



**S. PHILIP & S. JAMES CHURCH,
MORTON
PARISH MAGAZINE**



March 2021

Price 50p

Regular Services

Sunday Private Prayer 11-12 noon

**Enquiries for
Holy Baptisms, Holy Matrimony,
Banns of Marriage**

**Michelle Scott at the Church office
Tel: 676383
e:mail bordergroupadmin@hotmail.co.uk**

**Funerals, Pastoral or Confidential Matters
Contact:**

**The Rector
The Reverend Kathryn Trimby
Llanymynech Rectory, Rectory Lane, Pant
Oswestry SY10 9RA**

**01691 590025
Mobile 07944504330**

My dear friends

Well, it's that time of year again when national pride swells, hopes are high and old rivalries surface, yes, the rugby 6 nations tournament is in full swing, reminding me of my late husband, for whom everything stopped when Wales was playing, and the obligatory Welsh shirt was donned and hand on chest and eyes closed as strains of the Welsh National Anthem filled the house, echoed I know in many other houses up and down the country – he, they, I, am proud to be Welsh!



And the beginning of this month, sees our National Day, March 1, St David's Day, Dewi Sant, and many schools on this day would hold Eisteddfods celebrating what Wales do best, amongst them music of one form or another, and they don't call it the 'land of song' for nothing.

Which led me to thinking and reflecting a little, one of the things people have missed most deeply during this pandemic is not being able to sing in church and this isn't just about breaking the spoken word up, but because a song/hymn evokes a mood and emotion, there is a sharedness about it, a connectivity with those who are singing and what or who, is being sung about. It connects and has resonances with, something deep within our hearts and minds, with our inner being and much more besides and lifts us way beyond ourselves.



For some they would like to sing but cannot because the spread of infection is too great, for others, singing is just too painful, physically, mentally or emotionally because of life and circumstances, but for some the song just isn't there because they are fearful, anxious, isolated, only sees blackness what is there to sing about and so there is silence and a longing.

But listen, the song hasn't stopped, but has gone way back to its foundation, the melody on which everything else is built and makes sense, as way beneath the song of clattering and the banging of industry and commerce, the humdrum of daily monotony, the constant rhythmic



ticking of the clock as we race against time, is the earth's song, the sigh as it gently recovers and takes a break, the melodic birdsong, so often drowned out and the slow steady but sure beating of the heart which can beat out the only time we need if only we attune our ears. These are all part of the song that binds each to the other, the song that God the creator put in our hearts, the song we have known since the beginning, the song we know now and will go on knowing and we all have our notes to add, some discordant sometimes but add to the overall melody – 'the sweet silver song of the lark'.

So even at the times when you feel you cannot verbally join in the song, 'Jesus put into our hearts', let your heart automatically feel the beat and rise and respond to it and sing praises of the earth and everything in it and of the God who created it and why and be thankful.

'Sing to the Lord, this new song,' that is an old song, give praise and thank him for the music, for giving it to you and me and endeavour to sing this song, long after the virus has gone.. now after me.. 'la, la, la, la, la, la, la...'

Til next time, stay safe and well

Yours in Christ

Kathy



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From the Registers:

Funerals:

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord”

Service at St Philip & St James Church, Morton. Conducted by
Rev’d Kathy Trimby on Tuesday 16th February 2021.

Jonathan Gillott Davies (Jo)

followed by burial in the Green Lane Burial Ground, Abermule.

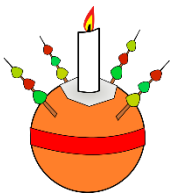
Service at St Philip & St James Church, Morton. Conducted by
Rev’d Kathy Trimby on Tuesday 2nd March 2021.

Dorothy Morris

followed by burial in the Churchyard

Christ’s Light Shone Across the Internet

On 31 January, some of the faithful gathered on screen to share Christ’s light in us and for us and how it shines and reflects out from us to and with the people we meet and interact with, in our homes and communities and more. Various people from the Benefice read and led prayers, as well as taking us through the symbols of Christingle, we even managed to sing together. Not the same as being together in person, it’s true, but all in all, we managed to praise and worship God on Zoom, and we are looking forward to the next one!



Sofa Club and Dementia Activities



This lockdown, people have found tough, there is much discussion, rightly so, on the effect of the mental health of children and young people, but as they are being brought to people's awareness and consciousness, I bring too those who are living with dementia, both carer and the person, those at home and those in nursing, care and residential homes who have no way of understanding of what is happening and why and the isolation of that, almost the forgotten people.

We have enough difficulty in accepting the separation from loved ones, of the masks and the restrictions but understand why and accept but imagine if you couldn't through no fault of your own understand. And what of the carer at home, alone, no support or help or little at best. A phone call is easy, but means so much, or a kind gesture, a casserole to warm left on the doorstep, just something, contact – someone cares.

Simon Armitage wrote some poignant words I share with you now to help understand, it is entitled, ‘



The Song Thrush and the Mountain Ash’

Through the hospital window

She said to me

She'd forgotten the name of her special tree,

And forgotten the name of her favourite bird.

Through the hospital window I mouthed the words:

The song thrush and the mountain ash.

Through the hospital window

She asked again

Why I stood outside

In the wind and the rain,

And said she didn't understand

Why I didn't want

To touch her hand.

The song thrush and the mountain ash.

She said she liked

The flowers I sent

But wondered why

They had no scent,

And why the food had lost its taste,

And why the nurse had covered her face?

And why the gates of the park were shut?

And why the shops were boarded up?

And why the swings were tied in knots?

And the music...why had the music stopped?

Through the hospital window

I called her name
And waited a while
But she never came,
Then I saw reflected in the glass
The song thrush and the mountain ash.
The song thrush and the mountain ash.

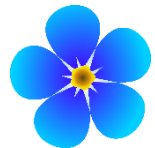


Our Sofa Club isn't much, and things aren't easy but we try to keep in contact with the members, offering support and an ear, an eye, a hand and more besides so here are the plans for our activities in the next two months... if anyone would like to join in this circle or knows someone who might, let Revd Kathy know. For now..

11 March – 'To Mother with Love' activity which will be distributed if needs be.

25 March – 'Comfy Cushion Conversation' – a phone call or gesture to keep in contact

1 April – 'Clean hands, clean face, clean feet' a short service for Holy Week, either distributed in homes, or small groups according to current **Covid regulations**.



For further information contact Revd Kathy 07944504330

Easter Lilies

The plan is then to not ask for money for Easter lilies this time but for Churchwardens to collect names of anyone who wish their loved ones to be remembered and we will read them out in both services and place them on our Facebook page and give hopefully a small lily to the families of those loved ones instead.

God Bless This Bunch as they Munch their Lunch



Our Benefice lunches have proved a great time of fellowship, friendship and food in the form of a soup lunch and food for the soul in the past and not wanting to lose that feeling, whilst at the same time wanting to follow government guidelines and keep people safe, we have embarked this year on our Lent lunches via the medium of Zoom. We met for the first time on 23

February but because this year we are using the Gospel readings from each Sunday for our reflections, you can dip in and out as you wish.



The short reflections will be led for us by our lay readers, Betty and Linda, and by some of our worship leaders, Abie, Janet and K, and we bring along our own lunch, it could be soup but doesn't have to be. And we eat it together and chat together, much as we have done in previous years. If anyone

wants to set aside a donation for a charity, they can do that to one of their choice, or you could take it along to church and we could send them to the local Foodbank and to ShelterBox, who provide shelter and basic necessities for Refugees, thus continuing the practice of local and international charities but there is no obligation to do so.



Our Lent lunches continue via Zoom on 9 March, 15 March (Monday), & 23 March (please contact Revd Kathy, your PCC secretary or K Kimber for the invitation)

In addition, we will be circulate more in depth reflections and prayers for Lent prepared by Betty and Linda (Lay Readers) and there will be a Sunday Evening Compline during Lent for those who wish to join that. (contact Jann Downes jannet.downes@icloud.com)

For more information on these please contact Revd Kathy 07944504330.

To Mum with Love...

The 4th Sunday in Lent, is Mothering Sunday (14 March) and there will be a service on line to mark this day, via Zoom, when we remember and give thanks for any and all who have nurtured us, cared for and about us, loved us and more besides and we will ensure that all the ladies present receive a small gift of love from us to them, in recognition and thanksgiving for all they have done and still do for us. For more details of the invitation and of the gifts, it will be published in the pew sheets, the weekly mailing (by post or e mail) and subject to the latest Covid regulations. Now confirmed as a zoom service at 10.30. No Private prayer.



Holy Week and Easter (some tentative plans)

At time of going to press, no one really can say what might happen, or what we might be able to do or not do, especially as it looks likely that many restrictions will still have to be in place but these are some of our hopes for the moment, but they may be liable to change according to up to date regulations and aren't exhaustive by any means.

Palm Sunday (28 March) – there will on line service at 10.30, to mark the beginning of Holy Week, which will feature waving palm branches/crosses and people will either receive them or be encouraged to make their own.

Maundy Thursday (1 April) – there will be a service to mark this holy day, on line which will have a symbolic foot washing and Agapè meal that Jesus shared with his disciples.



Good Friday (2 April) – there will be an observance of the significance of Good Friday, quite reflection of Stations of the Cross in church, at 1.30, Christ dying for us, the sacrifice and the price paid.



Easter Sunday (4 April) – there will be a service outside and on line, celebrating Christ's victory over death the Sunrise at Sunrise on Facebook and a gathering of the faithful later, and the symbol of the egg and chick!

These, of necessity, are a little vague at this present time, and will be dependent on the situation and current guidelines and regulations nearer the time. For more detailed information, see the pew sheet, the weekly mailing by post or on line, our Facebook page, website or contact Revd Kathy or Churchwardens.

Annual Parish Church Meetings (APCM)

The first thing you will notice, as we prepare for our Annual Church meeting is the revision of our church or ecclesiastical electoral roll, which enables people to be elected to our church council (PCC), to serve as a Church Warden and to be married or buried in the church. For five years it is revised, that is names are checked and if ok, they stay, names can be removed or added, but in the 6th year, it is completely renewed but thankfully not this year! Because of current Covid restrictions the current roll (only names to comply with UKGDPR) will be pinned on the church door but only for a short time (see details below of closing dates)



Morton – still open until 6 March (Julie Craig)

In order to be on the church electoral roll you have to be over 16, a regular attender at the church or live in the parish. If you are already on it, you are asked to check your name on the roll when displayed and amend if needs be and then it will be revised and accepted at the upcoming APCM's. If you are not on it but would like to be, then contact Revd Kathy or your Electoral Roll Officer for details of how to complete the form.



This meeting is now postponed, when we hope to be able to meet in person on Tuesday 25th May at 7pm

This is an opportunity to hear and ask questions about the various activities of the church and organisations, read their reports, see the state of the finances and more and be involved in the plans for the future.

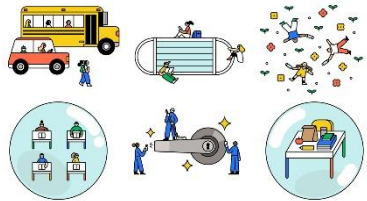
Bryn Offa CE Primary School

One of the things I had been waiting eagerly for were the Lateral Flow Tests provided for school staff. These tests are not quite as reliable as the PCR tests, but they have the advantage of giving a result in half an hour. These arrived on Friday 22nd January and were distributed to staff on the same day, with the first test to be done on Sunday 24th January. I was expecting this to be a bit of a dry run for the testing and reporting procedures, so was quite surprised to be informed on Sunday afternoon that one of the staff had tested positive.



Having this information available to me on Sunday afternoon enabled me to close the bubble from home, with all staff and parents informed within an hour of me receiving the information. This one simple test prevented the staff member from coming into the work next day and potentially spreading the infection. The next ten days in school were the real test to find out if we had caught the infection before it could spread within school. We have now passed this stage without any further infections in the school community, so can be confident we caught it just in time.

We are now back to fifty five children in school spread between five bubbles. All the staff are in and working every day with these children and then also providing the remote learning for the children who are working from home. We have no home working or rota systems due to the number of children we have in school. The question is, when will this change again.



The date has been given of the 8th March as the earliest date that schools can be opened, with the announcement being made two weeks prior to this date. If the children do return on this date, it will be back to the same situation as the Autumn Term, in which all the children were in but kept to their own class bubble.

I am personally looking forward to being able to stand in the hall once more and be able to talk to the whole school. I use this phrase carefully, because without all the children in it isn't really Bryn Offa School yet. When they are all back and all the restrictions are lifted will be a really good day.



Mr Thompson

Headteacher, Bryn Offa CE Primary School

WORLD DAY of PRAYER

Friday 5th March

Celebrating the Pacific Island of VANUATU.

It will not be possible to hold our WDP service this March as we know it.

Therefore, we are postponing for the moment. Hopefully we can arrange a service later in the year. One possibility is to hold a service outdoors.

There is a National Zoom Link. Please contact me for the details.

Pam Craig

Morton Church representative

01691 657597

Thank you

A massive thankyou to two young men who have been littler picking whilst taking their daily exercise. Helping to keep Morton area neat and tidy. They are Austin and Jenson Casserly and both attend Bryn Offa School. Gold stars for them both.

150 Club

These are the results from the 150 Club Draw:

February 2021

1 st prize	No 154	Helen Morris, Morton.
2 nd prize	No 50	Mrs Janet Brown, Knockin
3 rd prize	No 107 J	Thomas, Morton.

Quiz for the month

Reference question 11 on Shropshire.

Name the a. 16 Castles and b. 11 Hill forts or their locations?

Answers to Shropshire Quiz February Magazine:

1. A E Houseman
2. Brown Clee
3. Sweet Pea
4. Church Stratton
5. Charles Darwin
6. Catherine of Aragon
7. Gay Meadow
8. Whitchurch
9. A. Peter Jones B. Peter Vaughan C. Greg Davies
10. A City
11. 16 Castles and eleven Hill Forts
12. 1873

ZOOM.

At this time through necessity, we have so many activities going on electronically. Please don't miss out because you are unsure or think everyone else can do it better than you. Like riding a bike a few tumbles but once you have cracked it it's easy.



If you have a computer and internet you may be surprised how easy it is to use Zoom. I (Lizzie) had not even heard of it this time last year. Now whilst not professing to be an expert, I have now attended many meetings and lectures. If you would like a practice private try to see how you would get on please ring me or email ejl873@aol.com.

**Churchwardens
(Key holders)**

Mrs E J Lawrence BEM
St Mary's,
Sweeney Mountain,
Oswestry SY10 9EX
Tel: 01691 656805

Mr Roy Mansell
Wharf Cottage,
Crickheath
Oswestry SY10 8BJ
Tel: 01691 831006

Treasurer to the PCC

Mrs J Insall-Jones
01691 239026

Secretary to the PCC

Mrs J Wood
High Pastures,
Sweeney Mountain,
Oswestry SY10 9EY

**Gift Aid Secretary
Electoral Roll Officer**

Organist: Mrs J. Brown. Woodcote, Knockin, Oswestry.
Tel. 01691 682270

E J Lawrence
Julie Craig

Bryn Offa C of E Primary School: Bryn Offa School, Rockwell Lane,
Pant, Oswestry SY10 9QR
Tel: 01691 830621

Key holders: Mrs G. Roberts, The Ferns, Morton.
Tel. 01691 839590

Please forward all items for inclusion in the magazine to:

Elizabeth Lawrence St. Mary's, Sweeney Mountain, Oswestry SY10
9EX or Tel: 01691 656805.

In preference, electronically to ejl873@aol.com

By 15th of the previous month.