

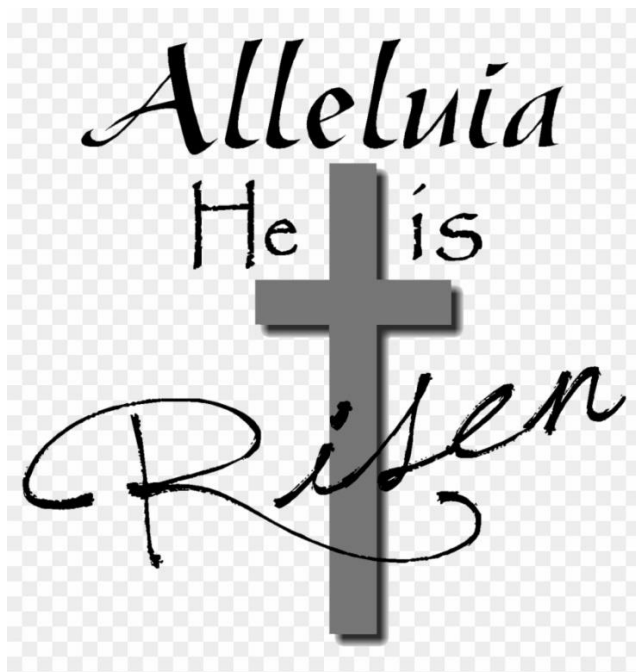
S. PHILIP & S. JAMES CHURCH



MORTON

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

PARISH MAGAZINE



February 2024

Price. £1

All Services at 11.am (unless otherwise stated)
1st Sunday of the month. Meet and Eat 10 am-12 noon-Pant
2nd Sunday Holy Communion, with the Choir,
3rd Sunday Morning Prayer,
4th 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
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
Prof Martyn Jones
Old Vicarage,
Morton

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

Tis almost feels like a case of déjà vu, as ten years ago, in a different place, I was also writing my last magazine letter and here I am again, time may have moved on, but endings and beginnings are very much part and parcel of



living and of life and we all experience them all the time. Endings, can be hard and painful, the loss of something or someone, known and positive and life giving and is something I and possibly, some of you are feeling now, as we come towards the end of my time here, within the Benefice, both loss of me as a person, and of how things happened and what happened etc and for me, people and places that have and are dear to me BUT sometimes endings are necessary, albeit painful if we are to grow and be, all God created us to be and more. Life isn't stagnant, nor can it be, it is ever changing, ever regenerating, ever developing and growing and more.

This is an ending but also a new beginning, a new dawn, a new birth for us all, and how poignant that it is at Easter time, when Jesus death and rising again was the ultimate ending and beginning, and is the very essence of our faith – Love changes everything in allowing us to **be**, to be in a state of **being**, and encourages us to **become** what God intended in love and from love and out of love, and all of those things means sometimes letting go of things, and moving on, in order to grow and live.



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I have enjoyed my time here, and I thank you for working in partnership with me in the ministry of God's church in this place for the last 10 years, it has been my privilege to serve you and be your Rector. The future lies ahead with uncertainty, yes, but like a new horizon, to be explored and traversed, it opens before us with possibility and promise, life in all its abundance that God travels with us, wherever we are, whatever we are doing.



So as we move forwards to Good Friday and are reminded of the sadness and pain of ending, let us remember that isn't the end of the story and look forwards to the promise of resurrection of life that is to come for us all. With every blessing and happiness to you and your families this Easter and beyond...

Yours in Christ

Kathy

From The Registers

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

Internment of Cremated remains in the Churchyard, service conducted
by Revd Kathy Trimby

Thursday 22nd February 2024

Chrisopher John Edwards (Eddie)

<u>March</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>
3rd 3rd Sunday of Lent	Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon			
10th Mothering Sunday	Benefice service in Trefonen 10. 30			
17th 5th Sunday of Lent	Morning prayer 10.45 Parish Meeting 11.00 APCM 12.15			
24th Palm Sunday	Forest Church 2.30 Reading-Rachel Frank			
28th Maundy Thursday	Agape 7pm Holy Communion -Small Meal			
29th Good Friday	Music and Meditations 6.30pm			
31st Easter Sunday	Sonrise Service at Sunrise 06.15- Sweeney Mountain. Holy Communion 4.30 pm Butterfly Tea			Gareth Johnson Reading and Sidesman
April 7th	Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon			

Cleaning for March Jane and Doug wood

Bouquet of thanks...

Very indulgently, I would like to thank all those individuals, office holders and more who have walked with me over the last 10 years, supporting me,



encouraging and assisting me and so much more. It may not always have been said but valued and appreciated nevertheless. And to all my parishioners, members of the school and wider communities, thank you for everything. I couldn't have done it without you and I wish you every

blessing in the days, weeks and long into the future. May God go with you, before you and behind you, above you and beneath you, within and without. Many thanks...

Sofa Club



Just about 7 years ago, we decided to explore dementia, what it was and is, how it effects people both those living with it and those caring for someone living with it and decided to do some training and subsequently set up Sofa Club. Why sofa, well we wanted to create the impression it was a friendly, welcoming

and accepting space, where people were and are, accepted just the way they are, there are no expectations or to a large extent, rules, it is an informal place and space to simply 'be' where those who come enjoy chat, sharing of ideas, join in worship and simple activity and eat cake! Activities from making and creating, to music, baking and more, it doesn't matter on ability, or even participation, just being present to and with each other. So the sofa is somewhere you might simply rest and be at home, so it is with this group, the tonic sol far brings in the music and how it can connect with people on all kinds of levels in all kinds of situations and we meet on a Thursday, and the poem tells us that Thursday's child has '**so far** to go'

Sadly, in 7 years things haven't changed a great deal with regards to dementia, anything to do with mental health people still have a reluctance about, to know about, get involved with and more. It is thought to be a good idea to do something but as long as it doesn't impact me! And so it becomes the unspoken, the hidden, the misunderstood and by implication the isolated almost shameful thing that can bring frustration, impatience, intolerance and more. Yes, thankfully, it is now more in the public domain and is more widely talked about in general terms but I would like to think that the church, our churches can and should, take a lead here. We all know someone living with or we suspect living with, dementia, what do we know, how do we show and share Christian love, fellowship, respect, welcome and acceptance as disciples and within our churches really, not just play lip service to it?

For 7 years our Sofa Club has sought to do that and I hope will continue to do so long into the future, but is that enough? That's the tough question for you and your churches. I leave you with that thought as I hand over the baton to Lizzie Lawrence who will be continuing to write about Sofa Club in our magazine and to plan the activities going forward. Thank you for being interested enough to read about us, and me, sometimes having a rant! I hope you will continue to read about us, support us and maybe even come along from time to time! So my final month



Our Sofa Club continues to meet twice a month if March we will meet on

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

14 March – Sowing a seed of love to share...

28 – Short Service for Maundy Thursday

Meeting at 2.30pm. For more information about these then contact Revd Kathy

Baby, Mums & Benefice Service

It has, during Revd Kathy's time in the Benefice been the case that during the months that have 5 Sundays we will all meet as a Benefice to share a service that is a little bit different, March is such a month, but as that is Easter Sunday, the decision was taken to move it to a day when we focus on Mothering, including the church, as well as own mums, grandmums, Mother Earth, how we have been and do nurture, care for and about, nourish others, that is practise mothering so our Benefice service will be on **Sunday 10 March at 10.30am in Trefonen**, when we will celebrate and join in the responsibility for mothering, alongside the parents, Godparents and wider family of the little one who will be baptised in that service. Looking ahead we will also commission and re-commission our worship leaders and Eucharistic ministers as we look ahead as a church. It will be followed by light refreshments and at this service a posy of flowers will be given out to all the ladies. **NB the posies will be made up the day before by members from each of the parishes, contact K Kimber for more information.**



A Holy Lent, Week and Resurrection

Lent Lunch - Easter is almost as early as it can be this year, falling on 31 March so Lent began on a very appropriate day, Valentine's Day, sacrificial love in action as we think of Jesus in the wilderness, going without food and water, being tempted and being open to elements and wild animals all for us. Lent gives us a time to examine our own lives, some strip away and sacrifice things whilst others commit to taking something on. In previous years, we have had Lent lunches in each of the parishes and given the money to charity. Last year we took the decision to hold just one this year for the whole Benefice



and it is on **Wednesday 13 March at 12.15pm in Llanyblodwel Institute**, with a speaker who is yet to be confirmed, where we will enjoy soup and bread, cheese, biscuits and fruit together with all parishes contributing and helping we hope. If you are able to then please contact either of Llanyblodwel Churchwardens or Abie Tudor. Many Thanks

It's Time to Sing, Sing Shout and Wave your Palms about



The Bible tells us there is a time for everything under heaven so on Sunday 24 March, at 2.30pm, it's time to 'Sing, Sing, Shout and Wave Your Palms About', join with the crowds as they greeted their hero, Jesus, waving palms, cheering, shouting and singing as he passed by on an openair tour of Jerusalem, at our Forest Church gathering in Morton Church. With Morty Mouse and Father Ted in attendance, we will travel with Jesus too, waving the palms we have made, see what happens next in the story and what it means, maybe sample a sweet treat or two, participate in a sort of donkey derby and then enjoy a drink, some cake and maybe a biscuit before taking home our usual goody bag! Why not join us for interactive storytelling, song, craft and ... to find out more why not give Revd Kathy a ring on 07944504330.



Maundy Thursday (28 March) – the day traditionally associated with Jesus joining his disciples for the Last Supper before praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. 11am Holy Communion in Llanymynech with the stripping of the altar and at 7pm a simple meal, Agape, with Holy Communion and the Stripping of the altar in Morton

Good Friday (29 March) – 10.15am Stations of the Cross at Llanyblodwel, 12 noon Objects of the Cross at Llanymynech, 2pm Last Hour Reflections and Music in Trefonen and at **6.30pm Music and Meditations in Morton**



Holy Saturday - a quiet day of reflection

Hail the Day that sees Him rise!

Easter Day, 31 March, don't forget your clocks! Services begin early at sunrise we remember the Sonrise and almost have services until sunset so there may be a time to suit you, so why not come along and join the celebration, and there may be a chocolate egg or two to enjoy!



Sonrise Service at Sunrise (31 March) at St Mary's Sweeney Mountain at 6.15am for a service that begins in the dark and as the service progresses the light dawns as the Son did on that first Easter Day. It is outside so please dress appropriately and bring a torch. The serve will be followed by a warm cuppa and bacon baps in the shed. For more information contact Revd Kathy.



Easter Sunday Service

at 4.30pm

Holy Communion

with a Butterfly afternoon Tea

this will be Revd Kathy's last service in the Benefice

Easter Flowers

For many, many years, it has been our practice and custom to give a lily at Easter in memory of a loved one. Last year we had very few orders, this year it has been decided that there will be two arrangements at the Altar containing lilies still in memory of loved ones. If you would like to contribute to these arrangements, please give your donations to Jane Wood 01691 839564 or Lizzie 07713083002

The Church will be open for decorating on Holy Saturday March from 09.00.

No Flowers to be brought into the Church until Holy Saturday

All Easter decorations are removed from the Church by 13th April. The Church will be open 09.00 –5.00pm.

Please tidy the area around your window etc.

Thank you.

AGAPE

“Agape” is the New Testament word for love, and is used to describe a meal of fellowship in the early Church. Doing this on Maundy Thursday is appropriate, as it will be on the night Jesus came to supper with his friends and instituted the sacrament of the Mass”.

This year we are back and will again be holding an Agape on Maundy Thursday, March 28th 7pm. For a few years now several members of the congregation have gathered in Church in fellowship to enjoy a simple meal of bread, cheese, grapes and a glass of wine and a chat. As part of that meal we celebrate Holy Communion. Do come along and join in the fellowship.

If you would like to attend, please inform the Churchwarden.

What Happens Now?

Many people have asked ‘what will happen now that Revd Kathy is leaving?’ and in truth it is a bit uncertain, the Bishop and Archdeacons will come in and assess the needs, wants, desires of each parish and within the Benefice and outside of it and weigh it against what is possible and together discern what the future holds for each parish. We don’t



know when this will happen, and I know it can cause anxiety and fear but look at it another way, ask God to show you where and how he wants his church in this place to go and be, for this stage of the journey of faith. And in the meantime, whilst we are waiting for that meeting to take place, we are already being proactive. The Z team, made up of the lay chairs of the PCC’s has met and will now meet regularly as we head into a vacancy and beyond, looking at what they are responsible for and who they work and liaise with,

the churchwardens and PCC, to ensure the continuation of services, maintenance of plant, finances, safeguarding, pastoral care and more,

ensuing a smooth transition from here on in. A meeting of PCC's and the wider community to ascertain wants, desires and needs has either happened or in the pipeline, ensuring that not only are we ready and prepared when this meeting happens and the ongoing running and management of the parishes and the Benefice. I hope that this reassures you and encourages you to look forward with hope and optimism.

Revd Kathy

Date for your Diaries: On Thursday 4th April the Benefice will be saying farewell to the Revd Kathy. This will be an evening function at Llanyblodwel Institute. More information will come out in the next week or so. There will also be a collect towards a gift.

Please contact the Churchwarden for more details.

This extract was sent to editor for inclusion in the magazine.

A new resident's perspective.

As a new resident to Morton I am surprised at the lack of interest there is in the lovely church, talking to everyone they all seem to want the church to be there for their weddings, christenings, funerals' and to be buried there ,yet no one wants to take an active part in running or maintaining it , I believe that the PCC is looking for a secretary to take minutes of the PCC meetings, and there is a vacancy for a Warden, In my lifetime I have seen many small churches close and then the local community loses its identity, come on Morton, help your church flourish .

Having perhaps read this I ask:

Do you have an interest of the future of your church?

Whether you are a regular attender, just dip in and out, or have no interest in religion, but like the fact that there is in Church with all its

history and heritage in your locality. As you will by now have heard our Rector is moving on, therefore, there will be changes.

The PCC has now to move on too which, in someways is very challenging and in others exciting. However, without the help of the regular congregation and local people how do they know what are the **"needs, wants and desires"** of Morton Parish.

To help them prepare for when they meet with the Bishop, Archdeacon's and others from the Diocese and Benefice. There will be an open meeting on Sunday 17th of March commencing at 10. 45 with a short act of worship (15 mins) following this tea, coffee, Danish pastries and time for you to make your wishes known. No one knows

what the Diocese plans are. The meeting is to get a broader spectrum of opinion of the Parish as a whole. If no one turns up I ask you what are the PCC to do? The ball is rather in your court.

If you are on the Electoral roll of the church, as such you have signed up to be a committed member to St Philip and St James (paid up member) you will be sent a personal invitation to this meeting. I would ask YOU to make every effort to attend or perhaps ask why are you a member? IF you are not on the Electoral roll of the church we would still welcome any thoughts you might have.

At 12.15 the Annual meeting of the church will commence. There is no obligation to stay however, it is open to all.

Lay chair Morton PCC.

What is the



Basically, it is the church AGM when the trustee body, that is the PCC, presents to the wider community the things that it has been busy doing for the last year or thereabouts, looking at matters of finance, buildings, policy, mission, safeguarding and the various committees of the PCC. It is where elections for the coming year take place for our officers, members of the Parochial Church Council and more. It is a meeting that is open to all and all, so if you want to know more about our workings or decisions then why not come along, you'd be very welcome. Reports will be available to read in the churches prior to the meeting, if you would like to see them, and our financial

report and Trustees Annual Report (TAR) will be up in each of the churches for 2 Sundays prior to the meeting (approx. 8 days). If you think you would like to serve as a member of the PCC or as an officer please see respective churchwardens, PCC secretaries or Revd Kathy for more information.



With The first half term of 2024 done and dusted we look forward to brighter mornings (and evenings) as we enter March. An early Easter this year will mean that it will be the summer term before we know it.

At Bryn Offa, our Christian value focus moves from compassion to truthfulness. The children have really impressed me with their knowledge of compassion. However, after sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, pupils felt that feeling sympathy for somebody was simply not enough. Our daily worship focussed on the phrase 'Compassion in action.' This resulted in Bryn Offa children spotting others who needed some support and taking it upon themselves to offer that helping hand which all of us need from time to time. Truthfulness is a value that can be difficult for everyone to follow at times for a whole host of reasons. I hope that by the end of March, our pupils will realise the value of the phrase 'Honesty is the best policy.'

At the end of February, Shropshire Music service began to work alongside our children in classes 4 and 5, giving these pupils an opportunity to learn how to play a brass instrument. Initially, I did wonder if having 30 children simultaneously playing instruments may be a slight assault on the senses, but I must admit being genuinely impressed with how quickly they have picked up

this new skill. I am hoping to organise a summer concert to display their newfound talent to the community in an evening that I am sure will rival the 'Last Night of the Proms.'



In Class 2, children have been working on a project entitled 'Love from around the world.' Mrs Maxfield challenged the children to see if the school could receive either a Valentine's Day card or a well-wishing email from all corners of the globe. They say that good news travels fast, and we were soon inundated with correspondence from France, Australia and even Oman. It is lovely to think that so many people took time out of their day to use the power of technology for good, by sending positive thoughts to Bryn Offa.

Class 1 have enjoyed a visit from PCSO Carroll who came to arrest the 'Evil Pea' in addition to showing the children a wide array of police equipment. Unfortunately, 'Evil Pea' had been causing all sorts of havoc in the school. Therefore, our Reception and Year 1 Children designed and constructed traps as part of their superhero topic. The squeals of delight as they arrived on the Monday morning to discover that the villain had been apprehended was wonderful to hear.

In my last newsletter, I mentioned that Miss Hyde would soon be leaving us as she starts her maternity leave. I can now announce that her replacement is Miss Sonia Robinson. We had many applicants for the position, which was incredibly pleasing. The advert stated that we were looking for a great teacher and a lovely person. Miss Robinson ticks both these boxes

I would like to sign off by thanking our long-serving lunchtime assistant Mrs Sandra Longhurst who has decided to call time on her Bryn Offa career. Mrs Longhurst has been at the school for 14 years and was a valued colleague to staff and a friendly, kind face for all our children. She will be greatly missed by those at the school, but we look forward to seeing her around the village. Keep Your Light Shining,

Mr Gareth Jones

Acting Head teacher – Bryn Offa C of E Primary School

Just a little extra



By the time this magazine goes to print, we will have appointed a new Head teacher, who will be starting in September. Until then, Gareth Jones will continue in the role of Acting Head. We are grateful to him and all the staff for all they do for the children, parents and wider community and hold them in our prayers.



Meetings of PANT WI at Pant Memorial Hall at 7.15 pm

March 7th

Natalie Bainbridge - Oswestry in Bloom

Competition: Flowers in a Jar

Refreshments: Cherrill, Fay, Daisy.

Vote of thanks: Jane W

NEXT MEETING 4th APRIL

New Members always welcome

MORTON CHURCH 150 CLUB

Firstly, I must apologise, I have not printed the winners of the January draw in the last magazine, as with Christmas and New Year things got put off till it was too late to go to the printers, hopefully things are now back on track

January winners were, 1st prize Mr L Griffiths

2nd prize Mrs S Kyrerston

3rd prize Rev K Trimby

February winners were, 1st prize Mr D Bebbington

2nd prize Mr G Johnson

3rd prize Mr R Jones

Congratulations to all the winner's and until the next draw.

And if you would like to become a winner there are still some vacant numbers, and any of them could be a winner.

NEWS FROM PANT MEMORIAL HALL MARCH 2024

It has been good to see the hall busy even in murky January and February. We've hosted children's parties, a first aid course, an AGM for another group plus our wide range of regulars. Lots of drama (of the best kind!) also going on, with both the LADS and Stage Five using the hall for rehearsals.

The committee are also busy behind the scenes. Our treasurer has been preparing the accounts and next year's budget, our secretary is sorting out maintenance and repairs and of course our booking secretary is dealing with those bookings. The hire fee is a very reasonable £12.50 an hour including utilities – all the info you need is on our website, details at the end of this article.

This year's AGM has been moved to April to give us a lighter evening – so please join us on **Thursday 11th April at 7pm in the hall for the Annual General Meeting of Pant Memorial Institute.** The meeting

usually takes less than an hour – we present our accounts and a SHORT review of the last year. All trustees resign at the start of the meeting, we then hold the election for new trustees with the ‘electorate’ being all those present. Everyone is welcome to the AGM, regardless of whether you are standing for election.

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU: Some of our current trustees would like to step down after many years of service. This decision will be much easier if they have successors, plus ‘many hands make light work’. 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 and shape the future of the hall. 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, gardening or ‘opening up’ rota - we pay a cleaner and a gardener and hirers let themselves in with loaned keys.

Please don’t leave it all to ‘someone else’! With over 500 followers on our facebook page plus the circulation of this magazine, there has to be someone (or several someones) out there. Please tap out that email to

secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk , pick up the phone to 07913 565708 or leave us a note in the postbox and we’ll get back to you for a chat. Lots of information on the ‘get involved’ tab on our website.

To contact us:

Bookings: email 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

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.

Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group

Please help with our Bird Survey, and Save our Curlews

If you would like to do something to help stop Curlew and Lapwing disappearing from the local countryside, we would like your help, please.



We are going to start our bird survey to look for them at the end of March.

If you can recognise Lapwing and Curlew (and preferably their calls), you can make an important contribution. If possible, we'd also like you to record Kestrel, Cuckoo, and other target species, but that's an optional extra.

Our area extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastward from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns.

The survey 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.

Our bird survey is the first stage of the *Save our Curlews* project, as it locates the pairs of Curlews to focus the efforts of the nest-finders. Surveyors are not expected to look for nests.

Save our Curlews

There are about 12 breeding pairs of Curlew in our area, We are looking for them all again this year, and we will also be working with Shropshire Ornithological Society's *Save our Curlews* Campaign, which aims to find as many nests as possible, protect them from predation and trampling with an electric fence, then fix a radio tag to the chicks that hatch and track them to see how they use the landscape, and what happens to them. Finding out why breeding productivity is so poor is key to working out an effective conservation plan.

Meeting

A meeting will be held on

Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm

at Morda Social Club, Weston Road, Morda, SY10 9NS,

**to present the results of our work in previous years, and
consider plans for 2024.**

All welcome!!!

For more information, please see the Tanat to Perry pages on the Community Wildlife Groups website

<https://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/tanat-to-perry-wildlife-group/>

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

[Leo Smith](#)

Border Benefice

Llanyblodwel, Llanymynech,
Morton & Trefonen



Mothering Sunday

SUNDAY 10TH MARCH
AT 10:30AM

Benefice Service
at
All Saints Trefonen

All Very Welcome





Pant Memorial Hall

SUNDAY MEET AND EAT.

Sunday 3th March 10 00 -12 noon.



**Tea, Coffee & fruit juice. Toast, Crumpets
& Jam**



Short act of worship and Reflection.

For more information contact Lizzie Lawrence on 07713083002