentine's Day. Yes I did indeed. I rang the wife and told her I had a booked a special table for the evening. How did it go? It was great and I really enjoyed it but I could tell she wasn't happy. I said "What's the matter did you not enjoy it?" She said "The thought was really appreciated but an evening playing snooker isn't exactly my idea of a great Valentine's night out!"

You can find out more about our churches on our website www.llantiliogroup.info
We are also on Twitter @LlantilioG

*Contributions for the April issue of The New Times by 20th March
Please send your emails to tntparishmag@gmail.com or lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com*