



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



December 2021 & January 2022

Price 50p

Services

5th December Morning Prayer (Toy Service) 11am

12th December Holy Communion 11.am

19th December Forest Church 2.30pm

24th December Christmas Eve 7pm '*No Room at the Inn*' *

26th December There are no services on this day.

Check web page, Church Notice Board for updates

Or Contact Churchwarden

*** Please book for this Service**

Enquiries for

Holy Baptisms, Holy Matrimony, Banns of Marriage

Michelle Scott at the Church office

Tel: 590025

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

Tel: 01691 590025 Mobile 07944

My dear friends

‘What do you want for Christmas?’ or ‘What can I get so and so for Christmas?’ are phrases you hear frequently at this time of year and yet at the same time, I hear the words of the song, ‘All I want for Christmas is you.’



And the truth of it is Christmas has become about having, getting, wanting, things in the main, must have gadgets, the latest fashion, gizmo or toy and somehow these translate as showing how much you care, how much you love, what someone means to you.

But does it really? Think back to last year, what was it that we all yearned for, thought we could have and at the last minute was snatched away – the company of loved ones, family and friends. Not the gadgets, gizmos, toys or whatever, but people, relationships, our nearest and dearest, those we love and who love us too. All the other things are just that, things, their worth will last as long as their popularity, here today but forgotten tomorrow as we quickly move on to something else.. It is love that binds, love of family and friends, those who walk with you and beside you in all terrains of life, and those you walk beside too. If nothing else the pandemic has taught us that, but how quickly we forget, how quickly we are sucked back into the world of things, and things are costly financially and can leave some spiralling into debt as they seek to keep up, not be found lacking or cause disappointment; things are often costly to the planet in many ways and yet how often do we stop and consider that, let alone react against or even reject.



Cast your mind back, last year, wouldn't you have forsaken every present and thing, to have the gift of your loved ones to hug, laugh, cry with if only for a short time – ‘All I want for Christmas is you...’

When we think of the first Christmas, what is at the heart of Christmas, it is love, the love of God wrapped up in the bundle of the Christ child, the same love we see reflected in our loved ones, and it is this love we share, that is important beyond price and value, and that we cannot live without, that stand the test of time. The love the angels sang about, the love the shepherds and wise men showed and shared with others. The love that can and does transform and change, the love that is life giving and life sustaining, the love that never gets old or goes out of fashion.



So this Christmas, let us put the heart back into Christmas, love back where it belongs – front and centre and when the question is asked of us, ‘What can I give him?’ or Aunt Gladys, or husband/wife/child/parent/friend? Give your heart, it will never disappoint.



May I wish you and your families a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Til next time...

Yours in Christ

Kathy

From the Registers

Funeral: *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'*

Interment of Ashes in Morton Churchyard Service conducted by Revd Kathy Trimby on Saturday 20th November

Peter Reginald Bennion

December		Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Sidesmen	Flowers	Cleaning	
5 th 11.am	2nd Sunday of Advent Janet Brown	Malachi 3: 1 – 4	Philippians 1: 3 - 11	Luke 3: 1 - 6		None	Mrs J Richards Mrs A. Jones	
12 th 11.am	3rd Sunday of Advent	Zephaniah 3: 14 end Mr. D. Woods	Philippians 4: 4 – 7	Luke 3: 7 - 18	Mr. D Woods	None	Mrs J. Richards Mrs A Jones	
19 th 2.30 pm	4th Sunday of Advent	Forest Church - carols, Activities					Mrs P. Craig Mrs J. Pritchard	
24 th 7pm	Christmas Eve	Please book with Janet for this Service Special readings and carols for Christmas			Mr. R. Mansell Mr. P. Frank.	Church decorated for Christmas.		
26 th	Boxing Day	No Services on this day						
2nd January 11 am	Epiphany Sunday	Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 Mrs J. Woods	Ephesians 3: 1 - 12	Matthew 2: 1 - 12	Mrs. J. Woods	Church Décor	Mrs G. Roberts	

If you cannot do your duty, please phone Mrs Ann Jones on 01691 671797.

January 2022		Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Sidesmen	Flowers	Cleaning
2 nd 11 am	Epiphany Sunday	Isaiah 16: 1 – 6 Mrs. J. Woods		Matthew 2:1 - 12	Mrs. J Woods		Mrs G. Roberts
9 th 11am	Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 43: 1 – 7 Mrs. A Jones	Acts 8: 14 - 17	Luke 3: 15 – 17 21 - 22	Mrs A Jones	Mrs. A Jones	Mrs G. Roberts
16 th 11am	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 62: 1 - 5 Mr. R Mansell		John 2 1 - 11	Mr. Roy Mansell	Mrs. A Jones	Mrs J. Richards Mrs A Jones
23 rd 10.30am	The Conversion of Paul	Zoom Service led by Trefonen and Llanymynech					Mrs J. Richards Mrs A. Jones
30 th 10.30	4 th Sunday Epiphany	Benefice Christingle Service at Llanyblodwel					Mrs J. Richard Mrs A Jones
6 th February	4 th Sunday before Lent	Isaiah 6: 1 – 8 ?	1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 11	Luke 5: 1 - 11		Mrs E. Lawrence	Mrs P. Craig Mrs J Pritchard

If you cannot do your duty, please phone Mrs Ann Jones on 01691 671797.

FLOWERS AND CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The Church will be open on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th December from 0900-5.00pm. Ideally the decorations should be of evergreen. Flowers may be added for Christmas Eve

All decorations are asked to please be removed from the Church by 6th January.

The Church will be open on Saturday day 5th January 09.00 –5.00pm. Please tidy the area around your window etc. Thank you

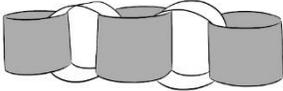
Sofa Club and Dementia Activities

During the next couple of months, the following activities are planned. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come along to this friendly, informal club, who share activities, cake but mostly friendships with each other...



9 December – ‘Carols, Crackers and Christmas Cake’ at 2.30pm in Llanymynech Church Hall and measuring our ‘purple links’

We are in the final stages of measuring our links to raise awareness of dementia, as purple is the colour (different shades of it) representing how those living with dementia are locked in at all times and especially during the pandemic and how vital the support of others has been or is to those living with dementia. We fully intend to wrap our links around Llanymynech Church if we can on 9 December (hopefully the weather will be dry if nothing else), and add the distance to the national figure to add into their overall distance to hopefully achieve their goal as well, it all helps and then use the links to help decorate our trees hopefully for Christmas and raise awareness even further. Many thanks to all those who knitted and who gave wool, we will publish our distance in pew sheet, post on website and Facebook page, and hope with a bit of luck we can get the local papers to do an article on it.



6 January – ‘What can I give him?’ short service on the Epiphany at 2.30pm in Llanymynech Church Hall

20 January – ‘United we stand, together we Fall’ activity on the week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



If you would like further information on any of the above or just to know more of the club then please contact Revd Kathy 07944 504330 or Lizzie Lawrence.

Current Church Covid Protocols

Due to fluctuating rates in Shropshire the and new variant, our churches are mindful of trying to keep people as safe as we can to reflect this so of necessity protocols are regularly being reviewed and updated in light of those rates, hospitalisations and deaths and each church in the Benefice has slightly different approaches so you are asked to contact the respective Christmas please Churchwarden/PCC Secretary or Revd Kathy for information if not aware of them. Many thanks.

It will be necessary to book for our Forest Church on 19th December and the Christmas Eve Service.

December & January Services

December 5 – Toy Service across the Benefice- when we will receive new toys and other items at all our services for local families in need, look out for more information in the article in the magazine

December 12 – 9.30am & 11am Holy Communion in Trefonen & Morton respectively

11am Morning Worship in Llanymynech and Llanbylodwel

December 19 – Carol Services

11am in Llanymynech,

2.30pm – ‘Wood for Trees’ Forest Church in

Morton, 6pm in Trefonen, 6.30pm in Llanbylodwel (see Christmas services elsewhere)

December 24 – Christmas Eve



3pm Carols Around the Tree (Mary, Joseph and Baby makes 3!) in Llanymynech, 5pm 'What to give at Christmas?' in Trefonen, 7pm 'No Room at the Inn' in Morton, (see Christmas services elsewhere)

December 25 – Christmas Day

11.15pm First Holy Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) in Llanymynech, 9am Holy Communion in Llanymynech & 10.15am Holy Communion in Trefonen

December 26 – St Stephen's Day (no services)

January 2

9am & 11am Holy Communion in Llanymynech & Llanymynech respectively, 9.30am & 11am Morning Worship in Trefonen & Morton respectively

January 9

9.30am & 11am Holy Communion in Trefonen & Morton respectively & 11am Morning Worship in both Llanymynech and Llanymynech

January 16

9.00am & 11am Holy Communion in Llanymynech & Llanymynech respectively & 9.30am & 11am Morning Worship in Trefonen & Morton respectively

January 22

Zoom service led by Llanymynech & Trefonen (time to be confirmed) on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (See inside back cover)



January 29

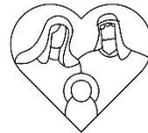
Benefice Christingle Service at 10.30am in Llanyblodwel

Have A Heart

The focus for the Church of England's Christmas campaign is The Heart of Christmas being the Holy Family and in particular the Christ Child, Love coming down to earth for us, and amongst us.

During Advent we will focus on different aspects of the heart each week – Cold (Advent Sunday- 28 November), Warm (5 December), Beating (12 December) & Open (19 December) which will fit in nicely with some of our services and activities during Advent too. Warm heart lends itself well to the giving to others for our Toy Service, when we will receive toys for Hope House Hospice, and Open Heart is when we will hear and sing of the good news of the birth of Christ and hopefully are open to not just hear but to receive the Christ child again into our hearts and homes. To fit in with the theme of the 'Heart of Christmas', our travelling nativities will reflect this too, and this year we will be sending out the love of the Christ Child in the form of a heart decoration to be assembled at home featuring the Holy family, to be taken right into the heart of the home. They will be blessed on

At the heart of Christmas



the

Advent Sunday at the Zoom Service and hopefully distributed in the days following. If you would like one, please let Jann Downes, Lizzie Lawrence, Anne Fitchett or Revd Kathy know asap please. Thank you to those who cut out the felt figures, the Christmas message and the distribution.



Thinking about the Christmas hearts going into homes taking in the love of the Christ Child I am mindful of a fire often being likened to the heart of a home and for some this Christmas that will be a luxury that cannot be afforded, as costs are spiralling for energy. Mindful of that, Oswestry Food Bank do give fuel vouchers in addition to Food to those in need and if anyone would like to give any monies to that during Advent, which will go to the Food Bank after the Carol Services, then there will be a gift bag with Christmas Trees on in each of the churches for that purpose, whether you chose to put a one-off monetary gift, collect each week or whatever, any and all will be gratefully received for those who would like to contribute and can. Some might not give a toy but might like to do the fuel instead, or both or neither but may offer to deliver Christmas hearts. Whatever you do, this Advent and Christmas, put in your heart and the heart of others, the love of God with us, in the form of his Son, Jesus, the Christ Child born into our world.



For Unto Us A Child is Born...

Advent is a season of hope and preparing for what is to come and after the last 18 months or so, we are hopeful this year that we may be able to gather more fully again, to celebrate this most holy of seasons in the Church calendar, Christmas, the Thanksgiving of and for Christ, our Saviour being born as one of us.

So where and how do we begin, with our Carol Services

Carol Services – Sunday 19 December

11am in Llanymynech, which will take the form of almost 9 lessons and carols, retelling the events surrounding and leading up to Jesus' birth. It will hopefully be followed by the sharing of some seasonal refreshments.



2.30pm – Forest Church Service ‘Wood for Trees’, exploring the Christmas story through the natural world, in activity, word and song. This will be in Morton Churchyard, wrap up warm!

6pm Carol Service in Trefonen, exploring in music, reading, verse and reflection the story and journey of Christmas and its meaning and relevance for us. Followed by seasonal refreshments

6.30pm Candlelight Carol Service of readings, music and Carols in Llanbylodwel with a specially put together choir. Followed by seasonal refreshments.

Christmas Eve – 24 December

3pm – Carols around the Tree ‘Mary, Joseph and Baby makes 3 an informal and interactive look at the Christmas Story for all ages with activities and Carols

5pm – ‘What to give at Christmas?’ an informal nativity play with a difference, interspersed with favourite carols, no Christmas would be without!

7pm – ‘No room at the Inn’ Carols, Readings and the Lighting of the Christmas Crib followed hopefully by seasonal refreshments.



Christmas Day – 25 December

Midnight Communion at 11.15pm (24 December) in Llanyblodwel – The First Holy Communion of Christmas.

9am & 10.15am Holy Communion in Llanymynech & Trefonen respectively

For more information about any of these services please contact Revd Kathy.



Benefice Christingle Service

On Sunday 29 January at 10.30am we will hold our Benefice Christingle Service in Llanyblodwel Church, to coincide with Candlemass on 2 February. This will be an All Age Service with the Orange Christingles. All are welcome.



Children's Christmas Card Competition

We aim to resurrect our Christmas card competition this year, something that depicts the real meaning of Christmas on an A5, using not too many colours. It would need to be with Revd Kathy by 7th December to enable printing in good time for the Carol Services. Prizes will be awarded for the winner or winners.

Bryn Offa CE Primary School

The last time I wrote for this newsletter we had started the year really well, but then had an outbreak that meant we had to put lots of safety measures in place in order to control it. We did manage to control things really well and prevented the infection from moving between classes, and so managed to start the new half term with no infections at all linked to the school. This has allowed us to



start stepping down some of the precautions and get back to something more like normality.

One by one, all the safety measures put in place due to Covid will be removed as the risk is reduced. I have no idea how long this will take, but we are already starting to see the green shoots of growth on this. I have already been able to authorise our Class 2's visit to the Exotic Zoo in Telford (where the children had a wonderful time) and our attendance at a hockey tournament, so the children can get back to benefiting from outdoor competitive sport. Each event or activity has to be risk assessed carefully, but it is great to be able to provide these enrichment activities again.



Visitors to the school are also now allowed again as long as there is a direct benefit to the children, so guitar lessons start up again next week, we see the return of our volunteers and we have some additional music lessons arranged provided by the Oswestry Music Mob. Other organisations have started to open up more fully as well so we have been able to book our swimming sessions at the Oswestry Leisure Centre for the Spring Term.



There are some restrictions that remain in place and will possibly remain for a little while, and these tend to centre around large gatherings where children from multiple classes could mix. I have been delighted to lift the restriction this week on the children mixing outside, but inside still remains more difficult. Events like the Christmas performance will not be possible this year, but smaller class assemblies where parents from a single class can come into school may be more likely.

We helped Revd Kathy with her Remembrance sermon by adding our fingerprints to the poppies, and we hope to have some of this year's travelling nativities for the classrooms and a Christmas assembly, even if only on line. We keep to our monthly values and Generosity and Respect are the ones for the coming two months, generosity at Christmas to encourage the children to think of others not just themselves and respect in January as this is the value that encompasses all the others for the year.



Hopefully over the coming months and by the New Year, I will be able to give you a picture of school returning to normality for the children, staff and parents.

Mr Thompson
Headteacher

Morton Choir update.

Choir has regrouped and we have welcomed a new member! Our singers are very grateful and pleased to be able to sing together after such a long time. It was a joy not only to greet them but also their undoubted enthusiasm and to hear voices resounding around the church. We are now in the throes of practising a new repertoire for the Advent and Christmas season.





4Cs Tuesday November.

We celebrated the festival of St Andrew on Tuesday and as Ann Jones is Scottish, she advised us on the menu and organised the table settings with a related theme. Jeanette and Margaret provided two delicious soups which were accompanied with fresh bread followed by scones with homemade jams and plenty of tea and coffee.

As we will not be meeting in December the tables were decorated with Advent lights and gifts of fudge and shortbread. We even sang Old Lang Syne with hearty voices. We wish you all a blessed Christmas tide and to invite you to our next 4cs on Tuesday January 25th 2022.

Our next 4cs date is January 25th 2022.



Pant WI. meet on the 1st Thursday of the month in the Pant Memorial Hall.

We are a thriving group of women who enjoy a varied variety of speakers and events.

Thursday 6th January, we meet together for 'a members evening.

Please contact Pam Craig if you would like to join us.

01691 657597.

Quiz

Songs from the Musicals Film or Stage:

1. Shoes upon the table?
2. Summer Nights?
3. Castle on a Cloud?
4. People will say we're in love?
5. I whistle a Happy Tune?
6. You will never Walk Alone?
7. Angel of the Music?
8. When you're in Love?
9. I Feel Pretty?
10. A Spoonful of Sugar?

The Answers for Novembers quiz

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Owls – Parliament | 8. Cheetahs - Coalition |
| 2. Moles - Movement or Labour | 9. Dolphins - Pod |
| 3. Jellyfish – Smack | 10. Eagles - Convocation |
| 4. Crocodiles - Float, Congregation or bask | 11. Flamingos - Flamboyance or Stand |
| 5. Camels (not canals) – Caravan | 12. Giraffes - Tower |
| 6. Caterpillars – Army | 13. Kangaroos - Mob or Troop |
| 7. Alligators – Congregation | 14. Ravens - Unkindness |
| 15. Zebras - Herd or Stripe | |

How many Curlews are there? Please help us find out



In 2021, the Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group found 10-17 breeding pairs of Curlew. Are there more? Where are they? We have been looking for local Curlews, Lapwings and other birds since 2018, and we will publish a report on what we found in 2021 shortly.

We will look again in 2022, and we need more helpers please. If you can recognise Lapwing and Curlew (and preferably their calls), you can make an important contribution.

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. It only involves three 3-hour visits between the beginning of April and mid-June, simple instructions and a map to record your observations are provided, and there will be a training session if you want to come.

We have a meeting on Wednesday 23rd March at 7.30pm at Morda Social Club, Weston Road, Morda, SY10 9NS, to present the results of our work in 2021 and plans for 2022. All welcome!!!

For more information, please see the Tanat to Perry pages on the Community Wildlife Groups website www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk

[If you want to help, please email me: leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk)

[Leo Smith](#)

(Photo taken by Gareth Thomas).

*"We saw the star in the East,
and we came to worship him.—
Matthew 2:2*

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time

The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is one very familiar to us. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that comes to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity of all created that God desires.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences, and yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness.

Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to the human being, especially the poorest, the weakest and those marginalised. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that young people can build a good future according to God's heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love.

Our Service Will be on January 22nd

***Zoom service led by Llanymynech & Trefonen on the Week of
Prayer for Christian Unity.***

Churchwarden

(Key holder)

Mrs E J Lawrence BEM

St Mary's, Sweeney Mountain,

Oswestry SY10 9EX Tel: 07713 083002

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

E J Lawrence

Electoral Roll Officer

Julie Craig

Organist: Mrs J. Brown. Woodcote, Knockin, Oswestry.

Tel. 01691 682270

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

Key holders: Mrs G. Roberts, Tel. 01691 839590

Mr Roy Mansell Tel: 01691 831006

Please forward all items for inclusion in the magazine to:

*Elizabeth Lawrence St. Mary's, Sweeney Mountain, Oswestry SY10 9EX or Tel:
07713 083002.*

In preference, electronically to ejl873@aol.com By 15th of the previous month