

The New Times

The parish magazine for the Llantilio Crossenny Group of Parishes



Services and Events during October 2025

Sunday 5th October.

NO SERVICE at St James the Elder today.

11.00am **St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny.** (Harvest Festival)

Everyone is cordially invited to a Harvest Festival lunch following the service.

Sunday 12th October.

9.30am. **St Cadoc's, Penrhos.**

Refreshments are provided after the service. All are welcome from around 10.20am.

11.00am **St. Mabli's, Llanvapley.** (Holy Communion)

This service is followed by tea/coffee and a chat; everyone is very welcome even if you do not join the service. The bell will be rung when the service finishes.

Sunday 19th October.

11.00am **St. James the Elder, Llanvetherine.** (Harvest Festival)

NO SERVICE at St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny today.

Sunday 26th October.

9.30am. **St Cadoc's, Penrhos.**

Refreshments are provided after the service. All are welcome from around 10.20am.

11.00am **St. Mabli's, Llanvapley.** (Morning Prayer)

This service is followed by tea/coffee and a chat; everyone is very welcome even if you do not join the service. The bell will be rung when the service finishes

News from the Four Churches St. Cadoc's, Penrhos

Harvest Festival at Penrhos

As a beautiful September day drew to a close, a goodly* congregation gathered at St Cadoc's to celebrate Harvest Festival. The church had been beautifully decorated and the candles sent an autumnal glow around its ancient walls as young and the not-quite-so-young celebrated the harvest in this rural community.

Afterwards we all enjoyed a convivial Harvest Supper at High House. Many thanks to Richard and Fiona Cleeve for their generous hospitality and continued support to the church and to the community in hosting these special occasions.

The picture reminds us of the important work of churchwardens. In this case it is Pip Rumsey blowing out the candles after the service!



**the word goodly is interesting and just right in this context. As an adjective it means 'sizeable, respectable, generous' - an apt description of the congregation.*

It also has archaic meaning- 'good, cheerful, bountiful' - also a fitting description!

The word 'goodly' appears in Jeremiah 29 and described Jochebed's new born son.

Cheese and Wine Soiree held on the 5th September

Cheese and wine, Caws a gwin often paired together in many languages, but Caws a gwin yn yr eglwys? Cheese and wine in church? Not something I ever heard from the lips of my bible-fearing, beloved grandmother.



Well, if I could only regale the evening of the 5th of September at St Cadoc's Church to her, I'm sure she would smile and wish she hadn't missed out.

The church opened its doors to host its first Cheese and Wine evening, under the softly curved arch of the restored barrel vaulted ceiling and making good use of the newly-fitted kitchen area. A long-held idea was now being set to the test and passed with flying colours. In this delightful setting, Pip Rumsey, Margaret and Richard Price and many helpers hosted locals, old and new, sharing time together and chatting. The church echoed to the sounds of laughter, introductions and old tales, shared by those whose families have Penrhos DNA in their bones and for those of us, who are "new-comers", we feel very welcomed in and we belong here too.

Heidi graciously thanked Pip and everyone for coming to support the gathering and the consensus was, "looking forward to doing it all again next year." Footnote, the photo was taken towards the end of the evening as can be seen from the bottle-emptied table and belies the turnout.

Leannndre Fellows

'Drop Inn' evenings at the church.

St Cadoc's is expanding its horizons! There is no doubt that the church is a beautiful and spiritual place of worship and peace. But it is also a fabulous venue for people from the local community and further afield to come together, to meet friends and neighbours and to enjoy each other's company .

Therefore, on Friday 24th October, 7pm - 9pm, if you are free please come to the church with a bottle of your preferred drink to the St Cadoc's 'Drop Inn'. Glasses and nibbles will be provided so it won't cost you anything and it's just a chance to chat and see people.

Other dates for your diary

Sunday 9th November Remembrance Day Service at 9.30am

Friday 19th December Carol Service at 6pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine at High House Barn.

Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Morning Prayer

St. James the Elder, Llanvetherine Harvest Festival

Everyone is cordially invited to the Harvest Festival service on Sunday 19th October at 11.00am. This is later than the other churches in our group and we hope to welcome as many people as possible from across our area.

Quinquennial Inspection

The St James's Church, Llanvetherine, Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by the Diocesan inspection team on 5th August, when we met Sean who came together with his magnificent drone. This was followed by an inevitable lengthy report, some of which held over from our last inspection. We are pleased to say that we hope after many delays that work can start on the tower repairs this October. Photos show Sean explaining to Andrew and David, and to Andrew and Sally's granddaughter how to operate it, and the view thus obtained on the front of the report.





On Saturday 6th September there were two local events, the annual **Pandy and Monnowside Ploughing** match, and the British Cycling **Tour of Britain** event which went through Llanvetherine along the Old Ross Road at lunchtime. There was a great turn out of spectators and cheery waves from all the accompanying support cars, TV crews, stewards and police motorcycles. Photos show the head of the race and the peloton a short while later passing the stretch near the former Kings Arms.



St. Mabli's, Llanvapley

Llanvapley Harvest 2025



Llanvapley Church hosted the first of four Harvest services for Revd. Heidi in 2025. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and produce, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Everyone once again enjoyed singing the much-loved Harvest hymns, which filled the church with joy and thanksgiving. Revd. Heidi's sermon was both thoughtful and timely, reminding us to be grateful for the many blessings in our lives, even during difficult times. Following the service, a Harvest buffet lunch was shared and much appreciated. The meal featured delicious home-made soup, fresh bread, cheese, and a wonderful selection of savoury bites and sweet treats to round off the occasion. Special thanks go to Janet Andrews who managed to create the Harvest Loaf from scratch on the morning of the service. That's what you call fresh bread!

Many thanks to everyone who helped to prepare the church, the service and the food.

Date for your diary

Sunday 21st December - **Christmas Carol Service** at 6pm

Monday 3rd November - **Taizé Service** 7pm at Llanvapley Church - A service for All Saints

(A Taizé service is a quiet, prayerful kind of worship that comes from the Taizé Community in France.

It usually includes: Simple songs sung over and over, often in different languages. Silence for personal reflection. Bible readings and short prayers. A peaceful, candlelit atmosphere. The goal is to create calm space to pray and feel close to God.)

Llanvapley Churchyard and the Village

Thursday 30 October, 7pm
Llanvapley Pavilion

Join us for an engaging lecture by Les Taylor, Churchwarden, exploring the history of Llanvapley through the stories found in its churchyard. A fascinating way to discover more about the village's past and people.

This is a fundraising event, and we kindly suggest a donation of up to £10. Your entry includes a glass of wine, beer, or a soft drink.



During my research about the churchyard I was contacted by a member of the village whose daughter had uncovered some interesting objects on sale on eBay. These consisted of two 1/2 Plate Glass Negatives of Llanvapley Church.

A 1/2 plate glass negative is a photographic negative, created by coating a sheet of glass with a light-sensitive emulsion,. They were used from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries, provided a high-resolution and detailed negative. The asking price was £29.95.

I believe the photographs were taken to be used in a leaflet which was produced in the early years of the last century by the vicar of Llanvapley.

Les Taylor

LLANVAPLEY . . .
CHURCH & RECTORY
REPAIR FUND . . .

This Fund is heartily supported by :

The Most Noble The Marquess of Abergavenny, K.G., £20.
The Right Hon. The Lord Tredegar, £20.
The Right Hon. The Lord Llangattock, £20.
Mrs. R. H. Mansel, £20. Colonel R. H. Mansel, D.L., J.P., £10.
S. Courthope Bosanquet, Esq., D.L., J.P., £10.
Rev. E. Mansel Townshend, M.A., Rector, £10.
Mrs. Curre, Itton Court, £10.
His Grace The Duke of Beaufort, £5.
Sir H. Mather Jackson, D.L., J.P., £5.
Lieut.-Col. Wheeley, D.L., J.P., £5;

And has received the cordial, official, and personal support of the Venerable W. CONYBEARE BRUCE, M.A., Arch-deacon of Monmouth.

Gospel, Protestant and Missionary Services are constantly held in this Church, in faithful conformity with the Prayer Book, and the order of Morning and Evening Prayer therein contained.

An Evening Communion is provided once a month, and is well attended, and all the leading Protestant and Evangelical Societies are supported by Annual Collections and Boxes, including C.M.S., C.P.A., S.A.M.S., N.P.C.U., Prot. Ref. Soc., I.C.M., P.R.S., Imp. Prot. Fed., Bible Society, London Jews Society, and many others.

A plain, hearty old-fashioned Church of England, Protestant Service, without intoning or monotoning, and without Eastward turning; the Ten

St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny Harvest Festival at St Teilo's

We will be decorating the church on Saturday 4th October at 3pm. We would be really grateful for any help and donations of flowers/ fruit/vegetables to decorate the church. We have a wedding at the church at 1pm on 4th October so we are not able to decorate the church before this date. It would be lovely to see anyone who could help us, bring the children too. We'll have tea and welsh cakes with squash and biscuits for the youngsters.

The Harvest Festival service itself is the next day, Sunday 5th October at 11.00am. This will be followed by a celebratory Harvest lunch. A buffet lunch and drinks will be provided and everyone is most welcome.



Other dates for your diary

Sunday 2nd November A service for All Souls, 4pm. This is a time to commemorate those we have loved but see no more through prayer, readings, music and the lighting of candles.

Sunday 9th November Remembrance Day Service at 10.45am

This is to enable the congregation to start the service and then move to the memorial for the 11am two minute silence.

Sunday December 14th Christmas Carol Service at 5pm.

Wednesday December 24th Christingle at 4.00pm. Our annual festive service when traditionally children are given a Christingle orange which symbolises the joyful Christian story. The service aims to bring families and the community together to share a message of love and hope.

Thursday December 25th Eucharist for Christmas Day at 10.00am.

This lovely quiet time of meditation / silent prayer in St Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny

Continues in the Chancel from 8.30am-9am on the following Tuesday mornings in October 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

We start with a short prayer or reading, then silent prayer / meditation, closing with The Grace. Just come, or contact me if you have any questions:

Jenny Goodwin 07891 016768

Churchyard Working Party – Volunteers Needed



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help Care for St Teilo's Churchyard

Do you enjoy being outdoors?
Would you like to help wildlife and keep
our churchyard looking beautiful for everyone?

We're looking for volunteers to join us for
gardening and maintenance jobs — no
experience needed, just willing hands and
a friendly spirit!

When: The first Tuesday morning of
every month

Where: St Teilo's Churchyard

Tea, coffee, and good company provided!

Together we can make a real difference —
caring for God's creation, supporting wildlife
and creating a peaceful space for the whole
community to enjoy.

Come along, bring a friend, and join in!

For more details, contact: Ros Jeffries
- 07896 674028 rosjeffries@btinternet.com

Bell Ringing at Llantilio Crossenny

On Tuesday 16th September, the full team of bellringers gathered in the tower chamber at Llantilio Church to wish good luck and farewell (for now!) to our youngest ringer, Caleb Vater.

It feels like only yesterday that Caleb first tried his hand at ringing, yet in a short time he has grown from a novice to a valued member of the team. To mark the occasion, the bellringers presented him with a card and a gift to help him settle into student life as he begins his course in Biomedical Engineering at Aberystwyth University.

We were delighted to hear that Caleb has already joined the bellringers at St Padarn's Church, which boasts a fine ring of ten bells and holds regular practice on Thursday evenings. The ringing chamber, reached by a spiral staircase, is on the first floor. Caleb has already attended a practice (pictured right) and rung on a Sunday before the service.

By a happy coincidence, one of his new flatmates is also a bellringer, from Sussex! We look forward to hearing Caleb's full update when he returns home later in the term.



Upcoming MA Events



22nd October Safeguarding Module B training, 1.00-3.00pm at St Michael's, Llanvihangel

6th December – Advent Quiet Day Ty Mawr Convent

Community News

In the Spotlight

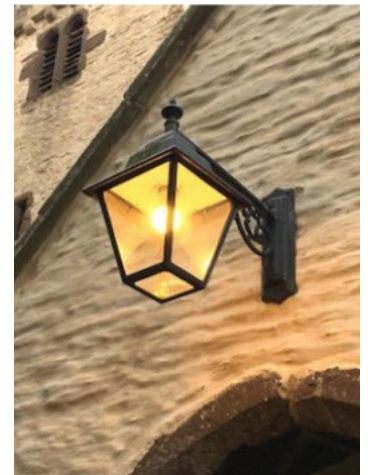
In this month's edition of The New Times the spotlight has fallen on a newish resident of Penrhos. But how well do we really know **Sue Raynor**? TNT tried to find out more by putting her 'In the Spotlight'.

Preface

Hello, I'm Sue and I am the Compiler of the TNT. Les, our esteemed Editor, has cajoled me into being 'In the Spotlight' (even though I didn't want to be) as our intention is to revive this popular piece. So here goes....

Tell me how you came to be living in this area.

David and I moved into our little slice of Monmouthshire heaven from Esher, Surrey, at the end of March 2021. We had viewed the house on a foggy, cold day in early January and had no idea of how significant the views would be. David was born in Llanfrechfa and we can see the mountain opposite his childhood home from our house. I was born in Hereford and from the end of our house we could see the Bulmer's Cider Apple orchard. My parents met at Bulmers in 1953 so that felt special. So, you see, we were meant to live here!



What is living in Penrhos like?

We live between Penrhos and Wernrheolydd and love everything about rural life: the change of seasons, the fresh air, the light, the rainbows, the views, observing the farming calendar first hand and all the other joys of country living. Our family and friends from far and wide also love what we love when they visit.

But it's the people that make the place and we are blessed with charming neighbours (I hope they're reading this) and also good friends.

Is it too quiet where you live after living inside the M25 for so many years?

'Absolutely not' is the short answer. But I must say that it was a bit tricky getting to know people when we moved in as we are such a spread out community so I did three things to overcome splendid isolation.

Firstly I joined the Llantilio Crossenny WI and have made so many lovely friends there- strong, interesting women one and all. I also went to church at St Teilo's and St Cadoc's. I don't want to make Rev Heidi blush but her warm and inclusive manner made me feel so welcome. I've met wonderful people in both congregations. The third thing I did was to join the volunteer team in North Monmouthshire. I started volunteering during Covid and caught the bug. I enjoy every aspect of being a volunteer and think that the local Community Centres in Monmouthshire do fantastic and invaluable things. I volunteer at Bridges in Monmouth and, again, it's the people that drew me in.

Are you working at the moment?

I finally retired in 2018. I always wanted to be a teacher and started work in south London comprehensives at a time of considerable unrest in society. The 1981 Brixton Riots, overt racism and other social injustices directly impacted on the schools that I worked in. As a teacher in challenging schools and throughout my career I was motivated by my firm belief that education is the only way to break the cycle of poverty in this country. It was very hard but intensely rewarding work.

After I finished as a headteacher I was self-employed for a number of years and had a range of contracts, often supporting schools in special measures. I particularly enjoyed coaching younger colleagues who wanted to become headteachers of the most challenging schools on a Department of Education programme called 'Future Leaders'.

Have you ever met anyone famous?

I met many politicians when I was a Headteacher but I've locked those memories away in the filing cabinet of my mind. David had a relation who was an actor with the RSC so we've met various famous thespians in our time but I won't name drop those here! However, when I was a deputy headteacher in Richmond upon Thames one of the parents was Trevor Peacock who played Jim Trott in "The Vicar of Dibley"! He was an 'older parent', often looked frazzled, sadly departed now.

When I was a young teacher in Tooting, the late Queen Mother came to visit the school. The route that she was to take through the school was cleaned and painted, the Ty Bach was fully refurbished and pot plants appeared out of nowhere to provide a bit of greenery.

Incomprehensibly the plants disappeared the day after her visit but the paint job remained. She was a gracious and interested visitor to this London Boys Comprehensive in the raw early 1980s. (But Her Majesty never used the throne).

Postface

Les asked me a lot of questions but this is all I have time for right now. It was actually a pleasure to sit and think awhile so if you're asked to be 'In the Spotlight' please say YES!

Llantilio Crossenny WI

As the dry summer drew to a close and the harvest was taken in, Llantilio Crossenny WI returned to its usual meeting place at Llanvapley Pavilion.

We caught up with each other after a busy summer of jolly outdoor gatherings and started with the business of the day. Amongst other things we were pleased to note that we raised over £100 at our annual picnic for the WI charity, Association of Country Women Worldwide. The charity supports women in rural poverty around the world who are setting up self- help projects, a worthwhile and fitting cause for our members.

Once the business was concluded, we enjoyed an evening of 'Dance, Dance, Dance' with Claire and her 'Sassy Steppers, HipHopper Showstoppers' ably supported by Johnnie on the music. The steps were demonstrated and then, with a few creaks and sighs, we were up and doing the moves to music or some of us remained seated and did chair dancing! This was a fun and entertaining night but exhausting (in a good way!).

Footnote: Claire and Johnnie run a fun class called "The Charleston' at the Bridges Centre, Monmouth, every Thursday at 10.00am. Everyone is welcome to go along and give it a try- it's guaranteed fun and very good for mental agility and coordination.

Talking of fun, nineteen of our members continued their weekly rehearsals for 'Gwent's Got Talent' at Usk Memorial Hall on the 11th October at 7.00pm. Our musical theatre piece has been a challenge for most of us but hopefully we will entertain and amuse our audience.

The month closed with a Saturday morning of First Aid Training with the very knowledgeable and experienced ex ambulance driver Pete Cook, based at Chepstow.

The national WI resolution for this year is "Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers" with a focus on CPR. Research by the St John's Ambulance Brigade shows that women who go into cardiac arrest in public are far less likely to receive CPR from Bystanders than men. This is for a variety of reasons but the fact is that more than 8,200 women would have survived a heart attack if they had been given the same treatment as men between 2003 and 2013. Our training included learning about the correct CPR technique for adults, children and babies and using a defibrillator. One interesting and reassuring fact is that once a 999 call is made reporting a heart attack, a network of support is activated by the emergency services including a local contact bringing the defibrillator to your location. This was a really worthwhile way of spending a Saturday morning.



Pete can be contacted at pete@remotefirstaid.co.uk.

We meet on the second Wednesday of every month, 7.00pm at Llanvapley Pavilion. If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Sue the Secretary, at sue.raynor@icloud.com or on 07768280251.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 8th October at 7.00pm is 'Music and the Brain' with Jude Rogers.

Llanvapley Gardening Club News

Llanvapley and District Gardening Club have a meeting on Wednesday 1st October at 7pm at Llanvapley Pavilion. Everyone is welcome and there is a guest fee of £5.

Our speaker is Dave Cropp and his talk is entitled "Not for the Faint Planted".

Dave says "So, you believe gardening is a fun and pleasant experience? Lurking in the background every time you set out to work the garden are perils unthought of and dangers unimaginable. This talk exposes and explains all the hazards and risks - in a light hearted but informative way." Do come along and enjoy a fun, interesting evening

Llanvapley Sports Pavilion & Village Hall. (LSSA)

Bore Coffi - Llanvapley Pavilion

Dydd Mawrth y 9fed o fis Medi 10.30 / Tuesday 9th September 10.30

Coffi, te a sgwrs

Llanvapley Pavilion, Llanvapley NP7 8SH

Croeso cynnes i chi gyd (all levels welcome!)

Contact: Les Taylor 01600 780376

Whitecastle Community Council News



Whitecastle Community Council was delighted to express its gratitude to Lauren Hughes following her decision to step down from her role as ward councillor for Whitecastle over the summer.

Lauren first became a councillor when Adrian Watkins famously knocked on her door and encouraged her to get involved — advice she took to heart. Since then, she has served with dedication, first on Llantilio Crossenny Community Council and more recently for Whitecastle. During her time on the council, Lauren has worked tirelessly for the community. One of her most significant achievements has been establishing a network of community defibrillators by successfully securing funding for this vital, life-saving resource. She has also been quick to act on local issues, notably taking a proactive role when parts of the village were affected by flooding last winter.

Her years of service have coincided with the arrival of her daughter, Ella-Rose, and with the increasing demands of work and family life, Lauren felt it was the right time to step down. The Council warmly thanks her for her contribution and wishes her every success for the future.

(Lauren and Ella-Rose are pictured here with Cllr. Debbie Astill-Parsons, Chair of the Community Council.)

Whitecastle Community Council – Meeting Summary (Unapproved)

11 September 2025 | The Hogs Head, Treadam

Main Decisions

Clerk to attend OVW/SLCC virtual conference in November.

No response submitted to MCC flood risk consultation.

Grange Project to be invited to speak at a future meeting.

Local Updates

Newcastle traffic calming works progressing; speed limit changes supported (Rockfield, Monmouth to Rockfield, The Hendre).

Request made for a village sign at Llantilio Crossenny.

Motorcycle event in Tal-y-Coed Woods (October) – organisers to be contacted.

Flooding issues in Skenfrith being addressed by MCC.

Tree works at The Hendre planned for winter 2025/26.

Footbridges at Tal-y-Coed & Newhouse Farm to be replaced (grant funding needed).

Community Groups

Community meeting set for Tuesday 14 October, 7pm, Llanvapley Pavilion – groups invited to share activities and funding needs for 2026/27.

Quilters Group supported via LSSA holding account.

Village Life thanked for Skenfrith Open Day contribution.

Planning

Council supports application at The Halfway, Llantilio Crossenny (pitches & shelter).

Council recommends approval for garden room at Chapel Cottage, Penrhos.

Concern raised about unapproved development.

Churchyards

Llanvihangel: grass cuts ongoing; wall repair quotes sought; tree works pending National Grid.
Annual safety inspections in October.

Finance

Payments approved including:

Defibrillator network support – £2,500

Churchyard maintenance & facilities – £2,750 (6 churches)

Community groups (Air Ambulance, WI, Gardening Club, Quilters) – £1,000

Other Matters

Police monitoring graffiti & unauthorised banners.

Website use growing – all road closures posted.

New noticeboard for Penrhos approved.

Full minutes can be found on the council website: www.whitecastlecommunitycouncil.co.uk

Email - whitecastlecommunitycouncil@gmail.com

The next full meeting of Whitecastle Community Council will be at The Hogs Head, Treadam on **Thursday 13th November 2025 at 7.00pm**. Members of the public are welcome to attend the council 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 on the community council website nearer to the date. The meeting on 14th October is open to all residents.



Whitecastle Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Castellgwyn

Community meeting

Tuesday 14 October at 7pm in Llanvapley Pavilion

Whitecastle Community Council warmly invites all community members to learn more about the vital work of local groups in supporting the Council's goals. The following groups have been invited:

Community Green Energy Advisory Group
Cross Ash Primary School Parents Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA)
Crucorney Young Farmers Club
Friends of St Cadoc's Llangattock - Vibon Avel
Llantilio Crossenny Church Committee
Llantilio Crossenny Women's Institute
Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern Church Committee
Penrhos Church Committee
Rockfield Church Committee
St Maughan's Church Committee
St Teilo's Church Bell Ringers
The Village Alive Trust
The Village Life Community Project
The Grange Project
The Village Quilters

Everyone is welcome

www.whitecastlecommunitycouncil.co.uk
whitecastlecommunitycouncil@gmail.com