



# **S. PHILIP & S. JAMES CHURCH**

## **MORTON**

*Embracing with open minds; worship, faith, hope and prayer'*

### **PARISH MAGAZINE**



The Snow Drop

**February 2024**

**Price. £1**

**All Services at 11.am (unless otherwise stated)**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Meet and Eat 10 am-12 noon-Pant**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Holy Communion, with the Choir,**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Morning Prayer,**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Communion.**  
**Enquiries for**  
**Holy Baptisms, Holy Matrimony, Banns of Marriage**  
**Michelle Scott at the Church office**  
**Tel: 01691 590025**  
**e:mail [bordergroupadmin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bordergroupadmin@hotmail.co.uk)**  
**Funerals, Pastoral or Confidential Matters n**  
**Contact:**  
**The Rector**  
**The Reverend Kathryn Trimby**  
**Llanymynech Rectory, Rectory Lane, Pant**  
**Oswestry SY10 9RA**  
**Tel: 01691 590025 Mobile 07944504330**

**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**  
**Position Vacant**

**Gift Aid Secretary**  
**Electoral Roll Officer**

**E J Lawrence**  
**Julie Craig**

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

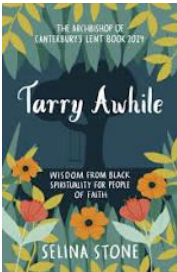
**Bryn Offa C of E Primary School: Bryn Offa School, Rockwell Lane, Pant,**  
**Oswestry SY10 9QR Tel: 01691 830621**

**Key holders: 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. Electronic versions preferred*

My dear friends

Christmas just feels like a moment ago as I write, and here I am turning my attention this month, already to Lent, it seems too soon,, too rushed as it were, almost too soon, too rushed, hardly time to draw breath between Church seasons. At the staff meeting yesterday, we were talking of waiting and how difficult it is to wait, we live in an instant world of things happening at the touch of a button and more, so we are losing the ability to wait well, individually and collectively. Reflecting on the patriarchs and prophets and some Biblical figures they waited many years, sometimes, their whole lives for something – something that is almost incomprehensible too us, and because we don't wait well, we then become impatient and can take matters in to our own hands, and that usually doesn't end well for us.



The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for this year, encourages us to practice 'waiting' both individually and collectively and take inspiration from black spirituality, and learn to 'tarry', and more specifically 'waiting on and in God' for God to speak, use, act in us and for us' to trust and be equipped by Him not be reliant on ourselves alone and see what riches are bestowed on us

in that waiting. Will it be easy, no, and it isn't for the fainthearted but this Lent, even this month of February to 'wait and watch for the Lord with open hearts and minds, and be open in heart and mind to receive.

God bless you in this Holy Season of Lent..

Til next time...

Yours in Christ *Kathy*

In our  
*Waiting*  
God is  
*Working*

Archie Stone | 1001245218

## All services at 11 am unless otherwise stated

<u>February</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Old</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>New</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup>  2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	<b>Meet and Eat</b>  Pant Memorial Hall <b>10 am til 12 noon</b>			
11 <sup>th</sup>  Sunday next before Lent	2 Kings 2: 1-12  Sharon Kynaston	2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Sharon Kynaston	Mark 9: 2- 9	Jeffory  Kendrick
14 <sup>th</sup>  Ash Wednesday	Trefonen 1662 Holy Communion Service at noon.  Llanymynech at 7pm of Holy Communion.			
18 <sup>th</sup>  1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	Genesis 9: 8- 17  Jane Wood		Mark 1: 9- 15  Jane Wood	Doug  Wood
25 <sup>th</sup>  2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Genesis 17: 1- 7, 15-16  Trevor White	Romans 4: 13-end of chapter  Trevor White	Mark 8: 31-end of chapter	Lin Hughes
3  March	<b>Meet and Eat</b>  Pant Memorial Hall <b>10 am til 12 noon</b>			

**Cleaning for February Lin Hughes and Pat Stevenson**

**No Flowers during Lent**

## From The Registers

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

Internment of Cremated remains service conducted by Revd Kathy  
Trimby

*Wednesday 22 November 2023.*

***Monica Louise and David Rhodes***

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 followed by interment in the Churchyard  
conducted by Revd Kathy Trimby.

***John Barry Evans***

## **Memoire for Sidespeople**

Firstly, thank you very much for volunteering as a sidesperson, without your help and assistance, life would be so much harder. Some of you have been in the role for many years, but others are relatively new. So what is expected of you?

Your role mainly, is to assist the Churchwarden and particularly at the moment, as at this time, we only have one. Churchwardens have other duties prior to services.

You are asked to arrive at least 20 mins before the beginning of the Service.

Collect the correct orders of service, Hymn books, pew sheets etc.

Greet and welcome parishioners and guests to the church, give out all booklets etc needed for the service. Paying particular notice of any strangers.

Encourage the congregation to proceed to their seats and prepare themselves for the worship. Please do not allow them to remain at the back chatting and certainly don't engage in this activity yourselves as this disturbs others who are praying and reflecting in readiness for worship.

(Chatter is for at the end of the worship).

At the commencement of the service, take your seat keeping an eye for late comers.

At the time of the Offertory Hymn, which is usually announced, take the collection plate to the front pews and proceed to the back to collect any monetary offerings that wish to be given by members of the congregation for the ongoing work of the church.

Walk reverently to the Altar not forgetting to collect from the choir if they are present.

Wait until the offertory plate is offered to you. Place the collection plate on the top and wait. The Priest will then turn to you and bow, return the bow, turn and walk reverently back to your seat.

At the end of the service, collect all hymn books etc return them to the shelf, put Orders of service in the cupboard near the vestry door.

Finally count the money on the window near the font in full view of the congregation, sign the collection sheet and enter in the register of services.

### **Bouquet of thanks...**

As this is the first magazine published in 2024 can I thank all the editors, contributors, distributors, (and advertisers where applicable) of our 3 parish magazines, it is a vital piece of our communication armoury and its impact must not be underestimated or undervalued and much of the work that goes into it unseen but even though not always acknowledged, is appreciated by many and keeps people in touch and creates



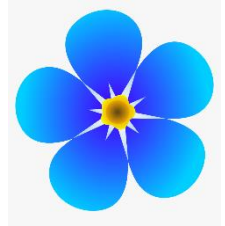
a feeling or sense of belonging. This is also true of our Facebook followers and thanks to Jann, and to other contributors of that too, especially our willing readers of the daily reflections during December, and to Jeff who is

our webmaster, please don't forget him or to send him via K Kimber or Kathy items for the website, as it is only ever as good as the contributors.

Communication is a vital key for us in communicating the Gospel and 'being the Church' so thank you to those who willingly contribute skills, time and energy into these methods of communication, we value you and all you do. Many thanks...

### **Sofa Club and Dementia Activities ..**

12 Crafts of Christmas Campaign run by the Alzheimers Society to raise awareness and raise funds. As a number of our regular members are good at craft, we thought we would put that to good use, so armed with brightly coloured crafts for Christmas and other times, we attended community cafes and Christmas Fairs all around the Benefice and people were very supportive, generous and interested to hear about our Sofa Club and we have just sent off £120 to the Alzheimers society. Many thanks to all, especially members of Sofa Club who made things and were willing to give up time to man the stall in its various locations.



Our Sofa Club continues to meet twice a month..

So our meetings in the coming month are as follows...

**8 February – 'Let your light shine' and activity based on light**

**22 February – Short Service for Beginning of Lent**

Meeting in warm friendly locations at 2.30pm. For more information about these then contact Revd Kathy



## **Thanks too to all who helped with services and activities over Christmas & New Year!**

Thank you to all those who have helped, supported and been involved in all the various activities and services over Christmas and New Year activities and services.



## **Forty Days and Forty Nights..**

Can only mean Lent is coming. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year is on 14 February, some might say not very fitting as it is Valentine's Day, but in some respects, very fitting as it shows the love Christ has for us in that he sacrificed so much for us, and there will be 2 services that day, one, a said 1662 Holy Communion Service in Trefonen at noon and one, in Llanymynech at 7pm of Holy Communion with the optional Imposition of Ashes (a cross on the forehead of last year's burnt Palm Crosses) to which any and all will be welcome. We took the decision last year, not to hold 4 separate Lent lunches but to opt for one that each of the parishes can be involved in the soup etc and we will have a guest speaker. Details are being looked at and more information, on date, venue and who the speaker will be in the march magazine.





## Dot the I's and cross the t's!

Like most organisations, the church is no exceptions when it comes to procedures and so forth and next month we will hold the Annual Meetings of the Church (see below for details of when), when reports are given and shared, plans made for the future and elections for the Parochial church Council amongst other things carried out. Although anyone and everyone is welcome to attend the meeting, you can only stand for election if you are on the Church Electoral Roll. The Roll will be up for revision later this month (in Llanymynech from 10 Feb, Trefonen from 12 Feb, Morton from 16 Feb & Llanyblodwel from 17 Feb) when if you are currently on it and wish to remain on it, you are asked to check the roll and if the details are not correct to report to the respective electoral roll officer. If you would like to be added to the roll, which enables you to stand for election, to get married and where applicable to be buried in the churchyard, please contact the electoral roll officer or warden in your parish for more information.



The dates for the upcoming APCMs are as follows...

**Llanymynech – 11 March**

**Trefonen – 13 March**

**Morton – 17 March**

**Llanyblodwel – 18 March**

There will be more details of the APCM in the next magazine

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Church Electoral Roll is reviewed this year. It will take place from 16<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March, inclusive.

If you are over the age of 16 years and wish to stand for office in the Church or vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting your name must be on the Electoral Roll.

The current roll will be on display in the Church porch. If your name is on the roll you need take no action unless your address has changed. Application forms are available on the porch window or from Churchwarden. Completed forms must be returned to the Rector or Churchwarden.

The New Roll will be on display in the Church porch from Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March through until the 16<sup>h</sup> March 2024

## **Church yard policy**

As many of you are aware St Philip and St James, Morton has had a policy for eligibility for burials within the Churchyard at Morton.

**It is: *Burials are only permitted for those persons residing in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Morton or on the Electoral Roll of the church of St Philip and St James. Morton.***

This policy dates back to the late 1970's and was reviewed by the Diocesan and Chancellor's office in 2014.

Due to the increase of popularity for cremations this policy also now covers the garden of Remembrance. (area for cremated remains) The policy is with immediate effect. Please ensure, if your wishes are to be fulfilled, you must adhere to this policy. Saving distress to loved ones and the Church in the future.

## **Times are a Changing.**

The statement below was read out at all services on 14 January 2024....

*Revd Kathy Trimby will be leaving the Border Group of Parishes to take up a position as Incumbent of Mt Vincent, Kurri Kurri and Weston in the Diocese of Newcastle, Australia. Although she will remain in post until the end of April 2024, her last services within the Border Benefice will be on Easter Day, 31 March 2024. During the vacancy, as far as practical, services will try to be maintained following the current pattern. Bishop Sarah and the Archdeacons would like to assure people they will be coming to the Benefice as soon as they can during the vacancy to discuss what happens next.*

At the time of going to press we have had no word from the Diocese. We may not have anything until after Kathy has left us.

Where are we? Morton has paid its Common Fund 2023 (old Parish Share) in full. Which is a good. However, there are a number of vacancies on the PCC despite asking, no one feels they have the time or inclination to help. A church must be able to govern itself going forward in the eyes of the Diocese and in truth, we are only limping along, which will not be good if allowed to continue. Which is bad. If you are asked or approached, please give it proper thought and prayer, as your response may have a very long-lasting impact on the Parish and your place of worship. Which incidentally has been around since the 1600's.

## Looking ahead.

Lent hasn't yet begun and we are already thinking about Easter! Easter services will be decided in the not-too-distant future by the luck of the draw method once more probably, so each church will have a service in their respective churches, at 9am, 11am, 2.30pm or 4.30pm and details will be published as soon as they are known. Those who have already looked will know that Easter Sunday falls almost as early as I can, the end of March. It falls on 31 March, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of March, and we usually have a Benefice Service on 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of a month when they do fall, it being Easter Sunday, we decided against that, so have moved it earlier in the month, on Mothering Sunday, 10 March when we will have an All-Age Mothering Sunday service in Trefonen at 10.30am and organise a working party of across the Benefice to put the posies together. For now, just save the date.



At Bryn Offa, it does not seem like two minutes ago that we were tucking into our delicious Christmas dinner, watching our amazing pupils singing (and acting) their hearts out on the stage and waving a fond farewell to our long-serving Head teacher – Paul Thompson.

The end of the last term was incredibly busy for our Creation Club who sang carols twice in our community. Our pupils performed a delightful carol

service for the residents of Brook House Nursing Home in addition to bringing some much-needed festive cheer to the patients of the RJAH Orthopaedic Hospital where they sang alongside a number of other local schools.

Community is incredibly important at Bryn Offa. Its dictionary definition is, 'A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.' By encouraging unity through both welcoming families into our school and our pupils giving their time so freely to bring festive cheer to others, it ensures that people in our community realise that they are not alone; which is a key message, especially during Christmas. We look forward to developing further opportunities to enhance and grow the links with our community over the next few months.

The New Year has provided a fresh start with new challenges. Our wonderful Bryn Offa staff stepped into new roles and have kindly taken on additional

responsibilities on a temporary basis. We are also welcoming two 'A' level students from The Marches School to support us with our P.E lessons. In addition to this, we have changed our school vision to, '**Let your light shine.**' This was inspired by Matthew - 5:16. As a school, we have been developing the concept that we each have a light inside of us, which has the ability to shine brightly or dimly. By ensuring our light shines brightly, through good deeds and trying to be our best at all times, it will encourage others to do the same. I am sure that many of you will recognise the song, 'This little light of mine,' which we have chosen as our school anthem. It certainly ignited happy memories of my childhood, sitting on the floor of the school assembly hall and singing with all of my friends. Although, I admit I was out of tune for the majority of the time!

Looking ahead, the first half of the spring term is filled with sporting opportunities for the pupils of Bryn Offa. There will be plenty of competitions for our pupils to enter including - indoor athletics, netball, dodgeball (my personal favourite) and cross-country. We will also be recruiting a Class 3 teacher on a temporary basis whilst Miss Hyde begins her maternity leave. I

am sure you will all join me in wishing her well, as she becomes a mother for the first time.

Personally, this is my first Parish newsletter that I have written as Bryn Offa's Acting Head teacher and I am thoroughly enjoying the experience so far. I am sure that lots of you will have seen me walking either on Llanymynech hill or around the village of Pant with my wife Joanne and my daughter Bella. If you spot us, please do stop and say, 'Hello.'

I look forward to keeping you updated on all matters 'Bryn Offa' and until then: Keep your light shining brightly.

Gareth Jones

Acting Head teacher – Bryn Offa C of E Primary School.



## **Morton Quiz for February**

### **Quiz Questions**

- 1, Who played Dorothy Gale in the 1939 film “ The Wizard of Oz”?
- 2, Where did British Codebreakers crack the German Enigma machine?
- 3, Why did the opening of the Preston Bypass make Highway History?
- 4, Who was the first astronaut to step on to the moon in 1969?
- 5, Why was Louise Brown’s birth in July 1978 hailed as a medical breakthrough?
- 6, Which notorious European Wall come down in November 1989?

7, In which year were the first Female priest ordained in the Church of England?

8, Which choir won the Christmas No 1 slot in 2011 with “Wherever you are”?

9, What is the nickname of the England Women’s National football team?

10, In 1964 a long suspension bridge opened in Scotland. What is it called?

### **Answers to Quiz December / January**

1, Germany is credited with starting the Christmas Tree tradition.

2, The Grinch.

3, Goose or Capon

4, Ladbaby.

5, 364 gifts.

6, Poinsettia.

7, The star

8, Inspired by the deeds of Saint Nicholas.

9, Germany

10, Twixmas.

11, Germany

12, The Crown of Thorns.

13, Charles Dickens

14, Holy.

15, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph.



Meetings of PANT WI at Pant Memorial Hall at 7.15 pm  
**March 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Natalie Bainbridge - Oswestry in Bloom**  
**Competition:** Flowers in a Jar

**Refreshments:** Cherrill, Fay, Daisy.  
**Vote of thanks:** Jane W

NEXT MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
New Members always welcome

## **NEWS FROM PANT MEMORIAL HALL FEBRUARY 2024**

We go into our 102<sup>nd</sup> year with plans for more refurbishments, a good range of bookings and well organised systems to keep the hall running smoothly. We have two big things in our new year wish list – more bookings and more trustees!

**Bookings:** we still have regular weekday evening availability, as well as plenty of space for family events, children's parties, meetings, classes and whatever fits in. All the information is on our website including our availability calendar. Reminder; please give at least 5 working days notice for a new event, we're all volunteers! Naturally we can host several events each day, each event gets the whole hall to themselves for a very reasonable £12.50 per hour.



**Join in:** The hall is run by a committee of volunteer trustees, some of whom would like to step down after years of service. This decision will be much easier if they have successors. Without enough trustees, the future of the hall could be in jeopardy – we’ve seen other halls have that problem and we don’t want it to happen at Pant.

Being a trustee is a great way to get involved in the community as well as giving something back. We’re a lively friendly bunch from a variety of backgrounds, and we welcome new ideas and new faces. Minimum time commitment for most is three meetings a year, plus the AGM, and occasional input to discussions and events. Unlike some other halls, there is no cleaning or gardening rota as we have paid contractors to keep things clean and tidy.

**Our next committee meeting will be on Thursday February 29<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm in the hall – this is a good opportunity to meet the trustees and observe what goes on. New trustees are elected at the AGM which will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, so now is definitely the time to start thinking about it. Have a look on our website at the ‘get involved’ page for more information.

You can also contact [secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk) if you are interested in giving back to our community; we are happy to chat through any queries. **Please don’t leave it all to ‘someone else’!** With nearly 500 followers on our facebook page alone, there has to be someone (or several someones) out there. We look forward to hearing from you.

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**To contact us:**

Bookings: email [bookings@pantmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@pantmemorialhall.org.uk) or call/whatsapp 07913 565708. Please look on the website first (if you have internet access) to check timeslots and information.

Website: <https://pantmemorialhall.org.uk/> or scan this image into your phone:



All other enquiries (including prospective committee members): [secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk)

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

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

### **Flower of the Month-The Snowdrop**

I thought that space permitting this year we would take look at out well know flowers. Bumper crops this year. Take a walk around the old Churchyard.



### **What do snowdrops look like?**

Standing around 7–15 cm tall, snowdrops have white bell-shaped flowers at the end of an erect flowering stem with two to three leaves.

**Leaves:** narrow to linear in shape, smooth and dull grey-green in colour.

**Flowers:** lack petals and are composed of six white flower segments known as tepals (they look like petals). The inner three tepals are smaller and have a notch in the tip, with a green upturned ‘v’ pattern visible.

**Not to be confused with:** summer snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*). Unlike snowdrop, this flower has a green spot marking on the end of each petal and the petals are of equal length; spring snowflake (*Leucojum vernum*) is also similar but all of its petals have a yellow-green mark on the end, which are absent on snowdrops.

Where to find snowdrops

Snowdrops are found across the UK. They favour damp soil and are often found in broadleaved woodland and along riverbanks, but can also be seen in parks, gardens, meadows and scrub. The species normally flowers in January and February, but there are an increasing number of December flowerings being recorded and even the occasional November sighting.

Snowdrops are not native to the UK, although exactly when they were introduced is unclear. It’s thought they may have been grown as an ornamental garden plant as early as the 16th century, but were not recorded in the wild until the late 18th century. The snowdrop’s native range is mainland Europe.

#### Quick facts

**Common names:** snowdrop, common snowdrop, flower of hope

**Scientific name:** *Galanthus nivalis*

**Family:** Amaryllidaceae

**Origin:** non-native

**Flowering season:** January to March

**Habitat:** woodland, parks, gardens, grassland



**Pant Memorial Hall**

# **SUNDAY MEET AND EAT.**

**Sunday 3<sup>th</sup> March 10 00 -12 noon.**



**Toast, Crumpets, Jam**

**Tea,**

**Coffee & fruit juice.**



**Short act of worship and Reflection.**

**For more information contact Lizzie Lawrence on 07713083**