

The New Times

The parish magazine for the Llantilio Crossenny Group of Parishes



Find out what is happening in our churches and communities

Easter 2026

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed



**There will be three services on Easter Day
9.30am Penrhos and Llanvetherine
and 11am in Llantilio Crossenny (pictured) when the bell ringers will be playing before the
service.**

Services And Events April 2026

All are welcome to join the any of the services where you are sure to receive a warm welcome.

Thursday 2 April. Maundy Thursday. The Last Supper.

7.00pm. **St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny**

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

Friday 3 April. Good Friday. Walk up the Holy Mountain.

9.00am. Meet at Skirrid Fawr Car Park (National Trust, charges apply) for the Stations of the Cross as we climb the mountain and remember the events of the first Good Friday. Please note: this is a climb for the fit and healthy and is undertaken at your own risk.

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

This service ends in silence, and people are asked to leave quietly. There are no refreshments/chat etc after the service.

Sunday 5 April. Easter Sunday

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

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. There will also be an Easter Egg hunt for children of all ages.

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

This service is followed by tea/coffee and a chat; everyone is very welcome even if you do not join the service. Refreshments served from 11.55am-12.30pm. There will also be an Easter Egg hunt for everyone to enjoy.

Sunday 12 April.

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.** 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 19 April.

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 26 April

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 finishes.

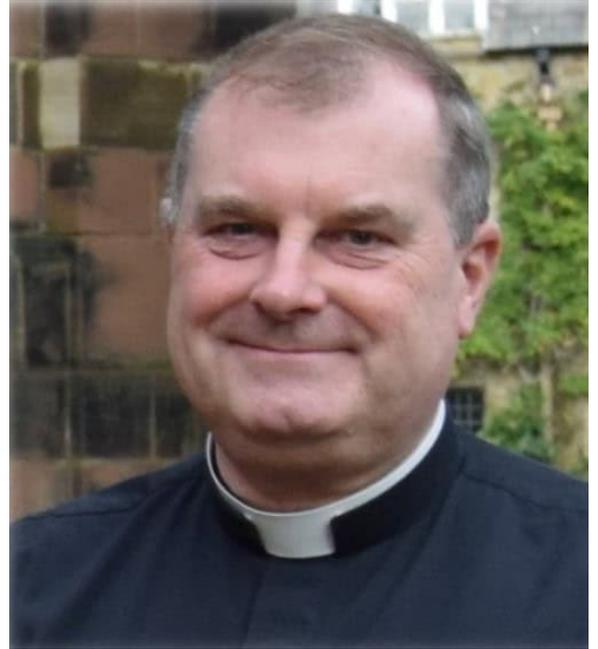
From Revd Heidi Prince.

Revd Father Julian Gray

It is with great delight that we hear that Revd. Father Julian Gray, our Ministry Area Leader, has been appointed to be an honorary King's Chaplain.

About Julian:

The Revd Julian Francis Gray is currently serving as Team Rector for the North Monmouthshire Ministry Area in the Diocese of Monmouth. Born and brought up in Pontypool, Julian studied Theology at the University of Wales, Lampeter and trained for the priesthood at the College of the Resurrection at Mirfield in West Yorkshire. He began his ministry as a Minor Canon in Newport Cathedral in 1988 and, apart from a brief spell as a vicar in the Church of England, has served across the diocese since then. He is married to Catherine, and they have two children, Timothy and Abigail and an infant granddaughter, Elinor Rose.



Father Julian writes of his appointment as Honorary Chaplain to the King:

"I am greatly honoured, deeply humbled and delightfully surprised to have been appointed as an Honorary Chaplain to the King. I first encountered His Majesty during the Summer of 1969 when, following his Investiture as Prince of Wales, he journeyed throughout the Principality, surveying his new realm. He came to my hometown of Pontypool and because, like Zacchaeus, I was so small of stature (I was five years old at the time) and could see nothing due to the towering adults all around, my uncle picked me up and sat me on his shoulders, providing a grandstand view! Despite the many thousands of people in Pontypool Park that day, as the Royal motorcade sped by, I was convinced that the young Prince saw, smiled and waved - at me! I have been a monarchist ever since. Throughout his adult life, the King has championed important aspects of social responsibility, environmental stewardship and sustainability often well before they became mainstream. He has advocated a balanced and harmonious relationship between humanity and the natural world, an approach that he applies in practical ways to his charitable work, agricultural practices, and his vision for a modern, evolving monarchy. A committed Christian, the King nevertheless has great respect for the sincere and deeply held beliefs of all his subjects, seeing himself very much as a 'Defender of Faith.'

Although the wearing of a bright red cassock and preaching bands (the uniform of the role) might take some getting used to, it is a huge privilege to be part of the newly instituted Royal Chaplaincy for Wales. Whoever we serve, whatever their worldly status might be, it is Jesus, the King of King's, to whom we ultimately render service. So, in the words of The Servant King, Graham Kendrick's beautiful hymn:

' let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving' . "

Walk up the Holy Mountain, Skirrid Fawr Good Friday, 3rd April

You may remember that this event was cancelled two years ago due to treacherous conditions underfoot. This is not an easy climb at the best of times so come prepared for all weathers and please do not attempt it if you are not physically up to it.
To reiterate: *this walk is undertaken at your own risk.*



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



The Lenten Lily in full glory at St Cadoc's.

March in St Cadoc's marked the Christian calendar's time of respectfully marking Lent. A 40 day period of solemn Christian religious observance in preparation for Easter. Echoing the time Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, according to the NT Gospels before beginning his public ministry.

While the church is respectfully stripped bare of ornaments and flowers inside, waiting for Easter Sunday, Spring obviously blusters into the village. Painting the hedgerows, fields and verges with daffodils, woodruff, aconite and the odd early bluebell. Nature, disrespectful of Lent, wakes the bumble bee, lures out the sleepy ladybirds, while lambs and ewes call to each other incessantly in the fields. Toads and newts appear at waters edges and birdsong pervades everywhere. Even the sun showed up! What a performance in the country lanes!

Leannore Fellows

March Conviviality at The Drop Inn, St Cadoc's

The monthly gathering at The Drop Inn is proving to be a winner with the locals. Even in the March cold, a good number of neighbours turned up with drinks and nibbles (embellished with a fabulous Victoria Sponge and mini baguette snacks made by Yvonne Philips- thank you Yvonne!). A Friday evening of good conversation and fun was enjoyed by everyone, as was Yvonne's quiz and picture round. Here are five questions from the quiz. Answers at the end of this newsletter.

1. How many hearts has an octopus got?
2. What is the only letter in the alphabet that doesn't appear in the names of the American states?
3. How many bones does an ear have?
4. What is the colour of Mickey Mouse's shoes?
5. How many colours in the South African flag?

The Drop Inns are normally at the end of each month. Contact Pip at piprumsey2001@yahoo.co.uk if you would like notification of events at St Cadoc's.

Raising funds for St Cadoc's and St James the Elder National Gardens Scheme Open Garden at Longhouse Farm

Everyone is cordially invited to the NGS Open Garden at Longhouse Farm in Penrhos, NP15 2DE on Saturday 18th April and Sunday 19th April from 2pm until 5.30pm. Cost per adult is £6, free for children. Martin and Merylyn Anderson are once again opening up their beautiful gardens and the proceeds from the teas will go to St Cadoc's, Penrhos (Saturday) and St James, Llanvetherine. Sunday). If you can donate any baked goods please bring them along on either day. If you can help Saturday 18th April, please contact Pip (see above). If you can help on Sunday 19th April, please contact David on 01873821497. 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.

Proceeds from the entry fee go to various charities, raising over £3.875,596 million in 2025. Beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, The Queen's Nursing Institute, Horatio's Garden, Army Benevolent Fund, Maggie's (cancer care and support) and Country Trust (an educational trust that connects children from disadvantaged backgrounds to the land that sustains us all).

Did you know?

The NGS was originally set up in 1927 to support district nurses? The National Garden Scheme now raises millions of pounds for nursing and health charities each year and supports charities doing

Events



Longhouse Farm Open Garden

18th Apr 2026 - 19th Apr 2026

Longhouse Farm has a garden matured over 25 years, with continual development. Enjoy a woodland walk and a series of ponds and streams, plus year round colourful plants.

amazing work in gardens and health, grant bursaries to help community gardening projects and support gardeners at the start of their career.

There is more information on the National Gardens Scheme website. <https://ngs.org.uk>

St. James', Llanvetherine A March Report from Andrew Dawson

This morning's Mothering Sunday service at St James the Elder was led by Heidi and with a very thought-provoking sermon exploring the concept of mothering beyond the modern-day commercialised approach and reminding us of the difficulties and sadnesses that motherhood can bring. The photo is of posies prepared by Sally for the Mothers present and given out by Millie, our 5 year old grand-daughter, with Heidi.



We were aware of noises outside during the service which we later learned was the DJ Greg James doing his 1000 kilometer cycle ride for Comic Relief, on his leg from Abergavenny to Birmingham



St. Mabli's, Llanvapley

Church Information

Llanvapley Church will be having three services in April. First of all there will be a service at 2pm on Good Friday and the other two services will follow the usual pattern of the second and fourth Sunday. We like to think we are a welcoming community and invite visitors to stay behind after the service for coffee, biscuits and a chat.

Church Meeting

There will be a meeting on Monday 20 April to discuss church plans for 2026. If you are interested in our church and would like to help to organise church events then please come along. Further details, such as the time and the place of the meeting will be announced nearer the time.

Churchyards are in the news!

If you picked up a copy of the Abergavenny Chronicle on 18 March you would have learned of a major problem facing one of the churchyards in the Ministry Area. The front page headline 'Historic Churchyard under threat following storm damage' referred to Llantilio Pertholey churchyard and the problems caused by the storms and the River Gavenny. Repairs to stabilise and protect the site will cost about £45,000 and include strengthening the ground, improving drainage, and preventing further erosion. Insurance won't cover the costs, so the church community is relying on donations. An appeal has been launched, urging people to contribute to help preserve this important place. This incident once again highlights the responsibilities carried by church communities for the upkeep of places where parishioners have the right to be buried and the public have a right to visit.

This newspaper report came out in the same week as the Law Commission's report to the UK government which recommends changes to the laws on burials and cremations. This report is a 394 pages long and follows a 369 page consultation in 2024. Llanvapley got a mention in the final report on page 225!

9.172 Other responses gave an indication of the cost of maintaining such burial grounds.

Chiefly, the Representative Body of the Church in Wales estimated based on internal survey work that each churchyard costs the local church on average £3,500 per year to maintain. Other consultees made their own estimates. St Mabli's Church **Llanvapley** said that

Grass cutting alone costs around £700, with other maintenance expenses varying based on the scope of the work. Recently, the church invested £11,000 to improve access to the churchyard, as well as an additional £4,000 for repairs to the steps leading into the area.

The report makes 62 recommendations many of which will be have to considered by the Church in Wales in order it to advise Ministry Area Councils on the changes which may follow. The report does not recommend any changes which would allow communities to take over responsibility for churchyard from the Church in Wales. The example of Llanvihangel-ystern-llewern churchyard which is the responsibility of the local community council is something which can not be repeated.



The report has a lot to say about cremations. If you are considering this then you might be interested in recommendation 61 which says "We recommend that if ashes are not collected from crematoria, or are returned to them by funeral directors under the scheme set out in Recommendation 60, the cremation authority should be permitted to immerse those ashes in a body of water, as an alternative to scattering or interring them." I am not entirely sure what qualifies as a "body of water," but if you would prefer your remains not to drift downriver, you might consider securing a more certain resting place in Llantilio Pertholey churchyard.

St. Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny Meditation update

Meditation sessions at Llantilio Crossenny Church have been going now for a year!

I went to Prinknash Abbey in Gloucestershire on Saturday for a day 'Sitting with Christ and Buddha': Journey into Lent with the medieval mystic Meister Eckhart and the renowned Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh. Chris Whittington* who led the day started by reflecting on the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday:

'But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you'. Matthew 6 v.6

You would be very welcome to join this little group - as often as you wish. Just arrive by about 8.25am for an 8.30am start. We sit in the Chancel of the Church and the time of meditation begins with a short reading or poem, prayer and then about 1/2 hour of meditation - silent prayer. Any questions, do ask me.

Jenny Goodwin 07891 016768

* director of The School for Contemplative Life

Llantilio Crossenny Church Plant Sale

The fabulous, evergreen and hugely popular **Annual Plant Sale** will take place in the Church Car park at St Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny at 2.00pm on Monday 4th 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.



Eco Church Update

□ □ The Eco Churchyard Team Returns... (and We'd Love Reinforcements!) □ □

The first Eco Churchyard meet of 2026 began in March with great enthusiasm... and slightly fewer people than one might ideally hope for when facing a determined churchyard. Two of us arrived....Two!

Undeterred we surveyed the scene with quiet resolve. The daffodils and primroses looked encouraged, the robins offered moral support and the brambles looked... unconcerned. There is something rather special about that first gathering of the year. The ground is still heavy with winter, but signs of life are everywhere if you stop and notice. Tiny shoots and the early bees emerge from the ground, hopeful buds on trees, and that sense that nature is quietly getting on with things, with the hint of exotic migratory birds on the wing.

We, two, chatted about biodiversity and composting with surprising passion. We respectfully debated the positioning of said heaps. We gently tidied, mindful that "wildlife habitat" and "slightly overgrown" are sometimes the very same thing.



But here is the truth...

However, committed we two (and Wyn) are, this team is intimate and we cannot single-handedly transform a churchyard:

- The brambles are thriving.
- The 'weeds' are multiplying.
- The borders are growing and making independent decisions.
- The churchyard is a team effort.

We would love a few more friendly faces and more hands to join us. Many hands truly do make light work — and much better conversation. You simply need a willing heart, a pair of gloves, and perhaps a fondness for tea and biscuits and fresh air guaranteed. No experience needed. No special skills required. You don't need to know your Latin plant names or have any grand gardening plans. If you can pull, trim, carry, chat, or simply turn up — you are exactly who we need.

Eco Church is about caring for creation — yes — but it is also about community sharing simple gentle tasks, noticing the seasons, and working together in a way that feels good for both people and place. Shared laughter. We meet on the **first** Tuesday of each month at 9.15am.

The Wayfarer's Guide to St Teilo's Church

Introduction.

I am not a fan of social media (I don't really trust it) but I learned quite quickly when I moved here that that being on Facebook is an invaluable source of information when you live in the country. Our local Facebook page, the Llantilio Crossenny Village News 2026 provides many interesting nuggets of news and stories and seeing this post about St Teilo's warmed the cockles of my sceptical heart. A post by Matt Nicholls started thus in his **The Wayfarers Guide**. "We came to Llantilio Crossenny on the weekend with my parents for their 60th wedding anniversary. They had their reception at the Hostry (thank you Al for your kind tour). Thought this may be of interest to some people (written by my Grandfather who was the vicar in the 1950s)."

Matt also published some pages from the guide.

In the Introduction to The Wayfarer's Guide the Revd H Vincent Evans wrote:

'It is a matter of gratification to me that the Wayfarer's Guide to St Teilo's Church,

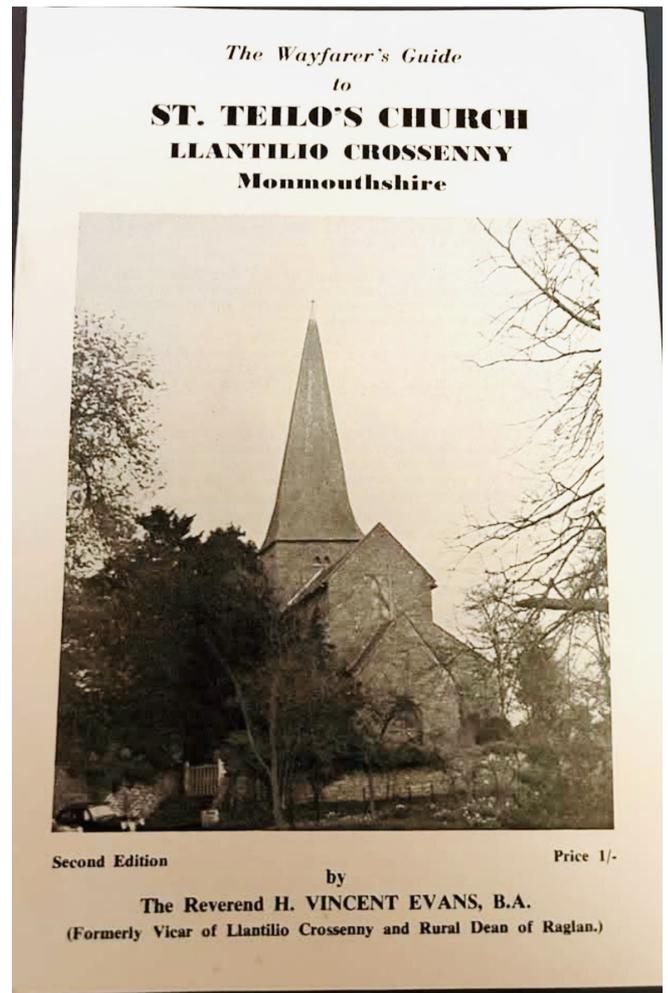
Llantilio Crossenny, has proved useful enough to justify a second edition.....

The burden of the upkeep of such an ancient and massive edifice must weigh heavily on those responsible. For this reason I shall be only too pleased if the proceeds from the sale of this guide are devoted to a fund for the maintenance of the fabric'.

I would think that it would be a shilling very well spent judging by the pages posted on Facebook. There's also a picture from 1958 of The Vicarage which Heidi tells me is almost unchanged! Matt left a copy of the Wayfarers Guide in St Teilo's and I think it's well worth a read. As mentioned, you can see some pages on Facebook, which goes to show that social media has its upsides.

Post script: Thank you to David Evans for his post stating that he has an original of The Wayfarer's Guide and also 'what is probably an earlier guide with what may be a Fred Hando sketch of the church on its cover". Fascinating stuff.

Ros Jeffries



Ministry Area News

Holy Week

in North Monmouthshire Ministry Area

Monday 30th March

9:30am Online Morning Prayer

7pm Stations of the Cross - St Michael, Llanvihangel Crucorney

7pm Holy Eucharist and Reflection - St Teilo Llantilio Pertholey

Tuesday 31st March

9:30am Online Morning Prayer

7pm Healing Service - St Michael, Llanvihangel Crucorney

7pm Holy Eucharist and Reflection - St Teilo Llantilio Pertholey

Wednesday 1st April

9:30am Online Morning Prayer

9:30am Holy Eucharist - St Michael, Llanvihangel Crucorney

9:30am Holy Eucharist and reflection - St Teilo, Llantilio Pertholey

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

9:30am Online Morning Prayer

10:30am-12pm Family Easter Crafts - St Teilo, Llantilio Pertholey

7pm Eucharist, Foot Washing, Watch of the Passion - St Teilo, Llantilio Pertholey

7pm Holy Eucharist, Watch and Compline - St Michael, Llanvihangel Crucorney

7pm The Last Supper - St Teilo, Llantilio Crossenny

Good Friday 3rd April

9:30am Online Morning Prayer

9am Skirrid Holy Mountain Stations of the Cross - Skirrid Carpark

2pm Good Friday Liturgy - St Teilo, Llantilio Pertholey

2pm Reflection/Blessed Sacrament - St Michael, Llanvihangel Crucorney

2pm The Last Hour - St Mabli, Llanvapley

2pm Service of Reflection - St Nicholas, Grosmont

2pm The Last Hour - St Cadoc, The Bryn

Holy Saturday 4th April

7pm Easter Vigil - St Teilo Llantilio Pertholey

8pm Easter Vigil - St David, Llanddewi Rhydderch

Easter Sunday

Llantilio Pertholey Group

9:15am Bettws Chapel

8am St Teilo, Llantilio Pertholey

9:15am St David Llanddewi Skirrid

10:30am St Teilo Llantilio Pertholey

6pm St Teilo Llantilio Pertholey

Llantilio Crossenny Group

9.30am St James, Llanvetherine

9.30am St Cadoc, Penrhos

11am St Teilo, Llantilio Crossenny

Llanvihangel Crucorney Group

8:30am St David, llanthony

9:30am St Martin, Cwmyoy

11am St Michael, Llanvihangel Crucorney

Grosmont Group

9:15am St Bridget, Skenfrith

9:15am Mary, Llanfair Green

10am Online Church

11am St Cadoc, Llangattock Lingoed

11am St Nicholas, Grosmont

Llanddewi Rhydderch Group

9.30am St David, Llanddewi Rhydderch

11am St Bridget, Llansantffraed

3pm St Cadoc, The Bryn

Community News

Llanvapley and District Gardening Club Gardening Club News for April 2026



Our speaker this month is Roger Lloyd who is giving a talk on Ornamental Grasses. Many of you will know Roger who has given talks to the club previously. "Suddenly, grasses are everywhere in modern garden design, whether it's the New American Movement, New Perennial Movement, Prairie planting or more generally Naturalistic planting, grasses usually feature heavily. This talk will cover the advantages of using grasses, how they are incorporated in garden design, which grass in which location, their care and maintenance, companion planting and a list of favourites, which will be provided as a handout." The Gardening Club meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at Llanvapley Pavilion. Everyone is most welcome to come and there is a guest fee of £5. For further details contact marion.ashton@yahoo.co.uk

STOP PRESS Date for your diary. Gardening club, are holding a village show on **August 22nd, 2026**, to include crafting, baking, flowers, veg etc.

Talycoed News

The Halfway Inn at Talycoed is absolutely delighted to announce that it has secured funding from the National Lottery and Monmouthshire Food Partnership to install a refrigerated vending machine outside by the front car park for the Pubtopia Village Shop. This means customers to the village shop will be able to access local produce and essentials anytime, even when the shop isn't open, all via easy card payment. It's a big step forward in making local food more accessible for everyone, right here in the village. There will be another update when it gets installed and Rhiannon and Jason are looking forward to exciting times ahead!

Please support local businesses. Buy a pint of milk or beer!



Llanvapley Sports Pavilion & Village Hall (LSSA)

Saturday 4th April 10.30am

Llanvapley Walking Group. Meet at the Pavilion for a sociable walk

Wednesday 8th April 7pm-9pm

WI monthly meeting. New members welcome

Thursday 16th April 10.30am

Come Morning £3 + £1 Raffle

Monday 20th April 10.30am

Chatty Crafters

Monday 20th April 7pm-9pm

GFCC Meeting - You are welcome to attend

Thursday 23rd April 7pm- 9.30pm

Quiz Night with Fish & Chips from Frydays Fish Bar

Food orders by Wednesday 22nd April 2pm

Saturday 25th April 7pm-9.30pm

Film Night - EPIC Elvis Presley in Concert!



Monday 20th April
10.30 - 11.30 am ✂

Llanvapley Pavilion ✂

Come along if you enjoy crafting, knitting, crochet, sewing or whatever you enjoy!
A poppy waterfall for inside Llantilio Crossenny church is a proposed project but you can do your own craft too.



£2 to include tea/coffee & cake

For further details please
contact Marion Ashton
at marion.ashton@yahoo.co.uk

Llantilio Crossenny W.I.

March was a bitter-sweet month for the Llantilio Crossenny WI. The March meeting began with heartfelt words of condolence by our President Margaret Parry, and a minute's silence was held, for our dear friend Jan Eastment's sudden passing. The Llantilio Crossenny WI were honoured to provide the refreshments at Jan's after funeral reception, which was held at Llanvapley Pavilion.

The speaker for the March evening meeting was Mary McLellan who talked to us about "Women and Heart Disease, risks, symptoms, and prevention".

The national WI campaign this year is 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers', highlighting the importance of everyone being able to give CPR and use a defibrillator. Mary gave a very important and informative presentation regarding healthy hearts, particularly women's hearts. She pointed out that women tend to ignore the signs of heart problems (as they can be slightly different to men) and will carry on with their day and not seek help. Mary encourages everyone to seek help if you have any concerns or signs of heart problems. Her advice is to 'know your numbers!' (blood pressure, heart rate and blood sugar).

On a brighter note, the Llantilio Crossenny WI were thrilled to be awarded third place in the Gwent Co-operative Competition on Saturday 14th March 2026. The theme was "Circles, Rings and All Things Round" and our interpretation was entitled 'Anyone for Tennis'. Our very own floral expert, Jan Morgan, said 'we nailed our Achilles heel from previous entries and managed to join the theme etc. There were only 3 points between 1st and 3rd- how close is that!' The quote of the day about our entry was 'it looked clean and classy'.



Sebrenica Flowers. Some of our members managed to crochet 45 flowers from a difficult pattern. Margaret Parry delivered our flowers to a Newbridge on Wye WI member who was thrilled to receive them. The aim is to make one for each of the soldiers killed in the Bosnia/Serbia war and our WI made an excellent contribution to this. Several members had made poppies for the 'Standing With Giants' WI poppy appeal for the war memorial in Normandy.

All Wis are being encouraged to achieve Green Hearts Awards (Bronze, Silver, Gold) which demonstrate the level to which each group is doing what it can to protect the environment. We have applied for the Bronze Award as we can demonstrate already that we meet the criteria and are now working on Silver.

On 20th March, our team of three (Lea Fellows, Sue Vater and Ally Collins) represented the Llantilio Crossenny WI at the Gwent Annual Quiz. This is an abridged version of Lea's report: "This was a very well attended event with some challenging questions that made our brains work hard. The hall was full with eighteen teams taking part. Five teams came joint second but top place went to Beechwood WI. We tried our hardest to win AND (drumroll), Ally won chocolates in the raffle! All in all it was a totally grand WI Friday night!"

Our next meeting is to be held on the 8th April at 7.00pm, Llanvapley Pavilion. This will be our AGM with a fish and chip supper.

If any of our readers would like to join the Llantilio Crossenny WI, please don't hesitate to contact Sue (Secretary) at sue.raynor@icloud.com

Llantilio Crossenny News

Flowers in Llantilio Crossenny

Whitecastle Community Council are kindly giving a planter, to include plants and compost to Llantilio Crossenny. The residents of Llantilio can choose the plants. The planter is going to be at the sign at the entrance to the village coming from the Abergavenny direction. Our plan is also to tidy up the small grassy area, it won't take long if a few people can help. We are looking for ideas of what plants to put into the planter and help to tidy the small grassy area. If you are interested in helping out with plant suggestions please contact marion.ashton@yahoo.co.uk



Whitecastle Community Council News

The Community Council is delighted to announce that the the next meeting of the Council will be at Penrhos Church at 7.00 pm on 9 April 2026.

The Council is aware of the improvements made by the Church Committee to enable the church to be used as a meeting place for the community. Residents of Whitecastle Community are warmly welcomed to this meeting. An agenda for the meeting will be published nearer to the date of the meeting on the Community Council website:
www.whitecastlecommunitycouncil@gmail.co.uk

The council has invited representatives from the Monmouthshire Highways department to this meeting. This will give members of the council the opportunity to ask questions about how the department prioritises its work and how it responds to service requests from residents. Those of you have occasion to visit Penrhos will know that there is no smooth and safe way in or out of the village due to potholes and road degradation. All are welcome to attend what we hope will be an informative and constructive meeting.

Cllr. John Biggs is the the ward councillor for the Penrhos ward. There is a vacancy for an additional ward councillor and anyone who wishes to be considered for the post might like to come along to better understand the work of the Council.

Answers to Yvonne's Quiz at St Cadoc's Drop Inn.

1. How many hearts has an octopus got? **THREE**
2. What is the only letter in the alphabet that doesn't appear in the names of the American states? **Q**
3. How many bones does an ear have? **THREE**
4. What is the colour of Mickey Mouse's shoes? **YELLOW**
5. How many colours in the South African flag? **SIX** (including white which someone whose name won't be published said isn't technically a colour. Your Compiler googled this and it's a very moot point!).