

The New Times

The parish magazine for the Llantilio Crossenny Group of Parishes



Services and Events during August 2025

Sunday 3rd August.

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 10th August.

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 17th August.

Please note that there is NO SERVICE at St. James the Elder, Llanvetherine.

11.00am St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny. (Morning Prayer)

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 24th August.

9.30am. St Cadoc's, Penrhos.

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

Sunday 31st August. (Fifth Sunday of the month)

4.00pm. St Michael's Church, Llanvihangel Crucorney, NP7 9HD.

Licencing of Lay readers by Bishop Cherry.

A Special Message From Revd Heidi Prince.

Dear Friends,

it is with a sense of almost disbelief that I write to let you know that our dear friend Elsie Latham has died.

Her passing was sudden and unexpected, and has shocked us all.

Our thoughts and prayers are above all with her devoted husband, Des, and her much-loved sons, Ian and Andrew and their families.

How blessed are we to have had Elsie living and worshipping among us.

Elsie exuded warmth, cheerfulness and joy; which, together with her can-do attitude made her a perfect friend and neighbour, and for me, the most wonderful and supportive churchwarden.

Elsie adored the church and its people, and was so well-known, and universally loved both in the local communities and further afield too.

She worked tirelessly for the good of the church, and charities which were so close to her heart; and her generosity and kindness knew no bounds.

Whilst I cannot even begin to express our sense of grief at her passing, my overwhelming emotion is one of gratitude for knowing such a wonderful lady. Her cheerfulness, vibrancy, and smile, will be with us always.

God Bless you Elsie, and Thank You for being you.



Afterglow

(by Helen Lowrie Marshall).

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.

I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave when my life is done.



The congregation at St Cadoc's lit candles for Elsie and remembered her with love and gratitude at the joint service on July 27th.

Reflections on Pilgrimage

It is a week since Heidi and I returned from our pilgrimage - the Southern Way of St. David led by David Williams, Vicar of Llandewi Rhydderch. It was an enriching experience on so many levels. I took lots of photos, but also have many images and memories in my head. Here are some of them:

Daily morning and evening prayer, in churches, on the beach.

The heat! The odd day it was 30 degrees, and no shade.

The walking.....sometimes just one step after another.

Being met on the path near Manobier by a very handsome local vicar (we women all agreed that was a boost at the end of our first day's walking!).

Pembroke Dock..... I confess that Heidi, friend Pam and I curtailed our walk that day and called a taxi - the heat and the hard walking on concrete streets with a background traffic noise and a further 5 miles to go - NO!

The beauty of the path, the sea glistening and shining in the sun, and a wonderful sea mist that seemed to accompany us one day.

The friendships made and relationships deepened, conversation, a lot of laughter, a few tears - all of that was wonderful.

We were a core of eight, with others joining us for shorter legs, like Clarinda from Llanvapley who came with us to Caldey Island, and Julian and Catherine from Llantilio Pertholey with Pip their dog who came in the middle of the week. Then Ros from Llantilio Crossenny joined us for Evensong at St. David's - it was so lovely to see them all - like a thread from home.

Staying in St. Non's Retreat House was very special. For me the indoor chapel had a deep and palpable silence. The original outdoor chapel - just a ruin of two stone walls in the corner of which a tall irregular stone on which was carved an encircled cross. Apparently pilgrims would trace the furrows of these shapes, and this called to mind a plaque I had seen at St. Ishmael's Church: 'The nature of God is a circle of which the centre is everywhere and the circumference is nowhere'.



The culmination of our pilgrimage was joining the service of Evensong at St. David's. The music, particularly the introit when we couldn't see the choir, was divine. The anthem 'Hear my words ye people' by Parry ends with a series of Amens, and this was the subject of the preacher's very short sermon (hooray!). It seemed so pertinent to us pilgrims as he talked about Amen as a sort of threshold delineating what has gone before from what is to come. We then had a reflective tour of the cathedral from Janet Ingram the pilgrims' officer. She anointed us with oil, which was very moving, and then Bishop Dorian presented each of us with a scallop shell.



12.30 Cathedral opens for visiting

BEIBL CYMRAEG 1588 WELSH BIBLE
Mae'r Beibl Cymraeg 1588 William Morgan ar ddangos yn y Drysorfa
The 1588 William Morgan Welsh Bible is on display in the Treasury
12.30 – 3.00

3.00 Cathedral closes for visiting

4.00 Welcome to Monmouth Diocese Pilgrims

4.00 Choral Evensong and Valediction of Choir Members – Nave
sung by the Cathedral Choirs

It's so hard to put into words such a deeply personal spiritual experience, and much of the time it was just a lot of fun. Sometimes however, words do capture a truth, and I was affected by a chance encounter with someone who said something like: I'm not religious, but when I go into a church or cathedral, I feel it - and I knew what he meant. And so we returned home, in the words of R.S.Thomas: 'laden with honey you shall work up into the honey the mind feeds on'.

David is already thinking about next year, and I would encourage you all – come!
Jenny Goodwin



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

The community came out in large numbers to bid our church stalwart and supporter, Georgina Hermann, a fond farewell prior to her move to Hampshire. Packing up the Vicarage has been an arduous task at times, not least sorting through the piles of academic papers and a lifetime's collection of precious things, but there are many happy many memories to look back on and a bright future closer to her son and family.



St. James the Elder, Llanvetherine

Please note that there will be no service on Sunday 17th August. Thank you.

St. Mabli's, Llanvapley

A gorgeous reflection from Andrew Dawson.

"We had a rather wonderful moment when I stood in for Heidi at Llanvapley on the last day of her pilgrimage, last Sunday morning. Throughout the service the congregation were aware of several butterflies dancing inside the church on what was a very hot day. As I stood behind the Altar to begin the prayers of Consecration a Peacock butterfly flew round me, coming to land on my head. It seemed a symbolic moment to all of us joining together in Holy Communion that morning".

A Berry Delightful Afternoon at Llanvapley Church!

Llanvapley Church held its much-loved annual Strawberry Tea on Sunday 20th July, and what a treat it was! Despite enjoying a glorious summer so far, the weather kept us on our toes in the days leading up to the big day. "Will it be sunshine and scones outside, or a cosy gathering indoors?" we wondered. With a 60% chance of rain from 3pm, the decision was made, indoors it would be!

But that didn't dampen anyone's spirits! The hall was buzzing with chatter, laughter, and the delightful clinking of teacups. It was a warm and welcoming afternoon, full of friendship, smiles, and of course, plenty of strawberries!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support the event, and an extra special round of applause for the wonderful team who worked behind the scenes, preparing delicious food, pouring endless cups of tea, and making sure everyone was looked after. We're thrilled to share that the event raised a fantastic £260 for church funds — a sweet success in every way!

St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny

Quinquennial Inspection & Helping Out

The church surveyor's Quinquennial Report ran to over 200 pages and 200 photographs, a magnus opus! The resultant works were split into High, Medium and Low priority and a plan is being put into place to address the actions required from the Report.

One of the areas for action is to clear ivy from the church walls and other lower priority jobs. A huge thank you to those of you who came to help with this work on the 19th July. If you can join the 'St Teilo's Church Task Force', please come along to our next get together at 9.00am on **Saturday 2nd August**. Any time that you can offer will be greatly appreciated. Your support is invaluable in keeping this very special place in good shape for now and for future generations.

Morning Meditation / silent prayer at Llantilio Crossenny

Join me at 8.30am for a half hour of quiet contemplation over the summer:

Wednesday 13th August

Tuesday 19th August,

Then a break until,

Tuesday 9th September

Any questions, please get in touch: Jenny Goodwin 01600 780067 / 07891 016768

Bell Ringing at Llantilio Crossenny

On Saturday 5th July the bell ringing team were delighted to be asked to ring at the marriage Sian Jenkins and Dan Edwards. The weather was thankfully dry and not too hot. While waiting for the guests to arrive, the team took the opportunity to ask the official photographer to take a picture of the happy team. If you would like to be part of the team why not come along on Tuesday evening at 7.15 to find how much fun it is!



Bell ringers from London visit Llantilio!

On the morning of Friday 11th July, a group of eight bell ringers from the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths met and rang a peal at St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny. The "Cumberlands" is a non-territorial ringing society, made up of ringers from the UK and overseas, founded in 1747 and based at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London. The second week in July is always on the calendar as the "Country Meeting", a chance for the London-based members of the Society to get out and visit their country cousins, see some beautiful countryside, and ring some different bells.

The band that met at Llantilio Crossenny was made up of members, hailing from London, Surrey, Cambridgeshire, Cardiff and the Midlands. We rang a full peal, a continuous piece of ringing taking two hours and thirty-nine minutes – no mean feat in a heatwave. The bells at Llantilio Crossenny are small by comparison with the bells in most towers across the country, the tenor weighs 4 hundredweight (230 kg) and is smaller than the lightest bells at many nearby churches. They are also relatively modern, dating from 1977/8,

A peal consists of a sequence of over 5000 rows or changes (a set of eight bell notes where each bell rings once), with every row being different. The sequence is learned by each ringer and is called a method. The method is a mere 224 rows long, and one ringer (designated the conductor) calls "Bob" at pre-determined intervals, instructing certain ringers to change their positions in the row so that no change is repeated. The challenge in ringing a peal is many-fold; it is both a mentally and physically challenging, and eight people must work together to achieve it.

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

Llantilio Crossenny, Monmouthshire

St Teilo

Friday, 11 July 2025 in 2h 39 (4–2–4 in D)

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

Arranged by Paul M Mason (No.81)

1 Michael H D O'Callaghan

2 Ruth Curtis

3 Elizabeth A Hibbert

4 Andrew W Gordon

5 Janet E Menhinick

6 Georgina Barratt

7 Paul M Mason (C)

8 Paul F Curtis

Rung on Society Country Meeting Weekend.



The picture above shows six of the band who took part in the peal, unfortunately the other two

had to dash off to ring another peal elsewhere.

To learn more about Bell ringing, the Bell ringing in Wales website is a great starting point – search for bellringingwales.org online

Georgina Barrat The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

Upcoming MA Events

2nd August MA Stall at Llanthony Show (volunteers wanted)

3rd August Llangattock Lingoed Fun Day! 11:00am onwards presented by St Cadoc's Church

7th August Game Night 8:30 – 19:30 at St Nicholas' Church, Grosmont Come along to a new youth club this summer – 9 to 14 year olds welcome

10th August Songs of Praise, 6.00pm at St Cadoc's, The Bryn

31st August, 4pm at St Michael's, Llanvihangel, Lay Worship Leaders Licensing by Bishop Cherry. Join Bishop Cherry as she licenses several lay worship leaders for our Ministry Area. The people who are going to be licensed from our group are Ros Jeffries, Pip Rumsey, Jenny Goodwin and Marion Ashton. Interested in singing? Why not join Philip Norman's Pop-Up Choir to help celebrate this occasion.

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

6th December Advent Quiet Day Ty Mawr Convent

Dates of Next MAC meeting is Tues 16th Sept, 7.00pm at Skenfrith Hall



Sunday
31 August
4.00 pm

CHOIR

Licensing of Lay Readers

by BISHOP CHERRY

St Michael's Church, Llanvihangel Crucorney
NP7 9HD

To sing with the choir, please visit

www.festival-choir.cymru/31aug

07939 064 247 | 01873 590 055



SUMMER

in North Monmouthshire
Ministry Area

St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Pertholey

Forest Faith
11am-2pm Thursday 31st July

Llanthony Abbey

Llanthony Show
10am-5pm Saturday 2nd August

St Cadoc's Church, Llangattock Lingoed

Family Fun Day
11am Sunday 3rd August

St Cadoc's Church, Llangattock Lingoed

Forest Faith
11am-2pm Thursday 7th August

St Nicholas' Church, Grosmont

Youth Club Game Night
6:30pm-7:30pm Thursday 7th August

St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny

Forest Faith
3pm-5pm Thursday 21st August

St Michael's Church, Llanvihangel Crucorney

Licensing of Lay Worship Leaders
4pm Sunday 31st August



Community News.

Llantilio Crossenny WI

It is very hard to write a report of this month's activities with the knowledge that we have lost a dearly loved and long standing member of our WI, Elsie Latham. Elsie was always so kind, so welcoming and encouraging, simply bursting with positive energy. She was a huge supporter of the WI movement and exuded such joy at all our meetings and events. Elsie was a no nonsense, plain speaking woman who was generous with her time, especially in her support of WI causes and campaigns. She made tea at a pace unsurpassed anywhere in Monmouthshire and loved running refreshment stalls, most recently at the VE Day event in June. The brightest of lights has gone out but all of us at Llantilio Crossenny WI give thanks for knowing Elsie (some members for many decades). We all loved Elsie and she will always be with us.

Elsie was her usual cheerful self on the annual outing to Swansea Marina and Langland Bay. A very merry time was had by all, including some guests from other WIs. It was a very warm day - 29 degrees at the beach - so it was a case of "Summertime, the living is easy" as it was too hot to do anything energetic. The coolest place was actually the Dylan Thomas museum thanks to good air conditioning. A relaxing and slow paced day by the sea proved to be just the ticket. The hot weather continued on into the weekend of the 12th July when temperatures went up to 33 degrees. This meant that the Gwent Federation of WIs (GFWI) picnic to celebrate 110 years of the WI in Gwent had to be held indoors at the Usk Memorial Hall. Even so, our table of revellers thoroughly enjoyed themselves and proudly represented Llantilio Crossenny WI, one of the oldest WIs in the area.



Some members took part in other events organised by the GFWI in July. Four of us were interested to attend the visit to Llanfoist Recycling Centre. Monmouthshire is consistently effective at recycling its waste and scores above most other areas of Wales. The logistics of recycling was explained in a Question and Answer session and is evidently a complex and technical operation, especially plastics. Even recycling wood provides challenges due to some wood being treated and therefore having to be recycled differently. A thought provoking session was followed by a trip to the Tip Shop, an Aladdin's Cave of reusable items. Well worth a visit.

Two teams from Llantilio Crossenny WI competed in the Chepstow Treasure Hunt. Seventeen teams took part in total in a walking tour of historical discovery about Chepstow. There were 43

questions to answer with the clues being hidden on plaques, statues, noticeboards, monuments and even on metal displays in the pavement. We all agreed that this was a fun event and that we had learned a huge amount about the rich and interesting history of this ancient town.

In addition to the above, many members of our WI are rehearsing for our entry into the Gwent's Got Talent show in October. Details are cloaked in secrecy at this point!

So, dear reader, you can see that we are not all 'Jam and Jerusalem' (although we do like tea and cake and we sing Jerusalem of course). We are a fun loving and friendly group who enjoy each other's company and take advantage of everything that being a member of the WI can offer. 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 10th September at 7.00pm where we are looking forward to a talk entitled 'Music and the Brain'. See you there.

Llanvapley Gardening Club News

We are visiting Nant y Bedd, near Forest Coalpit on Wednesday 6th August at 3pm. There is a cost of £11.50pp which is payable on the day, this covers a tour of the gardens, tea and cakes afterwards. Please let us know if you would like to come, marion.ashton@yahoo.co.uk. We need to give numbers to Nant y Bedd for catering purposes.

Address is Nant y Bedd Gardens, Forest Coal Pit, Abergavenny NP7 7 LY. Take a look at their webpage for the advised directions, rather than following google maps. What3Words can get here using [library.skies.model](https://www.what3words.com/). But do have a read of their advice on directions and parking.

Please note that there will be NO meeting at the Pavilion on Wednesday 6th August. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd September.

Llanvapley Sports Pavilion & Village Hall. (LSSA)

A Very Happy Birthday Celebration.



On July 11th Peter Rumsey celebrated his 90th birthday with a lunch at Llanvapley Cricket

Pavilion. The guests included childhood friends, who had been choristers at Christchurch in Abergavenny with Peter, work colleagues, family & friends.

Despite being one of the hottest days of the year the pavilion remained cool & comfortable. What a great venue with all the facilities you could possibly need, even the kitchen is better equipped than my own! Thank you Lynda for being so helpful.

Pip Rumsey

Bore Coffi - Llanvapley Pavilion

We seem to be growing band of Welsh 'speakers' with four newcomers in July. Do join us for an hour 'coffi, te, bisgedi, sgwrs a hwyl'!

A very warm welcome to all at whatever level of Welsh – Croeso cynnes i chi gyd.

Any questions contact Les Taylor: 01600 780376

Next date: **Tuesday 12th August at 10.30** (£2 contribution for hall hire)

Isca Morris visit The Hogs Head

On Wednesday, 2nd July, the Isca Morris Dancers visited the Hogs Head in Treadam as part of their summer programme. The group has been performing at various venues across Gwent and were warmly welcomed by Dale Jones, the landlord of the Hogs Head. Despite the beautiful weather, only a small group of locals turned out to watch the performance. However, the pub's rear garden proved to be a perfect setting to enjoy a summer evening and traditional dancing.



Whitecastle Community Council News

Key Points of the Council Meeting 10 July 2025 7.30pm at Rockfield Barns, Pwll Y Cwm, Rockfield

New Councillors Co-opted:

Rhiannon Metters (Whitecastle ward) and Chris Duncan (Llanvihangel-ystern-llewern) were unanimously co-opted. Chair Cllr. Astill-Parsons transferred to represent Llangattock Vibon Avel.

Community Engagement:

Positive feedback from VE Day celebrations and agreement to support local groups, including the Quilters Group, with payments in September.

Village Gates & Highways:

Ongoing delays with Newcastle village gates; council supported speed limit consultation and requested further review for The Hendre area. Continued advocacy for bridge reinstatements at Tal-y-Coed and New House Farm.

Churchyards:

Additional maintenance approved for Llanvihangel-ystern-llewern. Llangattock Vibon Avel churchyard is in good condition.

Biodiversity & Environment:

Work initiated on a Biodiversity Action Plan.

Finance:

Payments approved for staff duties, insurance, churchyard maintenance, and training.

Clerk's Report:

Martyn's Law implications discussed, insurance renewed, successful social media campaign noted.

Next Meeting: 11 September 2025 at 7.30pm at The Hogs Head, Treadam.

To view full minutes visit www.whitecastlecommunitycouncil.co.uk

Whitecastle Community was created in 2022 following the dissolution of Llantilio Crossenny and Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Councils.

Since then no one has commented on its logo. Do you understand the logo?

If you don't don't worry as the answer will be in the next edition of The New Times!



Whitecastle Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Castellgwyn