

The New Times

May 2023

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



Alicia and Alex start their journey



while others reach the end of their journey

From the Vicarage

I wish to begin this month's magazine by paying tribute to Mr. Les Taylor, who has for very many years been at the helm in his role as editor of TNT.

Les, as I am sure you will all agree, has done a wonderful job of making the TNT not only a church magazine, but also making it a community-focused publication.

It has been full of interesting articles from various adventures to gardening advice, from "In the Spotlight" to local achievements. It has also been a great way to learn about what is happening in the area.

Les has the added advantage of being a whizz at computer technology, and we have all benefitted from the way he has dedicated his time and skill for so many years to making the TNT such a success.

I would also like to pay tribute to Sue who was always happy to check the spelling, punctuation and grammar and as Les has pointed out always had the last say! Thank you Sue for all your help and support.

Sadly, but understandably, due to a recent stint in hospital Les has decided to step down from his role as editor and this will be the last edition of TNT for the foreseeable future.

On behalf of us all, a great big, "Diolch yn fawr!" Les.

Lost

A pair of glasses in a black spectacle case has been lost. If anyone has seen them, please let the vicar know. Thank you.

Heidi

Don't forget!

This coming Monday (1st May) there is to be a Plant Sale at St Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny. Revd Heidi will open this at 2pm. A raffle will be held along with tea and cake.

Crime Prevention talk to be held at St Michael's Church, Llanvihangel Crucorney on the 8th June at 2pm. This is free of charge and open to all.



Ministry Area News



On Good Friday a splendid group of people met early in the morning in the car park adjacent to the Skirrid for the annual pilgrimage to the top of the Holy Mountain. The weather was fine and the journey to the summit was most enjoyable.



A cross was carried to the summit and there were regular stops as part of the Stations of the Cross.



The group reached the summit and both humans and canines were allowed a well earned rest before the long walk back.

Llantilio Crossenny News

Wedding service in St Teilo's

Alicia Lowes from Llanvapley was married by Reverend Heidi to Mr Alexander Simpson at St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny, on Saturday 22nd April. Alicia was attended by no fewer than ten bridesmaids and pages and the church was packed with nearly 240 people including the wonderful "Gospel Touch" choir who had travelled from London and performed



during the signing of the Register. Jeanette Massochi was the brilliant organist. After the wedding there was a reception at Llanvapley and very luckily there was no rain until the photographs had been taken and everyone was safely inside the marquee!

The bride arrived on time after a short journey from Llanvapley and entered the church to 'Say You'll Be There' by the Spice Girls. The packed congregation sang 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer', 'Love divine, all loves excelling' and 'Jerusalem'. Miranda Simpson read from the Song of Solomon and Edward Lowes read a passage from the Gospel according to St. John. The Gospel Touch Choir sang 'Blinded By Your Grace'.

Alicia and Alex were assisted on the day by the following :

Maid of Honour - Kitty Vaughan
Bridesmaids & Page Boys - Jasper Dyer, Isabella Dyer, Athena Lowes, Konstantin Lowes, Archibald Lowes, Francesca Ropner, Arabella Ropner, Sophia Ropner, James Ropner

Best Men- Hubert Beatson-Hird and David Schofield

Ushers - Jamie Ashton, Angus Collins, Jamie Gordon, Tom Holland-Hibbert, Edward Lowes, James Lowes, Alec Newton, Tom Preston, Graham Simpson.





Llantilio Church Bell Ringers

The Llantilio Bell Ringers were honoured to be asked to ring muffled bells for the funeral service of John Hazelwood on Monday 17th April. Jon was a much loved member of the bell ringing team and was well known by ringers in other towers. Jon left a special message to the team and they would like to thank his wife Mel for her very kind donation to the bell ringing team. The team have decided to use it on a special day in July when they will be on tour visiting Llantilio Crosseny, Skenfrith, Grosmont and Llantilio Pertholey towers.

On a happier note, the team were delighted to ring the bells for the wedding of Alicia and Alex on 22nd April. The ringers was well prepared for their duties although problems arose in the days before the wedding when a number of ringers were no longer available. Luckily the team were able to draft in ringers from other towers in the area and all went well. In fact, the bell ringers were very pleased with their performance! The team would like to thank Tom and Flossie Lowes for inviting them to ring at the ceremony and for providing a tray of delicious refreshments which were snapped up by the ringers and singers. The team are pictured here.



*Linda Green, Jane Moggridge, Myfanwy Williamson,
Les Taylor, Richard Booth and Sarah Heath*

WI Spring Ramble

Bank Holiday Monday 8th May

Meet at Llantilio Crosseny Church Car Park (St. Teilo's) at
10.15am.

Everyone is warmly invited to join WI members on a three-mile
spring ramble in our beautiful corner of Monmouthshire.

Bring your boots, family, friends and four-legged companions to
enjoy the fresh air, apple blossom and conversation.

The more the merrier as we celebrate our very special community
on this coronation weekend.

*The WI supports a very worthwhile charity called Associated Country Women Worldwide
which helps women living in rural areas around the world. Any donations, large or small,
would be most welcome on the day.*

Old photo in Llantilio Church porch

You may have noticed an old photograph in Llantilio Church porch
which was put up by Wynford Jones. The photograph was taken
outside the church many years ago. Thanks to Elsie Latham for help
with the names. I am pretty sure the tall lad in the front row knows
Elsie very well! The photo was taken on a Sunday afternoon following
a normal Sunday school in 1950. Des and several of these lads also
went on to become bell ringers in the 50s and early 60s.



Back Row From the left

Hazel Latham, Merryn Williams, Margeret Warfield, Mary Warwick, Mrs Glyn Davies (Vicars
Wife), Norman Edmunds, John Powell, Bernard Hughes.

Middle Row

Enid Williams, Juliette Warwick, Elizabeth Powell, Valerie Williams, May Board, Clarence
Williams, Jackie Williams, Wynford Jones.

Front row

June Thomas, Eddie Powell, Desmond Latham, Cecil Williams. David Warwick. Evan Dutson.

Llanvapley News

It's time for a spring clean!

There will be a Churchyard Spring Clean at Llanvapley Church on Saturday 13th May at 10am. The churchyard is maintained by the church for the benefit of everybody. I am sure everyone appreciates a tidy and well cared for churchyard rather than finding a neglected and unwelcoming one. This is an opportunity for everyone who appreciates the church and churchyard to help by coming along with appropriate clothing, tools and equipment. All you have to do is to listen to the safety advice and then simply ask "What can I do to help"? Hope to see you there and that the weather is kind!



Churchyard improvements

Llanvapley Church is delighted to announce that the northern steps into the churchyard have now been renovated. The work has involved remodeling of the steps, rebuilding of the walls and the installation of a new hand rail. Thanks go to Alex Morgan who has organised the work and has completed aspects of the stonework. The old hand rail was unstable and needed replacing and this work was completed by Mark from Treorchy who is pictured with his paintbrush as he finishes off the project. The church would like to acknowledge the help and support of the Community Green Energy Advisory Group who funded the project.



LSSA News

Coronation Celebrations

Please note the coronation will be shown on the big screen during the pavilion in the morning and you are welcome to come along and share the event with others. Tea and coffee will be served. The first procession will begin at 10.20am.

The King's Coronation will be celebrated from 2pm – 6pm. There will be lots of fun for all the family and your friends! Everyone is invited to

bring along a picnic or you may like to join others in enjoying fish and chips! A marquee will be available to provide cover.

The event will include the following : Outdoor games, an inflatable assault course and free ice cream for the children, a coronation themed cake competition, a competition for the best decorated house. A special coronation village bench will be unveiled. Reminder -if you want to treat yourself to Mardy Traditional Fish and Chips you will need to send in your order to Neal Smith 07792 489494 by the 1st May or as soon as possible. Large portion for £10.50, a regular portion for £9.00 and a child/senior portion for £5.00.

If you wish to take part in the best decorated house competition then please send photographs of your house / garden to the LSSA secretary
llanvapleyvillagecommittee@gmail.com



LSSA Events in May

Morning coffee Thursday 11th May at 10.30am.

£3 per person plus £1 raffle

Calling all cyclists, walkers and members of the village. Why not make Llanvapley your destination and come along and enjoy the coffee morning. Lots of pleasant conversation, cake, coffee and there is even a raffle.

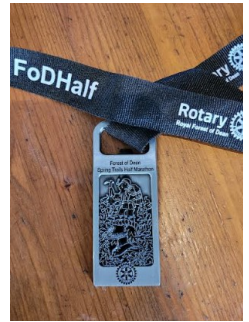
Breakfast club Saturday 13th May 10am – 11am. Come along for tea, coffee, toast and a chat. £1 per person

LSSA Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on Wednesday 26th April at 7pm. The chair gave an excellent report of the activities of the association and the treasurer presented the accounts. The secretary noted the recent sad death of Brenda Allen who was for many years the LSSA treasurer. Brenda lived in the village for over 30 years and was a much loved and respected member of the community. Members of the association were asked to vote on changes to the constitution which included the proposal to allow residents of adjacent parishes to be members of the association. This was agreed unanimously. The aim is to encourage more people to be members of the committee and to assist in the running of the association. Phil Allsopp has stepped down from his role as treasurer, Les Taylor from his role as secretary and Rob Davies and Mary Davies as committee members. Lynda Caster offered to continue as chair. No new committee members were appointed. Anyone wishing to be a committee member is asked to contact the chair.

Local running news

I ran the Forest of Dean Spring trail Half Marathon on Sunday. It was lovely and sunny when I left Llanvapley, freezing and drizzly there! I think we had a cloud on us all morning! It was my first trail event. The paths were pretty good cinder tracks - muddy in places and the short parts of cobbled paths were the hardest to run on. Sadly one person I ran with did not finish due to knee problems. It was a great place to run and one day I'll go back.... got a few different scenic runs lined up first. We wish the race could have been sooner as the theme for Eleanor Fford's flower arranging competition at the Young Farmers Club field day on the day before was "steam punk" and she was searching for cogs! This medal would have been perfect! *Catherine Price*



Llanvapley Walking Group

April started on a wet note and our walk on the 1st was no exception. The hardy few who joined our trek around White Castle enjoyed the amazing views and countryside walk down to the swollen River Trothy and along to White Castle Vineyard. Not a day for a long walk, we still managed about three miles and had a great time.



The next walk will take place on Saturday 13th May – avoiding the two early May bank holiday weekends when many people are away. We will meet as usual at Llanvapley Village Pavilion (parking available) at 10.30am. Hope to see you there!

Phil Allsopp

llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com

Penrhos News

The open garden on Easter Sunday at the Old Vicarage in Penrhos went well, the weather was fine if chilly and we welcomed 150 visitors. *Georgina Herrmann*

Llanvetherine News

A letter to the editor

We know you will be reluctant, but we would be very grateful if you would publish this letter. Following your wise decision to slow down to protect your health, we are sure the whole community of the four parishes will want to join in conveying their thanks to you, and farewell in the sense of your editorship of The New Times and running the website.

You have given this wider community selfless, 'above the call of duty' service for many years, and given that you had no duty in the first place, just altruistic love of service, we all have much to be grateful for in the time and work you have given so freely.

With regard to the The New Times, you have developed and kept alive a highly valuable communication tool which has its own identity and been professional in its concept, utterly reliable, accurate, and enjoyable.

With regard to the website, that too has been a magnificent achievement, and has been suggested as a model for wider use in our even wider communities.

So a really huge thank you from us all. And along with those thanks we send you our best wishes for a chance to restore your health and to enjoy life in the way you would like to. Our prayers and best wishes are with you and Sue for your new aspirations. *Andrew and Sally Dawson*



Llantilio Crossenny WI News

Keiko organised a very interesting talk at the April meeting. Helen gave a wonderful presentation about her grandfather, who was blinded in WW1 and subsequently had one of the first guide dogs for the blind. Many thanks Keiko.

Next month will be the AGM social and quiz.

We have never done brilliantly in the Gwent Federation quiz, usually coming near the bottom position. But this year Margaret, Sue and Jan Currie redeemed our good name by achieving 15th position. Well done!

Then in June we have Majel Lee telling us about the lives of Tudor women and our annual trip in July.

Those who have not joined yet do get in touch with Jan Currie on 01600 780302. She is our treasurer.

Finally may I on behalf of the WI thank Les Taylor for all his amazing help to us over the years. Do stay safe and well Les. No doubt we will meet up with you for cups of tea and cakes at the LSSA teas or the coronation bash 2pm to 6pm on the 6th May. Cakes needed!

A big thank you from me, to all our wonderful members , for all the wonderful cakes and support you gave to me at Leighton's funeral. Plus all the many cards and flowers. Thank you from my heart.

Lin Morris president

01873 850939/07840641856

Lin.tedit@btinternet.com

Sadly, our oldest member, dear Brenda has died. She was always such a smart and lovely lady. Her funeral will take place at Sirhowy, Blackwood crematorium on Sunday 14th May at 11am. Please let Lin know, if you wish to attend and would like to car share.



The Garden in May

There is a debate that is being addressed at the moment amongst gardeners, botanists and environmentalists. It involves what many of us would call weeds and to many it will be unwelcome news – particularly if you are a 'tidy' gardener. Those of us who are lucky enough to have a garden, even if it is a very small one, are being encouraged to let weeds grow for the benefit of the wildlife. I have already written a little about this and it does seem to make sense but one must keep a balance. I have just spent a couple of days digging out dandelions which had invaded our orchard and were threatening to crowd out the fritillaries that are seeding themselves happily amongst the apple and greengage trees. Now, I know that dandelions are an excellent source of nectar for bees and other insects as they flower early in the year when food sources are not so numerous, and whilst I am very happy to have them growing in the lawn, I did not want them in the orchard. Incidentally, apparently if they grow in abundance it means that the soil is low in calcium and I have had a few problems with 'pitted' apples – again because of a lack of calcium in the soil.



My other 'bete noir' is celandines and I have now discovered that they are a vital source of food for bumble bees, particularly for the queen bumble bees. I have great swathes of it in our dingle and have given up hope of getting rid of it, perhaps I should just sit back and let them rip. At least in a few weeks they will disappear just leaving their little white tubers underneath the soil. If you really want to get rid of celandines the only solution apart from weedkiller is to cover the ground with layers of cardboard and then put on a really thick layer of mulch and leave it for at least a year. Any plants you want to keep will have to be dug up and washed clear of any little tuber that might be lurking amongst the roots.

We all know that nettles are important for butterflies but did you know that docks are important too? Apparently docks support up to 100 different insects, including lady birds, damsel bugs, beetles and other invertebrates. The last thing one wants is a neighbour just sitting back and letting the nettles, docks, bindweed, thistles and ground elder proliferate and invade everybody else's garden. Like everything in life, a little moderation is needed so perhaps the answer is to have an area in the garden where you let the weeds grow and just keep them in check, and keep your treasured plants free from invasive perennial weeds.



Spring is here and we are all getting out into our gardens but the weather has been challenging with so much rain, I welcome the days when I draw my curtains in the morning and the sun is shining.

With so much to do in the garden at this time of the year it's a busy time for gardeners.

At our April meeting we were given an interesting insight into Alison Cooper's favourite plants.

Unfortunately, we had a technical problem with the projector and were unable to see the wonderful photos which she had put into her presentation. Alison is a botanical artist and we are hoping that she will make a return visit to show us some of her beautiful work and maybe see her photos which we missed seeing.

There isn't a meeting at the Pavilion on 3rd May as the Gardening Club are going on a visit to High Glanau, Lydart, Monmouth. After a tour of the gardens members will be treated to tea and cakes.

If anyone is interested in coming please contact Marion at marion.ashton@yahoo.co.uk.

We will be meeting at Llanvapley Pavilion at 5.45pm and will car share to Lydart.



The Village Alive Trust
A date for your diary - Everyone welcome.

June 10th Open Day and Coffee Morning at Llanarth Church and Village Hall from 10 – 1.30pm. You will have a chance to learn about the progress made by The Village Alive Trust project to conserve and reopen the closed St Teilo's Church at Llanarth as a rural community well-being centre with cafe and bell ringing training.

Ten years on from closure you can see a drone film which shows the church interior, meet with Trust members, discuss proposals, give feedback and support and enjoy free coffee and cake at the village hall.

Contact The Village Alive Trust chair, Pat Griffiths on pjgriff100@aol.com, 01873 821428, or visit www.villagealivetrust.org.uk for details of the Trust's work.



**CÂN
ADERYN**
SINGERS



CONCERT
ST MICHAELS CHURCH
LLANFIHANGEL CRUCORNAU, NP7 8DH

WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE
7.30pm

Refreshments in the interval and a raffle



Whitecastle Community Council celebrates the King's Coronation

After the success of the Platinum Jubilee Beacon last year we would like to invite you to join us for the King's Coronation celebration beacon. Come along free of charge with your family and friends.

Lauren Hughes



Whitecastle Community Council is made up of six wards which are Whitecastle, Penrhos, Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern, Llangattock Vibon Avel, Newcastle and Rockfield with St Maughans.



From your County Councillor

My favourite flower is probably the apple blossom so I feel blessed as we move into May with the trees and the bees preparing for summer. It is also the start of 'No Mow May', a national campaign that is in its fifth year. By delaying grass cutting until June, it gives spring plants a chance to set seed giving a healthier lawn. With the council's year-round Nature Isn't Neat policy, sports pitches, path edges and road junctions will be mown while verges and green spaces have been left to grow, allowing flowers and wild grasses to develop to support pollinators.



At our last Community Council meeting, we had a visit from our local police officers to talk about rural crime. Thankfully, we don't suffer as much crime as our more urban neighbours, but when we do, it is still distressing. They recommended 'tagging' your property with Smart Water which has a unique code, making it easier for police to connect offenders with a specific crime and secure a conviction – and to return property to you, the rightful owner. See the Gwent Police website (or the news page of Whitecastle Community Council website) for details of how to get a Smart Water kit.

Their other top tip: don't hang your car keys on a hook by the front door. Make them harder for burglars to find and far enough from the door (or in a 'faraday bag') to prevent 'key hacking' where the remote control is hijacked to open your car door.

Following up on one item in last month's column, I've had an assurance from the responsible cabinet member that the council will have repaired the B4521 near Cross Ash by the end of August so we can see the back of those annoying and expensive traffic lights.

As always, please get in touch if you have any concerns that I can help with.

Best wishes,

Cllr. Ian Chandler

Tel: 01291 448270

Email: ianchandler@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Facebook: [ianchandlergreen](#)

Twitter: [Ian_Chandler](#)

Front Pages of The New Times 2013 - onwards

THE NEW TIMES

May 2013



Springtime at Penrhos Church

**PENRHOS
LLANTILLO CROSSENNY
LLANVETHERINE
LLANVAPLEY**

The New Times

December 2017 / January 2018
The parish magazine of Llantillo Crossenny,
Llanvetherine, Llanvapley and Penrhos



Do you recognise this cat?



Find out what Llanvapley is losing next year.



Find out how to cheer up your garden in the winter

The New Times

June 2014
The parish magazine of Llantillo Crossenny,
Llanvetherine, Penrhos and Llanvapley



Photos from David and Helen's retirement party at Warwick

The New Times

October 2015
The parish magazine of Penrhos, Llanvapley, Llantillo
Crossenny and Llanvetherine



Find out what happened when Timmy met Martha!



The New Times

August 2019
The Parish Magazine of Llantillo Crossenny,
Llanvetherine, Llanvapley and Penrhos



Find out who made the cake



The New Times

February 2018
The Parish Magazine of Llantillo Crossenny,
Llanvetherine, Llanvapley and Penrhos



Find out why number 10 is smiling



Find out who won these wonderful home made cushions in the Christmas draw in January!

The New Times

May 2020
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Thanks Christine for supporting our churches and our wonderful National Health Service



Thanks to all our key workers and to everyone who has stayed at home, clapped for carers and put out their teddy bears and rainbows to make us all smile!

The New Times

July 2022
The Parish Magazine of Llantillo Crossenny,
Llanvetherine, Llanvapley and Penrhos



It was the Jubilee in June and the WI were popping up everywhere.....



and beacons were also popping up everywhere!

The New Times

November 2021
The Parish Magazine of Llantillo Crossenny,
Llanvetherine, Llanvapley and Penrhos



Llantillo Church celebrates the harvest of 2021



and Phil celebrates supporting Abergavenny Town of Sanctuary

Church Services in the four parishes this month

Monday May 1st

2pm Plant Sale with cakes and raffle Llantilio Crossenny Church.

Sunday 7th May

9.30am Llanvetherine

11am Llantilio Crossenny

Saturday 13th May

10 am. Llanvapley Churchyard Tidy-up.

Sunday 14th May Easter 6

9.30am Penrhos

11am Llanvapley

Thursday 18th May

Ascension Day

7pm Ascension Day Service
Grosmont

Sunday 21st May

9.30am Llanvetherine

11am Llantilio Crossenny

Sunday May 28th

Whit Sunday/ Pentecost

9.30am Penrhos

11am Llanvapley

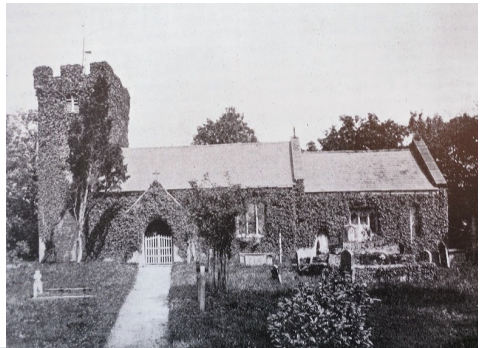
Sunday June 4th

Trinity Sunday

9.30am Llanvetherine

11am Llantilio Crossenny

Llanvapley Church covered in ivy around about 1900



Llanvapley Church covered in snow in 2010

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