



PARISH MAGAZINE

Committed to Growth, Rooted in Jesus; Fruitful in Mission and Service.



December 23/January 25 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
December 8th January TBC
All other Services will be Morning Prayer**

**Enquiries for
Holy Baptisms, Holy Matrimony, Banns of Marriage
Helen Parish Benefice Administrator
e:mail bordergroupadmin@hotmail.co.uk
Funerals, Pastoral or Confidential Matters
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***

My dear friends,

Christmas glitz and glitter in the shops, Christmas carols wherever we go, preparing to wrap up against the cold when we go out.....

At the beginning of December last year I was in Australia. The shops were filled with glitz and glitter there too, with carols playing in the shopping arcades, with fake snow in the displays! However the sun was shining, the air was warm and we were wearing summer clothes. It felt very strange. When I went to church there were familiar hymns and readings and the service was taken by a Chinese gentleman who was lovely. A bit of home at the other side of the world!

All this reminded me that what we are celebrating is the birth of the Saviour of the whole World. Jesus came to save all people of every race, colour of skin, language and custom, not just us here in Shropshire. However, each person is special to God and He loves us and cares about our lives. He wants the very best for us. He knows the needs of each of the friends I made in Australia, the people in war torn Ukraine, the Middle East and the subjugated women and girls in Afghanistan as well as each one of us reading this magazine. He cares and weeps over the hostility shown by some to others. God cares, which is why he sent His Son to live among ordinary people, in an ordinary home, with not so ordinary parents, to teach us about His love for us. 'such love, pure as the whitest snow'.

The least we can do is to acknowledge that love and that sacrifice and tell others who may not know. Love is what Christmas is all about, let us spread God's love to all we meet this Christmas, and into the New Year.

As we gather round the wooden cradle and the joyous birth, let us not forget the wooden table and the memorial enacted there, and the wooden cross with the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf, and give thanks.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man I would play my part,

Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

Betty Steele

Retired Lay Reader



FLOWERS AND CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The Church will be open on Thursday 12th, Friday 13th from 0900-5.00pm and Saturday 14th am December.

Greenery only please. (Flowers may be added on Christmas Eve)

Please remove **All** decorations from the Church by 6th January.

The Church will be open on Friday 4th January 9am till 5pm. Please tidy the area around your window etc. Thank you

All services at 11 am unless otherwise stated

<u>December</u>	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>
<u>2024</u>	<u>Testament</u>	<u>Testament</u>		
1 st Advent Sunday	Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon Advent/Toy Service			
8 th 2 nd Sunday of Advent	Malachi 3: 1-4 Roy Mansell	Phil 1: 3-11 Roy Mansell	Luke 3:1-6	Roy Mansell
15 th	Carols and Cake 3pm			
22 nd 4 th Sunday of Advent	Micah 5: 2-5 Gareth Johnson		Luke 1: 39- 45 Gareth Johnson	Gareth Johnson
24 th Christmas Eve	Carols, Readings and First Communion of Christmas 7 PM			
31st 1 st Sunday after Christmas	Benefice Service At Morton 1030			

All services at 11 am unless otherwise stated

<u>January</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Old</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>New</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>
5 th The Epiphany	Forest Church 2.30 pm Full details Please speak to Lizzie			
12 th Jan 2025 Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 43:1-7 Berni Dolan	Acts 8:14-17 Berni Dolan	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Dave Hinton
19 th Jan 2025 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5 Trevor White	1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Trevor White	John 2:1-11	Jeffery Kendrick
26 th Jan 2025 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 Julie Craig	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Julie Craig	Luke 4:14-21	Julie Craig
2 nd Feb 2025 Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)	Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon			

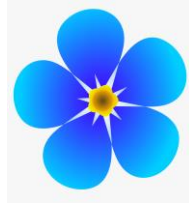
Christmas Clean



Could you spare a couple of hours on Saturday 9th December from 10 am to help give the church a clean in preparation for Christmas.

Seasonal refreshment

SOFA Club -December24, January 25



This month I am pleased to report that I have received the Dementia Church Certificates, signed by the bishop. I hope to pass them on for display in the churches in the next couple of weeks. Please take the time to read them and see what your PCC have signed up to for the coming year which has to be completed by June, when a report on the progress will be forwarded to the Diocesan Dementia Enabler.

With Christmas fast approaching, our craft stall will be popping up in all the Parishes. Please support the efforts of the SOFA Club volunteers, raising money for the Alzheimer's Society.

Our group met in early November; we had a discussion regarding our meetings for the winter months (Dec, Jan, Feb and Mar). Whilst we are very grateful to St Agatha's PCC and congregation allowing us to use the church hall, it is really too big and as such takes a time to heat, we have agreement for the heating between 2 and 4pm but in truth, by the time the room has warmed up enough to be comfortable, we are leaving.

The group agreed we should try to find a smaller venue in the benefice for the winter months. There have been some very sensible possible ideas, but as yet to be pursued. Please could I ask you to have a think. The room should have good access, with disabled facilities, and somewhere to make warm drinks. Above all, able to be warm in around 30 mins. If you have any thoughts please share them with Lizzie.

In February we will return to our journey with someone living with dementia. In the meantime, have a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

If you have anything you may wish to share to help others who are on this journey or would like to know more, please contact Lizzie (Churchwarden Morton) 07713083002

Our meetings December 19th Christmas treats and date to be confirmed for January (The Wisemen follow the Star) at 2.30 -4.pm, If you wish to attend, please contact Lizzie. Lifts can be arranged.



Stop Press - Pant Memorial Hall for our December Meeting.

How far is to Bethlehem?

On Advent Sunday, 1st December our travelling nativity will start its journey having been blessed in church as they go on their way, and Mary, Joseph and Jesus plus shepherds and wise men will stop at houses, schools, work and more each day, and move on to somewhere else until finally they make it back to church for the services on Christmas Eve. The nativity will contain a nativity, the Christmas Story and a candle to be lit each day, representing the light and love of Christ coming into that place just as surely as the Christ child. It isn't too late to have the nativity to visit you if you haven't signed up already and contact Lizzie Lawrence on 07713 083002



CHRISTMAS 2024



24 December

3pm – Carols Around the Tree ‘A joyful Christmas’ an All Age, interactive service for all the family. t St Agath’s, Llanymynech.

7pm – Carols & Communion. Morton Church followed by seasonal refreshments.

11 15 pm – Midnight Holy Communion. Llanyblodwel.



25 December

9 am – Christmas Morning. Family Service. Llanymynech.

10.30 am – Christmas Family Service. Trefonen.



Carols and Cake.

Do you like to sing carols at Christmas?



On 15 December at 3pm in Morton church we will be singing carols with a difference – think Christmas Tree Festival meets Carol Service and you aren't far off! Each window and even tree will be decorated to depict a favourite Christmas Carol from Once in Royal to Joy to the World, to Silent Night and everything in between. These windows will provide the carols we will sing that afternoon and to give us stamina to keep singing, we will sustain ourselves with Christmas cake, maybe a yule log or two and maybe just maybe, a piece of stolen, of course the obligatory cuppa! Why not come along, have a good look at the handiwork of our dedicated decorators, find out about the history of each of the carols, have a good sing and have the perfect excuse to start enjoying Christmas goodies early! What's not to like or be involved in? Come along you won't be disappointed.



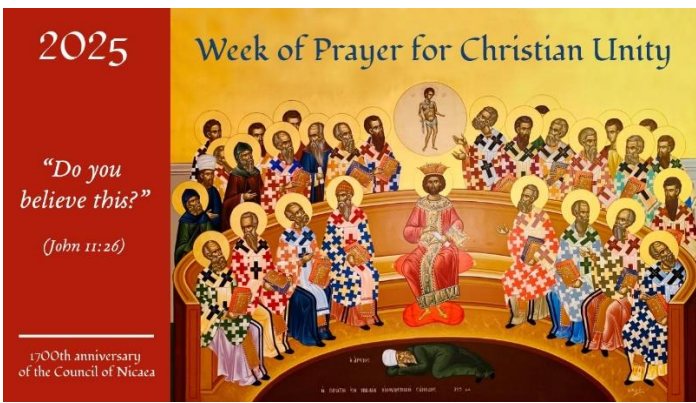


Once more our Forest Church will view Epiphany with a difference as they join the wisemen with their treasures in the hills above Oswestry, just a short way from Bethlehem (well in the imagination anyway!)

On Sunday January 5th at 3 pm, we will join them on the journey, on tracks, open countryside, through woodland, up the Mountain, as they seek out the new born babe in a stable. Navigating the journey by using nature as a compass and interactive activities, we retell the story together and explore what that good news means for us! Ending with warm cuppa of chocolate and yummy Christmas treats, something for all ages to enjoy. Warm clothing and suitable foot wear a must for the journey of approx. 1km. For the less active a warm place to wait for the travellers to return. For more information contact Lizzie. **07713 083002. SY10 9EX .**

What 3 Words -Clinking.treaty.maching





The *Week of Prayer* traditionally takes place from 18 to 25 January,

The theme of the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025* is based on a text from the Gospel of John: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). The prayers and reflections have been prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy.

The year 2025 will mark the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians as expressed in the Creed formulated at that Council. The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025* is an invitation to draw on this common heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

Lord, we pray that You would knit our hearts together with Your love, transcending any differences that might divide us. Help us to see one another through Your eyes, with compassion and understanding. Teach us to listen to each other's perspectives and to work together in harmony, despite our differences. May our love for one another be a powerful testimony to Your grace and a witness to the world of the transformative power of Your love.

Amen

Appointing a new Rector - Update

On 12 November the members of the PCCs of the four parishes met with the Rt Rev'd Sarah Bullock, Area Bishop of Shrewsbury. The meeting was an opportunity to review progress with the appointment of a new Rector and clarify what would happen next.

The parishes and Benefice had completed the writing of the Profile, a document intended for clergy interested in finding out about what the post here would entail. Bishop Sarah described it as telling a clear story, of where we have been and want to be, and outlining the challenges we face in a positive way. Indeed, surprisingly, in particular for rural parishes, it showed the churches at work.

We can now proceed to the posting of an advert, in the Lichfield Diocese and in the Church Times. It was thought that the probable deadline for applications would be the beginning of January. This would be followed by shortlisting and each parish has named a representative to be involved in this process and on the interview panel. These people are not delegates; they are tasked with using their wisdom and discernment to make decisions and should not be questioned or lobbied!

Before interview, shortlisted candidates are invited to the Benefice for a Familiarisation Day, an opportunity to look round the churches and the area. The interview day starts with Holy Communion in one of the churches, a service which is open to all and at which candidates preach. Everyone then leaves the panel to get on with the job.

There will be a period of silence following the interviews. No decision can be reported until the selected person has DBS clearance and the day and time of the announcement has been agreed. We shall probably be well into 2025 before we reach this day!

K Kimber – on behalf of the Border Benefice

14 November 2024

Let your light shine.” (Matthew 5:16)



Reflecting on a Memorable Start to the Year

As we find ourselves approaching the festive season, it's a wonderful time to pause and reflect on the many achievements and memorable moments we've experienced so far this term at Bryn Offa CE

Primary School.

From our very youngest children in Reception, who have made an incredible start to their school journey, to those who have joined us from other schools, everyone has settled in beautifully. It's been a pleasure to see new friendships forming, new skills being learned, and the school community growing. Our new staff have also brought fresh ideas and enthusiasm, quickly becoming an integral part of our team and supporting our young learners every step of the way.

For families considering a place for Reception in 2025, we warmly invite you to visit us. Come and see firsthand the exciting and nurturing environment we offer here at Bryn Offa.

This term has been filled with opportunities for our children to grow both inside and outside the classroom. Our Year 6 pupils spent an exhilarating four days at Arthog, while Year 5 enjoyed three days at Condober Hall. It was heartening to see them face new challenges with perseverance, resilience, and wonderful support for each other, particularly during activities that tested their bravery high up in the trees!

Class 2 had an unforgettable trip to the Blue Planet Aquarium, where they encountered the wonders of the ocean up close. While children across school have proudly represented Bryn Offa at local football tournaments and Cross-Country events.

We've also welcomed our families into school for Thumbs Up Thursday, where they joined us for lessons, and for our Harvest Collective Worship, celebrating the season together with gratitude and joy.

As we take a moment to remember all that we have achieved, we are also reminded of the importance of Remembrance Day. Our pupils have been busy creating thoughtful artwork and poems, which are now displayed at the local Memorial Hall. Through this work, the children have reflected on the sacrifices made by people past and present to keep our world safe, and the gift of peace that we all share. We have discussed how we, as a school community, can spread that peace to our families and the wider community.

Looking ahead, we are filled with excitement for the Christmas season. It is a time like no other, filled with love, joy, and a sense of togetherness. At Bryn Offa, the sound of children rehearsing for the KS1 Nativity performances and KS2 Carol Concert already fills the air. Their voices remind us of the hope and light that Christmas brings. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are reminded that this season is a gift to us all — a time to reflect, rejoice, and look forward with hope.

We look back with thankfulness and look forward with anticipation, ready to embrace all the joy that the Christmas season will bring. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our school and parish community a peaceful and joyful Christmas as we continue this wonderful journey together.



Merry Christmas
from all the Staff and Children of Bryn Offa Primary school.

Early Warning...



Ecclesiastical Electoral Roll which is refreshed most years. In 2025 it has to be completely renewed. Being on the church electoral roll means you can get married in that church, you can get buried in that church if there is a churchyard and space permitting, it also allows you to be elected to the PCC and stand as an officer. There will be more information forthcoming but just to give you a 'heads up' it may be in early February so look out for it.



Morton Quiz for December and January

1. In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born.
2. Who was the king who ordered the census leading to Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem
3. In the 12 days of Christmas song what is given on 7th day.
4. In which country did stollen originate.
5. Which of Santa's reindeer comes first alphabetically.
6. In which gospels do you read about the birth of Jesus.
7. How do you say merry Christmas in Spanish.
8. Which British artist has had 8 UK Christmas number ones with various bands.
9. In which country is the traditional Christmas dinner a KFC.
10. Which prophet foretold of the birth of Jesus.

ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER QUIZ

1. All Hallows day
2. Tutankhamum
3. Armistice Day
4. Suez
5. Dame Margaret Thatcher
6. St Andrew
7. Chrysanthemum
8. Dog, Laika
9. The Mayflower
10. Coventry

Morton Church 150 Club

CONGRATULATION'S TO THE WINNERS

NOVEMBER DRAW

FIRST PRIZE. GILL BASSETT

SECOND PRIZE. PETER CARKETT JAMES

THIRD PRIZE. MRS M GREEN



Meetings of PANT WI at Pant Memorial Hall at 7.15 pm

5th December

January 9th 2025

Please note this is not the usual 1st Thursday

Speaker Victoria Graham -The Biscuit Club

Vote of Thanks Pam Craig

Competition and Tea Hostesses to be announced.

THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY

To be confirmed.

For further information please contact Pam Craig 657597

New Members always welcome.

HELP STEER PANT MEMORIAL HALL INTO THE FUTURE

We are in need of more trustees to manage and run the hall.

If you have lived locally for some time, you have probably got fond memories of events at the hall, whether birthday parties, courses or social events and if you are new to the village, perhaps you haven't yet ventured inside our well-equipped hall.

In either case, we need you to get involved and secure the future of the hall for the whole community.

Committee members become official trustees of the hall charity, Pant Memorial Institute. The charity is well-organised, financially solvent and all reporting to the Charity Commission is up to date. The procedures and systems to run the building safely and in accordance with law are also all in place, and regularly updated, so that means it's easy to join the committee and play your part.

We need general committee members who are willing to get involved in the management of the building. As well as attending our four short committee meetings a year, we'd like people to do things such as join the rota for the weekly fire alarm checks (five minute job!), social media updates, website management, assisting the secretary and booking secretary with various tasks and getting involved in planning improvements. We pay a cleaner and gardener, so no need to worry about that! All we seek is your time and knowledge – charity trustees cannot be paid but all agreed expenses are reimbursed.

Anyone 18 or over who is not disqualified from being a charity trustee can stand for election to the committee, at the AGM on Thursday 10th April 2025.

<https://pantmemorialhall.org.uk/get-involved/>

Closing the charity (and hence selling the building and all the assets) would be a tremendous amount of hassle and such a shame after the hard work and dedication put in by generations of people in Pant. It really would be much easier to keep things running, so please do consider joining the committee. Please contact secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk.

Meanwhile the hall is there to be used, 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.

We wish everyone a good Christmas and a happy and healthy new year, and hope that 2025 will see a secured future for the hall in its 104th year.

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:



Please note No Meet and Eat in January.

Forest Church In the afternoon. 3pm

Warm Space for the Meet and Eat Regulars

Please contact Lizzie



Pant Memorial Hall

SUNDAY MEET AND EAT.

Sunday 2nd February 10 00 -12 noon.

Toast, Crumpets, Jam



Tea, Coffee & fruit juice



Short act of worship and Reflection.

For more information contact Lizzie Lawrence on 07713083002