

# S. PHILIP & S. JAMES CHURCH

## MORTON



## PARISH MAGAZINE

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



*With the Summer Holidays in mind*

**July & August 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  
During the Vacancy Holy Communion will be dependant om the availability  
of a Priest  
July 21<sup>st</sup> & August 18<sup>th</sup>  
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](mailto: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 07973550568**

**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**

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

**E J Lawrence**

**Julie Craig**

***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***

Hello,

Many of you will not know me. I moved into the area last year so this is my first spring here. I have been walking the lanes with my dog and have been thrilled to see so much biodiversity in the verges and hedgerows. First the snow drops, then primroses, orchids and cow slips in the fields so my past studies in botany have been recalled. The hedges include Wych Elm and Field Maple, both not very common and then there are the majestic oaks.

This made me think of the words of Jesus from Matthew Chapter 6 about how God looks after plants and animals, and encourages us not to worry.

“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

There are many uncertainties in life. Currently there are economic difficulties, political uncertainty in the UK and elsewhere, conflict in many places and an ailing environment. Most of this we cannot influence or change. It recalls to me difficult times in the 1970's. So why worry.

God wants us to look to Him for our security and comfort, to feel His love for us and trust Him to meet our needs. I pray that you all can all relax and enjoy the summer, trusting our loving Father to watch over us.

Wishing you God's blessings,  
Rebecca Colpus

## Donations in lieu of Flowers

Donations given in memory of the late Mary Williams amounted to £909.00. This was divided Morton Church £409.00 and the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund £500.00.

The Lay Chair, Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank the family for this gift.

<u>July</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Old</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>New</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>
7 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>Meet and Eat</b> <b>Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon</b>			
14 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	2 Samuel 6: 1- 5, 12b Martyn Woodley- Jones	Ephesians 1: 3- 14 Martyn Woodley- Jones		Jeffery Kendrick
21 <sup>st</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	2 Samuel 7: 1- 14a Bryan Lawrence	Ephesians 2: 11-end Bryan Lawrence	Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end	Bryan Lawrence
28 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	2 Samuel 11: 15 Julie Craig	Ephesians 3: 14-end Julie Craig		Julie Craig

**Cleaning for July Elizabeth Lawrence**

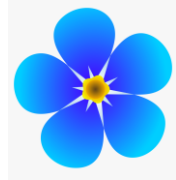
**Flowers 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Pam Craig. 28<sup>th</sup> Roy Mansell**

<u>August</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Old</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>New</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>
4 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>Meet and Eat</b> <b>Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon</b>			
11 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33  Rachel Morris	Ephesians 4: 25 – chapter 5: 2  Rachel Morris	John 6: 35, 41- 51	Dave Hinton
18 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 2: 10- 12, 3: 3-14  Gareth Johnson	Ephesians 5: 15-20  Gareth Johnson	John 6: 51-58	Gareth Johnson
25 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 8: 22- 30, 41-43  Roy Mansell	Ephesians 6: 10-20  Roy Mansell	John 6: 56-69	Roy Mansell
1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>Meet and Eat</b> <b>Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon</b>			

**Cleaning for Pam Craig and Roy Mansell**

## SOFA Club – July and Aug

Slight delay in me writing this month, late flight home and a couple of days to adjust. I expect many of you are looking forward to the summer holidays, long hot sunny days, the excitement and preparation of having guest to stay, or you making a trip to stay with family or friends.



There are times in our lives when we all need to take a break from routine, change of scenery, change of activities or just need a well-earned rest. If you are living with dementia or caring for someone, this can be very difficult and scary. As the organisation for any activity can be full of pitfalls, being unfamiliar, out of routine, sometimes the lack of cooperation from the one we love, it just being all too difficult, the carer and the cared for become more and more isolated and don't get that break or a bit of **ME** time. SOFA Club tries to



remain the same, we meet in the same place, roughly the same time, a small group, therefore not intimidating, understanding and above all caring. Just a couple of hours being with people, most of whom have lived with or cared for a loved one who has been on the dementia journey. This doesn't make them experts, but they do know and understand what it's like. If you would like to or feel we could help you in any way please come along or contact Lizzie (Churchwarden Morton) 07713083002.

Meetings in July and August at 2.30 -4.pm, Llanymynech Church Hall.

11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> August

## Morton Prayer Porch

It has always been something we have wanted to do, have our church open in the day time. Allowing people just have a little time and space to be with God or just to take a break from the daily pace of life. Our insurance company don't like that idea at all, with the church being isolated from view. Sadly, we have seen recently items being stolen from a church in broad daylight. (now thankfully recovered). We have done the next best thing, this and created such a space in the porch which is open 24/7. It has been in use for around a year we have been surprised how often we have message left for us. You can sit for a moment. There are a number of prayer leaflets and other reading material, you can read there or take home with you. There is also a small notebook, if you know someone in need whom you would like us to pray for, please just jot down a prayer or the name, we will ensure they are prayed for the following Sunday. It is for you, so don't be afraid to use it.



## Bryn Offa Church of England Primary School

The summer holidays are in sight as we enter the month of July. I must admit to it being the best time to work in a primary school as lots of exciting things happen.

This year, BOPTA (Bryn Offa Parents and Teachers Association) have very kindly offered to heavily subsidise two school trips for our pupils to end their year on a high. Our younger pupils are visiting Bewilderwood. I visited there before half term to complete a risk assessment I am sure that they will all have a fantastic time. The older pupils will have a day at the beach which, (weather

permitting) will be a day to remember. The intention is to open up BOPTA to include members of the wider community in the next academic year. If you would like to get involved with some fundraising for the pupils of Bryn Offa, please do get in touch.

Throughout July, our Year 5 pupils will complete their John Muir Award by working with the Llanymynech Golf Course greenkeeping staff to remove the invasive species - Himalayan Balsam. This will be preceded by a short presentation by Dr Simon Spencer (a local entomologist) to explain how this vital conservation work will have a positive impact on the butterfly habitat within the local area.

Currently, our Year 6 pupils are finalising the details for their leavers trip. In order to raise funds for their 'end of Bryn Offa treat,' they run stalls where they sell various crafts and run competitions for the rest of the school for a small fee. This money is then used to purchase and perform an end of year play (Shakespeare Rocks is this year's choice) in addition to funding their trip. In order to secure set up costs for their small enterprise, they must pitch their idea in the Dragon's den which all of Year 6 children (and members of staff) thoroughly enjoy.

From a personal perspective, this will be my final time writing in the Parish magazine as I will be moving onto pastures new in September. My ambition at the start of the academic year was to become a Headteacher and recently, I have secured the opportunity to lead Belvidere Primary School in Shrewsbury from September 2024.

It has been a real honour working over the last eight years at Bryn Offa and serving a community that means a great deal to me. I must admit that at times it doesn't feel like a job at all, such is the level of enjoyment I have working with the children who live in the surrounding villages. I would like to wish Mrs Keleher every success here and hope that she enjoys her time at Bryn Offa as much as I have.

I look forward to supporting this fantastic school and watching it grow both as a prospective parent and as a member of our lovely community.

Don't be sad that it's over; smile because it happened.

I hope that you all have a glorious summer.

Mr Gareth Jones

Acting Headteacher

Bryn Offa C of E Primary School



## Morty's Squeakbook page – Morty and Ted's Big Adventure Down Under



Ted wasn't sure what day it was, let alone what day when the plane touched down in Sydney airport, it had been a long flight but thankfully it had gone without a hitch! Morty was up and keen to be off, he couldn't wait to see Sydney at night! After disembarking there was immigration to get through and by all accounts Australia was keen on its biosecurity so Ted wasn't sure how they both might fare and had been getting more and more nervous the closer they got to landing, but he needn't have worried, all was fine, 'Now all we need is for our cases to be there at the baggage reclaim...' another of his worries, especially as they were already travelling light to bring all of Revd Kathy's stuff!

Bundling themselves and cases in the taxi, they were whisked off in the rain through the streets to the Airport Travelodge, where they were staying for the night. 'I didn't think it would be raining' moaned Morty, 'we left rain at home, I thought it would be different here' 'Ssh! It is Autumn in Australia now, Morty, they do have some rain usually at this time of year!' 'Oh, I didn't know that, Maybe it will be sunny tomorrow'. And with that, he seemed satisfied. A comfortable night's sleep followed and a hearty breakfast was enjoyed by all, before friend and now Bishop, Sonia arrived to whisk them away to Kurri where they were greeted by some new friends at the Rectory



Several cups of tea later, they went off to meet Cousin Kevin, his wife Kelly who immediately wrapped them both in a humongous bear hug. 'Welcome to Australia, it's bonza you've finally made it, hopefully this will be the first of many trips, and our house is your house make yourself at home! 'It's great to finally meet you too, and put a face to a name' said Ted and for once Morty was silent, he was so overawed. After several hours of family

catch up, they all went to bed, but poor old Morty and Ted were really struggling with the different time zones and found it hard to wake up in the morning, having been awake half the night! Kevin greeted them both with a cheery 'Good Morning sleepy heads, we let you sleep in this morning as we thought you might be struggling' 'What time is it then?' asked Morty trying hard to stifle a yawn, thinking about 8.30am.

'Around 9.45am, that's all, some friends of ours called around to meet you but they are coming back in an hour or so' 'Quarter to ten, I can't believe it' said Ted, I never sleep this late, what time do you normally get up?' 'Pretty late really, round 6am, a lot of people are up and on the go by 5.30am' '5.30am!' thought Morty, 'That's the middle of the night'



He and Ted were to learn, that wasn't the only thing that was different, there would be many more things, starting on the first Sunday when because Revd Kathy wasn't yet commissioned, they went to a neighbouring church for the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation at 8.30am. 'They wouldn't wear 8.30am in the morning as their main service on a Sunday let alone it being Confirmation, there will be no one there' thought Morty but he was wrong, people came to service just like they would in the UK at 11am on a Sunday, he couldn't quite believe it!

'This is just the job' said Ted, enjoying the High Mass and all the bells, 'It's just like being at home in County Sligo in the good ole Emerald Isle' Morty though, could hardly concentrate, his nose was twitching, he could smell food and no mistake. Sure enough, after the service, at 9.30am in the morning all were invited to stay for Morning Tea. 'Morning Tea' whispered Morty to Ted, 'but there's sandwiches and a special cake!' They were all soon to discover that Morning Tea Australian style was like having another meal part way through the morning. Morty was enthusiastic about this idea 'I think we should do this when we get home' said Morty 'what do you think?' 'You are always thinking about your stomach my friend, I'm not sure it would catch on' replied Ted

The next day, brought another trip and a new adventure – Revd Kathy leasing a car from the Diocese to get around while she decided and set about getting

one of her own but it was to be rather more of an adventure than they first thought. Mick from the Diocese took them to what seemed like a huge car to Morty, far too big for Revd Kathy, but this seemingly was the car, white of course, the most popular colour car in Australia, but neither Ted nor Morty ever got to the reason why that was so. After a few instructions about what to do in case of a breakdown or accident, Revd Kathy & Lizzie, Morty & Ted were left with the big car, an automatic never driven before, in a place hardly known to negotiate and navigate. Morty and Ted were more than a little nervous as Revd Kathy set off under Lizzie's instruction to navigate Newcastle roads and get the hang of the cars controls. On one particular unexpected emergency stop incident, when Revd Kathy went to change gears and inadvertently put her foot on the brake, Morty and Ted found themselves thrust hard against the seat in front of them. Rubbing their bruised cheeks, Ted made reassuring words, 'You're doing great, just a little blip is all, keep going...' Morty and Ted had never been so relieved to see the Rectory! A few driving lessons the next day, were much less problematic, Revd Kathy seemed to be getting the hang of it – thankfully they thought.

Over the next few days, various shopping expeditions were held, a washing machine was fairly urgent as Morty and Ted's clothes like Lizzie's were in short supply owing to Revd Kathy's need for extra baggage, so it was put through its paces, but Soda Streams, Air fryers and of course the Benefice chair all had to be purchased, installed and tried. Morty and Ted fully approved of the chair



there was enough room for everyone to sit, read, even have a snooze, yes, they were very reluctant to relinquish it for anyone but relinquish it they must if they were to get to Revd Kathy's Commissioning service

Joined on line by friends and family, it was a moving service with parishioners from Christ Church Mount Vincent, St Paul's Kurri Kurri and St Mary's Weston,

clergy colleagues from the area and both Assistant Bishop Sonia and the Diocesan Bishop Peter, joining Morty and Ted, Lizzie and another friend Janet from Queensland for the service. 'The best bit for me,' mused Morty to Ted later, 'was the food', 'it would be!' said Ted, 'for me, it was the hymns, you can't beat a good sing'

Revd Kathy was now at work and Morty and Ted found themselves going along to her services both on Saturday afternoon and on the Sunday, one notable occasion was the celebration of the Anniversary of Baptisms, when some children and their families came along, were welcomed, given a special gift and told about their baptism. Revd Kathy was in full swing Ted thought when suddenly he heard his name mentioned 'oh' he



whispered to Morty, 'we're on, Revd Kathy is introducing us to everyone' and with that, there were lots of hellos and welcome as they made introductions and who they were and what they were doing there. Kody was also there and her friend Christy too, who lived in Christ Church and they were very excited, 'We could do what you do, at baptisms' they said. 'What a great idea,' Revd Kathy said, 'as you have special names – Christy means of Christ and Kody is a helper or aide,' and duly commissioned them for the role. Ted was very proud, 'to think on the other side of the world, my family will be helping show and share Jesus with everyone, just as Morty and I do'. Morning Tea after that was a must, but this time, Morty's nose went into overdrive, pizza, sandwiches, cakes and biscuits to decorate, he was as happy as a pig in muck! 'Let me help' he said to one little girl and then stood back and admired their handiwork.

For the remainder of their trip to Oz, they went here there and everywhere, a trip to the Hunter Valley wine region, scenery breath-taking! And for Ted a meeting place of three native tribes, was both moving and spiritual! Morty though was desperate to see up close and personal the sheepskin boots that Australia are famous for - UGG boots. Ted thought it was a bit like taking coals to Newcastle but he agreed. Ted laughed and laughed and thought to himself, 'Morty you always were too big for your boots!' as Morty tried on a pair but one size most definitely did not fit all, but they were lovely just the same, and at least Lizzie came away with a new hat! New friends took them here there and everywhere, including new friend Dorothy who took us up Sugarloaf Mountain, not far from Kurri, where the rugged countryside, and rough terrain were explored, perhaps a little bit more fully than would have been liked but the picnic of afternoon tea and homemade biscuits were a treat, especially accompanied by the laughing Kookaburra's in the tree.



An unexpected few more days stay followed with Lizzie celebrating her birthday with new friends – a cake and gifts at the Op Shop in Weston, which

was thoroughly approved of by Morty, plus a sumptuous meal out in the wine region, all were truly spoiled not just Lizzie and a Chinese takeaway to boot, a fine way to bring the adventure to a close. But only for now



Friends made are not forgotten and lots of promises to stay in touch and come back again soon was the final chapter before boarding the train, even though the original station was missed through happy and excited chattering, and then boarding the plane for the long journey home. ‘It certainly was an adventure’ said Morty to Ted, ‘Yes. It was.’ replied Ted, ‘but in reality, the adventure has barely begun,

we have new friends, and new places to explore, it was great to meet Cousin Kevin and his family but in truth we are all part of a much bigger and wider family, the worldwide family, God’s family and whether in Oswestry or Kurri, we are all part of that, God has linked us all up now for some reason and I can’t wait to find out what that is.’ ‘Neither can I.’ mused Morty, here’s to Morty and Ted’s next adventure whatever it may be.’ ‘Amen to that’ concluded Ted and they promptly fell into an exhausted sleep dreaming of distant lands and people.

*Squeaks for now.*

### **Progress with appointing a new Rector**

On the 16 May 2024 there was a meeting of the members of the Parochial Church Councils, the bodies which oversee the running of each church, with the Rural Dean. She leads the many parishes in the Oswestry area. She explained how decisions about appointing a new Rector would be made and what the process would be. This is not a decision but it is hoped that the Benefice of four parishes will continue. No re-organisation is anticipated. The full summary of the meeting, issued to church members, can be found on the Border Benefice website: [www.borderparishes.org.uk](http://www.borderparishes.org.uk)

K Kimber, Convener of the PCC Chairs’ Group

## **Stop Press-** The Appointment of a new Rector

It has been confirmed that the Diocesan Bishops have decided that a full-time Rector should be appointed to the four parishes of the Border Benefice. This will be a fairly lengthy process. The next step will be a meeting of the four Parochial Church Councils with the Acting Archdeacon. This meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Kathy' Chair**



The Chair has been purchased and has been delivered to the Rectory in Kurri. I know how grateful and touched Kathy was by the generosity of the parishes. She has been dreaming of having such a chair for some time, somehow it was always just out of reach and something else took precedence. The intention is to have it in her private study at the Rectory in Kurri. Who knows what inspiration it may give her. We will just have to wait, and see?

## **MORTON CHURCH 150 CLUB**

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

<b>First Prize.</b>	Mr B Thomas
<b>Second Prize.</b>	Mary Jones
<b>Third Prize.</b>	Mr L Griffiths

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

Meetings of PANT WI at Pant Memorial Hall at 7.15 pm

### Next Meeting

August – Outing and a Meal, please speak to committee member.

September 5<sup>th</sup> Morda Belly Dancers.

**Competition:** Doll size belly dancer outfit.

**Refreshments:** Tina, Chris, Margaret E

**Vote of thanks:** Sandra T.

## Morton Quiz

### July Questions

1. What did Achille Gaggia invent?
2. What did Johannes Gutenberg invent?
3. Who invented the telephone?
4. Who invented the light bulb?
5. Who invented the Polaroid Camera?
6. Gun Powder was invented by in AD 142?
7. Who invented Barbie?
8. Who invented the first modern flushable toilet?
9. Who invented the Hovercraft?
10. What did Benjamin Franklin invent?
- 11.

### Quiz Answers June Magazine

1. Deer
2. Kangaroo, Koala, Wombat
3. Goat
4. Goose
5. Horse
6. Fox, Ferret, Rabbit
7. Eagle

8. Swan
9. Cockroach, Grasshopper
10. Pigeon

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

Spotted anything new? We think most passersby have noticed that Pant now has another bus shelter, outside the hall. This was funded by the parish council, with all planning, organisation and management done by volunteers – a huge thank you to all involved. Shropshire Council have been asked to provide a timetable to be placed in the shelter.

We've also ticked off a few longstanding items inside the hall. The water butt mentioned last month has now been installed by Boyd from AV Installs, who also generously donated it. The single noticeboard has been refurbished – the expensive parts were purchased with a donation from The Rural Charity and the trickier-than-expected work was done by one of the hall trustees. The fire alarm panel has now been replaced (funded by various grants) and we also have our new bar optics and glass/bottle rack to go with the bar fridge. The hall will be a polling station again for the general election on July 4<sup>th</sup>; as always, a reminder that the car park is for voters and election staff only on polling day. Please note that the hall is 'no dogs' except for assistance animals. We have plenty of availability on the calendar, so please look to using the hall for your family events, meetings, classes, sewing sessions, band rehearsals, dance practice or whatever fits in! Have a look at our website to find out more about our facilities – our little hall has a huge number of things to offer, all for a bargain £12.50 an hour.

Don't forget that we need a new committee chair – more details on our website. All the above things only happen if we have enough trustees, please don't leave it all to others. Please get in touch to find out more, all the contact details are below.

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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.

## **RIDE+STRIDE** – 14 Sept 2024

**Ride+Stride is an opportunity for YOU to raise money for your Church.**

Anyone can join in - collect **sponsors**, then plan your own route - walk, bike, **or car** - visit some churches - enjoy the day.

The **sponsorship money is split 50/50 between your local Church** and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT), which uses it to award grants for repairs and improvements to our Churches and Chapels.

So 100% goes to our Churches. This is definitely a '**Good Thing**'.

'Ride+Stride' is a National event by the National Churches Trust and we, at SHCT, are pleased to support it. The basic idea is twofold:

- (1) Churches try to be open for visitors on Saturday 14 Sept from about 10 to 6, ideally with light refreshments (biscuits, squash; cake maybe).
- (2) Anyone can visit as few or as many churches as you wish.

Go anywhere ... on foot, by bike, **or by car**, using our Sponsorship Form to collect sponsorship for your church and for the Trust.

R+S is **NOT** an event where church visits are centrally organised. The Trust does **not** have a 'central team' that plans any walking, cycling, or car rides.

NO ... It's **something that Churches do for themselves**.

September may seem like a long way away, but time flies. You can get a **Sponsorship Form** from our website [www.shropshirehct.org.uk](http://www.shropshirehct.org.uk)

Or contact me and I will get one to you. You can still go and visit other churches, even if your own church is closed (builders, lack of staff, etc).

The next 'R+S Day' is Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. **But** if you can't manage that date **then you can go out on any other day** – which is what a lot of people do.

It is important to maintain or increase the visiting aspect otherwise the event will cease. **The county raised £37,082 last year**, so we, the Trust, are encouraging it to continue - even in parts of the county where it has fallen 'off the radar' and, at present, there are few visitors to the open churches.

This event has much more potential ... For example, Dorset raised £98,000. This is 260% more than us, and it has a similar population to Shropshire. Well, actually 30% more, but raising so much for their churches is amazing.

Thank you to everyone who helped in previous years. We (you) raised a record amount last year. Congratulations. We are progressing well.

I hope you can participate this year. **Help preserve our Churches in good repair; and help to keep them open for the future.**

David Hardham (Trustee – and County Organiser for Ride+Stride)

[dhardham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dhardham@yahoo.co.uk) 01588 650362.

Full details on SHCT website: [www.shropshirehct.org.uk](http://www.shropshirehct.org.uk)

## Here Be Dragons!



Churchyards and cemeteries may seem strange places to look for animals which live in streams and ponds but actually they can be very good. Frogs, toads and newts all spend much of their lives out of the water and whilst dragonflies are aquatic during their larval stage it is the adult, flying insect that we see throughout the spring and summer. Whilst dragonflies will be returning to water to lay eggs, they can be seen cruising quite far away. Dragonfly larvae may live for several years within water but for only a few weeks as a flying adult. It's not clear why they are called dragonflies, but other old names include Devil's Riding Horse and Devil's Darning Needle! They are an ancient type of insect with giant dragonflies found in the fossil record, dating from the Carboniferous era. Some fossilized dragonfly species would have had a wingspan of about 70cm. Adult dragonflies eat smaller insects such as midges and mosquitoes. They can fly fast – reaching 25 to 30 mph with a loud buzzing sound and have excellent eyesight, using their compound eyes to find and catch prey as well as spot potential mates. You may see them basking on a churchyard wall or monument in order to warm up, wait for good weather or finish digesting. Flying takes a lot of energy so they spend much of their time sitting still. If you are both patient and lucky, you may also see predators of dragonflies or the smaller damselflies such as flycatchers and frogs.

One reason that burial grounds are good for dragonflies is that they can be havens for their food – small flying insects. Those managing churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries rarely if ever use pesticides and there are often areas where these insects can breed, such as long tussocky grass, deadwood and woodland soils with old leaves, bark and hummus.

Why not spend some time checking on monuments and see if you can spot any dragonflies. Take a photo of any you see to upload onto the naturalist app which will both help you identify them and also make a record so others can see what you've found.



**Pant Memorial Hall**

**SUNDAY MEET AND EAT.**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**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**