



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

MORTON

PARISH MAGAZINE



February & March 2025

All Services at 11.am (unless otherwise stated)
1st Sunday of the month. Meet and Eat 10 am-12 noon-Pant

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
February 23 & March 23
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

Thought of the month

February reminds me of cold winter mornings, snow drops flowering but also chocolates and roses, St Valentines Day. Even if we have never sent or received a Valentine card. We all know the date and contemporary meaning of Valentines Day 14 February.

But who was the real Valentine and how and why is he associated with this particular day? there are 3 possible contenders who all lived at roughly the same time, and who would fit the bill. Valentine, Bishop of Terni. Valentine a Christian priest in Rome and Valentine a priest in North Africa, there is a probability they are the same person because their stores are so similar.

Thanks to Benedictine monks who in 1643 began publishing the 68-folio volumes of 'Acta Sanctorum (Lives of saints) after years of researching original manuscripts, we know there was a priest called Valentine who was beheaded on the orders of Claudius II in 269 AD. He had attracted the emperor's attention by preaching the Christian message and conducting marriages between young men and women against the emperor's express orders.

Married men were considered poor recruits to serve as soldiers, and commit whole - heartedly to war fare. Valentine was arrested and put into the care of Asterius an aristocrat. Valentine was so committed to trying to convert pagan Romans to Christianity, he spent much of the time explaining the tenets of his religion, including all the miracles that had cured people of various ailments.

Asterius had a blind foster daughter and he made a pact with Valentine that he would convert to Christianity if he could heal her. As soon as she was cured Asterius and his whole family became Christians and Valentine was released from prison.

Christianity enraged Claudius and he ordered that Valentine was to suffer a "triple execution of being flogged, stoned and beheaded on 14th February.

In 496 AD pope Gelasius | erected a basilica over the supposed grave of Valentine on the Via Flaminia on the Outskirts of Rome. Concerned by the continuing pagan celebration of Lupercalia Between 13th - 15th

of February, Gelasius decreed that St Valentine should be honoured on 14th February to detract from the old Roman feast days.

Although before his execution he left a note for Asterius daughter signed from your Valentine he was not associated with romance and love for another thousand years.

St Valentine was removed from the Catholic Liturgical veneration of Saints in 1969 because of the confusion surrounding his identity, but he remains on the register of officially recognized saints.

The poet Geoffrey Chaucer may have invented Valentines Day as we know it. He often took liberties with history, placing his poetic characters into fictitious historical contexts that he represented as real. In his work "Parliament of Foules" he links a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St Valentines feast day, an association that didn't exist until his poem had received widespread attention. The poem refers to February 14 as the day birds and humans come together to find a mate.

St Valentine has wide-ranging spiritual responsibilities as Patron Saint of beekeeping, epilepsy, fainting, travelling and plague as well as that of lovers. Saints are expected to keep busy in the afterlife interceding in earthly affairs and petitions for living souls.

The word Valentine comes from the Latin meaning strong and powerful or worthy.

A deeper meaning is about Sacrifice and devotion love and honour, in the face of overwhelming and dangerous odds. A true Christian.

I hope you have found this an informative read.

Abie Tudor

Important Message from the Editor:

Do you read your Parish magazine? It appears some people do, some do not. The one thing you have been sure of for many years it will arrive every month. The PCC feel it is important to convey information about the parish of Morton, rotas for the coming month, services, other bits and pieces of parish news. Have you ever given much thought to how the information is gathered, typed up, researched. The answer is probably not. I will tell you; it's me;

I have been the editor since 2003. In 2011 a plea went out for someone to share, alas no one wanted the regular commitment. Now with the extra duties of Lay chair and Church warden during the vacancy, there have been times when I have struggled to get the magazine out on time. With the backing of the PCC for this year there will only be 5 editions. Feb/Mar, April/May, June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan. The price will remain the same, extra donations are always a help. Hopefully we will have a new incumbent, they may have fresh ideas for the magazine. Sadly, I don't think I will be able to carry on for another 20+ years. I do feel it is important for the good of our parish and will remain as the Editor for the time being.

From The Registers

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

Internment of Cremated remains service conducted by Revd Harvey
Gibbons

Thursday 19th December 2024.

Arthur George Young

<u>February</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Old</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>New</u> <u>Testament</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>
2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)	Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon			
9th 4 th Sunday before Lent	Isaiah 6:1-8 Rachel Frank	1Corinthians 15:1-11 Rachel Frank	Luke 5:1- 11	Dave Hinton
16th 3rd Sunday before Lent	Jeremiah 17:5- 10 Bryan Lawrence	1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Bryan Lawrence	Luke 6: 17- 26	Bryan Lawrence
23rd 2 nd Sunday before Lent	Genesis 2:4b- 9,15-end Sharon Kynaston	Revelation chapter 4 Sharon Kynaston	Luke 8:22- 25	Jeffery Kendrick
2nd March The Sunday next before Lent	Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon			

Flowers for February Anona White

2nd March The Sunday next before Lent	Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am til 12 noon			
9 th 1 st Sunday of Lent	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Jane Wood	Romans 10:8b-13 Jane Wood	Luke 4:1-13	Douglas Wood
16 th 2 nd Sunday of Lent	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Roy Mansell	Philippians 3:17-4:1 Roy Mansell	Luke 13:31-end	Roy Mansell
23 rd 3 rd Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 55:1-9 Martyn Woody-Jones	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Martyn Woody-Jones	Luke 13: 1-9	Jeffery Kendrick
30 th 4 th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)	Benefice Service Llanyblodwel 10.30			
6 th April 2025 5 th Sunday of Lent	Meet and Eat Pant Memorial Hall 10 am APCM 11 am			

No Flowers during Lent

Bouquet of thanks When you read this, it will be early February, think back to Christmas 2024, this may now seem a distant memory. The Churchwardens and PCC members would like to thank all those who helped in any way to make Christmas 2024 a success in our church in Morton. As we look forward into 2025, we are encouraged by the news that advertisement for the poste to become the new rector of the border benefice has been in the church times so times are exciting, whilst we still faced many challenges, you can read more about this in the message from K Kimber elsewhere in this Magazine.



More Thanks



Montgomeryshire Family Crisis wish to pass on their sincere thanks for the donation of toys and gifts. Fleur Frantz-Morgans, Marketing and Media Lead said, “donations such as these make a huge difference to the vulnerable families we support. Sometimes victims of domestic abuse come to us for support with nothing and of course Christmas brings with it additional hardship, parents worry about having a gift under the tree for their children to open on Christmas morning. Your gifts will make a difference, they will bring happiness and hope for a brighter future to local families in need. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.”

SOFA Club Feb 2025



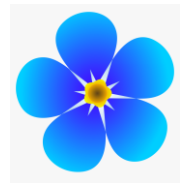
The first thing I have to do is to thank Jane Wood and Pat Stevenson for the hard work with their excellent craft skills, raising funds for the Alzheimer Society, during the run-up to Christmas. They

attended Christmas fairs, coffee mornings and other activities. Thanks to Douglas for his assistance transporting goods, putting up stalls, making stands. Congratulations to them on raising two hundred and ninety pounds, which has now been sent on to the Alzheimer Society. Also, thanks to the Benefice supporting their venture.

I am also able to pass onto you, that after a discussion and looking and seeking by the members of the sofa club, it was decided that the best venue for us to use during the winter months would be Pant Memorial Hall. Meeting just once a month, whilst we do have to pay for the hire, between us we can raise this small amount required. The Venue is both warm and central to the village of Pant, this in time may encourage people to come along. Even if it's just to see what we do. The next two months are 20th February and the 20th March, all the meetings begin at 2 .45 and end at 4pm.

Next month we will be returning to looking at our churches and what we can do to make them more and welcoming to someone living with dementia.

If you would like more information, please contact Lizzie (Churchwarden Morton) 07713083002.



This item was submitted to the Editor by a long-standing member of the Electoral roll, attends and makes a regular contribution to the church.

Money, money not enough money

At Christmas time you will all remember that the organ played up, and Janet had to quickly resort to the piano to enable our services to carry on - but our joyful singing was tempered as was the joy of the occasion! The reason was that the cost is too great to maintain the atmosphere around the organ at proper temperature and humidity.

So, I thought to look at the Church accounts and see whether my level of giving to the Church was adequate. What I found was that it cost £16,000 a year to run the Church, with a deficit of around £1400. The congregation gives about £5000 in planned giving and collections. Planned giving amounts to £1100, plus tax recouped through Gift Aid. The Parish Share is meant to be £7000, but has been written off by £5200. There are 57 people on the Church roll.

Readers may draw their own conclusions, but my personal view is as follows. Think of the cost of any activity you engage in. If you join the WI the standard subscription is £51 per year, plus any cost of room hire. If you go to an exercise class it will cost you £7-10 a session. If you join a golf club it will cost you £80 a month. A cup of coffee once a month will be £3-4. The Church is an exception in that it does not make a charge, and rightly is open to all, regardless of ability to contribute to the cost. Nevertheless, the income of this church is insufficient to meet its costs, and I think it is inescapable that in blunt terms those with the ABILITY to stump up are not doing enough. We surely need to meet the deficit, heat the church, and pay our share. So, we need to raise at least £8000 a year extra.

I appreciate that many are short of money, and if you are, then this is not aimed at you. And I know contributions are made in other ways. But there has to be change - the more so if we expect to have an incumbent provided. Forms for planned giving are at the back of the church. I shall increase my level of giving.

This is only my own view, and does not come from the PCC, nor have I been asked to make this plea. But it would be nice to have a reliable organ!

Border Benefice - Vacancy Update

We were delighted to learn that the advertisement for a new Rector for our four parishes will be published in the Church Times and on the Diocese of Lichfield's website on 17th January. The closing date will be 14th February.

After that there will be shortlisting. This is undertaken by Diocesan staff and an appointed person from each parish. The parishes have already appointed people for this and they will be the people involved in interviewing short-listed applicants on 25th March. Although we feel very positive about this, we know that there is no guarantee that a suitable person will apply and be appointed following this first advert. Once someone is appointed, they will have to give notice and get DBS clearance; this would usually take about three months.

In the March magazine we will give more details about the interview day, which starts with a service, which all are welcome to attend. For the moment we offer the prayer which is at the end of our Benefice Profile, the document applicants consult in order to get to know about us and this area. K Kimber 2 January 2025

GOD OUR FATHER

***You have welcomed each one of us in Jesus
and called us to be His Body in this place.
Send us your Holy Spirit,
to fill us with vision, energy,
and faithfulness in prayer,
that we may be true to our calling***

*to bring new life to our communities.
Guide with your heavenly wisdom
those who are to choose a new Incumbent
this Benefice,
that the one whom we receive
may be a wise and caring shepherd of your
people:
ready to serve us with joy,
to build us up in faith,
and to lead us by example
in loving obedience to your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Lent Lunch

Despite what you may have heard, we will be holding a lent lunch. It's on **Thursday 27th March, Pant Memorial Hall, at 12.15 pm.** with a speaker who is yet to be confirmed, where we will enjoy soup and bread, cheese, biscuits and fruit.

Lent gives us a time to examine our own lives, some strip away and sacrifice things whilst others commit to taking something on.

If you are able to contribute, I then please contact either of Churchwardens or Jane Wood. Many Thanks



150 Club

Happy New Year to all our members.

Welcome to our first draw of 2025

JANUARY WINNERS

First Prize No 82 Mrs G Roberts

Second Prize No 84 Mr J Kendrick

Third Prize No 73 Mr R Newell

There are still numbers available if you would like to join or increase your chance of winning £30, £20 or £10 each month

Contact the Promoter Jane Wood, 01691 83956

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

Whether you are a regular attender, just dip in and out, or have no interest in religion, but like the fact that there is in Church with all its history and heritage in your locality. As we head into February we will be thinking about our annual church meeting, which this year will be held on 6th April, in Pant Memorial Hall at 11 am. If you wish to attend that meeting and take part then you must be on the ecclesiastical electoral role of Morton Parish. The electoral role is revised every seven years and 2025 is such a year. The old role is completely destroyed and a new role will start from scratch. Blank forms will be left in the porch,

and replenished as required, in addition each member of the PCC will also have blank copies throughout the period. Late entries cannot be accepted, as the new role has to be displayed for all to see two weeks prior to the APCM (The period runs for the 1st – 18th March).

We would ask you to pray for Morton Parish, consider **your** position in the parish. Have your family worshiped, worked hard for the church. Did your parents take an active role in the church, but you haven't found the time. Are you able to offer any help, no one expects you to be in church every Sunday or carry out a role forever.

Perhaps you have a skill and you would be will to help the PCC as a one off. It's not just about how much money you can give; it's something you are able to do, the PCC are very grateful to all the individuals who already help which range activities, from reading, decorating the church with beautiful flowers for festival services, keeping the current churchyard looking neat and tide for the many whole visit, so much more. **Your PCC are in desperate need a volunteer to take the minutes at our annual meeting, just that meeting nothing else. Could you give a couple of hours to your church between 11am and 1 pm on Sunday 6th April. Please help us to keep Morton church as a place of welcome for all in happy times, sad times or just somewhere to take stock of the world around us.**



The Wonderful World of Lichens

Churchyards are the ideal place for a lichen enthusiast to while away many happy hours. Lichens can be found on walls, monuments, trees and, if you have ancient grassland there may be lichens within the sward as well.

To the uninitiated lichens can look broadly similar with subtle mosaics of colour, often greys and yellows forming expanding circles as they increase in size as the years go by. There is more to lichens than meets the eye however. Firstly they are two or more organisms living together as one, usually a fungus and an algae. Fungus forms the visible part of the lichen and within, protected by threads of the fungus, are cells of algae and/or cyanobacteria which photosynthesise. So the fungus provides a home and the algae provides food. Lichens reproduce through microscopic fungal spores which, if they find a suitable partner, can colonise surfaces which are not too shaded or too smooth. These spores are released from structures which look rather like tiny jam tarts, flasks or pimples!

Lichens are fantastic at surviving where other life cannot. Provided there is enough light and moisture lichens are able to grow on bare stone, not needing cracks or soil to root into. Some lichens grow very slowly, perhaps half a millimetre per year whilst others grow more quickly. Many lichens are long-lived so the lichen you see in a churchyard may be almost as old as the wall or gravestone it is growing on. Astonishingly there are over 2,000 different lichen species and it is not unusual for a single churchyard to contain more than 100 different types.

Churchyards are particularly rich in lichens as they contain so many old stones with a variety of types; limestone, sandstone, granite to name a few. Some stones are smoother, others rough and they may have differing amounts of shade, wind and moisture depending on where they are within the churchyard, which side of the monument the lichen is on, whether they are vertical, leaning or flat. The carving of the inscription itself provides microclimates with different amounts of light and moisture within the

lettering. All of these changes in conditions will suit different lichen species. They are also found on trees, wooden fences and gates, grassy areas, pathways and even dustbin lids.

Most lichens offer protection to the surface they grow on and it may be easier to read lettering which is lichen-covered rather than bare, eroding stone. They do not need much care but do avoid the use of any chemicals near to lichens and definitely don't try and remove them. Lichens can die if shaded out so try and keep ivy or other climbers from encroaching over them too.

If you have never taken a closer look at a lichen then why not take a hand-lens or magnifying glass and give it a go. Lichen colonies have been described as minute, self-maintaining gardens, providing a natural cladding for the stone. They are beautiful and endlessly fascinating and if you like a challenge, why not look up the British Lichen Society website and find out more about how to identify them.

Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*, harriet@cfga.org.uk,

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code diomem22



Meetings of PANT WI at Pant Memorial Hall at 7.15 pm
March 7th

Natalie Bainbridge - Oswestry in Bloom

Competition: Flowers in a Jar

Refreshments: Cherrill, Fay, Daisy.

Vote of thanks: Jane W

NEXT MEETING 4th APRIL

New Members always welcome

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)**

“I made you wonderful”

KiaOrana!

**Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for
the Day of Prayer 2025.**

**This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean
Has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep
connection to nature.**

**Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the
Theme ‘I made you wonderful’.**

At a church near you, on Friday 7th March.

A worldwide wave of
prayer...
For further information and
resources, together with
details of
Services in your area, see
the WDP

website: www.wwdp.org.uk

Alternatively, Speak to Pam Craig who is our Parish
Co- Ordinator.



Morton Quiz

Inspirational Women.

1. In 1903 Marie Currie was the first woman awarded a Nobel Prize for her work in what?
2. What incredibly brave thing did Rosa Park do in 1955 to spark the Civil Rights Movement?
3. Which famous founder of modern nursing is nicknamed ‘The Lady with the Lamp’?
4. Which gifted mathematician who lived between 1815 – 1852 is considered to be the world’s first computer programmer?
5. Who wrote the famous book Frankenstein?
6. What did the British warrior Queen Boudicca famously do?
7. Amelia Earhart, the first female aviator to fly across the Atlantic Ocean disappeared while flying around the world in what year?
8. Who was the final ruler of Egypt’s Ptolemaic dynasty, famed for her beauty and shrewd politics?
9. What movement did Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai found?
10. Which controversial novelist was an influent founder of the literary set The Bloomsbury Group?

Answers from the Nov/Dec Magazine

1. Turkey
2. Caesar Augustus
3. 7 swans a swimming
4. Germany
5. Blitzen
6. Luke and Matthew
- 7.. Feliz Navidad
8. Paul McCartney
- 9 Japan
- 10 Prophet Isaiah

Looking at the beginning of LENT



As the final day before the austerity of the Lenten fast, Shrove Tuesday has many customs pertaining to food—in particular, sweet foods containing eggs, sugar, and fat, which were commonly forbidden during Lent and would otherwise go to waste in the six and a half weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

Pancakes are the traditional choice in a number of European countries; the day is known as Pancake Day or Pancake Tuesday in Ireland and in many Commonwealth countries. Similarly rich pre-Lenten treats include *paczki*, fruit-filled deep-fried pastries similar to doughnuts that are enjoyed in Poland and in ethnic Polish communities in the United States. An iconic part of Mardi Gras (“Fat Tuesday”) in New Orleans is the king cake, an iced ring-shaped pastry that is sprinkled with gold, green, and purple sugar and typically contains a plastic figurine representing the baby Jesus. Traditionally, the person who receives the piece of king cake containing the figurine is named “king” or “queen” of the Mardi Gras festivities and is obligated to host the next party of the season.

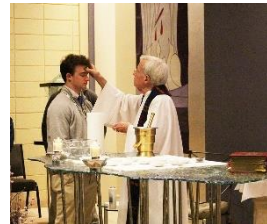
Ash Wednesday

In Western Christianity, the first day of Lent, occurring six and a half weeks before Easter (between March 5th and April 20th, depending on the date of Easter).

Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. It is commonly observed with the distribution of ashes and with fasting.

The tradition of placing ashes on penitents’ dates back to the early Church. Back then people placed the ashes on their heads and appeared before the community with a “penitential habit” to receive the sacrament of reconciliation on Holy Thursday. Starting in the 11th century, placed ashes on all the faithful who would come forward at the beginning of this time.

Service at Llanyblodwel. Keep an eye open in the pew sheet for timings



NEWS FROM PANT MEMORIAL HALL – FEBRUARY 2025

We are in need of more trustees to manage and run the hall, to secure its future.

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. If you are new to the village, perhaps you haven't yet ventured inside our modern, affordable and well-equipped hall.

In either case, we need YOU to get involved – to benefit our community and to reap the rewards of doing so!

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.

Read more about what we need (and what we have achieved) on this link:

<https://pantmemorialhall.org.uk/keep-the-lights-on-at-pant-hall/>

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, 7pm at the hall. If you'd like to sit in on our committee

meeting before then, everyone is most welcome to join us on Thursday March 20th, 7pm at the hall.

We really don't want to have to close the hall (and the charity) – our affordable and modern venue is a massive asset to the village and has been for over a century. Interested? please contact secretary@pantmemorialhall.org.uk.

We are also planning a local volunteer event at the hall on April 4th and 5th, along with other local organisations seeking volunteers. Please save the date!

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.

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 2nd March 10 00 -12 noon.



Toast, Crumpets, Jam

Tea,

Coffee & fruit juice.



Short act of worship and Reflection.

contact Lizzie Lawrence on 07713083



Pant Memorial Hall

SUNDAY MEET AND EAT.

Sunday 6th April 10 00 -12 noon.

Toast, Crumpets, Jam



Tea,

Coffee & fruit juice.



Short act of worship and Reflection.

contact Lizzie Lawrence on 07713083

With an added extra

