



St Mary's Church Llanvair Discoed

Dear Friends,

As I look back on recent months, and forward to those coming, I think it's worth saying aloud (as I have before) how thankful I am for the kind of support that the people of Llanvair Discoed regularly give to St. Mary's Church. Churches on the whole are struggling these days to maintain both numbers — "bums on pews" in the common vernacular — as well as the financial resources to maintain the running costs of beautiful but centuries-old and heat-inefficient buildings. Our own church is not exempt from these struggles, as our PCC and treasurer will tell you. But I am nonetheless encouraged by the slow growth that we have been getting, the support from the community at fund raising events and special worship services, and not least our family services which are more popular than some in villages several times Llanvair's size. Thank you for all that you give us in time and money and talent.

I also want to say how thankful I am for a congregation and parish council who all work hard and muck in on the day-to-day running of the Church: those who run the communications, the treasury, the maintenance of the building itself. Those who set up for services and arrange the flowers. Those who ensure that the Church is open daily so that visitor and villagers alike can spend a moment in quiet sanctuary and thought or prayer. They all work very hard to make our Church a resource worth having in our village — certainly I couldn't do it alone — and it's worth recognising that this is no small task.

We welcome you to worship. We welcome you to muck in with us, too. In the end, it's the people of this village who keep the Church alive, and we all have a part.

Every blessing,
Fr. Will

Open Gardens Weekend 2014

The next village open gardens will be held on the weekend of 17th /18th May 2014 and we thought it would be good to give everyone plenty of notice.

Other plans for the weekend are:

- Scarecrows as these have always been so popular but this time with a theme of characters from children's literature and TV.
- Plant stall – so please start to think about cuttings this year ready for next year
- Exhibition in the church with the theme of "Hatches, Matches and Dispatches" with flower arrangements. We already have offers of christening robes, wedding dresses and something for the dispatches too!
- Café – serving tea & cake!!

If you would be happy to get involved with any of these please contact Heather Brogan on 400828 or email heather.brogan@llanvairdiscoed.co.uk



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CONTINUING TO SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH

As you know the church costs around £8000 a year, just to open the doors and keep the lights on and we are indebted to a number of people who give generously of their time and/or money...if you would like to join this group, have any ideas about fundraising events we could hold or causes you would like us to support please contact me, Sue Miller, on 400124 or email me at su@rubusassociates.co.uk we are grateful for any support.

We are also indebted to everyone who gets involved in our fundraising events:

Harvest service & supper...the collection from the service was £80 and was donated to Mary's meals and a further £304 was raised at the supper. Our thanks to everyone involved.

Christmas Quiz...again a bit of a mind twister, which raised £72 and congratulations to Bill & Glynis Croft who were the winners.

Burns Suppera great night was had by all 55 people, thanks to Keith & his team for a great night and a big thanks to our own piper Jim Christie and to everyone who came, we raised £398

Mary's meals

Many thanks to all who contributed backpacks and contents for the Mary's Meals appeal at Harvest. The group was able to send 34 completed backpacks, together with many additional necessary items to help with packs being put together at the headquarters in Glasgow. This means that, through your generosity, 34 children from the poorest parts of the world will have the clothing and equipment to attend schools, where they will also receive a nourishing meal.

We are very grateful for the legacy that was recently left to the church by Paddy Ellis. We are planning on spending this money on a new wooden bookcase that will go behind the main door in the church and to re-vamp our notice board in the churchyard. Legacies such as this are a lifeline for churches such as ours, so thank you again Paddy.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



SONGS OF PRAISE	TBC
HARVEST SERVICE & SUPPER	September 26 th 7pm
CHEPSTOW MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT	October/November date TBC
OPEN GARDENS EVENT (FRI/SAT/SUN)	May 16, 17 & 18 May 2014

If you would like to host a fundraising event or have ideas for a fundraising event please contact Sue Miller on 400124.
Thank you for your continued support