



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



**Pentecost Sunday 23 May**

**May 2021**

**Price 50p**

# **Regular Services**

**Sunday Private Prayer 11-12 noon**

**Things may change before the end of the month**

**Check web page, Church Notice Board for updates**

**Or Contact Churchwardens**

**Enquiries for**

**Holy Baptisms, Holy Matrimony,**

**Banns of Marriage**

**Michelle Scott at the Church office**

**Tel: 676383**

**e:mail [bordergroupadmin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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

May already, it hardly seems possible, but here we are, the 5<sup>th</sup> month of the year, and I could talk to you about 'gathering nuts in May', 'May Day' or even 'mayday' but when thinking about my letter, I was in the middle of Holy Week and Easter, and time and time again, I heard a question... 'May I sit/do...'. 'May I?' A question, asking if it was possible if.. and the answer would either be a 'Yes, you may' a positive or a 'No, you may not!', a negative



For over a year, pretty much many of the 'May I's?' were 'No, you may not!' Our lives have changed almost beyond recognition, we have been at home, only been allowed out for exercise or for emergency/essential journeys, retail was limited to food and medication.



In the middle of all that 'May not', it isn't possible, the negative came the 'ok, that's not possible but..' finding a positive stance, a silver lining on the dark cloud of fear and despair and people did things for others within the parameters of the 'may not' helping out neighbours in all kinds of ways, assisting those not known but who were working for us and so much more besides. Plusses, positives all around surrounded us, Life and liberties as we had known and enjoyed weren't possible understandably but within that, people found things that were possible and did them and are still doing them, and that is to be commended and I hope we will take forward.



For a time, we even had once or twice, an affirmative, 'yes, we may' only to have that reversed again but not to be deterred or put off, people rallied once more and found new ways to connect, were prepared to learn new computer skills and things we would never have considered possible or were willing to learn and undertake, were willingly and wholeheartedly undertaken and embraced, and I hope we will take that spirit forwards with us as we journey on.

For the last few weeks, and in the weeks to come, we are being told more and more that we 'may', more and more things are possible and are possible and more and more I am hearing that we are heading back to normal, I hope that we're not in lots of ways, don't get me wrong, I want to see my family as much as they next person, I would like to be able to go for an occasional meal out, even to hold a church service where people can sit where they like and be able to sing. I don't mean those things, I mean, to take what we have learnt, the spirit of embracing the possible, exploring what can be done with enthusiasm and seeking to do it, not close our minds to things outside of our comfort zone or knowledge, to continue to be aware of



others' needs, to continue to make time for and to value the things and people that mean and meant so much and so much more besides. I hope as we move forward into the 'Yes, we may...' we may give ourselves permission to carry the gifts we have been given with us.

Til next time, stay safe and well

Yours in Christ

*Kathy*

### **Your Church Needs You...**

The pandemic has hit all of us hard, as individuals, communities and as our churches, spiritually, emotionally and financially, we have had to learn new ways of 'doing' and 'being' of connecting and staying connected with people when churches have been closed, open but different, closed and have now reopened again but again different and with Covid regulations and restrictions but still open



Our AGM or Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) as we call it, gives us an opportunity to look at all these things and their impact and review of where we are now and where we might hope to be and go as we move forwards into the coming year. Yes, it of necessity, it will have the various reports of the last year, it will have the requisite elections but we hope it is also a place for planning for the future and participating in the Diocesan initiative – Shaping For Mission (see elsewhere)

The church is Your church and why not come and have a listen, and have a part in either at the forthcoming APCM or at the Shaping for Mission meetings coming up or both, you'd be very welcome. We are hopeful that we can meet in person on the date below and we proceed accordingly. If we are able they will be in accordance with up to date regulations but at a minimum will be socially distanced and with face coverings but we will hopefully be able to meet so why not join us...

The new dates are listed below



**Llanyblodwel 17 May at 7pm (Electoral Roll was opened on 17 April til 1 May)**

**Trefonen 19 May at 7pm (Electoral Roll was opened on 19 April til 3 May )**

**Morton 25 May at 7pm (Electoral Roll was opened on 25 April til 8 May )**

Reports will be circulated in advance so if hoping to come then please let your respective PCC secretary know so they can send out the information to you.  
(LB Pearl Morris, T Helen Parish & M Julie Wood)

### **Bouquet of Thanks ...**

To all those who helped in any way with the activities and services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter, it was and is, greatly appreciated by Revd Kathy and by many others as well, with **your** help the church was able to reach out to people in many



**Thank You!**

ways, and mark and celebrate this most holy seasons of the church year, we couldn't have done it without you – from reflections, to prayers, readers to gardeners, cleaners to communicators, deliverers to cutting out people, flower arrangers to bookers and so many, many more, you were all needed and all played your part. Thank you all.

## **Storm Damage**

The Churchwardens are not praying for rain!!

They have discovered that in the last few weeks there has been some storm damage to the Church roof. The Flashings have been dislodged at the East end, at the very top of the gable, it is



possible that the roof may now be leaking. Estimates have been obtained. An expensive job - as scaffolding will be needed! As you are all aware, we have not been able to have any fundraising for well over a year, understandably, collections on the plate have been down and sadly, out of necessity, major festivals have had limited congregations. There have been outgoings to keep the church in good order during that time - Electricity, oil, boiler service, electrical testing, insurance, churchyard maintenance and so on. This means that the coffers are practically empty. If you are someone who donates at festivals, or at Sunday worship and you have been unable to attend, please your help is needed now to keep us dry. If you can, please help.

## **Sofa Club and Dementia Activities**

Another month, and with it, another stage along the road, as of now we can meet, up to six in each other's gardens again and later on this month, 17 to be exact, providing the government and Sage are satisfied with the numbers, we can meet in each other's houses. This provides us with an opportunity, providing the weather is kind, to meet again in small groups, meeting but not yet fully altogether, but we are getting there. Sofa Club then which has tried as best it can to connect with its members as best in can



during the lockdown weeks and months can now start the long and cautious journey back to reconnecting in person and meeting again, even if it is with Covid regulations and restrictions. The hope and the trust is that we can and will walk forward and onwards in faith and hope with God's help, safely and securely but moving forwards, so for now the activities coming up which we hope will be in small groups, weather permitting!

13 May – short service for Ascension Day 'To the Moon and Back?' This will link in with the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative, so please look at 'Thy Kingdom Come' section elsewhere in the magazine.



27 May – Cosy Cushion Conversations.

10 June – short service '2 for Tea x Three'

For further information contact Revd Kathy 07944 504330

## **Shaping for Mission**

A good many people will have seen the segment on Countryfile recently about Rural Churches and the truth was and is that the rural churches, although they are by no means alone, the same issues are effecting the urban churches too, with rising costs, attendance figures going down, limited and stretched resources and there being more and more of a disconnect with the wider community. What is the future of our churches? And where and how do we go from here?

During the last year plus, there has been an enforced disconnect but



opportunities have arisen to have some new points of connection through worship and community outreach in many and various ways and that is why the timing of this initiative is a bonus because naturally we have had to review, plan and do quickly and adapt and now we can plan and shape better and more equipped for

the future. But in shaping better and being better equipped may involve

change, even letting go of long held and treasured ways of being and doing, or at the very least, rethinking and maybe reworking and this process may be painful but the vine branch will only stay healthy if pruned regularly and the same is true of rose bushes and the other things.

We have in recently weeks completed a realistic and honest review or audit of where we are and are now in the process of using the foundation to help shape our church in the deanery and locally as we move forwards together and stronger, not forgetting what has gone but using it as a solid base on



which to build. Our Deanery reps are hoping to meet with people across the Benefice from the PCC, wider congregation and community members to not only present the outcome of the audit/review but also to have input as to what and how things might

be shaped for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, if you think the church isn't relevant anymore, then come and share with us why and how, and what we might do to change that! If you think the church has taken a wrong turning, come and help us find our way again. If you think we get some things right but others so, so wrong or if you think we should stay exactly as we are or were then come and join with us as we plan. In the coming weeks, each of the parishes will be having an open meeting for people from PCC's, wider congregation, members and community will be having a meeting, look out for details of when the one is in your area on Facebook, on our webpage, in pew sheets, posters locally etc. For now if you have any questions/comments then please contact Linda Gladman, Caroline Stewart or Revd Kathy.

### Thy Kingdom Come



In 2016, the then Archbishops of Canterbury and York encouraged us to wait and pray like the first disciples had done between Ascension and Pentecost for God's kingdom to

come and then the Spirit would equip us to try and work towards bringing that about in our own place



and situation focussing our attention individually and collectively as well. During this time we are asked to identify either 5 individuals and pray for them that they may come to know God, or know him better or in a new way, or to pray for groups who might need the same, or to do both. It may be even we ourselves need that, as we have somehow 'lost' God during the pandemic or even before or since, so we make a concerted effort to take time to pray so...

Between 13 – 23 May ie Ascension to Pentecost we join with many others throughout the world, our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, as we will join in the global initiative to pray – thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

During this time we hope to have a number of events and activities that link into the wider whole...

Morning Prayer using the special 'Thy Kingdom Come' booklet

Free Prayer Journals for people to use during Ascension to Pentecost will be available in the churches in the coming weeks

School Assembly based on Cheeky Pandas and on line children's activity and All Age Worship

Special Reflections Based on Luke chapter 15



Leather cord bracelet to make to remind you to pray daily for your 5 family/friends who you would like to know God or know him in a new way will be available too to those who wish them

For further information about any of the things listed above, then please contact Revd Kathy 07944504330 or [kathsoutherton@hotmail.com](mailto:kathsoutherton@hotmail.com).

## Bryn Offa CE Primary School

At time of going to press, the schools are still on their Easter holidays, but the school managed to accommodate having all the children return after the first week in March and the protocols put in place worked incredibly well and we anticipate will continue to work well as we begin our new term in the coming days.



Testing is a part and parcel of everyday life as is the new 'normal' in school but gradually things that had had to be stopped are slowly resuming albeit in a different format or re thought altogether. Revd Kathy and others are still producing school assembly videos which we are using each week in each classroom and we even managed to have an Easter assembly! Each of the children received a holy week cross, retelling the events of Holy Week, to make and have at home, each of the children and staff had their chocolate egg for Easter and each of the classes had their own Easter stained glass window and a couple for communal areas too, stressing the need for the light of Christ shining through it! And the new term will afford new opportunities to engage everyone again on the importance and significance of faith and belief of one form or another, and respecting each other regardless of difference of belief or none.



Now that in theory the warmer and better days are coming, we hope to build on our outdoor activities and pursuits, even participating in sporting tournaments, meets and competitions in a Covid secure way. Not forgetting of course that education of our children and young people was and is effected still, by the pandemic but being committed to tirelessly work in partnership



with the school and parents to bridge that gap and ensure the pupils of Bryn Offa are and continue to be, well educated, well rounded and well-adjusted members of the school and community at large, and reach their fullest potential of who they are, what they are and what they would like to be, both in school and out of it.

Bryn Offa CE Primary School

### **Update our Church on**

The church **is** still standing at the heart of our community. The year, for every person or organisation in the country has not been easy. As for the church – it has been closed, open, closed and now we are open again, still with limited numbers. Hopefully, in the very near future, we will be back to something near to as normal as it can be. We will still have to adhere to the guidelines set out by the government and the Church, with sanitising and social distancing etc. The social distancing, limits our numbers considerably and basically, we are only able to accommodate 13 individuals or bubbles depending on the size of a bubble inside the church. As life begins to return to regular service, we need to restart a cleaning rota perhaps the old team would like to resume and would be very welcome, or there just maybe someone else who would like to help too, and that would be a bonus! For the last year, the Church has been cleaned every week by just one person predominantly. And the thought is that the best way to do this has been to divide the church up into blocks clean each block thoroughly rotating the blocks so that every six weeks or so, every part of the church was cleaned. This takes just over the hour. The more people offering to help the less often it comes around. At the moment the Church has to be cleaned from Tuesday noon till 10 am Friday. This keeps the cleaner safe and the congregation. If you could help by offering to go on the rota, please inform either of the Churchwardens or Ann Jones. Many thanks

These are the results from the **April 2021**

150 Club Draw:

|                       |         |                           |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> prize | No 10   | Mr J Mansell, Crickheath. |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize | No 93   | Mr J Collins, Oswestry.   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize | No 84 J | Mrs J Kendrick, Malpas.   |

Answers to April Quiz;

1.A, 2.S, 3.M, 4.B, 5.J, 6.P, 7.E, 8.H, 9.T,  
10.F, 11.D, 12.R, 13.C, 14.O, 15.L, 16.G, 17.K, 18.I, 19.N 20.Q.

Some Easter Biblical Questions;

1.Who replaced Judas Iscariot as a disciples?

2.How does Judas signal Jesus's identity to the Roman Officers?

3.When Christians observe Palm Sunday what biblical narrative are they celebrating?

4.Who gave Jesus a crown made of thorns?

5.How many 'Stations of the Cross' are there said to be?

6.Where was Jesus Crucified?

7.Who takes Jesus's body from the Cross and who accompanied him at burial?

8.Which disciple looked after Mary after the death of Jesus her son?

9.On which day did Jesus rise from the dead?

10.Where in the Bible can you find The Lords Prayer?

## NEWS FROM PANT MEMORIAL HALL

Pant Memorial Hall has been a focal point for local people for almost 100 years, and is looking positively to a post COVID-19 future.

If the government's roadmap out of lockdown progresses as planned, the hall will reopen to some hirers from May 17<sup>th</sup>. We've had lots of helpful guidance from ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England) which tells us what measures are needed and what activities are allowed.

If 'step 3' is authorised from May 17<sup>th</sup> (and that will not be announced until the week before), many of the organised activities that have been the mainstay at the hall will be allowed again. However, activities such as parties and family gatherings are not allowed in village halls until 'step 4', which is due to come into force from June 21<sup>st</sup>. From that date, the hall committee is hoping that restrictions on the use of the kitchen and bar area will be lifted. We are contacting our past hirers to help them return safely when they wish, and we welcome enquiries from new prospective hirers too.

The hall is definitely booked as a polling station on 6<sup>th</sup> May for the local and police and crime commissioner elections – please check with the council for procedures, or see the signs on the day.

'After Covid-19' may be very different, and local people might be looking at ideas to start new businesses or new careers. The hall can be an excellent and affordable venue for all sorts of ventures, such as courses, education and entertainment. Please don't hesitate to get in touch to see how we can help.

To contact us: bookings: email [bookings@pantmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@pantmemorialhall.org.uk) or call 07913 565708 all other enquiries: [secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk)

you can also follow us on facebook @pantmemorialhall, on twitter @pantmemhall, or even leave us a note in the postbox.

The hall is run entirely by volunteers but we will get back to you as soon as we can.

**Lapwing and Curlew records wanted, please**  
**Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group Bird Survey 2021**

The Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group has been monitoring local Curlews, Lapwings and other birds since 2018, and the 2021 survey is now underway.

The survey area extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastward from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns: from the Tanat to the Perry. A map can be found on the website.

**If you see or hear Curlew, Lapwing, Kestrel or Cuckoo any time between now and mid-July, anywhere in the area, we'd like to know, please.**

It's not too late to help with the survey, if you are able to do so. It only takes two half days, one as soon as possible, and the other in mid-June. A map to record what you see, and simple survey instructions, will be provided.

You can find the survey reports from 2020 and previous years on the relevant part of the Community Wildlife Groups website, [www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk](http://www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk)

Ours is one of 10 Community Wildlife Groups monitoring Curlews in Shropshire. You can see where they operate, and what they found in 2019 and 2020, on the same website

**Please email your records and offers of help to Leo Smith**  
**[\(leo@leosmith.org.uk\)](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk)**

, or want more information, email Leo Smith ([leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk))

**Christian Aid**

Christian Aid Week falls on Monday May 10<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> this year.

The money raised is used to fund long-term projects which help the poorest and neediest groups of people to become self-sufficient and thereby create better lives for themselves and their children.

Funds are also used in response to emergency situations such as feeding and caring for women and children fleeing from conflict in many parts of the world.

Christian Aid Week brings communities in the UK and Ireland together to help people who are in great need. Conflict destroys lives and is a major cause of poverty and destitution. As instruments of God's peace, it is right that we care for those in the midst of it and help people rebuild their lives.

This year we are hoping to be able to reach all homes in the parish with the plea:

**“Please put a donation in the envelope**

The Gift Aid Scheme allows us to claim an extra 25p on every pound that you give, providing that you pay income tax on your income, investments or pension.

All you have to do is write your name and address in the space provided on the red envelope. We will do the rest.

Envelopes can be brought to the Church any Sunday 11am or handed to a Churchwarden.

**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](mailto:ejl873@aol.com)*

***By 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.***