



## The New Times

The parish magazine for the Llantilio Crossenny Group of Parishes  
**Services and Events in April 2025**

Reminder: **Sunday 30th March. 4th Sunday of Lent and Mothering Sunday**  
6.00pm **St Teilo's Llantilio Crossenny.** Joint Ministry Area Service of Evensong.  
Guest preacher: Rev David Williams

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Lent 5. Passion Sunday.**

9.30am **St. James the Elder, Llanvetherine.** (Morning Prayer)

11.00am **St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny.** (Holy Communion)

*This service is followed by tea/coffee and a chat; everyone is very welcome even if you do not join the service. Refreshments served from 11.55am-12.30pm.*

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April. Lent 6. Palm Sunday.**

9.30am. **St Cadoc's, Penrhos. Special Joint Service for Palm Sunday.**

*Refreshments will be provided after the service.*

No service at St. Mabli's, Llanvapley.

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Maundy Thursday. The Last Supper.**

7.00pm. **St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Pertholey, Mardy. NP7 6HQ.**

Holy Communion with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar followed by a vigil of prayer.

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Good Friday. Walk up the Holy Mountain.**

Meet at Skirrid Fawr Car Park (National Trust, charges apply) at 9.00am for the Stations of the Cross as we climb the mountain and remember the events of the first Good Friday.

Please note: this is a climb for the fit and healthy and is undertaken at your own risk.

2.00pm **St. Mabli's, Llanvapley.** (Good Friday service)

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Easter Sunday.**

9.30am **St. James the Elder, Llanvetherine.** (Easter Communion)

11.00am **St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny.** (Easter Communion)

*This service is followed by tea/coffee and a chat; everyone is very welcome even if you do not join the service. Refreshments served from 11.55am-12.30pm.*

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Easter 1.**

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

*Refreshments are provided after the service from approximately 10.20am onwards and everyone from the community is very welcome.1*

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 has finished.*



# Summer Pilgrimage 2025

## Southern Way of St David



Tenby & Caldey Island to St David's  
Cathedral

Mon 7 - Sun 13 July

All welcome - for a part or all of it!

For further details contact:  
[revdavidgwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:revdavidgwilliams@gmail.com)

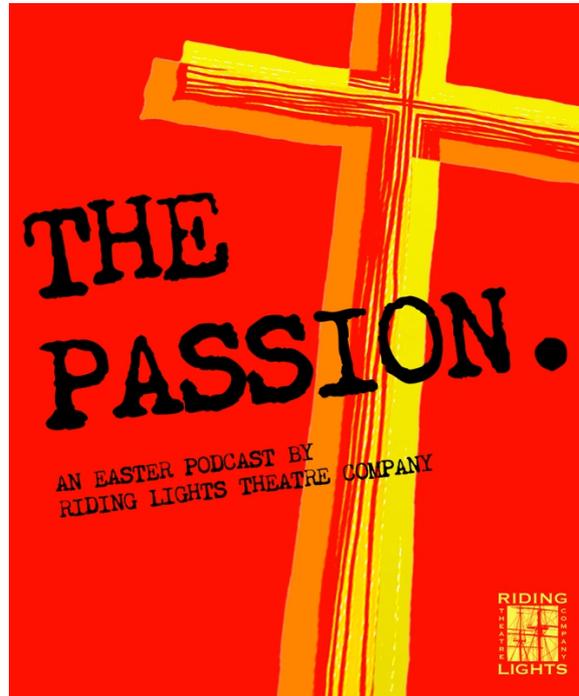
RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

## THE PASSION

Written and directed by Paul Birch.

The Passion is a new podcast series taking you to the heart of Easter.

Eight stories, eight voices, eight days journey to the cross.



### **The Big Lent Walk 2025 is taking place right now!**

If you fancy a challenge, why not join 'Llanarth and Friends', who undertake to walk 200km during the period of Lent for 'The Big Lent Walk'. This is a challenge where we are asked to walk 200km over the 40 days of Lent and get sponsored to raise money to help people fighting extreme poverty globally.' The group is organised by Julie Lunt from the Catholic Church in Llanarth, who some of you will know from Taize, and for her flute playing.

This is some information from Julie:

*The money raised by this year's Big Lent Walk supports the work of CAFOD and Sciaf in reaching out 'to people living in poverty with practical help, whatever their religion or culture.*

Jenny Goodwin

[jenny.goodwin@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.goodwin@btinternet.com) / 01600 780067

### **Walk up the Holy Mountain, Skirrid Fawr, Good Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

You may remember that this event was cancelled last year due to treacherous conditions underfoot. This is not an easy climb at the best of times so come prepared for all weathers and please do not attempt it if you are not physically up to it.

## News from the Four Churches

### St. Cadoc's, Penrhos



The Lenten Lily in full glory at St Cadoc's

#### **Memorial Service for Heather Smith**

Ron, Heather's husband, warmly invites friends and neighbours to a Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Heather at St Cadoc's Church on Saturday 17th May at 2pm. The adjacent field will be open for parking on the day. There will be a reception afterwards at The Beaufort in Raglan. Ron will be visiting from New Zealand and hopes that you will be able to join him and members of the family for this very special occasion.

#### **National Gardens Scheme**

**An invitation from Mrs Georgina Herrmann to visit the beautiful spring gardens at  
The Old Vicarage, Penrhos.**

**Easter Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April. 2.00pm – 5.30pm**



"This will be our 20th garden opening for the National Garden Scheme, and probably our last, so please come and visit. The emphasis in 2025 will be our trees of many varieties and ages, as well as some fine topiary, setting off the newly painted Victorian vicarage (1867) with its wonderful views. There are shrubs, spring flowers, a parterre, kitchen garden, wildlife areas and ponds"

## **Some background information from the National Gardens Scheme website.**

<https://ngs.org.uk>

The colourful Old Vicarage is a local landmark in this little-known part of Monmouthshire with splendid views over the surrounding countryside. A range of unusual tree have been planted throughout the garden in the last 20 years and, depending on the weather, maybe in blossom. There are many different areas to explore. The drive is lined with azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons and hellebores, as well as a wide range of Spring flowers. Borders are punctuated with neatly clipped box features. The charming courtyard leads into the gravel garden with its gazebo and then onto the kitchen garden, which is lined with box hedges. At the bottom the garden there are ponds and a wildflower meadow which was planted 5 years ago and is a haven for bees and other insects. One of the many fascinating this about gardens is how they change and develop through the years and the seasons. This garden in particular has its own definite character, deciding which plants will flourish and which will not. It has been created and maintained by the incomparable Hartley.

### **And to further whet your appetite!**

The cakes and refreshments are always deliciously irresistible!

Cost of entry is £5 for adults and free for children

Proceeds from the entry fee go to various charities, raising over £3.5 million in 2024. Beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, The Queen's Nursing Institute, Horatio's Garden, Army Benevolent Fund, Maggie's (cancer care and support) and Country Trust (an educational trust that connects children from disadvantaged backgrounds to the land that sustains us all).

Proceeds from refreshments and plant sales are for St Cadoc's church funds and contribute to the upkeep of this beautiful and spiritual church.

### *Did you know?*

The NGS was originally set up in 1927 to support district nurses? The National Garden Scheme now raises millions of pounds for nursing and health charities each year and supports charities doing amazing work in gardens and health, grant bursaries to help community gardening projects and support gardeners at the start of their career.

## **National Gardens Scheme**

**Longhouse Farm in Penrhos on Saturday 3rd May and Sunday 4th May from 2pm until 5.30pm**

Everyone is also cordially invited to another NGS Open Garden! Cost per adult is £6, free for children. Martin and Meryl Anderson are opening up their beautiful gardens and the proceeds from the teas on Sunday will go to St Cadoc's. If you can donate any baked goods please bring them along on the day. Thank you.

### **About Longhouse Farm garden.**

Spacious two acre country garden with colourful borders, interesting trees, shrubs and productive vegetable garden. Discover the natural pond, house and barns covered with roses and vines. A roundabout with un-named ancient Perry Pear tree surrounded by bulbs and seasonal plants. Woodland walk around a series of spring fed ponds with wonderful views of hidden parts of Monmouthshire.

### **Pews for sale.**

There are some pine pews for sale and three oak ones. The pine ones are 79", 91" and 106" long and the oak ones are 7ft and 9ft long. Contact Pip Rumsey at [piprumsey2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:piprumsey2001@yahoo.co.uk) if you want photos of them or you want to see them.

# St. James', Llanvetherine

## A Timely Visitor to St James



On a Lenten Sunday a short time ago, the congregation were preparing to leave when we noticed a small curious object floating outside the top of a north window. Rather oddly it appeared to be an abstract silhouette of the crucified Christ looking in at us. The window was cloudy so we photographed it from outside where it still looked like a silhouette of Christ, although it was now clear that it was a twig, suspended from the eaves by a monofilament line, maybe the result of rooks' springtime nest-building. But it gave us a few moments of thought.

### And two welcome visitors to St James!

Many of you will be familiar with the two large stone relief tablets that stand either side of the altar against the east wall of St James's church. They have featured in antique inventories, and many more up-to-date books about Monmouthshire/Gwent including Hando. On one occasion about 30 years ago, the reliefs of Rev David Powell and his wife Mary featured in an episode of the HTV series Trevor Fishlock's Wild Tracks when he noted Mary's wedding ring was on the middle finger of her right hand. The 1549 Book of Common Prayer decreed that that the wedding ring should be placed on the fourth finger of the left hand. The tablet for Rev David Powell also has an inscribed memorial for Rev Valentine Powell their son, also Rector of this Parish from 1621. David Powell took up the incumbency in Tudor times and so would have been an early post-reformation priest.

It was therefore a very pleasant surprise in October last year when I had a fascinating email from Cheryl Hancock to tell me that searches she began with a distant Australian cousin revealed she is a ten-times granddaughter of David and Mary Powell. Cheryl and her husband Paul were planning a family history itinerary in spring 2025 to take in connected ancestors in Herefordshire Shropshire and Wales and hoped to be able to see Cheryl's ancestors 'in the flesh'. It was a great pleasure to meet Cheryl and Paul at St James on 3 March and to be able to take this photograph. They hope to return at some point with Cheryl's 4th cousin Jenny to do further family history work they began before and during lockdowns, when they first came to know each other.

But for now readers may wish to learn more about their extraordinary discovery and the research they have done together, and you can [use this link to the full details.](#)



# **St. Mabli's, Llanvapley**

## **Informal Church Meeting**

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March there was an informal meeting held in Llanvapley to discuss church matters. This was an informal meeting as members of the dissolved parochial church council had been asking for clarification about the roles and responsibilities of church committees. Members of the church have been working with the ministry area leader to develop such a document but this document has not been ratified by the Ministry Area Council or the Diocese. Hopefully, the Church in Wales will clarify the situation but until then the group decided to adopt the unapproved document. A number of topics were discussed at the meeting which are covered below.

## **Churchyard Clean-up 2025.**

Members of the village community are invited to come to the churchyard on Saturday 3rd May at 10am . Please come along with your gardening tools and spend an hour or so helping to make the churchyard look its best. It's not all hard work. There will be a chance to have a chat and to relax with a cup of coffee and maybe a piece of the now famous "lemon drizzle" cake.

## **Strawberry Tea**

A date for your diary! The annual Strawberry Tea will be held Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 3pm to 5pm at Llanvapley. Hopefully it will be warm and sunny and we can all enjoy afternoon tea in the church garden.

## **Llanvapley History Presentation – The Church and the Village**

Following the excellent presentation by Dr. Phil Allsopp in February 'Llanvapley in the 1800s – a century of transformation', it has been proposed to hold a fundraising event for the church in Llanvapley pavilion. The presentation will look at the history of the village by focusing on the stories of its residents, past and present. The event will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 7pm. More details available closer to the time but you may like to make a date in your diary.

## **Llanvapley Carol Service**

Revd. Heidi has suggested Sunday 21 December at 6pm for St Mabli's Church Carol Service. Another date for your diary.

# **St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny.**

## **Lent Time Prayer/Meditation**

As Lent unfolds, there is a weekly gathering held in silence and has become a sacred pause in the rush of life. The church holds its breath, steeped in quiet reverence, while those assembled settle into the stillness of meditation and prayer. The world outside hums faintly – an occasional plane overhead breaks the silence, a reminder of modernity. Yet in this stillness, a timeless connection emerges.

The silence mirrors the quiet contemplation experienced by countless souls across centuries. The stones of the church walls have absorbed their whispers, their hopes, their prayers. The sound of distant footsteps, the rustle of robes, the beating of hearts – all echoes of past generations who sought peace within the same walls. Today, the hum of engines replaces the clatter of horse hooves, yet the essence remains unchanged.

Through the silence or rhythm of prayer, one finds a connection not just to the divine, but to the endless procession of humanity who has come before. Each moment of silence bridges time, weaving together past and present with threads of faith and hope.

A heartfelt thank you to Jenny for her dedication in facilitating these meaningful weekly gatherings during Lent. This has created a space for reflection and connection that is deeply appreciated. One can hope that this becomes a regular feature, especially during the summer

months, when the warm sun shining through the stained windows would lend an even greater sense of serenity to these sessions.

Please come and join Jenny, as they offer a wonderful opportunity for quiet reflection and spiritual renewal.

Join Jenny at 8.30 for the following mornings during the second part of Lent in April.

Monday 31st April, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>.

We'll start with a short prayer, then 1/2 hr of silent prayer/meditation, closing with The Grace. Just come, or contact me if you have any questions: Jenny Goodwin 07891 016768

### **Book of Remembrance – Rev Peter Cobb**

The Book of Remembrance for the Rev Peter Cobb is still open and you are invited to share your memoirs of this truly wonderful man. Personally, I've found it very difficult to find the words adequately to describe Peter and the impact that he had on me in the regrettably short time that I knew him but I will gather my thoughts into words shortly. The book is on the piano.

### **Llantilio Crossenny Church Plant Sale**

The fabulous, evergreen and hugely popular **Annual Plant Sale** will take place in the Church Car park at St Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny at 2.00pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May, the first May Bank holiday Monday.

Refreshments are available, with delicious cakes and baked goods for sale, a raffle and other surprises as well as a wide variety of plants and shrubs.

**Gardeners**- please bear us in mind when planning your planting! All donations to the sale are always gratefully received. Just bring them along on the day. Plants, big and small are so welcome.

**Or** If you can help with cakes, raffle prizes, or plants, your contribution will be appreciated.

Proceeds are in aid of church funds and this is a major fundraiser for the church so please come along and support the upkeep of this very special place.

### **Update - St Teilo's Eco Church Survey**

We are thrilled to announce that St Teilo's Church has been awarded **Bronze** status in the Eco Church Survey. This recognition is a testament to our collective efforts and commitment to caring for God's Creation. Achieving Bronze status is a significant milestone, and it reflects our dedication to integrating environmental care into our worship, buildings, land, community, and global engagement.

However, our journey does not end here, it is just the beginning. We are now setting our sights on achieving Silver status. To reach this next level, we will use the answers and feedback from the Eco Church Survey as a working document and action plan. This will guide our actions and help us identify areas where we can improve and make a greater impact.

Our plan includes enhancing our eco-friendly practices, such as increasing biodiversity in our churchyard, reducing our carbon footprint, and promoting sustainable living within our community. Together, we can make a difference and continue to honour God's Creation. Let us work hand in hand towards environmental stewardship, knowing that every small step we take brings us closer to a more sustainable and harmonious future.

To achieve these goals, we are looking for volunteers to join our Eco Team. Your involvement can make a significant difference in our efforts to protect and preserve the environment.

Additionally, we are seeking sponsorships/donations/upcycling/reusing for our environmental initiatives such as:

- Swift Boxes

- Bat Boxes
- Barn Owl Nest Boxes
- General Bird Nest Boxes
- Long Bird Seed Feeder
- Long Peanut Bird Feeder
- Bird Seed & Peanuts
- Sunken Water Barrel Pond
- Hedgehog Homes
- Large Planter for Herbs for Congregation & Community
- Nature Camera
- Water Butts and Rainwater Storage
- A strip of wildflowers for the bats and swifts – increasing biodiversity

to name but a few! Your support will help us to implement sustainable practices and create a lasting positive impact on our community and beyond.

## **Eco Tips**

1. **Buy One Get One Free** – plant offers, can you think of St Teilo's, as we are trying to introduce as many varied wildlife friendly flowers and shrubs to the churchyard.

2. **Shop at the Community Shop**

The Halfway Pub is delighted to announce the opening of a new community shop. This initiative aims to support local businesses and provide a convenient place for the community to purchase a variety of goods. The shop offers a range of products, including fresh produce, handmade crafts, and locally sourced items, all contributing to the sustainability and growth of our community.

By shopping at the community shop, you are not only getting high-quality products but also supporting local farmers, artisans, and entrepreneurs. This initiative fosters a sense of community and encourages us to buy local, reducing our carbon footprint and promoting a more sustainable lifestyle. And if you are anything like me, it will probably save me a fortune from having to travel 16-mile round trip for forgotten milk, eggs, or toilet roll, and then spending a fortune, cos once I am there I may as well shop for the next fortnight!

More information about the shop can be found at the end of this newsletter,

3. **Reduce, Reuse & Recycle**

Please can we avoid using single-use plastics in the church and churchyard.

Recycled plastic wallets are on the noticeboard if you feel your notice requires protection – can we start reducing the use of laminated notices please.

## **Update – Gwent Wildlife Trust, Local Wildlife Site:**

St Teilo's has been awarded Local Wildlife Site status with Gwent Wildlife Trust, which is a significant achievement and puts the church on the Local Wildlife Sites map in South East Wales. This status not only highlights the church's commitment to environmental stewardship but also opens up opportunities for accessing small grant schemes that support the restoration and enhancement of the Local Wildlife Site – our churchyard.

The Eco Team attended a Landowners Day which was incredibly beneficial for networking, and we gained some valuable insights from the speakers. This event provided opportunities to learn about best practices in land management, conservation techniques, and possible funding

opportunities. It was a fruitful morning in hopefully furthering the church's environmental initiatives and projects.

The speakers covered a range of subjects from Nightjars to Bees in Monmouthshire and lots of great ideas for biodiversity activities, which are essential for maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

### **Churchyard Working Party**

We are excited to announce the formation of a churchyard working party to assist Wynford and others with the upkeep of the churchyard. This initiative aims to maintain the beauty and health of our churchyard through regular pruning, weeding, and other essential tasks.

As you know, Wynford has been tirelessly volunteering in helping to keep our churchyard in excellent condition, and now we are looking for more volunteers to join him. Whether you can spare a few hours once a month or once a fortnight, your help will be greatly appreciated. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the community, enjoy good company (cake and biscuits), enjoy the beautiful space of the churchyard and all that it offers with birds and flowers in abundance, and maybe cascade your valuable gardening skills or come along and learn some. Just remember – Wynford is still the boss. If there is enough interest, shall be looking to set up a WhatsApp Group.



### **The Dawn Chorus – sounds heralding Spring.**

As the first light of dawn breaks, the air fills with the enchanting sounds of the Dawn Chorus. This natural symphony, heralding the arrival of Spring, is a delightful mix of melodies from various bird species. Among the early performers, now in March, are the Black Caps and Chiff Chaffs, two migrant birds that have recently started to make their presence known after their long journeys and are joining in with their song.

The Black Cap, with its distinctive black or brown cap, is a warbler known for its rich and varied song. It arrives from its wintering grounds in southern Europe and North Africa, bringing a touch of exotic charm to our parish woodlands and gardens. Its song, a series of fluffy notes, adds a melodious layer to the Dawn Chorus, making it a joy to listen to.

The Chiff Chaff, sounds exactly as its name implies, is another welcome addition to the springtime soundscape. This small, olive brown warbler migrates from the Mediterranean. Its simple yet cheerful song is a reminder of the resilience and beauty of nature.

Together, these migrant birds contribute to the rich tapestry of sounds that make up the Dawn Chorus. These songs, along with those of our resident birds, create a harmonious celebration of the new season, inviting us to pause and appreciate the wonders of the natural world. This beautiful symphony is a testament to God's Creation, showcasing the intricate and awe-inspiring design

of life on Earth. The Dawn Chorus reminds us of the divine artistry that surrounds us, encouraging us to cherish and protect the natural world.

The air is heavy with anticipation as Spring unfolds its vibrant palette. Eyes scan the skies and ears tune into the breeze, for the arrival of the swallows and whitethroats. The swallows, with their acrobatic grace, will soon slice through the warm air, weaving tales of distant lands across the heavens. The whitethroats will bring their spirited song, a sweet serenade to awaken the hedgerows. Until then, the stillness before their arrival feels like the world holding its breath, a promise of life returning in joyous flight.

This is a lovely link to the Dawn Chorus identifying the birds you are likely to hear:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xudHav8digY>



### **St Teilo's Eco Church Events - Dates for your Diary:**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May** - National Dawn Chorus Day from 4.30am to 7.30am

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – Plant Sale – an information table about Eco Church and its proposed activities.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June (date tbc in next month's TNT)** - Caring for God's Acre Churches' Count on Nature Week:

- Flower Survey
- Insect Survey
- Tree Survey
- Bird Survey
- Swift Survey

It would be lovely if you could come and join us as we undertake our first official surveys for Caring for God's Acre Churches' Count.

If you are interested in any of the activities mentioned or have some that you would like to suggest, or you would like to volunteer, then please contact me, I would love to hear from you.

[rosjeffries@btinternet.com](mailto:rosjeffries@btinternet.com)

## Events in the Ministry Area



## Community News

### Llanvapley Gardening Club

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2nd April at 7pm at Llanvapley Pavilion and we are delighted to have Roger Lloyd giving a presentation on Hydrangeas. Many of you will know Roger who has been to us a few times. Roger and his wife Jenny live at Highfield Farm near Goytre and have a beautiful garden which is well worth a visit. They were the Regional Winners in The English Garden Magazine's The Nation's Favourite Gardens 2023. They open on a number of days under the NGS.

You will notice that there are a few changes to the programme and Dean Peckett is coming in May to give a talk about mixed borders and herbaceous perennials. Everyone is welcome to come along. £5 for the evening.

### Llanvapley Sports Pavilion & Village Hall. (LSSA)

There's always a lot going on at Llanvapley Pavilion – it's a fantastic local resource that we simply couldn't do without.

This edition is possibly too late to remind quizzers of the Quiz Night this Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm, which is a shame as it includes a round featuring sheep! This is a changed date from the usual last Thursday in the month.

If you are reading this in time, contact Lynda at Llanvapleyvillagecommittee@1525 and hopefully you can be accommodated. If you have missed it this month then see you in April!

## **Events in the Pavilion in the near future**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April. 10.30am  
**Llanvapley Walking Group**  
Meet at The Pavilion for a sociable 3-4 mile walk.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April. 10.30am  
**Coffee morning**  
£3 plus £1 raffle.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am  
**Bore Coffi**  
All levels of Welsh speakers are very welcome. Mae pawb yn ddysgwrl!

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April. 7pm-9.30pm (Les always sticks to time!)  
Quiz Night with Fish and Chips from Friday's Fish Bar.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 7pm-9.30pm  
**Film Night**  
Could be The Lion King or Paddington in Peru. Watch this space!

For family and friends and neighbours and everyone....

## **You are Invited to VE Day Celebrations on May 11th 12pm-4pm**

Bring a Picnic and Celebrate with us.

The Big Slide is BACK!

### **Other attractions include:**

Music in the Marquee with "The Rabble"  
Competition for best 1940s outfit & Best Celebration cake  
Raffle Hampers 1st 2nd & 3rd  
Garden plant stall  
Play Cornhole  
Free Ice cream for children  
Treasure Hunt for Children  
Pop-Up-Bar

## **Llanvapley Village Cricket Match 2025**

24th May

If you live in Llanvapley or the surrounding villages and would like to join the team please contact :-

Paul at The Red Hart or Jonny at Monmouth House or  
[llanvapleyvillagecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:llanvapleyvillagecommittee@gmail.com)

## **Llantilio Crossenny WI**

The March meeting of the WI welcomed Rhiannon Lewis, our award-winning local author. Rhiannon recently had her third book published, The Significance of Swans. She described how when writing this novel, several references were made, not only to this locality but also to where she grew

up, near Cardigan, West Wales. The plot centres on an ordinary woman, who when humanity collapses, must become determined and resolute to survive. Rhiannon told us just enough to make us all want to read the book and discover what happened to this survivor. This book had taken a couple of years to write but another book, My Beautiful Imperial, had taken many years of research and was inspired by a distant relative who travels from West Wales to become embroiled in political upheaval in Chile. Rhiannon enthralled everyone with her story telling and it was a most enjoyable evening.

Our Quiz Team of Ros, Sue V and Jan E did us proud at the Gwent Federation WI Quiz Night. This is always a keenly contested evening and our team were on fire, coming in the top ten for the first time in ages! Well done Dream Team.

Another group of members is preparing for the Gwent Federation WI Competition on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The theme is 'Shades of One Colour', which is proving to present more of a challenge than you might think. However, the talented team will doubtless produce an awesome display to include a baked dish of some sort, a preserve, two crafts and a floral display.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00pm at Llanvapley Pavilion. We are very much looking forward to an entertaining talk from Tim Kaye, Director of Cultivating Learning and Nature. His presentation has the intriguing title of 'The life of the hedgerow, moths, beetles, fungi – The Forgotten Kingdom of Minature Green Worlds – discover mosses and liverworts'.

Why don't you join us? Everyone is welcome. No charge although contribution to the refreshment fund is always gratefully received.

### **St Teilo's Bell Ringers**

St Teilo's Bell Ringers have a rich history, and it is wonderful to hear that there are now three generations of bell ringers from the same family – Grandmother, Mother and Son.



Sue Vater (Grandmother) started bell ringing at the age of 10 at St Peter's Church, Blaenavon, and was part of a peal of 8, and is still ringing at the youthful age of 72! Verity Vater (Mum) started ringing 6 months ago at the age of 48. And lastly our youngest member Caleb Vater (Son), started learning to ring 2 months ago at the wonderful age of 17. We are all so proud of them and their enjoyment of ringing together with us happy band of ringers.

This tradition not only highlights the dedication and passion of bell ringers but also highlights the strong sense of continuity and heritage within the church. Bell ringing is a beautiful art that brings people together, creating a harmonious and uplifting atmosphere during church services and special events. It is truly heartwarming to see such a long-standing tradition being passed down through generations, fostering a sense of belonging and pride in the community.

Bell ringing is more than just musical performance; it is a way to connect with others, learn a new skill, and be part of an incredibly supportive, fun and very welcoming community.

By joining the St Teilo's Bell Ringers, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Learn the fascinating art of bell ringing from experienced mentors.
- Participate in church services, weddings, and community events.
- Make incredible new friends and be part of a close-knit community.
  - Contribute to a cherished tradition.

No prior experience is necessary, and we will provide all the training and support you need to get started, with our very kind, encouraging and ever so patient Tower Captain, Richard. So why not give it a try if you are looking for a unique and fulfilling hobby, consider joining the St Teilo's Bell Ringers – we meet every Tuesday at 7.15pm – see you there!

*“Together, we honour the past and celebrate a future built on unity, hope, love and peace”*



Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the second world war in Europe. The day itself is a 'shared moment of celebration' of peace and there are many events planned across the country on the day including 'Together We Chime – Let the Nation's Bells Ring Loud!' at 6.30pm 'Lighting the Beacons with Flames of Peace: A Global Tribute' at 9.30pm.

We are so fortunate that here, in our lovely corner of North Monmouthshire, we have two wonderful events for everyone to enjoy.

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Llanarth Village Hall is the venue for what promises to be a wonderful celebration and a visit to yesteryear for the whole family. Jointly organised by the hall committee and Village Alive Trust, this promises to be a fun packed afternoon.

And then on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, Llanvapley Pavilion is the place to go for a celebration jointly hosted by the LSSA, the Llanvapley Gardening Club and Llantilio Crossenny WI. We're sure that, amongst many other highlights, the official WI Orange and Ginger Cake (in recognition of the the role of women in WW2) will be on offer!

You are warmly invited to come along to both of these fantastic community events. See below for more details from the organisers.



## **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May from 12.30pm at Llanarth Village Hall.**

At Llanarth Village Hall on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> from 12.30pm there will be music, food and merriment as a free afternoon of entertainment is laid on by the hall committee and The Village Alive Trust.

The VE Day celebration marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe, May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945.

Abergavenny Borough Band has been booked to play, along with the ATC Band, Monmouth Lindyhoppers Dance Group and Ukulele musicians.

A limited number of souvenir Lucky Number Programmes for a cash prize will be on sale, hot food or ice creams will be available to buy, and tea and homemade cake will be offered by volunteers. There is no admission charge.

Anyone wearing fancy dress on a theme from the 1940's could win a prize as there will be categories for the best costumes worn by children or adults. Children's activities are planned, and a League Cricket Match is scheduled for spectators to watch on the beautifully kept cricket pitch alongside the hall.

Parking will be signposted to a field opposite the hall, with stewards in attendance. Disabled parking or drop off for those less mobile will be available. Catering vans and outside activities will be using the majority of the hard standing car park at the hall.

Sponsorship has been offered to stage the event by Monmouthshire Welsh Churches Trust, Llanarth Fawr Community Council and individuals. Please join us between 12.30 and 6pm to celebrate 80 years of hard-won freedom!

For more information or to offer memorabilia or photos for display at the community event contact Pat Griffiths, The Village Alive Trust, on 01873 821418 or Mike Powell, Llanarth Village Hall, on 07896 343197.



## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May from Noon at Llanvapley Pavilion**

We are holding a joint VE Day community celebration with the LSSA and WI. The event will be held on Sunday 11th May, 2025 12-4pm. The aim is to provide a fun filled day for the whole family.

It will include seed/ bulb planting for the youngsters, a family treasure hunt, bouncy castle, musical items, fancy dress competition, cake competition and much more. Drinks and ice creams will be available and we are asking everyone to bring their own picnic.

We will be holding a raffle which is going to comprise of three hampers, the proceeds of which will be given to the charity BLESMA which helps limbless veterans rebuild their lives providing much needed rehabilitation and activities. Any donations would be very gratefully received and can be any food, drink or gardening items. Donations can be given to any committee member.

Thank you so much for your support.



## Pubtopia – Village shop

Did you know there is now a small village shop based in The Halfway, Tal-y-coed?

The shop is accessible during pub opening hours (which can be found on the website [www.thehalfwaypub.com](http://www.thehalfwaypub.com)) but also out of opening hours by joining the WhatsApp group below.

The shop stocks local produce including: Milk (glass bottles & 2l plastic bottles), fruit juice, butter & eggs from Raglan dairy, Fresh bread from Wigmores bakery, Local honey & basic supplies such as toothpaste. There are also gifts/ artwork available from local artists & craftspeople.

If you would like to arrange a regular delivery of any items or pop in to have a look please get in touch either by scanning the QR code below or you can email:

[projectpubtopia@outlook.com](mailto:projectpubtopia@outlook.com)



## Our Parish Magazine, Your TNT! (The New Times.)

Hello dear reader.

I hope that you've enjoyed this edition of The New Times, the parish magazine for the Llantilio Crossenny group of parishes.

My name is Sue Raynor and I am the 'Compiler' of this esteemed publication. got involved with helping to produce the TNT just over a year ago. My main role is to compile the articles sent to me by the hardworking Churchwardens of the four churches, parishioners and local community groups. I then send them (usually higgledy -piggledy) to the computer wizard, Les Taylor, for some awesome techno magic. Les posts the 'tidied up' version onto the website, (llantiliogroup.info), and sends the finished version to you via email.

I have recently been on an extended holiday and I was very fortunate that the talented Ros Jeffries took over from me for the February and March editions, which I'm sure that you will agree were excellent. Thank you so much Ros.

I moved into the area in 2021. The llantiliogroup.info website (including the TNT) was my first glimpse into life in rural Monmouthshire. And I simply loved what I saw! I also know from our readers that many of you very much value the TNT not just as a means of communication but also as an essential way of keeping up with church news and community events.

In order to ensure that our parish magazine goes from strength to strength it would be fantastic if:

- 1) There was a group of us to put the TNT together each month;
- 2) Local people submitted articles that reflect this wonderful community of ours.

If you think you could help with the production of the TNT in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you would like to submit an article please do so by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month.

The contact emails are [sue.raynor@icloud.com](mailto:sue.raynor@icloud.com) or [tntparishmag@gmail.com](mailto:tntparishmag@gmail.com) .

I look forward to hearing from you!

With my best wishes to you all,

Sue (Compiler of the TNT!)