

S. PHILIP & S. JAMES CHURCH

MORTON



PARISH MAGAZINE

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



May 2024

Price. £1

All Services at 11.am (unless otherwise stated)
1st Sunday of the month. Meet and Eat 10 am-12 noon-Pant
During the Vacancy Holy Communion will be dependant om the availability
of a Priest

May will be 19th

All other Sunday Service will be Morning Prayer
Enquiries for

Holy Baptisms, Holy Matrimony, Banns of Marriage
Helen Parish at the Church office
Tel: 01691 590025

e:mail bordergroupadmin@hotmail.co.uk

Funerals, Pastoral or Confidential Matters n

Contact:

Please contact either of the Churchwardens

Churchwardens

(Key holder)

Mrs E J Lawrence BEM

St Mary's, Sweeney Mountain,

Oswestry SY10 9EX Tel: 07713 083002

(Key holder)

Lin Hughes,

3 Pottery Cottages, Trefonen

Oswestry Tel: 07973 550568

Treasurer to the PCC

Prof Martyn Jones

Old Vicarage,

Morton

Secretary to the PCC

Position Vacant

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

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

Pastoral letter written by Paddy Martin- Worship Leader, St Agatha's

There are times when an ability to tell the future would be an asset. At our APCM last year a volunteer to be Lay Chair was needed. Knowing that the main call on such an appointee was to chair a PCC meeting if the incumbent was unable to attend, I volunteered. What I did not do was do my research and now find myself involved with the other Lay Chairs in the work to ensure a smooth interregnum and the decisions to be taken about the future of the benefice!

This month we celebrate the Ascension of Christ to heaven at the end of his earthly ministry. He would still be with his followers by the power of the Holy Spirit but he would no longer be a physical presence. Unlike for the members of the Border Benefice today, wheels were not slowly put in motion to provide a physical equal to slip into His place. Disciples like Peter were faced with becoming leaders of the believers and were tasked with growing and tending his church. Their roles often placed them in physical danger. That the believers were united in faith and love was vital if this young church was to survive.

We lack their experience of having spent a few years listening to and learning from Christ himself but we can rely on him and rejoice with the diocesan authorities in the power of his spirit to help us to find the right way forward if we work together for the good of our parish. Our problems may not include physical danger but ignorance, prejudice, apathy and other human weaknesses may be dangers we must guard against in the coming months.

Paddy

From The Registers

Funeral:

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

Service at St Philip & St James Church, Morton. Conducted by
Rev'd Adrian Bailey on Tuesday 16 April 2024.

Margaret Doreen Lawrence

followed by burial in the Oswestry Cemetery.

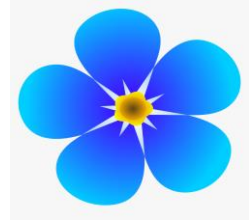
<u>May</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Old</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>New</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>
<u>5th</u>	Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon			
Thurs 9th May Ascension Day	No Ascension Day service in Benefice. St Oswalds in Oswestry has two Eucharist services at 10.30am and 7.00pm which people are welcome to attend.			
12th Sunday after Ascension	Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end. Rachel Frank		John 17: 6- 19.	Peter Frank
19th Day of Pentecost	Acts 2: 1-21 Sharon Kenaston	Romans 8: 22- 27	John 15:26- 27 and chapter 16 vv 4b-15	Jeffory Kendrick
26th Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6: 1-8 Trevor White		John 3: 1-17	Roy Mansell
Jun 2nd	Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon			

Flowers for May: Jane Wood

Cleaning for May: Margaret Frank

SOFA Club -May

This month we will be holding one meeting of SOFA Club and we will look at Promises. The definition of a promise is: to [tell](#) someone that you will [certainly](#) do something. Throughout our lives we make all sorts of promises, from the time we are your perhaps as a Brownie or Cub, to wedding vows, and many other promises, maybe just promising to call someone every week, do their shopping, clean the car the list goes on and on, the hard bit is sticking to the promise.



Are you able to make a promise and keep it? Dementia Awareness Week runs 13-19 May as part of this week could you make a promise to do something? You may be saying what can I do? Just a few ideas: Make a regular contribution to supporting people with dementia, be a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Society or take part in one of their fundraising events.



Perhaps your promise could be how do we make our Church more Dementia Friendly and be part of the SOFA Club.

If you would like to know more, please contact Lizzie (Churchwarden Morton) 07713083002. Alternatively, just come along.

Just one meeting in May on Thursday 16th at 2.30 -4.pm, Llanymynech Church Hall.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 20th June something different full details in next month's magazine.

Stop Press: Songs of Praise on Sunday 12th May will be coming from Lichfield Cathedral and will be a Dementia Service to co - inside with Dementia action week 13th – 19th May 2024.



Meetings of PANT WI at Pant Memorial Hall at 7.15 pm

Next Meeting

Thursday 6th June

Developments on the Montgomery Canal – Chris Bushnell.

Competition: Past or Present Canal Photo

Refreshments: Ganor W, Kelly.

Vote of thanks: Sarah



Bryn Offa Church of England Primary School

Rockwell Lane, Pant, Oswestry, Shropshire,
SY10 9QR

admin@brynoffa.shropshire.sch.uk

Tel: 01691 830621

I hope that everyone had a lovely Easter break, it was lovely welcoming staff and children back to Bryn Offa for the final term of the academic year.

I was so pleased to see so many people taking part in the Bryn Offa Easter Trail. If you were one of the lucky ones who found all twelve letters then, after some trial and error, I am sure that you managed to successfully unscramble the words '**Chocolate Egg**'. Easter seems a distant memory as we move into May which signals exams season for our Year 6 pupils.

The Year 6 pupils have been working incredibly hard all year in order to prepare for the SAT tests which take place during the week of May 13th. All pupils have been reassured that all they need do is their best and then nobody can ask any more of them. I am sure that many of you can remember sitting tests in school and what a stressful time it can be for children. I recently spotted this poem online and felt that it is so important to keep it in mind, especially over the next few weeks.

SATs don't measure sports, SATs don't measure art,

SATs don't measure music, or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty, SATs don't know your worth,

SATs don't see the reasons you were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic, how you make others smile,

SATs don't time how quickly you can run a mile.

SATs don't hear your laughter, or see you've come this far,

SATs are just a tiny glimpse of who you really are.

So sitting at your table, with a pencil and your test,

Remember SATs aren't who you are, remember you're the best.

May is also an exciting month for our Year 3 and 4 pupils as they have two sessions with Arthog Outreach. Our Year 3 pupils will be rock climbing and caving on Llanymynech hill, and the Year 4 pupils take part in a canoeing and bushcraft session near Pool Quay. These days are one of the first tastes of the Bryn Offa 'outdoor and adventurous' curriculum for our children. Pupils who have taken part over recent years in these activities always talk about them with enthusiasm as they are a real highlight in the Bryn Offa calendar.

I hope that you all have a wonderful month of May!

Keep Your Light Shining,

Mr Gareth Jones

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

Morty's Squeakbook page

We're leaving on jet plane (but only for a few weeks!)

'I can't believe it's nearly here now' said Morty. 'I know what you mean' said Ted, 'When Revd Kathy announced she was leaving for pastures new, hearing her mention where, I knew we had to go, and I knew just how we could do! too' 'How lucky are we, that you just happen to have a cousin who lives there, what are the chances?' 'Yes, Cousin Kevin and all his family, who gladly agreed to put us up, so we could go along to Revd Kathy's special service and catch up with them too, family I haven't seen in years!'



'Yeah, once they said yes, planning the big trip – flights, what to see when there, what we couldn't miss, family catch ups, not to mention organising visas, sorting out

Australian dollars and more, took centre stage – this will be the trip of a lifetime, we want to fill every moment of every day and make it memorable in all the right ways, not like Revd Kathy when she split her head open when she went!’ quipped Morty. ‘No, I hope so too. I am so excited; I can hardly breathe let alone sleep!’ ‘It’ll be great,’ said Ted, ‘We have done our homework, extensive research and are counting down the days, it won’t be long now!’

A few more days passed and excitement levels behind the organ were reaching fever pitch, in Morty’s room, his suitcase was open and he was trying to remember everything he wanted to take, and all the things he mustn’t forget – ‘Glasses, check! Book, check! Toothpaste and brush, check...what else do I need?’ ‘Not sure you need your guitar, it’s too heavy, we’ve only got 20 kilos, remember?’ shouted Ted. Morty took another swig of his cuppa and ignored Ted, he was taking it, one of Kevin’s children was a keen musician and had urged him to bring it along, so he was. He put in a few more items and shut the case – ‘Finally, he said, we are ready. How you doing Ted, are you packed?’ Yes, all done’ he said, ‘now let’s get some sleep, we are leaving in the morning’



It may have been an early night, but neither Ted nor Morty had that much sleep, they were too wound up, too excited about the adventure they were about to embark on, although neither were looking forward to the long flight, a change in Abu Dhabi but they wouldn’t be alone, as they were travelling with their friends, Revd Kathy and Lizzie, and when they got off the other end, well the adventure would begin. ‘Cases, passport, flight confirmations...I think we have everything we need, let’s go...’ said Ted, closing the door. ‘Let the adventure begin... I can’t wait’ said Morty, ‘we’ll have so much to share of our escapades Down Under on our return’. ‘I hope so’ said Ted ‘next stop Australia’



So the adventure begins, pop back next month and see how Morty and Ted get on...

Squeaks for now

Bouquet of thanks...

By the time many of you read this, I will be making final preparations to fly half way across the world, starting a new adventure in a new parish but it would be remiss of me to go without expressing my heartfelt gratitude for all



your cards, good wishes, and extremely generous gift from the Benefice and from others who gave individually to me as well. Some of you may know, for years I have yearned for one of those reclining type chairs with a footstool, envisaging it as the place of inspiration of sermons, liturgies and mad cap ideas etc but never could justify the expense in my head, now thanks to your

generosity I can now buy it as a gift from you and every time I sit in it, I will know I am surrounded by your love and prayer and supported by it, as I have always been, through the good times, my various celebrations of age and ministry, and the bad times especially losing George and my mum, very early on in my ministry here, and will be wherever I go and whatever I do, as mine will be for you. I will send a picture of the chair, when it is purchased so you can see for yourselves, me enjoying your generous gift.

As well as the Benefice gift, I thank the churches for their individual send offs – the kind words, not to mention flowers, chocolate and cake, on Easter Day, made the day special and memorable, and the ‘leaving do’ was just right, and will stay in my heart and mind for a long time, thank you. And I mustn’t forget Sofa Club, Linda and Betty, the schools, David Davies and a good number of individuals who have given me very personal, often pertinent but overwhelmingly generous gifts. For each and for all I am touched, warmed and consider myself loved and fortunate indeed. Thank you all and every blessing.



Kathy

MORTON CHURCH 150 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the April draw of the Morton Church 150 Club.

FIRST PRIZE. MR AND MRS BARTON WITH NO 15

SECOND PRIZE. MR TYLER MANSAL WITH NO 145

THIRD PRIZE. MRS SANDRA JOHNSON WITH NO 105

There are still some vacancies if you would like to take a number and become a member of the 150 Club at Morton

Christian Aid Week 12–18 May 2024

Will you help someone push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week?



Everyone is equal in the sight of God

For over 75 years, this truth has inspired us to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive.

We seek to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Together with people living in poverty, we amplify our voices to speak truth to power and create lasting change.

- Our work in **Africa** includes strengthening peace-building in South Sudan, promoting resilient farming in Kenya and challenging inequality in Sierra Leone. We are also working with women to
- increase their access to green and sustainable energy in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Malawi.
- In **Asia**, our programmes include promoting women's rights in Afghanistan, justice and peacebuilding in Myanmar and ensuring people can access the services they need in Bangladesh.
- In **Latin America** and the **Caribbean**, we help promote gender justice in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Guatemala, peace-building in Colombia, and support marginalised communities to adapt their livelihoods to climate change in Honduras, Nicaragua and Haiti.
- Our work in the **Middle East** includes defending people's rights in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, protecting women at risk of violence in Iraq and providing humanitarian assistance to refugees in Lebanon.

How does Christian Aid ensure that funds spent overseas aren't wasted as a result of corruption?

Our money goes directly to our local partners – the people working on the ground – and not to governments. That way, corrupt governments can't misuse our funds.

To ensure our partners aren't corrupt and that our money is spent effectively, we have a detailed process for evaluating partners and projects that is as robust as any system implemented by financial institutions around the world. Whenever we are alerted to a misuse of funds – which is extremely rare – we investigate immediately. If the root causes of the partner's corruption are not addressed, we stop funding it.

How is each £1 of Christian Aid's income used?

Eighty-five pence in every £1 is used for direct charitable purposes.

Of this, **32p** supports our long-term development projects, **45p** is spent on humanitarian and emergencies and **8p** on campaigning, advocacy and education.

The remaining **15p** is invested in fundraising. For every **£1** we invest, we secure more than **£6** in return.

Please support this Christian Aid week: Your Envelope can be given to your distributor or posted in the box church porch

QUIZ for May

Questions for May Quiz USA State Capitals

1. Austin
2. Sacramento
3. Honolulu
4. Tallahassee
5. Juneau
6. Harrisburg
7. Raleigh
8. Saint Paul
9. Helena
10. Augusta.

Answers April Quiz

1. Manchester United
2. Ipswich Town
3. Kidderminster Harriers
4. Raith Rovers
5. Crew Alexander
6. Hamilton Academical
7. Tottenham Hotspur
8. Partic Thistle
9. Kilmarnock
10. Glasgow Rangers
- 11.

NEWS FROM PANT MEMORIAL HALL MAY 2024

We held our 102nd Annual General meeting on Thursday 11th April, moved from March to give lighter evenings. Sadly, we didn't get any public attendance, but we are very happy to welcome a new trustee to the committee. All previous trustees have agreed to continue (and been re-elected) but we currently have a vacancy for committee chair. This person will also need to be a trustee – we have a mechanism to elect trustees between AGMs. If you are interested in the role, please email secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk or phone 07913 565708.

We're also about to meet up with the parish council to finalise details for a new bus shelter outside the hall, which the council are funding. This will mean that there is a marked and sheltered stopping point for buses in the centre of the village, something that is long overdue and will hopefully encourage bus use. And put the hall as a named place on the bus maps!

We are pleased to be able to confirm that the hall hire fees will stay at £12.50 per hour at least until April 2025. The increase in running costs has been offset by the income from the solar panels, as well as the reduction in energy use due to being able to generate some of our own. The more bookings we have, the more chance of keeping the hire cost stable - so for a local, affordable, modern and spacious venue, please use the hall for your family events, classes, meetings, rehearsals and so on. All the booking information is on our website including our up-to-date availability calendar. You get the whole hall for your booking.

The hall will again be a polling station on May 2nd, this time for the police and crime commissioner election. As always, please ensure that the car park is used only by hall attendees or by those making SHORT stops at the shop. Thank you.

The committee continue to be busy managing bookings, sorting out maintenance and making future plans for the building. We always have a big 'to do' list and welcome help with odd jobs – for example, you don't have to be a trustee to help us repaint the car park lines which is on this summer's list!

As always, we welcome new bookings, enquiries and feedback of all sorts. As well as our next committee chair!

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.

Time to Garden?

An Item from Douglas Wood. A keen gardener himself, he also gives many hours to the National Garden scheme. We are so very lucky to have him at Morton, as he maintains the Memory Garden for us all to enjoy. The garden is at the Church, in the area near the Vestry door. A place for us all to enjoy, sit a while, a place just drop out of the hustle and bustle of the day. For this we thank him.

Monday morning Hoe
Tuesday morning Mow
Wednesday comes, it's often raining
Thursday spend a day complaining
Friday's highlight, great adventure, off to a garden centre
Just to look, not to buy, prices there are just so high
Weekend compost and organic feeds
One thing that's been growing are the weeds
So it's
Monday morning Hoe

Anon

Let's hope that by the time you are reading this we will be having some fine weather. It seems ages ago that we had a decent spell of dry weather, when you could have time in the garden without having to dash out and do a few jobs making the most of it before it rained again. I know, the next thing we will be saying is it is too dry and we need the rain.

With the wet weather we have been experiencing, those of us who garden on heavy soils are waiting for the ground to dry out enough so as to be able to

work and feed it. By April/May my compost bin would normally be empty having spread its wonderful contents mainly on the vegetable patch, around fruit bushes and trees and the roses, but as I write this, I have barely touched it. I know with all this wet weather; nutrients will have been leached out of the soil and they will need replacing if plants are going to grow successfully. We should give a thought to the farmers who already are facing many challenges to produce crops and food to feed us, added to which we have had a very wet Spring so far and the impact that that must be having on them. May is one of those busy times in the garden, when everything is looking fresh and lush. If you grow your own plants then by now you will have tender plants hardening off, probably running out of space until ready to plant in their final positions, and hoping there isn't a late frost. If like the above rhyme, you think garden prices are too high, then on Saturday 18th May the Trefonen garden club will be holding their annual plant sale, where prices are always reasonable and the most desirable plants always sell out fast. If you would like more information speak to Douglas.



Pant Memorial Hall

SUNDAY MEET AND EAT.

Sunday 2nd June 10 00 -12 noon.



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



Short act of worship and Reflection.

For more information contact Lizzie Lawrence on 07713083002

THE NEXT MEET AND EAT IS ON 7th JULY