

# The New Times

The parish magazine for the Llantilio Crossenny Group of Parishes



## Services and Events in July 2025

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July

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> July

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

Refreshments will be provided after the service.

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 20<sup>th</sup> July

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

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 27<sup>th</sup> July

9.30am. **Joint service at St Cadoc's, Penrhos.**

***The service will be followed by some tea/coffee and perhaps a special cake!***

## Pentecost Sermon

At the Sunday service celebration of Pentecost on June 8<sup>th</sup> we were privileged to listen to the 2023 Pentecost sermon written by the wonderful Rev Peter Cobb. It was very moving to listen to on so many levels, not least because the voice of Peter could be so distinctly heard. In true Peter style, the significance of Pentecost to Christians was clearly explained, on this birthday of the church 'seventy long generations ago'.

*It is with the kind permission of Sian that we include the full transcript for this month's edition of TNT.*

## Pentecost Whitsun 2023 Revd Peter Cobb

“Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”

It was their accents that gave them away. If we were to go up north into Scotland we'd only have to open our mouths and we'd be branded Sassenachs at once.

The case here was in reverse – northerners come down south.

It was in Jerusalem as it would be here if Geordie fishermen came down to London on an outing: It was the accent that did it.

But beyond that; it further implied that they were provincials, if not downright ignoramuses: “Who are all these country bumpkins?” And beyond that there might even be a taint of racism: for up north, people were apt to intermarry with Samaritans. It all underlined the incredible thing that had just happened.

“Who are these country bumpkins to be doing this?”

That prodigious list of pilgrims from all over the eastern Mediterranean – the fervour had come across to every one of them, overcome the barriers of nation, language and even social prejudice.

That first Christian Day of Pentecost was a visible fact; but it was more: it was a parable, a story with a meaning over and above the tale it told:

– a parable of our Lord himself, with his word for everyone.

Here was a Church starting out with a word for everyone (how sad it is that it didn't remain so for long).

– a parable of the gospel, the good news which scorns the barriers we put up to defend it. On that day it was Galilean bumpkins who spoke up first for God

– A parable of the extraordinary power the spirit has to transform a life.

Think of that word “Galilean”. Only once before had it been used on a disciple - on Peter, in the High Priest's courtyard on the night before the Crucifixion; how one of the servant girls taunted him “You're a Galilean, just like him. I can tell by your accent”.

Then Peter had sworn blind that he had ever known him.

But now the flame of the spirit was in him to cleanse and set on fire.

The wind of the spirit had swept all before it. And the first missionary sermon in all the Church's history was the one that Peter, the Galilean fisherman, preached before that great polyglot crowd in Jerusalem on that first morning.

– Truly, the power of the spirit to invade and take hold on a life.

Cowards had suddenly become fearless of opinion, danger. Disciples had become apostles. The learner drivers had become the driving instructors themselves.

It was the birthday of the church.

That was seventy long generations ago. Yet the initiative of a few Galileans on Pentecost morning set in motion a process that we, here and now, are still part of, all these years on - that timeless process of God's plea for a loving response to the love with which he has loved us. Be well assured:

God is no respecter of persons: he calls us all. And so many of those who have answered his call have been from among the humble and meek of the earth.

“Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast thou perfected praise”

“God has chosen the weak things of this world to confound the things that are mighty.”

Great and often terrible things happen in this world of ours, and giant pygmies strut and fret their petty hour upon the stage. But when the fighting and the tumult has died and the captains and the kings have departed, what is left that lasts?

The still small voice that assures us that love is for ever.

There are some who are reckoned the great of the earth who may have the power to convince us of that; but just as often it is the humble and meek who can do it.

For it is only the heart which has known and welcomed God's love, that can find the way into the heart that is in need.

## News from the Four Churches

### St. Cadoc's, Penrhos

It is with somewhat heavy hearts that we say farewell to our great friend and supporter, Georgina Hermann, who is leaving The Vicarage after many years in Penrhos to live near to her family in Hampshire.

Georgina will be missed by us all in the St Cadoc's community for so many reasons, not least for her kindness and generosity of spirit, for her beautiful speaking voice in services and for her the many interesting conversations that we have had over the years.

Occasionally we would see a flash of Georgina's brilliance. As a renowned archaeologist and academic specialising in Near Eastern archaeology, Georgina would mention something in passing (perhaps after a particular reading in the service) and you would know that you wanted Georgina on your Quiz Team!

Georgina has opened her beautiful gardens at The Vicarage for the NGS for many years, with the proceeds from the refreshments going to St Cadoc's. This has been very much appreciated.

We will miss Georgina very much but wish her every happiness and joy in Hampshire.

### St. James the Elder, Llanvetherine

The Pandy and Monnowside Ploughing Society annual duck race took place on Sunday 8 June near Stanton on the Afon Honddu (it's a tributary of the River Monnow in case you were wondering!) in pleasantly suitable weather. St James's Church were very grateful that this year the Ploughing Society generously offered them half the proceeds of the charity event.

Both adults and children learned that the tops of Wellingtons have a limited height until they become receptacles for river water and those in the know came dressed for likely immersion!

Over a THOUSAND ducks were released on an upstream stretch and prizes went to the first three arriving at the finish, with a runner up prize for the last one in. It was a really good fun event to be looked out for in the future.

Thanks are due to the volunteer Members of the Ploughing Society who organised and supervised the event which included a burger van and grand stand seats.

Pictures show just some of the many ducks filling the river shortly after release, the first few ducks near the finish line, and David, Lyndon and Heidi among others collecting the ducks afterwards. St James say 'Thank you again' to the Ploughing Society for their kindness.

*Best wishes Andrew*



St. Mabli's, Llanvapley

**Llanvapley Church  
Strawberry Tea  
Sunday 20 July  
3pm – 5pm**



**Come along and enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the church garden while also enjoying a delicious strawberry tea.  
£7 per person  
£3 for children**

**Everyone welcome**

**St. Mabli's Church Quinquennial Inspection**

St. Mabli's Church, our cherished Grade II listed 15th-century church, recently underwent its five-yearly inspection (the "Quinquennial") in May 2025. The survey is a bit like receiving your school report or examination results! Here is a summary of the 68 page report.

**Church Overview**

Restored in 1861, St. Mabli's is built of local stone with a pitched roof and tower. In recent years, significant improvements have been made, including a new stone-tiled roof, upgraded rainwater systems, and the addition of solar lighting in the churchyard. The grounds also feature a Grade II listed preaching cross base.

## **Building Condition Summary**

### **Roof & Drainage**

The roof is largely in good condition, but there are some broken tiles and areas needing repointing. Drainage issues were flagged, with blocked gullies and debris in the tower gutters.

### **Walls & Tower**

Treated with lime slurry, parts of the walls require reapplication. Damp patches and cracks were noted. The tower gutter also needs clearing.

### **Windows**

While mostly sound, some window tracery has cracks and metal frames need repainting—particularly at windows W4 and W10.

### **Interior**

The inside of the church is in generally good shape. However, the Vestry shows signs of mould, timber movement, and possible woodworm. Minor cosmetic repairs and timber work are recommended.

### **Churchyard**

Well maintained but with safety issues—such as the need for yew tree inspections, repairs to paths and steps, and attention to the preaching cross base.

## **Repair Plan & Estimated Costs**

Immediate Works (£10,250 + VAT): Includes roof repairs, ivy removal, lintel fixing, and gutter maintenance.

Next 18 Months (£87,000 + VAT): More extensive works: flashing, timber floor investigation, interior redecorations, and pest treatment.

Within 5 Years (£24,500 + VAT): Includes stonework repairs, flagstone maintenance, and installation of a hearing induction loop.

## **Accessibility & Inclusion**

### **Current Gaps**

There is no disabled toilet, only limited parking, a step at the entrance, and no hearing loop—making access difficult for some visitors.

### **Recommendations**

Install ramps, handrails, accessible toilet, and better signage and lighting. An Access Plan should be developed, with reviews every two years, in line with BS 8300 standards.

### **Ongoing Maintenance**

The inspection highlights the excellent care given to St. Mabli's Church—but also signals the importance of continued investment in repairs and inclusive upgrades. By acting now, we can ensure this historic church remains safe, accessible, and welcoming to all members of the community.

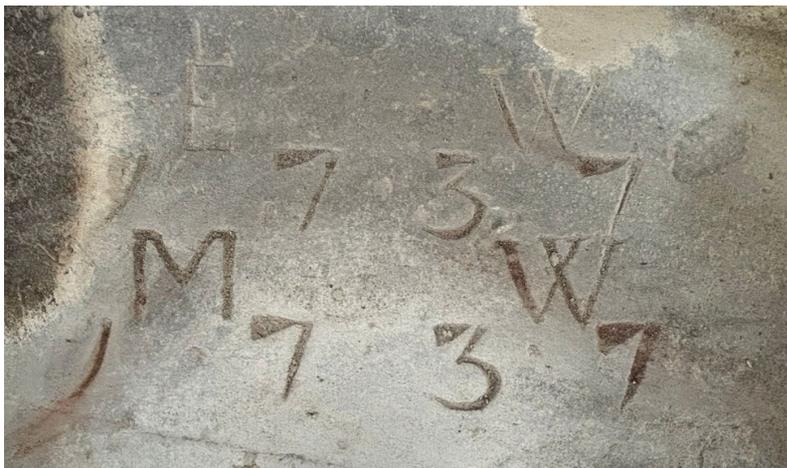
## St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny

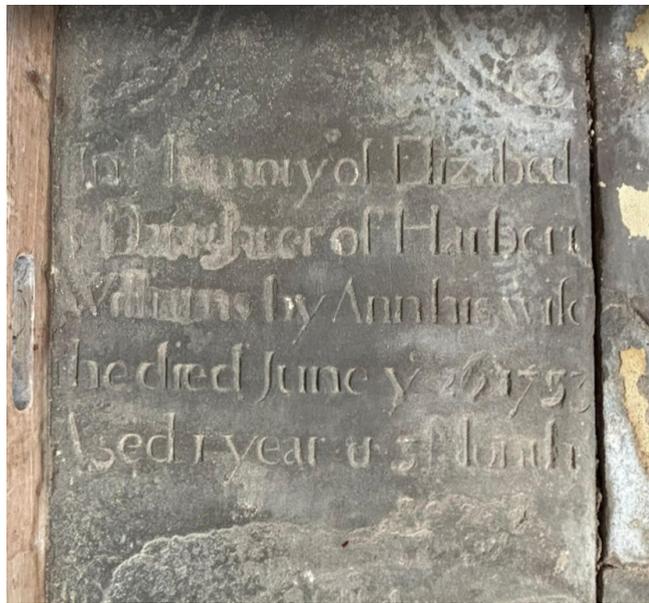
### New carpets at Llantilio Crossenny



With funds raised to replace our old carpeting, we needed a team of strong men to move grand piano, organ and other furniture before we could discover what lay hidden in the church aisles.

We knew we would uncover some memorial stones because after many years their impressions could be seen in both aisle carpets. So up came the old carpet to reveal several interesting stones, some with markings on, which we thought might be stone mason signatures.





The image above shows an example of one of the memorial stones.  
The inscription says :

In Memory of Elizabeth  
Daughter of Hubert  
Williams by Ann his wife  
She died June 24th 1753  
Aged 1 year & 5 months

A team from Diocesan Advisory committee quickly disillusioned us on that score, the stones had been moved at least once in previous renovations, were probably part of a much larger floor area and from the style of carving, dated to the 1700's. The differences in script were the subject of much discussion between the experts and they took detailed photographs of each stone. We now have a record of what is once again hidden, under the soft, warm, red new carpet. The experts left with many unanswered questions which is usually the case when faced with items hundreds of years old. We almost felt we had to remove shoes to walk on this new, deep pile, flooring, in fact some one (who shall be nameless) did just that! The TCM carpet fitters did a wonderful job and everyone is delighted with the finished result.

Grateful thanks to the team led by Marion Ashton, who raised funds for this work, to all the men who moved heavy furniture and did much more with good humour, and to everyone who has helped make possible this warm, welcoming improvement to our beautiful church.

Margaret Parry.

**Compliers Note.** And, of course, a huge thank you to Margaret for all of her work. Without her, I doubt that we would be enjoying the new carpet today. Her attention to detail is second to none. For example, the dismantling of the organ was a meticulous, step-by-step operation. Margaret obtained the instructions from the manufacturer and ensured that they were followed to the letter.

## Morning Meditation / silent prayer at Llantilio Crossenny

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

Friday 4th July

Tuesday 15th July

Tuesday 22nd July

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

## Another busy month for Llantilio Crossenny Church Bell Ringers

The Llantilio Crossenny Church Bell Ringers meet weekly for practice and regularly ring for church services and special occasions. Highlights this month included a tour of church bell towers and and ringing for the wedding of Madeleine (Peter and Sian Cobb's granddaughter) and Matthew on 21 June.

### Llantilio Ringers Tour 2025





**The ringing team for the Wedding of Madeleine and Matthew**



# North Monmouthshire Ministry Area

## Summary of Actions agreed at the North Monmouthshire Ministry Area Council Meeting

Held at St Nicholas's Church, Grosmont, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025

- MAC members will consider the NMMA becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in a year's time
- MAC members to give consideration to nominations for Diocesan Conference elections
- A service to commission Lay Worship Leaders will be led by Bishop Cherry on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 4.00pm at St Michael's Llanvihangel Crucorney. 12 candidates to be licensed.
- MA Vision: all 17 churches to aim for the Bronze Eco award
- Module B Safeguarding training for all church officers and MAC members to be held at St Michael's, Llanvihangel Crucorney on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1.00-3.00pm
- The Church in Wales Safeguarding team to run a DBS workshop
- Accounts for 2024 will be finalised ahead of the NMMA AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> July
- Development Fund monies to be used to purchase a gazebo for use by any church in the MA along with Church Passports and stamps to support pilgrimage walks

### Upcoming MA Events

- 18<sup>th</sup> June 10am-12pm Bellringers Safeguarding Training (via Zoom)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June Confirmation by Bishop Cherry at St Teilo's
- 28<sup>th</sup> June Grosmont Summer Market in the nave of St Nicholas church
- 29<sup>th</sup> June MA Evensong 6pm 'Pimm's and Hymns' St Teilo's, Llantilio Pertholey
- 7<sup>th</sup> July – 13<sup>th</sup> July Father David's Summer pilgrimage to St David's Cathedral
- 20<sup>th</sup> July Strawberry Tea at Llanvapley 3-5pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July Ministry Area Vestry Meeting 7pm, Llantilio Crossenny
- 26<sup>th</sup> July Newport Cathedral Trip – 10 places still available
- 2<sup>nd</sup> August MA Stall at Llanthony Show (volunteers wanted)
- 10<sup>th</sup> August Songs of Praise, 6.00pm at St Cadoc's, The Bryn
- 31<sup>st</sup> August, 4pm at St Michael's, Llanvihangel, Lay Worship Leaders Licensing by Bishop Cherry
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October Safeguarding Module B training, 1.00-3.00pm at St Michael's, Llanvihangel
- 6<sup>th</sup> December – Advent Quiet Day Ty Mawr Convent
- Summary of actions agreed at MAC meetings would be made available for circulation among all MA churches

### Dates of Future Meetings

- NMMA AGM on Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 7.00pm at Llantilio Crossenny
- Next MAC meeting on Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Sept, 7.00pm at Skenfrith Hall

## Community News

### Llantilio Crossenny WI

Fascinating Flamenco, Frills and Fun on a summer's evening.



The click of castanets and the swishing of fans could be heard as the ladies of Llantilio Crossenny WI enjoyed an evening of Flamenco at their June meeting.

We were blessed with a beautifully warm evening in which to savour a journey through southern Spain and the fascinating world of flamenco with the talented Lesley Mills. We started with a glass of *tinto de verano* (alcoholic and non alcoholic versions) whilst admiring a selection of beautiful dresses - the *traja de flamenca*.

Then we sat and immersed ourselves in the history of fascinating flamenco with its mysterious origins in the turbulent times of the Spanish Inquisition in the late 1400s. The musical cultures of the Moors, Jews and Gitanos melded in adversity to start the basis of flamenco music with its different rhythms, hand clapping and basic dance movements. Lesley demonstrated these elements beautifully.

Time passed and fast forward to the so called 'golden age of flamenco' in the late 19th and early 20th century when music cafes featuring flamenco dancers and accompanying guitarists flourished and then continued to evolve into the art form that it is today.

Our group especially enjoyed learning about and playing the castanets. The rhythmic, repetitive patterns of flamenco are fundamental to its songs and dances and we were very happy to gain an understanding first hand of how even simple rapid clicking of the castanets can be quite demanding.

Lesley also brought along some traditional Spanish fans, another essential accessory for a flamenco dancer. We learned how to flick open the fan and use it to convey emotions and meaning. This raised

a chuckle or two.

Lesley then took our attention back to the dresses on display. She explained that the dresses can be very heavy, which means that the dancer really has to concentrate simply to maintain balance as they dance, let alone add in the intricate moves and rhythms. We now know that the ruffles are strategically placed to create a sense of drama and movement and that the dress designs reflect the deep roots of flamenco, including the famous polka dots and the symbolic colour of red.

After learning about the history of flamenco and the many elements that combine to create the dance form, Lesley took us on a trip around Andalusia, the home of flamenco. The differing flamenco dance styles of Granada, Seville, Cordoba were shown to us and was a wonderful demonstration of its intricacies and passion.

Lesley's footwork was incredible using a combination of stamps or zapateado (flat and forceful) and taps (light and precise) with the heel, toe and ball of the foot. Her arm movements, clapping, posture and facial expressions all combined to convey the emotion and skill of the dance and indeed the turbulent historical origins of flamenco. It was a truly memorable evening enjoyed by us all.

The flamenco demonstration was preceded by the business part of the evening. This was the first meeting chaired by our new President, Margaret Parry. Amongst many other items, this year's campaign focus of 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' (for all WIs across the country) was highlighted. We hope to play our part as a WI in helping to raise awareness of heart related issues (specifically for women) as well as CPR and the use of defibrillators. We also planned various summer trips and activities, including those organised by the Gwent Federation of WI (GFWI).

As always, there is a lot going on at Llantilio Crossenny WI. Come along to our next meeting at Llanvapley Pavilion on Wednesday 10th September at 7.00pm when Jude Rogers will be the speaker for the evening and will talk to us about "Music and the Brain". It should be another absorbing evening.

## **Llanvapley Gardening Club News**

In July Marion Stainton is coming to Llanvapley Pavilion to give a presentation on Vegetable Legends, this will be on Wednesday 2nd July at 7pm, guests are most welcome with a fee of £5.

On 23rd July a trip is going to Hampton Court Gardens, Herefordshire. A coach will leave the Red Hart car part at 9.30am returning at 5pm. Everyone is welcome to come, there is no charge for the coach and an entry fee of £8.80 to Hampton Court which is payable in advance. The gardens are well worth a visit with so much to see including a beautiful riverside walk. Lunch, coffee, tea and cakes can be purchased in the Orangery or a picnic can be enjoyed in the grounds.

Please contact [marion.ashton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marion.ashton@yahoo.co.uk) if you are interested in coming, you do not need to be a gardening club member to come.

JULY  
**23<sup>RD</sup>**



**LLANVAPLEY &  
DISTRICT  
GARDENING CLUB**

Meeting 7pm first Wednesday every month  
At Llanvapley Pavilion, NPT 85N



## **Coach Trip to Hampton Gardens**

### **Depart from**

**Red Hart car park at 9.30**

**Return 5pm approx**

There are LIMITED FREE spaces on the coach to Hampton Gardens on 23rd July. Entrance to the Garden is £8.80 which should be paid by 16th July to secure your place. (Open to non gardening club members)

Llanvapley & District Gardening Club (LDGC)  
Account No 28923560  
Sort Code 30-99-50

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

**Wednesday 2nd July 7pm-9pm**

Llanvapley & District Gardening Club  
Marian Stainton - Vegetable Legends

**Sunday 6th July 2pm-6pm**

Llanfable CC v Llanfrynach CC with Pop up Bar

**Thursday 10th July 10.30**

Coffee Morning £3 plus £1 raffle

**Friday 11th July 11.30am-5pm**

Private Booking

## **Bore Coffi - Llanvapley Pavilion**

Why learn Welsh? Why speak Welsh?

The wonderful singer Gwilym Bowen Rhys from north Wales is a champion of his birth language: 'Celebrating and sharing cultures, especially minority cultures is very important, and a way to enrich our understanding of each other. It's a way to bring people together. One of the things that unites us is our diversity and our cultural and linguistic differences.....It would be a very boring and uninteresting place if we all spoke the same...sang the same.'

I loved the idea that what unites us, is our very difference! It has been so enriching for me to have the opportunity of speaking in my hesitant Welsh with fluent members of our community - adds a whole new layer of connection.

If you fancy meeting for Welsh conversation at whatever level, you would be very welcome.

Any questions contact Les Taylor: 01600 780376

**Next date: Tuesday 15th July at 10.30**

*coffi, bisgedi, sgwrs a hwyl.....*

**Isca Morris are dancing at The Hogs Head**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 8pm**

*Come along, meet the dancers and join in the fun!*

Isca Morris have been the local Morris dancing side in the Gwent area since 1976. During the summer, we can be found performing at pubs across Gwent, bringing traditional dance and music to the community.

In addition to our regular pub nights, we also dance at folk festivals, beer festivals, fetes, weddings, wassails, and a wide range of local events — basically anywhere we're welcome, especially if there's a good public house involved!

This year, we're excited to be dancing at The Hogs Head on what we hope will be a lovely summer evening. We're a friendly and welcoming group, so why not gather some friends and come along? Have a chat, enjoy the music, and take in the lively sights and sounds of Morris dancing.

We always dance better with an audience, so your support means a lot. We look forward to seeing you there!



You can find out more about our churches on our website [www.llantiliogroup.info](http://www.llantiliogroup.info)

Contributions for the next issue of The New Times can be sent to [sueraynor@hotmail.com](mailto:sueraynor@hotmail.com)