



## The New Times

The parish magazine for the Llantilio Crossenny Group of Parishes

### Services and Events in May 2025

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

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 11<sup>th</sup> May.

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 18<sup>th</sup> May.

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 25<sup>th</sup> May

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.

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 finished.

### The Easter Triduum

A good number of hardy souls came from far and wide to walk up the Holy Mountain, Skirrid Fawr, on Good Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April. The group met in a very wet conditions in the Car Park at 9.00am and began the solemn ascent of roughly 1,000 feet to the summit. The triangulation point is at 1,594 feet and as we got to the ridge we felt the strength of a cold wind and rain in the air. What a test of endurance this was, yet how appropriate on Good Friday. Ysgyryd Fawr literally translates to "Great Shattered" and that's how some of us felt as we completed the climb. But what a moving and spiritual experience on this day of mourning and despair with the weather only adding to the mood. Luckily the heavens didn't fully open until early afternoon and everyone was safely back in the Car Park.

How fortunate we are to live so near to this Holy Mountain where the local tradition is that the earth from the mountain was holy and especially fertile and was taken away to be scattered on fields, coffins and the foundations of churches. Legend has it that a distinctive stone known as the Devil's Table broke off at the moment of the crucifixion of Jesus.



By contrast Easter Sunday was one of those very magical spring days where the sun shines, the countryside is green and glorious and there is a sense of happiness and regeneration in the air. As on Good Friday, the weather reflected the mood of an Easter day with Easter Sunday proving to be an uplifting day of hope, renewal and new life.

## **News from the Four Churches**

### **St. Cadoc's, Penrhos**

St Cadoc's hosted a well-attended joint service on Palm Sunday. The service included imagined reflections from some of the disciples as they witnessed Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Those reflections included conflicting emotions of joy, excitement, apprehension, bewilderment and disbelief.

The congregation sang traditional Palm Sunday hymns accompanied by the organ. Following the service everyone lingered for refreshments and convivial conversation. A beautiful occasion in a beautiful church.

On Easter Sunday, in blessed sunshine, a record number of visitors came to The Old Vicarage, Penrhos, to enjoy a gorgeous spring garden. The entry fee raised £865 for the variety of charities connected to the Open Gardens Scheme and the refreshments and plants raised a total of £1,019.20p for St Cadoc's. Huge thanks go to Mrs Georgina Hermann for opening up her wonderful garden and to those that volunteered on the day and provided cakes and other goodies.

Some background information from the National Gardens Scheme website. <https://ngs.org.uk>

## NGS Open Garden at Longhouse Farm

Everyone is cordially invited to another NGS Open Garden at Longhouse Farm in Penrhos on Saturday 3rd May and Sunday 4th May from 2pm until 5.30pm. Cost per adult is £6, free for children.



Everyone is cordially invited to another NGS Open Garden at Longhouse Farm in Penrhos on Saturday 3rd May and Sunday 4th May from 2pm until 5.30pm. Cost per adult is £6, free for children.

Martin and Merilyn Anderson are opening up their beautiful gardens and the proceeds from the teas will go to St Cadoc's, Penrhos and St James, Llanvetherine. If you can donate any baked goods please bring them along on either day. Thank you so much for your support.

### **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.

## **St. James the Elder, Llanvetherine**

We were delighted to see a congregation of 25 at Easter Day Holy Communion, many of whom were young people and holiday visitors. Andrew preached from Luke 24 on a theme of "the importance of empty" in the Easter story and "Empty Tombs", culminating in the emptiness experienced by Cleopas and the other disciple until they realised with immeasurable joy the Risen Christ was with them at the Breaking of the Bread. Below is a picture of the St James' churchyard spring flowers just before Easter.



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

A reminder that 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.

### **Churchyard Clean-up**

Members of the village community are invited to come to the churchyard on Saturday 3 May at 10am. Please come along with your gardening tools and spend an hour or so helping to make the churchyard tidy. 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.

### **Funeral Service**

On 16 April Llanvapley Church was full to capacity for the funeral of Linda Blackwell. The service was taken by Revd. Heidi with Margaret Parry playing the organ. Linda was remembered by members of the family in an eulogy and a reading. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers for the occasion. Following the service the family invited the congregation to the Red Hart for refreshments.

### **Good Friday**

The weather on Good Friday was unfortunately uncooperative, and as a result, the traditional procession with the cross could not take place. Nevertheless, the service was well attended by members of the village, as well as residents from Llantilio and Penrhos. It was a thoughtful and solemn occasion. Sincere thanks go to Revd. Heidi for leading the service, especially after an already busy morning.

### **Church maintenance**

The roof of Llanvapley Church was renewed in 2009 as part of a broader restoration project. Since then, the north side of the roof had gradually become covered with a layer of moss. In April, James Lowes generously volunteered his professional services and removed the moss, effectively restoring the roof to its original condition. Many thanks go James for his skill and hard work to improve the church's appearance.



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

The Easter Service at St Teilo's was a true delight on a beautiful Easter Sunday. The St Teilo's Bellringers chimed us in artfully to the 11.00 o'clock service and the church was full with ages ranging from a few months to senior citizens enjoying the occasion. Revd Heidi officiated a traditional Easter service and gave Communion. The children were all very well behaved and deserved their chocolate Easter eggs at the end of the service. We were delighted to run out of hymn books!

## **Llantilio Crossenny Church Plant Sale**

The fabulous, evergreen and hugely popular **Annual Plant Sale** will take place in the Church 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.

### **Lent meditation / silent prayer in St. Teilo's**

I had thought for a while about introducing a period of meditation to the Church in Llantilio Crossenny. There is something so powerful about crossing the threshold of a sacred space and sitting in silence, waiting, listening.

In some ways meditation is very simple: all that's needed is a commitment to a regular daily practice as far as is possible. To sit in an upright position, eyes closed, turning your attention away from yourself, from 'ME' to the breath, or an internal sound, be it abstract vowel sounds or the Aramaic word 'Maranatha' - 'Come Lord Jesus'.

I learnt to meditate many years ago - I read an article in 'She' magazine, and thought I'd like to be like the serene looking woman in the picture, sitting in lotus position! The truth is not quite like that... There is the wondering mind, and the task is to bring the mind back to the breath or mantra, and keep bringing it back, over and over, making space, space for God?

This Lent I took the plunge, and invited others to join me one morning every week. I have been delighted that people have come, and want to thank them for their company and enthusiasm. We sit in the chancel or sometimes in the body of the church, a lit candle, short introductory prayer, and then 1/2 hour of silence broken eventually by the sound of a gong chiming. We finish with The Grace.

Meditation is a solitary practice and it is important to have support from fellow meditators, so I was delighted when I discovered the Monmouth Meditation group. This group started over 20 years ago and meets in the Priory in Monmouth every Saturday morning. It is both ecumenical and loosely affiliated to WCCM\* (World Community for Christian Meditation) founded by the Benedictine monk John Main, and now led by the inspirational Laurence Freeman.

I would like to continue the initiative and will put a list of dates on the Church notice board. If you come and I'm not there for some reason, just carry on. Next dates: Tuesday 29th April, Tuesday 13th May, Tuesday 20th May, all at 8.30am

There is a wealth of resources on the WCCM website <https://wccm.org/> and if you would like any more information do ask me: Jenny Goodwin 07891 016768

### **Lent Time Prayer/Meditation:**

It has been lovely to take a moment to slow down, reflect, and find peace in Jenny's weekly Lent Time Prayer/Meditation gatherings held in the church. The sessions have offered a space for quiet contemplation, reflection, and a chance to reconnect with one's faith. Whether seeking solace from life's stresses or simply wanting to embrace a deeper sense of mindfulness, the door is always open at St Teilo's. It would be lovely if this continued throughout the summer months as an opportunity to gather as a community, fostering inner calm while strengthening our collective spirit.

*Ros Jeffries*

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

Following the success of our bronze award, proudly displayed in the church porch, we are now setting our sights on silver. The eco church survey provided valuable insights into our strengths and areas for growth, guiding us in crafting an action plan that builds on our achievements. The feedback highlighted the progress we've made – reducing energy use, promoting diversity, and fostering an

environmentally conscious congregation – but also pointed to opportunities for deeper engagement and sustainable practices.

Our silver-level action plan focuses on expanding green initiatives, enhancing recycling efforts, reducing single-use plastic at church events, and further integrating eco-friendly worship themes. We also aim to deepen community involvement, forging partnerships with local environmental groups and encouraging members to adopt greener habits in their daily lives. Education remains a priority, with plans for workshops, themed sermons, and practical guides to empower our congregation in their ecological stewardship.

The journey is not just about recognition but about making a meaningful impact, ensuring our church remains a beacon of environmental responsibility. As we take these next steps, we invite everyone to join in, share ideas, and be part of our commitment to God's creation. Together, we can work towards silver and then 'go for gold'!

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:

- 1) Swift Boxes
- 2) Bat Boxes
- 3) Barn Owl Nest Boxes
- 4) General Bird Nest Boxes
- 5) Long Bird Seed Feeder
- 6) Long Peanut Bird Feeder
- 7) Bird Seed & Peanuts
- 8) Sunken Water Barrel Pond
- 9) Hedgehog Homes – **update 1 donated**
- 10) Large Planter for Herbs for Congregation & Community
- 11) Nature Camera
- 12) Water Butts and Rainwater Storage – **update 1 donated**
- 13) 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.

At the Plant Sale Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May I will have a table and a price list to the above items and if anyone would like to sponsor or donate one or some of the above as anything and everything will be gratefully received and utilised.

### **Eco Tip:**

- Don't forget any BOGOFs (Buy One Get One Free). There has been quite a contribution made to the flora and fauna in the churchyard so far. Looking for native plants and shrubs that especially attract bats and swifts but not exclusive.
- Sustainable Gardening - Creating a sustainable garden/churchyard with native plants, pollinator-friendly flowers, and composting also swapping seeds and cuttings.
- It has been lovely to see and read about local people stepping up to keep our beautiful countryside clean and litter-free. With bags in hand, individuals gather to clear the lanes and roads, ensuring that the natural beauty of our county remains unspoiled. These clean-up efforts aren't just about tidying up – they're about fostering a sense of pride and community.

Litter can be more than just an eyesore; it affects wildlife, pollutes waterways, and diminishes the charm of our surroundings. But through regular litter-picking events, people are making a tangible difference, proving that small actions lead to lasting change.

The best part? These gatherings are social, bringing people together for a shared purpose while enjoying the fresh air and good company.

## Churchyard Working Party

Despite our best efforts, the churchyard working party is still in need of more helping hands. With a minimum of just one session a month, the commitment is small, but the impact is huge – maintaining the beauty and tranquillity of our shared space for everyone to enjoy.

Working in the churchyard is more than just weeding the bank or clearing pathways; it's about preserving a place of reflection, history, and community. Whether you have gardening experience or simply a willingness to lend a hand, every contribution matters. Plus, it is a great way to meet your neighbour or new people, spend time outdoors, and take pride in the upkeep of a cherished space. A workforce plan will be found in the porch on the noticeboard, so if you are free and are willing, the plan will include what needs to be done, when and where, so you can come along as and when.

If you can spare a little time once a month, we'd love you to join Wyn & myself. The more volunteers we have, the lighter the load for everyone. Let's work together to keep our churchyard a welcoming, well-cared for space for all – which it is - but we need some more help towards it. Interested? Please get in touch [rosjeffries@btinternet.com](mailto:rosjeffries@btinternet.com) and part of something meaningful.

### The Dawn Chorus – a focus on 2 of the songsters.

Birdsong hits its glorious annual peak in April and May. Simon Barnes, in his book *Rewild Yourself*, reckons it is the “single biggest wildlife miracle that we have in Britain”. An ideal time to go bird spotting is before Frondescence: the period when leaves appear on trees. Another lovely word I learnt this month is Seatherny (seth-er-nee) a noun meaning the serenity one feels when listening to bird song.

With the passing of the spring equinox, daylight is now stretching beyond 12 hours, signalling a turning point of the year. The shifting seasons awaken nature, setting off a cascade of changes in the landscape.

March mornings were filled with early resident breeders – blackbirds, robins, wrens, thrushes and dunnocks – staking their claim and heralding the arrival of spring. As April unfolded, migratory birds returned, adding their voices to the growing symphony. By the time you read this in May, the dawn chorus is completely transformed, a rich and varied soundscape shaped by the environment and the birds that call it home.

**Cuckoo:** The unmistakable call of the cuckoo echoing through the early morning air – is a cherished sound in the dawn chorus, signalling the arrival of spring. This bird, once a familiar presence in the countryside, has seen a worrying decline in numbers and is now on the red list of endangered species.

Last year, at the RSPB Newport Wetlands, I learned some fascinating insights into their secretive lives. One of the most striking facts is the incredibly short time frame the female cuckoo has to remove one of the host's eggs (usually dunnock, reed warbler or meadow pipit) in between 5-25 seconds and lay one of her own. And to cap it all, their eggs look identical to that of their host's but slightly larger. This strategy has evolved to near perfection, allowing cuckoos to thrive for centuries – though now, their survival is under threat. Once completed the female migrates back to Africa, mission accomplished.

As their numbers dwindle, every sighting and every call becomes more special. Have you heard one recently? I used to hear them where I live, in the trees on the banks of the Trothy, but sadly since all the trees on one side of the bank were chopped down, I hear them no more.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker:** The Great Spotted Woodpecker kicks off its unique spring concert in February, joining its feathered cousins in the dawn chorus. With a rhythm that would make any drummer envious, this avian percussionist has been recorded hitting speeds of 40 drums per second! How on earth does it do that? Its drumming can be heard up to ½ mile away, echoing

through the woods like nature's very own rock concert.

You'd think that all that drumming would leave the GSW with a splitting headache or at least a serious case of the dizzies, but nope! These feathered timpanists have some nifty tricks up their beaks. Thanks to a specially designed hinge between their skull and beak, paired with a shock absorbing muscle, they can drum away like rockstars, putting Phil Collin's iconic drum solo from "In the air tonight" to shame.

Drumming is used as a communication tool, as it is predominantly male led, therefore it signifies defending its territory ("this is my tree"), but also lets the females of the species know that he is available and is used as a mating call. Plus, their drumming isn't just for show, it creates a cozy cavity in the tree in which to build a nest, with afore-mentioned female. The GSW is a real rock and roller of the dawn symphonia.

### **Just a reminder to the importance of washing bird feeders:**

Whilst on the subject of birds, keeping bird feeders clean is essential for the health and wellbeing of our feathered friends. Dirty feeders can harbour mould, bacteria and parasites, which can spread diseases among birds. Regular washing helps prevent the spread of illnesses such as salmonella, trichomoniasis and avian pox, ensuring that birds can safely enjoy their meals. Additionally, clean feeders are more attractive to birds, encouraging them to visit your garden more frequently.

As an alternative to bleach, here is a recipe for Green Bleach. To clean your bird feeders in an eco-friendly way you can use this green solution. You can keep your feeders/bird table clean and safe for birds while also being kind to the environment. I do this once a week or when feeders are empty.

This is a very simple recipe for Green Bleach:

- 1 cup of white vinegar
- 1 cup of water
- 1 tablespoon of baking soda

Instructions:

- Mix the white vinegar and water in a spray bottle
- Add the baking soda and gently shake the bottle to combine the ingredients.
- Spray the solution onto the bird feeder making sure to cover all surfaces.
- Let it soak for a few minutes to break down any dirt and grime.
- Scrub the feeder/bird table with a brush, then rinse thoroughly with water.
- Allow feeder/bird table to air dry completely before refilling.



### **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:

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)

## **Community News.**

### **Llanvapley and District Gardening Club**

The next gardening club is on Wednesday 7th May at Llanvapley Pavilion at 7pm. Everyone is most welcome with a £5 entry fee for guests. In May we have a talk from Dean Peckett on Mixed Borders and Herbaceous Perennials. Many of you will remember Dean who gave a talk in March on Roses. He has a wealth of horticultural knowledge with over 40 year's experience in the field. He worked in RHS Garden Wisley for 20 years.

On Wednesday June 4th at 6pm we are visiting Blackbrook Gardens in Skenfrith followed by cheese and wine. Names of those interested in coming will be taken at the May meeting.

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

The Quiz Night on the 28<sup>th</sup> April was great fun as usual. Les prepared 10 rounds on a range of subjects to test our knowledge including 'Protest Songs', 'What's the Question?' and 'Cows!'. There was a particularly fascinating round where old black and white films had been made into colour and we had to work out what was going on, where and when. The Firs Brigade emerged as the winners at this most enjoyable community event. The final Quiz Night before the Cornhole season commences is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Come along and be amazed.

Yoga and Pilates classes have begun at The Pavilion and are proving to be very popular. It is very beneficial to have face-to-face classes in a group setting and all abilities and capabilities are welcome.

**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!**

**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**

**The Cricket Season is about to start!**

If you live in Llanvapley or the surrounding villages and would like to join the team please contact :- Paul at The Red Hart, Jonny at Monmouth House or [Llanvapleyvillagecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:Llanvapleyvillagecommittee@gmail.com)

### **Bore coffi**

Bydd y tro nesa: dydd Mawrth 13eg o Fai 10.30 Croeso i bawb!

The next coffee morning will be Tuesday 13th of May at 10.30 in Llanvapley Pavilion  
Everyone welcome!

The April Bore Coffi attracted six of us including 2 new recruits, including Robin Davies. Robin has done significant work in encouraging the use of the Welsh language in this part of Monmouthshire, and with it a sense of community. Without Robin there would be no Welsh School in Monmouth, and

after only 2 terms the school population has grown from 5 to 30! Robin has set up a WhatsApp group to spread news of events including a Welsh reading group, the annual St. David's Day coffee morning and the work of the Lady Llanover society in supporting young harpists, all of which Robin has taken the lead. It is hoped that Robin's contribution to local Welsh culture will be recognised in an award at this year's national Eisteddfod. This would be a highly deserved honour for a very accomplished but modest man.

*Jenny Goodwin*

## **Llantilio Crossenny WI**

The members of Llantilio Crossenny WI were taken on a fascinating and mysterious journey through British hedgerows at their April meeting. Tim Kaye from Herefordshire based 'Cultivating Learning and Nature' (CLaN for short) reminded us that hedgerows are wonderful places full of fungi, mosses, insects, moths, herbs, flowers and birds as well as the more obvious trees and shrubs.

Tim began by taking us back to the Enclosure Acts that were passed in Britain between 1750 and 1850 which allowed landowners to enclose common land, often with hedges made of hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, field maple and holly. Although this period of history was when most hedgerows were planted in the UK, there are remaining examples of hedges dating back to medieval times. As a result, over the years, we have hedgerows which are historically significant and also rich in ecological biodiversity.

We learned many fascinating things during the talk including the fact that hawthorn can grow to the size of a cricket pavilion, the Robins Pin Cushion is a 'gall' caused by the larvae of a tiny gall wasp and you should ask holly for permission to cut it down. We also now know that meadowsweet makes lovely tea (in moderation) and that hogweed is tastier than asparagus.

Tim illustrated his talk with some wonderful photographs that vividly showed the beauty of hedgerows. Examples that spring to mind are the Hoary Willowherb which is beautifully intricate and Fluted Birds' Nest fungi which have a hairy exterior and grooved (striated) inner walls.

Although many of our members live in rural communities surrounded by hedgerows, we were each reminded that they offer diverse habitats and provide many benefits to both the environment and to agriculture. There are 2070 species in a well managed hedgerow and Tim inspired us to go out and take a look!

### **Fascinating finds in our hedgerows.**

Arched Earthstar is distinctive star-shaped fungi that wouldn't look out of place at the bottom of the sea. Hemlock Water Dropwort is the most poisonous plant native to the UK and death can occur within a couple of hours if ingested. It looks a bit like flat leafed parsley so beware!



In addition to the monthly meeting, our members enjoyed their usual variety of activities and interests.

We entered two competitions organised by the Gwent Federation of WIs, the Annual Quiz and the Co-operative Competition.

Our Quiz team of three did us proud especially on the joker round where they secured 18 out of 20 marks. As a result, Llantilio Crossenny WI gained its highest ever placing against very tough competition from all the other WIs in Gwent and most importantly thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A team of different talents within our WI produced some marvellous individual elements in the theme of 'Shades of One Colour'. The group chose the colour green for their display, which was entitled 'How Green Is My Valley'. We gained some high marks for most of the individual elements, which is very encouraging. We were not placed in the top three on this occasion but will be working hard to improve our overall presentation for the next Competition. The team very much enjoyed taking part and seeing the other beautiful displays on show. Congratulations to Agincourt WI for their winning display.

Our next meeting is our AGM on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm.

### ***VE Day, 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.***

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



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

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!

### **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 Uskulele 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.



### **Gwent Ornithological Society Walks in Monmouthshire**

**Sunday 25th May 2025, 8:30am, Upper Cwm Farm, Llantilio Crossenny**

Farmland birds inc Redstarts and Spotted Flycatchers

Leader: Chris Ball (chrisuppercwm@gmail.com, 07807366640)

## Ministry Area Events



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

# NMMA Trip to Newport Cathedral



**Saturday 26th July**

Meeting at 10:15am  
St Teilo's, Llantilio  
Pertholey carpark

Returning to St Teilo's  
for 3:00pm

*Bring a plate to share for lunch with Bishop Cherry*



Book your place on the bus!  
maryheading.nmma@outlook.com

£15 each