

The New Times

The parish magazine for the Llantilio Crossenny Group of Parishes



Services and Events during September 2025

Sunday 7th September.

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 14th September.

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 21st September.

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 28th September.

6pm **St Cadoc's, Penrhos.** Harvest Festival

Sunday 28th September at 6pm followed by refreshments in High House Barn.

11.00am **St. Mabli's, Llanvapley.** Harvest Service

This service will be followed by a buffet lunch in the chancel. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend and invited to help with the church decorations and the lunch.

Please speak to the churchwardens to find out how you can contribute to this special celebration.

Commissioning of Lay Ministers

On Sunday 31st August a Celebration of Lay Ministry with Commissioning of Lay Ministers was held at Saint Michael's Church, Llanfihangel Crucorney, led by The Right Reverend Cherry Vann Bishop of Monmouth.

The church was full with representatives from all the churches in the Ministry area. The candidates to be Commissioned as Lay Worship Leaders included Marion Ashton, Jenny Goodwin and Ros Jeffries from Llantilio Crossenny and Pip Rumsey from Penrhos. Marion, Ros and Pip are shown in the picture below with Revd Heidi and Bishop Cherry. (Jenny was unable to attend the service)



The other candidates were Jeremy Foster, Jess Graham, Colin and Pat Jarrett, Peter Lea, Louise Minford, Chris Rudge and Jo Williams.

One candidate was also commissioned as a Lay Pastoral Assistant - Karen Farr.



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

Cheese and Wine in the church on **Friday 5th September, 7pm onwards**. £10 per person or £5 for soft drinks.

This is a social event for everyone across our community. All ages are very welcome to come along and enjoy good conversation and the chance to eat and drink merrily together.

Harvest Festival - **Sunday 28th September at 6pm** followed by refreshments in High House Barn.

Morning Concert – **Sunday 5th October 11.30am** – see details below,

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

Christmas Day 9.30am - Morning Prayer

If you would like to help decorate the church for Harvest Festival and Christmas, please let Pip know- piprumsey2001@yahoo.co.uk



DERWEN
ACOUSTIC FOLK MUSIC
LIVE IN CONCERT
SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER
PENRHOS CHURCH
11:30AM
LLANVIHANGEL-YSTERN-
LLEWERN CHURCH
1:00PM

Enjoy an hour of traditional acoustic music played on the fiddle, melodeon, guitar and flute.

Come along, meet the musicians, and relax to the gentle sounds of folk music.

No admission charge
A retiring collection will be taken on behalf of the church.

St. Mabli's, Llanvapley



A young bellringer helps to celebrate a special occasion!

Sunday 24th August was a lively and memorable day in Llanvapley. The morning began with a church service attended by a congregation of sixteen (plus one!), followed in the afternoon by a joyful family celebration at the Red Hart to mark the fortieth wedding anniversary of Rhys and Mary Davies. With warm sunshine and clear skies, family and friends enjoyed a wonderfully relaxing afternoon in the pub's beautiful garden.

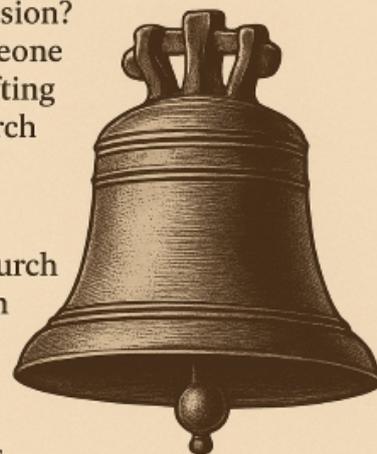
It was decided to ring the church bell in honour of this special occasion. The bell was rung forty times (twice!) before the service, in the hope that Rhys and Mary would hear it and count the rings. They heard it clearly but, unfortunately, lost count! To make sure the forty rings were properly marked, their grandson, Sam Davies, was asked to ring the bell again that afternoon.

Accompanied by his dad, Jack, young Sam (aged just seven) stood on a chair and rang the bell like a seasoned professional. On his return to the pub garden, he was met with a big cheer from everyone present and even received an invitation to join the Llantilio Bell Ringers—once he no longer needs a chair to reach the rope!

Celebrate your special moments with a joyful ring!

Looking for a unique way to mark an occasion? Surprise someone with the uplifting sound of church bells!

The bell at St Mabli's Church — cast back in 1626 — still rings out for services and special events.



If you'd like to find out more or arrange a chime, just have a word with the churchwardens.

Llanvapley Churchyard and the Village

**Thursday 30 October, 7pm
Llanvapley Pavilion**

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

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

Please note the new date!



St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny

The funeral and burial of Mrs Elsie Latham will take place at St Teilo's at 11.00am on Tuesday 2nd September.

Remembering a remarkable lady, Elsie.

By Ros Jeffries and Marion Ashton, Churchwardens at St Teilo's.

Our church family has lost one of its brightest lights. Elsie Latham was more than a churchwarden; she was a guide, a mentor, and above all, a dear friend. For us, as her apprentice churchwardens, it was an enormous privilege to stand alongside her and learn. What she taught us went far beyond the practical duties of the role. She showed us what it really means to serve with faith, with kindness, and with a welcoming heart.

Elsie was an organiser through and through—steady, practical, and always one step ahead. Whether it was a service or a church event, she somehow managed to make everything run smoothly. And yet, behind that efficiency was always a twinkle of humour. Elsie could be wonderfully straight-talking—never afraid to say it as it was—but her honesty was always tempered with warmth, generosity, and often a laugh. People respected her because they knew her heart was good, and that she always spoke with kindness.

As a farmer's wife, Elsie carried a wisdom and resilience that only such a life can give. She knew the value of hard work, patience, and persistence, and she brought those qualities into her role as churchwarden. But she was never heavy-handed or solemn. Elsie had the rare gift of making people feel at home. To be greeted by her at the church door was to be welcomed as though you belonged already. Truly, Elsie was the most welcoming churchwarden you could ever hope to meet.

Marion and I, as church wardens, feel the immense gap she has left more deeply than we can say. We will miss her laughter, her guidance, and the way she brought joy and calm to even the busiest of times. We will miss her friendship and her steady hand. But most of all, we will miss her presence—that sense of warmth and loving welcome she carried with her wherever she went.

For us, Elsie was a mentor in the truest sense. She encouraged us, guided us, and believed in us even at times when we doubted ourselves. Though we grieve, we also give thanks. Thanks for her life, her faith, and her service. Thanks for the countless ways she touched us all. Thanks for the example she set, which we will do our best to carry forward. She may no longer be with us in person, but the love, laughter, and lessons she shared will remain woven into the life of this church forever.

Elsie was always ever so grateful for anyone's involvement in St Teilo's church and she would so often say to us, "What will we do without you?" But our lasting words to her will always be, "What are we going to do without you?"

God Bless you Elsie Latham, with love and huge gratitude to have had the honour and pleasure of knowing you - our lives are richer.

Marion & Ros xx

PS - And yes, Elsie—going against your wishes (as us two naughty wardens did at every service!)—we will be lighting ALL the candles always, with a wry smile, in your memory.



Morning Prayer in the sunshine

What a joy it was to hold our first open-air Morning Prayer of the summer in the beauty of God's creation! The sun shone warmly on the congregation and churchyard, and the birds, singing after their summer moult, reminded us of the wonder of life all around.



Revd Heidi led the service, sharing reflections inspired by one of Peter Cobb's uplifting sermons — a true spiritual treat.

For me, it was a very special service as I had the joy and privilege of leading the intercessions for the first time while continuing my training as a Worship Layperson. It was a moment filled with grace and gratitude.

After the service, we enjoyed tea, coffee, and a tempting array of cakes together—a time of fellowship and laughter. Conversations flowed as we continued to marvel at our connections with one another and the blessings of being part of such a warm and welcoming church family.

Silent Meditation

**ST TEILO'S CHURCH,
LLANTILIO CROSSENNY**

Start at 8:30am

Wednesday 13th August
Tuesday 19th August
Tuesday 9th September

Come and enjoy some quiet time in the beautiful surroundings of this church.

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

The image is a promotional poster for a silent meditation event. It features a background of three large, colorful stained glass windows from St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny. The text is overlaid on the image, with the title 'Silent Meditation' in a large, white, cursive font. Below the title, the church's name is written in bold, black, sans-serif font. The start time is '8:30am'. The dates are listed in a light blue box: Wednesday 13th August, Tuesday 19th August, and Tuesday 9th September. At the bottom, there is a short description of the event and contact information for Jenny Goodwin.

Reflections on Pilgrimage, a correction from Jenny

The R.S.Thomas aficionados amongst you will have noticed the deliberate misprint from last month's edition. Instead of "laden with honey you shall work up into the honey the mind feeds on", the report should have read "laden with pollen you shall work up into the honey the mind feeds on". Apologies.

Bell Ringing at Llantilio Crossenny

August was a particularly memorable month for Llantilio's youngest bell ringer, Caleb Vater, who celebrated a hat-trick of achievements. First, he passed his driving test, despite being convinced he had failed. Then came his A Level results, which secured him a place to study Medical Technology at Aberystwyth. And finally, to round off the month, he successfully passed his bell ringing test and was officially welcomed as a full ringer by the tower captain, Richard Booth. Congratulations, Caleb!

St Teilo's Eco Church Update - Swifts, Swallows and House Martins

This summer we were delighted to include swifts in our very first Eco Church bird survey. Their presence was marked not just in the numbers counted, but in the sound of summer itself — that high, exhilarating scream as they wheel and dive across the sky. Swifts are extraordinary creatures: almost their whole lives are lived on the wing. They drink from clouds, feed on the tiniest insects, and even sleep while gliding through the air. The only time they pause is to nest, often returning faithfully to the same roof spaces and eaves year after year.

And then, as suddenly as they arrive, they are gone. By early August most swifts have left us, vanishing southward over Europe and across the Sahara Desert to their winter homes in Africa. Their departure is always the first whisper of summer's end, a quiet turning of the season.

But the skies are not yet empty. Swallows and house martins linger longer, gathering in chattering groups on telephone lines and rooftops. Their glossy feathers catch the late sunshine as they rest and feed, building strength for the long migration to come. By September, they too will set out on their remarkable journey south, following ancient routes that link our homes and fields with faraway lands. The picture below shows a flock of house martins gathering on power lines in Llanvapley ahead of migration on 2nd September 2018.



To watch these small travellers is to glimpse the great web of creation: from our village to Africa, from nest to nest and line to line, their lives remind us of the wonder and fragility of God's world — and the privilege of sharing it with them, year by year.

Butterflies

This summer I carried out our very first butterfly survey in the churchyard as part of the Big Butterfly Count. Sadly, I only spotted one species – the Large White. It's a gentle reminder that our churchyard has room to grow as a haven for wildlife.

One simple way we can help is by adding more pollinator-friendly flowers and shrubs. If you are dividing plants in your own garden, or have pollinator-friendly shrubs you'd like to donate, they would be a wonderful gift for the churchyard and its ecosystem.

I'm also putting together a planting plan and spreadsheet of flowering plants and shrubs to ensure that we have nectar and colour across all the seasons. Together, we can make the churchyard a richer, more welcoming place for butterflies, bees, and other wildlife.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our churchyard is a beautiful space for all to enjoy, and we'd love your help to keep it that way.

A working party meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 9.30-11.30am to carry out light gardening and maintenance jobs.

Please note that the working party will not be meeting on Tuesday 2nd September due to Elsie's funeral.



A Heartfelt Thank You - Working Task Force of St Teilo's

What a wonderful effort! A huge thank you to everyone who came along to help out at the church – you truly did a fantastic job, and we are so grateful for your time and energy. Also, thank you for all the wonderful “green” cleaning donations

Special thanks to Lauren Hughes for rallying the troops and getting everyone on board!

It was a joy to see our congregation and community working side by side – strimming, removing ivy, checking gravestones, cleaning gutters etc – all while keeping in mind our Bronze Eco Church status. Every little bit helps to care for God's house and the beautiful churchyard we all cherish.

Our parish churches are at the heart of the countryside, and it's so important to keep them open, welcoming, and accessible for everyone.

If you'd like to get involved, the Task Force will meet on the first Tuesday of each month (commencing in October). There's always plenty to do, many hands make light work, and there's a promise of tea, coffee, and cake when the jobs are done! It's a lovely way to share fellowship, fresh air, and a sweet treat.

Thank you again, from the bottom of our hearts.

A monthly “to-do list” of the tasks will be found on the notice board in the church porch, so even if you can't join us on the day, you're very welcome to lend a hand whenever you're able.

If you enjoy fresh air, making a difference, and having a cuppa then please come along – all help is greatly appreciated!

A New Rose Garden for the Churchyard

We're hoping to create a beautiful rose garden in the churchyard and would love for it to be a shared project. If you have a favourite rose bush or cutting you'd like to donate, it would be wonderful to include it.

As a novice gardener (and your Eco Champion!) I'd be especially grateful for any advice, tips, or even an extra pair of hands from those with more green-fingered experience. Together, we can create something truly special for the whole community to enjoy.

To prepare the ground this autumn, we are proposing to use a no-dig method. For this we'll need lots of plain cardboard (without ink) — if you have any spare, please give me a ring: Ros 07896 674028.

A Friendly Reminder about Dogs in the Churchyard

We're always pleased to see our four-legged friends enjoying the churchyard alongside us. To help keep this a safe and welcoming space for everyone, please remember:

- Dogs should be kept on a lead at all times.
- Please always pick up after your dog and take any waste home to dispose of in your own bin.

Thank you for helping us care for this consecrated special place, both for people and for wildlife.

Upcoming MA Events



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

6th December Advent Quiet Day Ty Mawr Convent

13 September Open Day 10am – 4pm St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Pertholey

Join us for a day full of fun and activities – exhibition of vestments and church artifacts, tea / coffee and home-made cake, teddy bear parachuting, Bellringing and more! Bettws Chapel and St David's, Llanddewi Skirrid will also be open to visit.

16th September 7.00pm Ministry Area Committee meeting is at Skenfrith Hall

Community News.

Llantilio Crossenny WI

As the long hot days of August rolled on and we entered a fourth heat wave, members of the Llantilio Crossenny WI gathered at the beautiful home of one of our members for the Annual Picnic. The setting was sublime as we whiled away the afternoon with tea and fizz, cakes aplenty and yummy sandwiches. Some members took advantage of the fabulous swimming pool, whilst others walked around the lovely garden and admired the views. Some were simply content to sit under the pergola and relax in the gorgeous surroundings.

It was a perfect afternoon of conversation and relaxation in halcyon Monmouthshire.

A raffle was held and over £100 was raised for ACWW, a charity supported by the WI that supports women in rural poverty all over the world.

The warm Wednesday late afternoons of August were taken up with rehearsals for our musical theatre entry for the 'Gwent's Got Talent' WI event in October. We are under the superb direction of Sheryl Westoby, one of our illustrious members who is a keen and talented singer and performer of musicals. It's a shame that most of us don't share these talents but we have been infected by the sheer enthusiasm of our Director and are improving week by week (from a bit of a low base it must be said!).



Llantilio WI 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.

Please note that the talk entitled 'Music and the Brain' has been moved to the October meeting (8th October at 7.00pm).

Consequently, our next meeting on Wednesday 10th September at 7.00pm is now "Dance, Dance, Dance" with Claire and Johnny. This is a fabulous opportunity to learn some dance moves (standing up or sitting down!) and to have some fun.

Llanvapley Gardening Club News

Llanvapley and District Gardening Club have a meeting on Wednesday 3rd September at 7pm at Llanvapley Pavilion. After a summer of some beautiful garden visits we are now back at the Pavilion for our monthly meetings. Our September meeting is a presentation by Roger Crookes on Autumn in Your Garden. A passionate gardener since the 1970's, Roger has a passion for plants, particularly bulbs. We welcome anyone who would like to come along and the guest fee is £5.

Llanvapley Sports Pavilion & Village Hall. (LSSA)

Bore Coffi - Llanvapley Pavilion

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

Coffi, te a sgwrs

Llanvapley Pavilion, Llanvapley NP7 8SH

Croeso cynnes i chi gyd (all levels welcome!)

Contact: Les Taylor 01600 780376



SOUND RELAXATION A SPECIAL EVENT

Sunday 10th September at 3.00pm

Surya Yoga invites you to a special fundraising afternoon in support of Llanvapley Sports Pavilion.

Suggested donation: £10

Led by Katrina, trained in Sound Healing.

- ☀ Tibetan bells & bowls
- ☀ Flutes & chimes
- ☀ Harmonium & voice (singing yoga mantras)

Everyone welcome - no experience needed! Come and rest a while, meet the yoga community, and join us for tea and cake after. (including the much-loved lemon drizzle!)

Mats provided - please bring a cushion and blanket for extra comfort.

To book, text/WhatsApp Katrina: 07412 269862



Quiz Night is back!

The ever-popular LSSA Quiz Night is back this September! Join us on **Thursday 18th at 7:00 pm** for an evening of fun and friendly competition. The night will kick off with a picture round, followed by eight rounds of questions covering general knowledge, pot luck, and a mix of music and video challenges. Closer to the date, we'll send out more details by email, including how to order the all-important fish and chip supper. So why not gather a group of friends, put your thinking caps on, and come along for a great night out? Teams from all four parishes are warmly welcome! If you not on the email list for events at the hall then contact the LSSA via email – llanvapleyvillagecommittee@gmail.com.

Whitecastle Community Council News

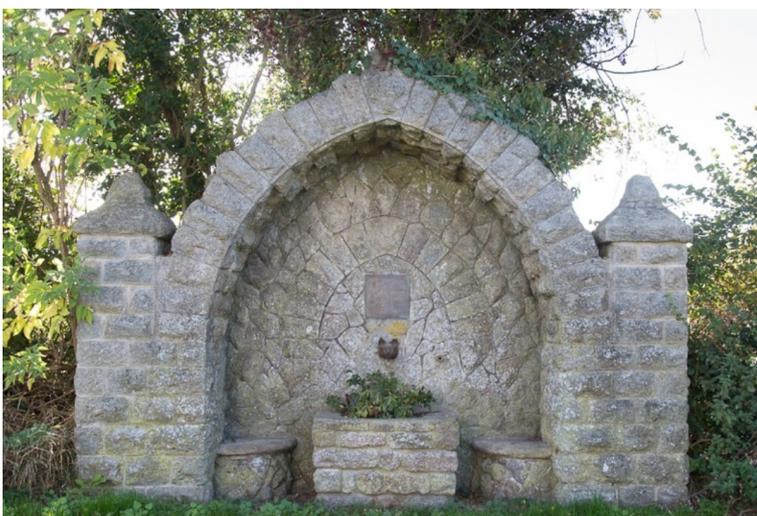
The next meeting of Whitecastle Community Council will be at The Hogs Head, Treadam on Thursday 11 September 2025 at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend the council meeting. If you wish to discuss any local matters with members there is a 10 minute public speaking time at the start of the meeting. An agenda for this meeting will be published on the community council website nearer to the date.

In last month's New Times readers were asked to look at the logo for Whitecastle Community Council. The logo was created in 2022 when the new community council was formed.



Whitecastle Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Castellgwyn

The council's name is shown in both Welsh and English, with its colours drawn from the national flag. The design on the left was created by Jill Standley of Llanddewi Rhydderch. It combines a view of White Castle, seen from the bridge over the moat, with the water fountain in St Maughans. A reminder that Whitecastle is more than just the castle itself. Interestingly, all three local community councils take their names from the three Norman castles built in the 11th century.



ERECTED BY
LORD LLANGATTOCK
FOR THE BENEFIT
OF HIS TENANTS
& NEIGHBOURS.
JUNE 1897.