



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

CHURCH MORTON

PARISH MAGAZINE.

1914-1918

Capt CS Garnet-

Bottfield

Pte J Jones

Sgt ET Biggs

Pte CEW
Rowlands

Pte JC Edwards

Pte J Davies

Pte TL Jones

Pte H Gittins

Pte R Evans

Pte E Roberts

Cpl A Pearce
MM



Pte Probert

Pte J Lloyd

Pte RT Lloyd

Lcpl J Kendrick

Pte W Lewis

Pte RE Ellison

Pte TF Lloyd

Pte AE Higgins

Pte A Jones

1939-1945

Sgt AR Bowen

RAF

Pte FC

Kendrick

November 2023

£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 dependent on the availability
of a Priest**

**November 17th will be Holy Communion
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***

From The Editor.

As some of you will be aware, at the moment I am in Australia visiting Revd. Kathy. There was a panic, who will do the magazine? Is there going to be a magazine for November? For 20 odd years I have managed to sort holidays to enable the magazine just to happen as normal. This time, I could not leave until all the harvest services were over and would need to be home for Remembrance. With the distance and time zones it was a little more difficult, as I was coming out here for 3 weeks. The answer was, to take it with me, let us hope modern technology works and you will all get your magazines on time!

The first problem this month, no one had written the pastoral letter and the deadlines came and went, nothing appeared. I had notification after I had left, that we would need to sort it out ourselves.

Needed a plan!! Asked Kathy if she had any service personnel in any of her congregations. Don't ask and you don't get. One of her churchwardens has a son serving in RAAF and has been on operational tours several times, he was willing to write something for our magazine. At this time of remembrance let us remember all those who have and still are, willing to serve their countries.

Sergeant Struan Dyson-Smith -Royal Australian Air Force



Sergeant Struan Dyson-Smith was brought up in the Parish of Mount Vincent, Kurri Kurri and Weston and worshipped regularly at St Paul's Kurri Kurri, until he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force 16 years ago. He commenced as an acolyte under former Rector Rev Donald Kirk [now the Bishop of the Diocese of Riverina in southern New South Wales], progressing through the servers' ranks to become the senior server and then a chalice assistant.



Since his enlistment he has been posted to specialist logistics detachments, which can encompass driving road trains in the outback, disaster relief, refuelling aircraft, repatriating casualties or his current posting which he describes as 'the travel agent for the Defence Force'. In the course of his career he has been posted in the Middle East for a six-month deployment, spent five years stationed in the far north of Australia and participated in several disaster relief operations in parts of Asia.

Struan and his wife Melissa have a son and a daughter and currently reside at Raymond Terrace in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales.

Words from Struan:

'But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me.' – Micah 7:7

Hope. It is a powerful force, an enabler and a driver of great things. When one thinks of the military, of its largely-displayed purpose in media, particularly right now, that is not what one thinks of first. The military is often portrayed as the psychopomps of Revelations, the Four Horsemen, rather than a wellspring of hope. Yet in my sixteen years of service, I have seen first-hand over numerous times the hope that this force can bring.

In 2018, on the island of Sulawesi, an underwater earthquake caused a massive landslide on the Palu-Koru fault, resulting in a tsunami which ravaged the city of Palu and its surrounding area. The wave ranged between 4 to 7 meters and reached several kilometres inland, its range amplified by the narrow bay in which Palu was nestled. The Indonesian government, still reeling from the Lombok earthquake and eruption of Mt Agung in Bali some two months earlier, was forced to ask for international assistance, the scale of this disaster was simply too great for them to handle. By the 4th of October, it was estimated that some 2.4 million people had been affected in some way by the tsunami. Hope was a rare commodity.

It was into this situation that my unit, 381 Contingency Response Squadron, was dispatched. Our mission was as simple as it was complex, coordinate the multi-national force deployed to the nearby city of Balikpapan, deliver assistance and conduct evacuations from the disaster zone, support the international agencies in their efforts to restore some semblance of normalcy to the obliterated city. In short, to do nothing less than restore their hope.

Pulled from a field exercise and deployed immediately onto a 12-hour flight in a C130 Hercules from RAAF Williamtown, Newcastle New South Wales, to the city of Balikpapan, Indonesia, we were already tired and dirty from weeks in the field. It is in times like this, that one's faith can be tested. Faith in each other, in the organisation, in yourself and in the spiritual sense, and as the scale of task unfolds, this malaise can only deepen, often becoming a canker that can eat away at the well-being of one's body and soul.

So how do you resist this darkness of despair, especially in a situation where there is no time for formal prayer or contemplation? This first, and sadly most broad, is to shut down. Become the cog, the unthinking machine, the soldier. Far too many of us have fallen victim to this path, and all too many have seen the destructive violence and pain that such emotional disconnection can bring.

But there is another way. After arriving at midnight on the first day, those of us responsible for the aircraft and airfield were told to be back at it at 4am. The duty and the drive was there, for every possible moment we were going to help these people. As the evacuation flights took off towards Palu, the rain began to fall. Heavy, warm and thick with humidity, the normal reaction to this would have been to curse and hide, to stay safe and dry. Yet we did not, working to build the flood of aid pouring into the airport into suitable loads ready to be transported. For we had faith, faith in ourselves and our duty. By mid-morning, the aircraft returned, landing in the thundering rain. Each was filled with over a hundred desperate, scared and often starving people. The Indonesians had put on buses to transport these internally displaced people, moving them off to shelters and aid. As they struggled to carry their meagre belongings, often in boxes tied up with string, we marshalled these vehicles into position, allowing the displaced people to board, the rain thundering down the whole time. One woman, trying to balance her belongings and an umbrella, began to slip on the ramp of the aircraft. Assisting her, I took her umbrella from her, ushering her to the closest bus and helping her board. As I returned her umbrella to her, she looked at me with an expression of tired peace... and hope.

I would treasure that memory, that day in the thundering rain, drenched to the skin and running on three hours sleep, on the many weeks of work afterwards as we went forward to bring the supplies into the city, spreading that spark of hope to hundreds of thousands, and even now as I sit here, some six years later. It was not a formal prayer that got me through the darkest of hours, nor the ceremony of service. It was the spark of hope, that

often overlooked message from the Bible's teachings, that carries me forwards, bearing that torch in my service and igniting that spark in others. To those of you who serve, yet despair in these times of seemingly unending chaos, I ask you to look closer at your role, at what you have done. For I can almost guarantee that in some way, no matter how small, your service has made a difference, possibly even saved lives. To those of you who do not have time to make a formal service, I would ask you to look for your own peace, your own moment in the rain... and to find your hope and faith in a manner that suits you. He is always listening, be it in the grand halls of the church or the quiet of the garden. All He asks, is that you look for him... and hope.

Reflections of my Grandfather at this time of remembrance

Although my Grandfather died when I was only seven I still have vivid memories of being in the garden and greenhouses with him , digging the vegetables and the grape vines ,tomatoes and the large ball flowered dahlia's that he loved to grow, at that young age, and in those days PTSD was not known as a disorder, but many years later and talking to people who knew him when he returned from the war, I think he must have suffered, as they say he liked a drink, although I never remember that. When my Father died I found Granddads' war diaries, and letter written back to my Grandmother, My Grandfather was in France and was a driver supplying ammunition to the front line, and bringing casualties and bodies away from the front. At this time of remembrance I would just like to share some of the entrances in the letters and diaries.

March 11th 1915, While at the station waiting my turn to load my wagon a motor ambulance pulled up, so to pass the time I helped to carry the wounded from the ambulance to the train. I shall never forget one poor chap, he had his head completely bandaged up and the only part of his head I could see was his mouth. I was carrying this poor fellow on my back when he asked me for a fag. I nearly dropped him with astonishment, and to think that he would want a fag and him being so badly injured. I had a packet so I gave them to him, but had to light one and put it in his mouth.

Monday 16th. This morning the guns have been at it all night, the sky was made light as day by the flashes and search lights. It has been the heaviest bombardment I have seen since war broke out, the noise is terrible, thousands of reinforcements have been going forward all night by motor bus to get them up quickly, there have been terrible loss of life on both sides,

while I write there is a continual stream of red cross ambulances bringing the injured back, I hardly dare look at the poor fellows they are cut up so badly.

| <u>November</u> <u>2024</u> | <u>Old</u> <u>Testament</u> | <u>New</u> <u>Testament</u> | <u>Gospel</u> | <u>Sidesmen</u> |
|---|--|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| 3rd 4 th Sunday before Advent | Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon | | | |
| 10th | Remembrance Sunday Service in Church 10.15 Act of Remembrance 10.45 at the Parish War Memorial. | | | |
| 17th 2 nd Sunday before Advent | Dan 12: 1-3 Dave Morris | Hebrew 10: 11-14, 19-25 Dave Morris | Mark 13: 1- 8 | Roy Mansell |
| 24th Christ the King | Dan 7: 9-10, 13-14 Christine Newell | Rev 1: 4-8 Christine Newell | John 18: 33-37 | Dave Hinton |
| 1 st December 1 st Sunday of Advent | Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon | | | |

Cleaning for November – Gill Roberts
Flowers 10th, 17th – Sandra Johnson



The Remembrance Service and act of Remembrance for the Parish of Morton, (which covers the area Llynclys East of A483, South end of Pant. The hamlets of Morton, Crickheath and Sweeney). The service will take place at 10 .15 in Church and the Act of Remembrance in the

old Churchyard around the Parish War Memorial. Chairs will be provided please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

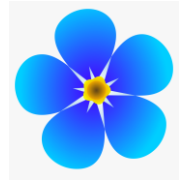
Bouquet of Thanks to..



All those who decorated our church so beautifully the Harvest Evensong which was very well attended, it was so good to see the Parish working hard to sustain worship in the Parish of Morton. Thanks also to who provide food all who took part and helped in the Some/all services.

SOFA Club -November 2024.

Continuing with our senses this month we will look at hearing and how someone living with dementia may be affected. I emphasise may be, as no two people may have the same feelings.



Dementia distorts your reality on a daily basis.

The bang you hear outside that sent a chill all the way up your spine? It didn't exist. A firework, that sounds like a mad gunman on the loose? These aural hallucinations leave you pinned to a chair, heart racing, too terrified to look outside. The sounds that dementia conjures up in the brain are as real as the pages of this magazine you are reading. One brave look out of the window proves there is no one out there rampaging up and down the street with a sawn - off shot gun. The light tap, tap, on the front door? When you go to look there is never anyone there.

All these tricks are a symptom of the disease.

Is there anything we can do in our churches? Be aware, loud sounds police car, fire engine, ambulance sirens can be piercing, a car revving whilst waiting for the lights to change. The gabble of chatter and people all speaking at

once. We can cope and by filtering out sounds and other conversations, someone living with dementia may find all of this disorientating and frightening.

So, if you know someone is living with dementia think and respect where they maybe.



I did receive a tip the other day. If you are caring for someone hearing aids with the correct adjustment can help.

SOFA Club received a thank you letter from the Alzheimer's Society thanking us for the donation we were able to send after the cupcake tea in June. Thank you for all those who supported

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 in November are 7th and 21st at 2.30 -4.pm, Llanymynech Church Hall.

Christmas is on the way!!

Help Fill Santa's Toy Sack if you can!

Santa and his elves are busy beavering away, and are doing their best to create all the toys needed for all the girls and boys across the world on Christmas Day but even Santa could do with a helping hand this year, with the cost of living and energy prices! So, if you think you might be able to help Santa by giving a new toy to a local family in need, then it would be very much appreciated by him and by us. Don't worry if you are not able, we know that things are stretched this year for a good many people and we perfectly understand that. Perhaps you would like to give but are unable to get out and about perhaps you would like to give a small gift of cash, please contact one of the churchwardens who will be able to help you. Any and all

donations generously given will put a smile on a child's face on Christmas morning, and although we may never see it, the thought of it is priceless, so if you can, please share the spirit of Christmas! Thank



you. Please get gifts to a member of the PCC or come along to a service before the end of November.

All the toys will be blessed and sent on their way at the Meet and Eat on December 1st

Traveling Nativity



How does the song go- ‘It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go..’ and truthfully it is, the shops are full to bursting, the shopping frenzy has begun in earnest and more and where, oh where can the reason for the season be found? Have no fear, we have the answer and can help focus on what and who Christmas is about, using

the season of Advent, as it was intended to prepare our hearts and homes to welcome once more the Christ Child.

The first of those preparations begins very early in December, on Advent Sunday, 1st December, when our traveling nativity begin its journey around people’s homes, schools, places of work, resting at each one for a day and night before moving on to the next home etc. Each traveling nativity comes with a child friendly crib set with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and more, coming into your home and bringing the light and love of God. This is not restricted to our young friends. If you are home alone and would the company of our Holy family then it is just fine. Someone will deliver it and pick it up the following day taking it on to the next family. If you think you might like to have one of the nativities then contact - Lizzie 07713083002 the diary is now open to book your preferred date.(please leave a message if you are unable to get through).

Progress with the appointment of a new Rector

You will be pleased to hear that we are moving steadily through the procedure we have to follow for the appointment of a new Rector. Key to this is the writing of a document, called the Profile. It describes who we are, what our hopes and aspirations are, and gives details of our communities and churches. Each of the four parishes undertook much discussion and reflection and agreed its own statement. We

have now brought the ideas together and drafted the text of the Border Benefice Profile. The first sections give details of our location on the Border, how the parishes are working together, the challenges we think the new Rector would face and a role and person specification. These are followed by the individual parish profiles. This is the information anyone seeking to apply for the post would receive.

We now await feedback and a meeting with the Bishop of Shrewsbury, before an advert can be placed. Probably a few months to go yet, before we can welcome someone to join us! Meanwhile much work is being done to upgrade the Rectory and make it a lovely family home.
K Kimber

150 Club

Winners for October 2024

First Prize: Rev Kath Trimby No 71
Second Prize: Mr and Mrs Barton No 50
Third Prize: Mr P Carkeet - James

Congratulations to you all
And thank you for supporting Morton Church



**Meetings of PANT WI at Pant Memorial Hall at 7.15 pm
5th December**

The Alternative Nativity

Competition: A Homemade decoration.

Tea Hostesses: The Committee.

Food to Share.

New Members always welcome.

Quiz Questions for November

1. November 1st is All Saints Day, but what is its alternative name?
2. On 4th November 1922, whose tomb was found in Egypt?
3. What was the name given to November 11th in 1918?
4. Which wide important canal opened on 7th November 1869?
5. Which 'Iron Lady' resigned in November 1990?
6. Which patron saints day is on November 30th?
7. Which flower is linked to November?
8. Which animal orbited the earth on November 3rd 1957?
9. A famous sailing ship arrived in Cape Cod in America in November 1620. What is its name?
10. Which English city, along with its Cathedral was bombed on 14 – 15th November 1940?

October Quiz Answer

1. Miley Cyrus
2. John Le Carre
3. Dances with Wolves
4. Queen
5. India
6. Gary Neville
7. Red
8. I do I do I do I do I do by ABBA
9. It was thought that finger led directly to the Heart
10. My big fat Greek wedding



People love to visit churches, chapels and cathedrals. Recent visitor surveys have shown that more people are visiting cathedrals this year, with an increase in visitors of 17% since 2022. They come for a variety reasons, attending services and concerts, enjoying the heritage and history and visiting exhibitions. This increase in visitors is the result of hard work and lateral thinking, focussing

on making these special places appeal to those who may not be regular attendees.

Actually, it's possible that even more people are visiting burial grounds, be they churchyards, chapel yards, cemeteries and of course cathedral grounds. A survey in 2018 found that more than half the visitors to churchyards were neither entering the church building nor visiting a particular grave, they were there to enjoy the peace, tranquillity, bird song, flowers and history of these special outdoor places. They were also making use of facilities such as surfaced paths, benches, ramps and other accessibility features. For those of you who care for and love your local churchyard, can you help to make it even more welcoming for visitors? Is there any information on the more interesting memorials to be visited, the locally famous or infamous or perhaps particularly beautiful stone carving? Could you put up a list of the wildlife to be seen at different times of year or steer people to spend time in the presence of a veteran tree and think how long it has been growing there?

Managing a churchyard for both people and nature really creates a space that looks cared for, is accessible but still full of the peaceful and enriching sights and sounds of wildlife that people so enjoy. By the autumn, all of your grassland areas will be cut short but can you leave a small patch of tussocky grass, nettles and hogweed around the back, perhaps by a compost heap, so that insects and other invertebrates have somewhere to overwinter? This will be used by frogs, toads, newts and slowworms who will be feeding on these invertebrates as well as by small mammals and birds. Hedgehogs in particular need shelter like this as well as food such as worms, slugs and beetles.

Do you have any berry bearing shrubs or hedges? Could they be left until the late winter before pruning or trimming in order to feed and shelter birds and small mammals? If there is ivy present you may have noticed the buzz of ivy bees on the flowers in September, flowers which have now been replaced by small black berries. Birds such as thrushes, blackbirds, pigeons and blackcaps love these berries which are rich in fat so good winter tuck! Autumn is a great time to make deadwood piles from windblown twigs and branches, pile up autumn leaves to rot down and perhaps erect some bird and bat boxes.

All of this work will enhance your churchyard so that it is teeming with even more life next spring and summer, giving pleasure to locals and visitors alike.

NEWS FROM PANT MEMORIAL HALL

NOVEMBER 2023

At the time of writing we are finalising preparations for the autumn bazaar, which will hopefully be a fabulously sociable and successful event. Thank you to all who supported us in so many ways – there will be a full report next issue.

We're delighted to be able to make further improvements to the hall following successful funding applications. We now have a smart roller shutter for the kitchen hatch to match the one from the bar. These replace the old awkward wooden doors, much easier to use as well as looking better. Thank you to the Tirgwynt Community Fund and Borderland Rotary for the funding for these items.

We've also been successful in a funding application to the Yunity Powering Communities Fund. (Yunity pay us for our spare electricity export from the solar panels). The grant of £3750 will add more solar generation capacity, and has also allowed us to purchase a drinks fridge for the bar area plus add new shelving.

Remembrance event: We would be interested in hearing from local people who might want to organise an event on Remembrance Sunday. The committee will waive the hire fees for such an event. Obviously, the event needs to be in the spirit of remembrance and must be open to the whole community. If you would like to arrange such an event please contact us before 5th November.

Hiring availability: Unusually we have regular evening slots available on Wednesday and Friday – please spread the word to anyone looking to set up a class or event, our building is there to be used. We have daytime availability on some days as well – please have a look at our online calendar to see what works for you. Please remember that we need five working days notice for new bookings – existing regulars can change and add things at short notice. Thanks for your understanding

Join in: The hall is run by a committee of volunteer trustees, some of whom will probably be stepping down soon after years of service. Without enough trustees, the future of the hall could be in jeopardy – we've seen other halls have that problem and we don't want it to happen at Pant.

Being a trustee is a great way to get involved in the community as well as giving something back. We're a lively friendly bunch from a variety of backgrounds, and we welcome new ideas and new faces. Minimum time commitment for most is three meetings a year, plus the AGM, and occasional input to discussions and events. New trustees are elected at the AGM which will be next April (or at a special meeting if that is easier) so now is the time to start thinking about it. Please contact secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk if you are interested in giving back to our community; happy to chat through any queries.

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.





Pant Memorial Hall
SUNDAY MEET AND EAT.

Sunday 1st December
10 00 -12 noon.



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



Short Act of Worship.

**This will include a blessing of Toys and
Gifts before they are sent on their way
ready for Christmas.**



For more information contact Lizzie Lawrence on 07713083002