

Parish & Community Magazine



St George's Day - 23rd April

for the communities of Llanyblodwel, Nantmawr,
Porth-y-Waen, Treflach and Trefonen,
and places in between and beyond.

Produced by All Saints and St Michael's churches

Border Group of Parishes

Llanyblodwel, Llanymynech, Morton & Trefonen



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From Hosanna to Jesus Lives!

To quote Nelson Mandela: 'The long road to freedom' has begun. We began a journey of 'captivity' and 'exile' just over a year ago, with churches closed for Easter, and here we are again. We're not able to worship together in our churches for this most holy of seasons, but we will worship together, one way or another - we have learned new skills, new ways of 'doing church'. We look forward in joy, hope and expectation, released from fear, newly transformed and resurrected with and in Christ, for wherever the journey ahead takes us. It begins with Holy Week and Easter.

Palm Sunday (28th March): There will be a service via Zoom at 10.30am with an appropriate reflection on our Facebook page. Being online means that we can sing, wave palms and shout 'Hosanna, to the Son of David, the King of Kings'. It will mark the beginning of Holy Week, and people will be encouraged to pick up a palm cross in advance - have them posted or delivered or make their own.

Maundy Thursday (1st April): There will be a service, again via Zoom, at 7.30pm. Taking the form of an informal Agape meal, people will be encouraged to provide their own simple fare to join in. It will include a symbolic foot washing to remind us that Jesus came to serve, not to be served, and there'll be a reflection on Facebook.

Good Friday (2nd April): The significance of the death of Christ on the cross, particularly as we reflect on the past year, has a deep resonance and poignancy for us all. We will meet together in or around our church buildings, following guidelines for a service to mark this most holy of days.

LLANYBLODWEL, 10.30am: 'OBJECTS OF THE CROSS'. Retelling the events of Good Friday in the objects used, readings and reflective music (book via Pearl Morris).

TREFONEN, 2.30pm: 'JOURNEY TO THE CROSS'. A visual re-enacted journey with Jesus (book via K Kimber). There will also be a reflection on our Facebook page.

Easter Sunday (4th April): We are unable to meet together on the hill for 'Sonrise' - celebrating Christ's victory over death - this year, but our reflection on Easter morning for our Facebook page and a blessing will be recorded at sunrise.

In addition, there will be two services for us in the Benefice:



- Holy Communion Service at 9.30am by Revd Kathy - from Trefonen and broadcast on Zoom. We will enjoy singing, seeing each other's faces and being able to chat.
- Outdoor Holy Communion, observing all the Covid regulations, at 2.30pm in Morton Churchyard. People will be seated in their households/bubbles (please give the names of all in your bubbles when booking). There will be a limited number of places and each booking secretary (Pearl, Jann, Janet and K) will have an allocation, so booking is essential.

All of these may be subject to change. Please see pew sheets, weekly emails, Facebook page and website or contact Revd Kathy for up to date information.



From the Editor:

A message for all our Welsh readers about the image on this month's front cover: sorry, it won't happen again!

(Regular readers will detect a similarity between the above note and a corresponding one last month. Proof, if needed, that no bias, nationalism, sexism or any other 'ism' will be found in your magazine!)

I hope that many of you have found an opportunity to take a look at the new Benefice website, which you'll find at www.borderparishes.org.uk. Note that there is no longer a hyphen in the middle of this address. This might seem a small change in English Language terms but, in 'internet speak', it makes a big difference. Links to download copies of this magazine now appear there as well as on the Trefonen village website.

Many officers of our four churches were allocated church email addresses in the past which included ...@border-parishes... in them (note the hyphen). These are being withdrawn and it is no longer safe to use them - your message might not arrive. A process of issuing new addresses has begun (another part of the 'digital development' of the Benefice), though there's more work to be done. As a result, some that usually appear in the magazine are missing, with gaps where they used to be. I'll update these in future as things progress.

A message now for the businesses that advertise in the magazine. Firstly, our usual thanks for your continuing support. When the country went into lockdown last March, we recognised that many of you might face a significant loss of income. We were keen not to lose you, but feared that you might think that this was an expense you could manage without. We therefore introduced a six-issue 'payment holiday'. That period has now ended and invoices will be sent out again when due. But note also that the above Benefice website development makes the magazine more readily available to residents of Morton and Llanymynech parishes. Your exposure to potential clients is increased, and at no additional charge.

Do read Helen Francis' note below about the Hill Walk. I know, from talking to her and others, that this has been a finely balanced judgement - I don't envy her having to make the decision.

Peter.

Trefonen Hill Walk Weekend:

We were hoping to organise a scaled down version of the Hill Walk at the end of May. However, there were quite a number of people who were concerned that this was too soon after lockdown. Lots of younger people (who, I feel so chuffed to say, are brilliant walk supporters) will not have had their vaccinations and it would be too difficult to keep everyone "safe".

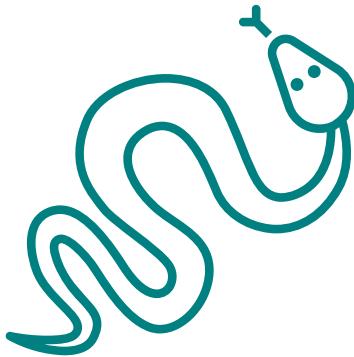
So, as suggested, we're going to go for the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

Put it in your diaries ... the sun is sure to shine ... and, fingers crossed, we'll have a BALL. If you've had an idea for the Weekend, no matter how small , large, or crazy, please call me on 07772 296244.

Helen Francis

Trefonen plans!

This week saw the Wild Woody Zoo recycled, but SID THE SNAKE will stay slithering his happy way across the Green until nearly the end of March! It has been so good to see Sid grow with all the imaginative ideas used to create him! I am hoping that he will get even longer until he is the longest snake you have ever seen!! The plan then is to keep him safe in my garden (suggested by a WI member who shall remain nameless!) until such time that he can be brought to life again at our What We Did During Lockdown Exhibition! (another suggestion by another well meaning member of the WI)!

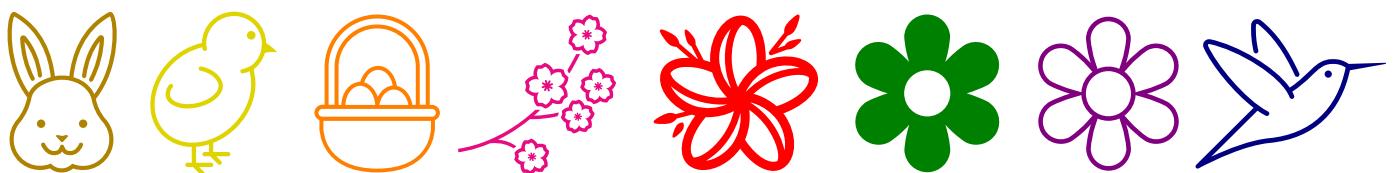


While the Woody Zoo was being dismantled I was greeted by a couple called Christine and Peter, who were intrigued by what we were doing! So, I had to explain of course, as they are hopefully moving into Trefonen very soon, that this is the sort of thing that happens in the village! They were very impressed with our community spirit and had already read the Parish Magazine and the Village Website, saying both were great and wasn't there a lot going on????! Ooh, wait until they move, especially as they enthused that they are keen to get involved!

The GO WILD photography Competition is ongoing at the minute, so be sure to get snapping as there are PRIZES!! Look out for the noticeboards and posters! Again, the photos will be displayed at the Exhibition, which will display Trefonen's many talents and determination to keep going in a Lockdown, the like of which we have never before experienced!

Then we have: **Go Wild, GRAND EASTER FINALE!**

Get busy with your imagination again! EASTER BUNNIES, CHICKS, BIRDS, FLOWERS, EGGS in any medium as long as they will withstand our unpredictable weather! Any colour, any size! Put your creations in the box in my porch (Darleen, Treflach Road) and see what happens!!!!



Ann Hindley

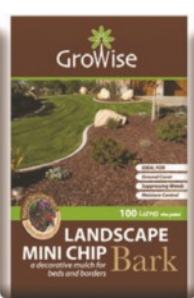


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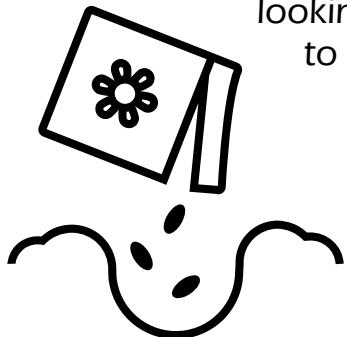
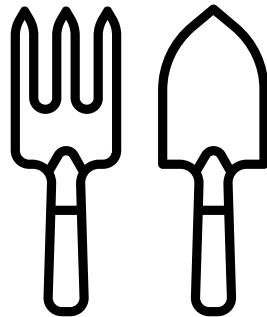
07940 757503

stuartjones47@yahoo.co.uk

Gardens and Wildlife:

Could you open your garden?

Helen Francis has suggested that a Hill Walk 2021 activity could be an open garden trail. This is NOT a competition, but an opportunity to drop into others' gardens, have a stroll, admire plants and exchange ideas. So many people wrote of the time they were spending in their gardens in the last year and the pleasure they were gaining from them. I've agreed to coordinate this and, for the moment, I'm



looking for people who would be prepared to discuss opening their garden. It has been suggested that the end of May will be too soon for this activity and perhaps the August Bank Holiday would be a better date. Clearly, we would have to respect any Covid-19 regulations in operation at the time, but this activity would be out of doors, social distancing should be easier to maintain, and we would not want anyone to consider offering refreshments. Would you contact me if you are prepared to consider this, please?

Our wildlife friendly community:

Last month we wrote of the WI's initiative to establish and identify Trefonen, Treflach and the surrounding area as a wildlife friendly community. Over the next few weeks, we are gathering information on all aspects of wildlife in our area, what we can identify as special, what needs protection, what relevant links we have with individuals and organisations, which projects are up and running, and so on. Information response forms have now been sent out to local groups we think will be interested in helping. If you would like to complete our questionnaire, please contact me (address below).



We shall review our data and work towards having a group of people locally to oversee our wildlife friendly community. We are contacting the Wildlife Trust which is piloting Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

K Kimber 01691 679646 bobnkkimber@btinternet.com

Bryn Offa CE Primary School

In my last contribution to this newsletter I mentioned that the date for the earliest we could open back to all the children

was the 8th March. I am delighted that this date has held firm and as we had expected, we were back to a full school on that day. Even though we have had nearly 40% of the school in since the start of January, it has felt much emptier, so although a few teething problems, it is great to have them back!



We still have to follow lots of rules and regulations to keep the children and staff safe, but these are all the same things we have got used to over the last year anyway. The big difference is how much easier things are as we move into the warmer weather of the Summer Term.

We can open the windows wider without freezing to our chairs, we can have outdoor PE without having to wait 72 hours after the previous groups used the gymnastics equipment and we can start to plan for some of the things that add colour to the school year.

We think it will be possible to have a 'Sports Day' and, possibly even, an end of year performance, even if it is an outdoor one. The outdoors has always been the safest place for the children in the pandemic and we are lucky to have a wonderful site, big field and some fantastic resources on our doorstep like the heritage area and Llanymynech Rock.

Bit by bit, all the things that make Bryn Offa so wonderful are starting to fall back into place. School assemblies and services are back, albeit still online, but hopefully in the not too distant future it will be back in person. School sports are beginning to resume, only locally at present but small steps ... I'm not sure how long it will be before we are completely back to normal, but I'm sure it will be soon. Until then we will continue to do what we do best - provide an amazing learning environment where the children are safe, well looked after and, most importantly, happy.

Mr Thompson
Headteacher



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Trefonen School News:

Well, pupils are back! Albeit in their 'Class Bubbles', but it is great to see them back in school. Some pupils have taken a while to settle back into the school routine but they are all happy to see their friends again and we are happy to hear the school back to a working thrum once more.

Last month the children in school, and remotely, got involved in World Book Day and dressed up in all sorts of costumes from Ariel to Gerald Giraffe, it was lovely to see. Science Week started on March 8th and the theme this year was 'Innovation for the Future'. The children had worked really hard at home and in class on their projects and were able to upload their work on to Teams to share with everyone for the Science Fair. Some provided a video of their experiment, a photograph of a model or a description. All the children received a certificate.

As part of our Science week, Friends of Trefonen School (FoTS) kindly paid for an entertaining and educational "Professor Bubbleworks Virtual Science Show". There were fun and entertaining activities for the whole school to take part in, from reception to Year 6. Thank you FoTS.

The Marches usually visit School with some lovely experiments during Science week but, as they were unable to visit us this year, they created a wonderful display of experiments in their online Science Show for pupils to look at instead.



The pupils had an opportunity to 'Dress in Red' for Red Nose Day and they raised over £100, which went to support the Comic relief projects for this year. Well done.

Towards the end of March the Pupil Progress Consultations took place. Due to Covid-19, parents were able to book an appointment for a telephone consultation with their child's teacher. Hopefully, the next consultation will be able to be done face to face, fingers crossed!

In case you haven't seen it yet, Trefonen School has had a new website developed. One that is better equipped to allow parents to access the information on a variety of devices and enables the staff to upload much more content in a range of different formats. Take a look on www.trefonenschool.co.uk.

Robins

All the pupils who took part in our 'World Book Day' activities in March and dressed up as their favourite characters, both online and in school, looked amazing. We had caterpillars, pirates and queens - and many more!

It is wonderful to now have everyone back in class again and the pupils have loved seeing all their friends again.

Mrs Roberts has been teaching Robins remotely through-out Spring term and has directed learning streamed live to them in their classroom. The children have been supported on-site in the classroom by Miss De Looze and Mr Howle, a real team effort.



Nightingales

Nightingales have been busy writing about dragons and designing a dragon machine. On World Book Day we listened to stories and did lots of fun activities. In class we made our own very imaginative mini books. We had lots of amazing characters in the class and at home. It is great to have all of Nightingales back in school and everyone is working so well.

Wrens

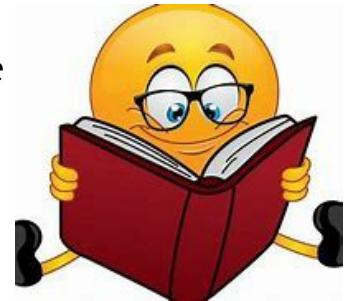
We are so pleased to have all of our class back together. As part of Science week, we have been exploring sound and hearing by making cardboard box guitars, bottle bands water and whizzing whirly tubes around. We have been trying to 'see' vibrations by putting ringing tuning forks into water and watching what happens to dry rice on a drum skin when another drum was hit close by.

We enjoyed amazing science demonstrations filmed by Marches School science teachers, and took part in Professor Bubbleworks science on the theme of transport innovations. We also shared home science projects for our school science fair.

Puffins

We enjoyed our World Book Day activities, exciting Beowulf battles, cricket coaching and art. The pupils' folders in Teams were full of examples of their fabulous work. All pupils worked so hard over lock down, showing dedication, determination, problem solving and independence on their activities. Well done!

But it has been an absolute pleasure to see them returning to school and getting hands on with their amazing science projects.



Hawks

Hawks class chose activities to do with a £1 book called 'Protect the Planet' from the World Book Day website. Pupils thought of positive changes that they could apply in their lives, like recycling, planting a tree, drawing about Climate Change and sharing the pictures with other people to raise awareness.

Pupils discussed how 'Together We Stand Strong' and we can make a change. Pupils also dressed in red for Red Nose Day for the Comic Relief charity.

April dates

Fri 2 nd – Fri 16 th	Easter Holidays
Mon 19 th	Start of Summer Term
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday

Friends of Trefonen School (FoTS)

If you would like to get involved, please contact the school on 01691 652960 or email friendsoftrefonenschool@gmail.com

School email: parentcontact@trefonen.shropshire.sch.uk

School website: www.trefonenschool.co.uk



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Trefonen WI:

Our March meeting took place on Zoom again. We're really looking forward to being together 'in real life' again but, in the meantime, we're making the most of the technology available and it's lovely to see everyone, albeit on screen.



Being virtual allowed us to have a distanced speaker, Sarah Slater, who is a Guide Lecturer at Historic Royal Palaces and a costumed tour guide at Hampton Court Palace. Sarah spoke with enthusiasm and a huge depth of knowledge about 'Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip at the Royal Court, 1660 – 1830'.

As well as supporting her talk with photos, royal family trees and many other artefacts, Sarah wore a very beautiful, home-made evening gown in the style a well-off lady would wear over her stays, corset and shift – the latter being the only item of underwear a lady had. Knickers, we learned, were not worn till WWI, though previously daring dancers of the waltz would wear drawers un-sewn at the crotch but covering the upper leg for modesty. Sarah's hair was styled according to the period and she wore pearls to show off her wealth and virginity.



Built in 1515 by Cardinal Wolsey, Hampton Court was given to Henry VIII in the hope of atoning for failing to secure him a divorce. It came into its own as the home of the monarch in the reign of Charles II and continued till George III. The 1660s restoration period involved many parties and partners, with Charles' seven acknowledged titled mistresses living with him and his wife at Hampton Court Palace and several untitled mistresses were set up nearby in their own homes. The next Monarch was a double act between William and Mary, who are both known to have same sex partners, and so the stories unfolded at dizzying speed!

Sarah introduced us to some of the noble and sometimes infamous families, including the Keppels, Churchills and others who are ancestors of our current Prime Minister and Duchess of Cornwall.

Amongst other things, we learned about 'Women of Fashion: Harris's List of London's Prostitutes' which sold 8,000 copies in 1791, the origin of some of our slang terms. The fact that the rich lady's white skin, often obtained by white lead-based makeup with blue veins painted on, is the origin of the term 'blue blooded' to denote rank. The whiteness was further highlighted by black beauty spots, sometimes in profusion to cover pox marks.

Sarah welcomed questions then Deana thanked her for her information-packed and fascinating talk.

We had a round up from the sub groups working on the topics of women's health and a wildlife friendly community, and made plans for the next phase.

Our next meeting is on Thursday April 8th when we're going to hear about making hand made bags from the Philippines. For details on how to log-in to the zoom meeting, please contact Victoria Gemmell: 07773 364992, v.gemmell@hotmail.co.uk.

Gill Buckeridge & Victoria Gemmell



Visit www.trefonen.org/whats-on-now | Trefonen Community Facebook page | The village shop

Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group Bird Survey 2021

Curlew Lapwing and Other Target Species

New helpers needed, please



© Gareth Thomas

The Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group has been monitoring local Curlews, Lapwings and other birds since 2018. We are planning on starting the 2021 survey at the end of March. We need more helpers please, so if you have some time to spend monitoring the iconic birds in our area, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

The main target species are Lapwing and Curlew. If you can recognise these two birds (and preferably their calls), you can make an important contribution.

The survey area extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastward from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns: from the Tanat to the Perry. A map can be found on the website.

The area is divided into squares, each of 2x2 kilometres. Participants take on one of these survey squares and visit three times, on dates to suit you around 1st April, 1st May and 15th June, about half a day each visit, so it doesn't take much time. It's easy to do, and participants are provided with simple survey instructions and a map to record sightings on. If possible we'd also like you to record Kestrel, Cuckoo and other target species, but that's an optional extra.

In 2021 the survey will be conducted in accordance with whatever Government Coronavirus restrictions are in place at the time, but as survey visits are usually made by people on their own, or by couples, and can be done as daily exercise, they will be allowed. The UK Government Road Map, published on 22 February, included several relaxations of the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions while being outside, most importantly that the "Stay at Home" rule is planned to end on 29 March.



© Eric Davies

We normally hold a meeting in March to report back on last year's results, and explain what's involved to new participants. However, we won't be able to do that this year. New helpers will be briefed by email. There will be a practical (socially distanced) training session, explaining how to go about the survey, and record what you see, in early April, if you feel you need it.

You can choose your own square, and do more than one if you want. However, we have to try and get all the squares covered, so it would be appreciated if you'll be a bit flexible, and tell me the rough area that you'd like to do, and I'll choose a square for you.

You can find the survey reports from 2020 and previous years, on the relevant part of the Community Wildlife Groups website, www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk

Ours is one of 10 Community Wildlife Groups monitoring Curlews in Shropshire. You can see where they operate, and what they found in 2019 and 2020, on the map attached.

If you're interested in helping, or want more information, email Leo Smith (leo@leosmith.org.uk).

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Trefonen Garden Club Plant Swap

Starts Thursday 15 April in aid of Hill Walk Charities

Bring your plants, cuttings, seedlings and shrubs to the Plant Swap table in the All Saints' Trefonen Churchyard.

All donations to the Village Shop collection box for Hill Walk Charities

Enquiries to trefonengardenclub@gmail.com

Interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?

On 6th May 2021, local polls will take place, including local elections in England and Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales. The Government have published details about how they will proceed with the Elections in the COVID-19 context, including announcement through to declaring the results. A copy of the document can be downloaded from the Government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/may-2021-polls-delivery-plan>

Are you passionate about your community?

Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election. Make a change and become a councillor.



What do local councils and councillors do?

Local (parish and town) councils and councillors make a massive difference to the quality of life of local people. They are passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve the lives of their residents.

Councillors are elected to represent the local community, so you must either live or work in the council area (please see our website for more details on eligibility - [2021 May Elections | \(llanyblodwel.info\)](#)). Becoming a councillor is a rewarding experience as you will be able to make a change in your community to help improve the lives of residents. A councillor's role can include responsibilities such as developing strategies and plans for the area, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, decision making and reviewing decisions and talking to the community about their needs and about what the council is doing.

How to become a councillor?

Local councils can only be as useful, connected and energetic as the people elected to run it, so we need councillors who are capable, enthusiastic and engaged to reflect their communities. You can find out more about becoming a councillor on The Electoral Commission and Local Government Association website.

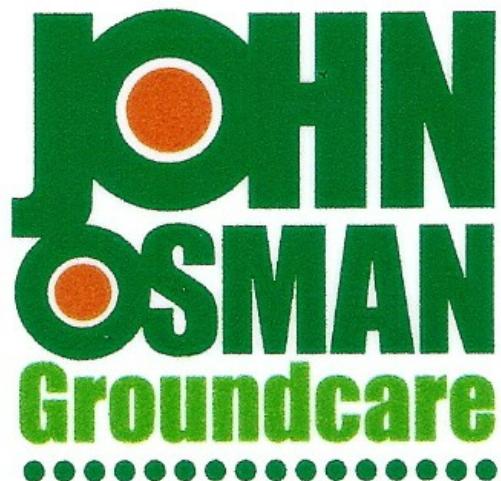
Local elections are taking place on the 6th May 2021.

If you would like to find out more or request a nomination pack, please contact: Llanyblodwel Parish Council Clerk (Amy Jones) on llanyblodwelpc@gmail.com or call 01691 829571.

The deadline for submitting nomination papers to Shirehall is 4pm on Thursday 8th April.

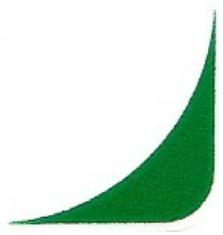


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Shaping for Mission:

During the pandemic, we have had to find new ways ‘doing church’. This has led us to embrace technology, to reach out to new people in new ways but, at the same time, has left us unable to reach all those who had previously been reached.

The inability to meet, either for worship or for fundraising, has affected church finances both locally and as a diocese. As we head out of lockdown and into the future, it is a good time to review where we are, where we have been and where we are heading as the local church in our community and as a deanery. And so the ‘Shaping for Mission’ initiative took shape.



So where are we along our journey? We have a deanery team of representatives, clergy and lay, men and women, a mixture of ages and experience, and the help of a diocesan enabler. An audit of the parishes is currently being collated to see if common threads can be seen in the deanery and to aid the development of future plans.

In parallel with this, the responses from each parish will be used by the PCCs to help shape their local missions. Exciting and challenging times lie ahead, but God’s church and mission should be evolving and changing all the time. Who knows where God is leading us? But if we trust and believe, then who knows what, where and how we will achieve and grow with His help.

Annual Parish Church Meetings Revisited!



It had been intended to hold these in March but, on hearing the Prime Minister’s Roadmap out of lockdown, things changed.

‘Zoom’ meetings would be legal, but they prohibit those who don’t use the internet. Meeting in person would be preferred and we hope that, by May, this will be possible. New dates are:

Llanyblodwel 17th May at 7pm (Electoral Roll will reopen on 17th April)

Trefonen 19th May at 7pm (Electoral Roll will reopen on 19th April)

These give an opportunity to hear and ask questions about the various activities of the church, to read the reports, see the state of the finances and be involved in the plans for the future. We will still have to follow Covid regulations and social distancing will have to be observed, but being able to meet in the church, together, will be great - if we can manage it ... fingers crossed!

Flowers for Easter:

We hope to have silk flower arrangements around the altar for Easter, remaining there until 12th April when we hope to be back in church.

We intend to repeat last year’s ‘virtual’ Easter lilies to remember our loved ones. If you wish someone to be remembered, please let me know and we will do so on Facebook and during both services (see p. 3) on Easter Day. We will give out a small silk lily to those families for them to keep.

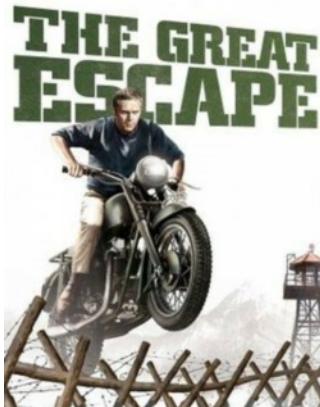


Revd Kathy

From the Rectory:

My dear friends,

Well, who'd have thought, when we began our 'Lockdown' journey just over a year ago, that we would only just be beginning to hopefully emerge from it for the last time! There has been the promise of it many times, an opening of the door and thinking we are free, only to find we have to return to it again.



Just recently, someone drew my attention to the film, 'The Great Escape', and for many I am sure there have been times when we felt like Steve McQueen's character, locked up in solitary confinement, unable to see anyone, and we have had to find our own proverbial baseballs to aid the boredom and count down the days.

For others, we have been in lockdown with a few plotting and planning our escape or how we might push the rules to achieve it! Hopes have been dashed many times. We think we have escaped, only to find the 'tunnel' isn't quite long enough and we are still within the confines of the camp and we are returned once more to our cells.

But now it feels different. It feels like the war is being won against the virus, the key has been turned and we can hear the door creaking open. We dream of sunshine on our faces - all our faces not just a part, of greeting loved ones with hugs and kisses, of meals with friends and so much more. 'Freedom is coming', as the song goes. Hope surges through our veins and our souls sing with delight!

But we aren't the same as we were a year ago. Things have changed and we aren't the same people. We have mourned and lamented, felt the agony of separation, the pain of loneliness, the fear as well as the resilience, the willingness to embrace new skills and technology, the worth of relationship, the caring and compassion for others and the worth of all that is important. These things have shaped and moulded us and are now part of who we are. As we emerge, we have been transformed, and that transformation - it is hoped - will stay with us as we journey onwards.



How appropriate then, the timing, as we come to the end of Lent, when we recall Jesus in the wilderness, 'locked down' with wild beasts, the tempter and himself and how he was transformed for ministry. This was the ministry that would see him heal the sick, have compassion for the poor and lonely, have understanding for people and their situations, that met people where they were without judgment or condemnation but acceptance and love. The ministry that would challenge and speak out and see him 'locked up' once more, and his only release was in torture and death.

BUT ... that wasn't the end. God enabled, empowered and engineered the ultimate transformation, new life, risen life, eternal life, for Christ. In Christ, that transformation can be ours too using the transformation already begun to aid us.

The crucified and risen Lord holds the key to unlocking our forever door. It's time to turn the key ..

May I wish you and your families a very happy and blessed Easter. Til next time, stay safe and well.

Yours in Christ,

Kathy



Sofa Club and Dementia Activities:



Sofa Club has tried to meet as best as it can during the weeks, months, and even the last year, trying to keep in contact with the members and arranging activities. As the weeks unfold, we hope that we will gradually be able to reconnect and re-establish slowly with one another, safely and securely and, in the not too distant future, be able to meet in a way that is more of what we are used to. We walk forward and onwards in faith and hope, so for now the activities coming up are:

1st April: 'Clean hands, clean face, clean feet'. A short service for Holy Week which will be distributed and, if weather permits, we may meet in small groups in gardens as Covid regulations permit.

15th April: Cosy Cushion Conversations

13th May: Short service for Ascension Day 'To the Moon and Back?'

27th May: Cosy Cushion Conversations.

For further information contact Revd Kathy 07944 504330.



St Michael's:

A warm welcome awaits you at St Michael's.

We will hold our Good Friday service at 10.30 am on 2nd April - please ring Pearl if you would like to attend. We follow Covid safety guidelines closely. Until restrictions are lifted, our doors are open for private prayer on Sunday mornings 10.30 - 11.30. A chance for individual prayer in the peace and serenity of our beautiful church.

We have good news. As you may know, we are actively securing funding for a disabled toilet facility within the church. Funding bodies, like everything else, have been processing very few funding bids. We are delighted to say we have secured a further grant and are now past the halfway point with more successful bids hopefully in the pipeline.

We look forward to when we can all meet again in person and join in again with community spirit.

Abie Tudor

Quiz:

Many thanks to Graham Ladley for this month's quiz. Could you compile one? Let me know if you're interested - contact details on the inside of the front cover.

Ed.

1. How are Si King and Dave Myers better known?
2. Who is the only person to win three Best Actor Oscars?
3. What is the second smallest of the United States?
4. What are the names for male and female ferrets?
5. Dating artefacts by dendrochronology makes use of what?
6. What is the meaning of the word 'bucolic'?
7. Dunkery Beacon, Yes Tor, and Brown Willey are the highest points of three counties in which part of England?
8. What is the largest land mammal in Britain?
9. When was the first Channel Tunnel begun? (It got about a mile.)
10. Which country did the Pope visit in March, 2021?
11. The musical 'Wicked' is a spin-off from which older musical film?
12. What was Stephen Sondheim's part in the writing of 'West Side Story'?
13. 'Pixel' is an abbreviation of what two words?
14. Only two South American countries do not have a border with Brazil. Which?
15. With which Italian city is the painter Titian particularly associated?
16. Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island. Which one is missing?
17. Which is the largest archipelago in the world?
18. In 'Little Women' which is the eldest sister?
19. Who was the first non-Royal person to feature on a postage stamp?
20. We know of the painter L. S. Lowry. What do the initials L and S stand for?



Answers on page 43



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Trefonen Garden Club:

As this is being written, it looks as though there is light at the end of the year long tunnel we have all been in. With more being vaccinated and the daily number of new Covid cases in decline, it is time to look at planning Garden Club activities, for when it is both safe and practical as well as permissible.

The all clear promises to come in June so a tentative plan is to have the July monthly meeting in the Village Hall, on Thursday 15th July at 7:30 p.m. This, we hope, will feature Victoria Logue talking on Practical Propagation Seeds, Cuttings and Beyond; if we cannot meet in the Village Hall, we are looking to use Zoom.

More immediate are the plans to have the Swap Table in the Churchyard once more, from 15th April onwards, when Village gardeners are encouraged to bring their cuttings plants and seeds to the table and then take others back home, any donations for the Hill Walk Charities; so after swapping, or just taking away, please make your contribution to the Hill Walk collection box at the Village Shop.

The Swap Table was very successful last year and much appreciated by many (*see advert on page 19*).



The Garden Club will be encouraging an NHS Garden visit or two later on, so, whether you're a member or not, keep an eye on the website www.trefonengardenclub.org.uk or make sure you're on the mailing list, email trefonengardenclub@gmail.com.

Further on we may be able to squeeze in a one day visit to RHS Bridgewater near Salford in the late summer.

Thank you to all who attended the Garden Club AGM in March, held on Zoom.



A postscript to an earlier article on pesticides and neonicotinoids in particular. You may have seen recent media coverage noting that the UK Government have stopped allowing the use of neonicotinoids on the sugar beet crop in this country, as crop loss is now expected to be low. Whilst this is somewhat cheering, as neonicotinoids are very harmful to bees, it stops short of an outright ban and neonicotinoids are still being allowed in parts of the EU.

Trefonen FC:

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE (as at 10/03/2021)

Due to our almost unique circumstances of being an English club playing in the Welsh football system, we are again caught between the rules and restrictions on both sides of the border.

Following on from the Roadmap announcement made on Monday 22nd February by the Prime Minister, we were pleased to hear that organised sport can return outdoors in England from the week commencing 29th March.

The easing of English restrictions has allowed the Shropshire FA to resume their league and cup competitions, of which the club still has some interest, although these competitions have not yet been finalised. With a view to this, the club have decided to host training sessions beginning in April. After some significant developments within the club over the previous months, this will also be a good opportunity to welcome new faces and prepare for next season.

On the other side of the border, the Football Association of Wales curtailed the season some weeks ago, meaning our competitive season has already been abandoned without us kicking a ball. It would take for Wales to be put into Alert Level 3 for football and other organised sport to be allowed to return to the same level as in England. However, given the time of year, we would normally be reaching the conclusion of our season, so it is likely that should these events occur, it will have more effect on next season.



It goes without saying, that as the wider society is slowly eased out of lockdown, the club will be closely following the guidance of all the relevant organisations. It is only right that we also continue to proceed with a great deal of caution until we are in better times.

To keep up to date with all the latest information and ongoing, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Greg Stokes



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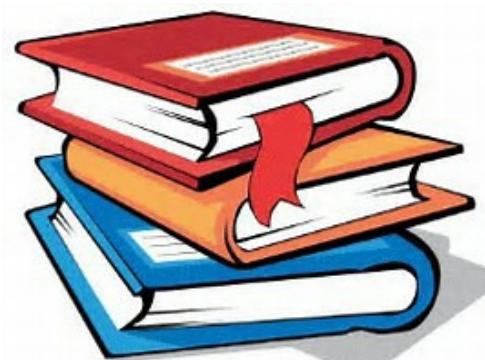
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Can I have a word?

My go-to books when I need a History fix, or I've done particularly badly at the BBC's 'Pointless' programme and manage to score 100+ points at the historical questions, are the books of Robert Lacey entitled 'Great Tales from English History'. They consist of short, chronological chapters which offer a glimpse of the past in a very readable story-like way. As Mr Lacey points out, in many languages 'story' and 'history' remain the same word! As I've been reading them, I've discovered that the words of our English language have a fascinating story to tell. Here are a few I've gleaned from their pages.



If we go back in time to circa 325BC we discover a brave Greek chap called Pytheas who is navigating and mapping the shores and land of Britain. He discovers that the Celts who inhabit the land painted their faces with woad when at war. 'Pretani' is Celtic for paint or tattooed people. Pytheas transcribed this into Greek as 'Pretannike'- land of the painted people. When later translated into Latin, 'Pretannike' yielded first 'Pretannia', then 'Britannia'.

When the Romans occupied 'Britannia', arriving from AD 43, they brought with them their language, Latin. Their legacy lives on today when we speak of 'exit' from the Latin 'exire'- to go out, 'pedestrian' from 'pedester'- on foot and 'chester' from 'castrum'- a fort, to name but a few.



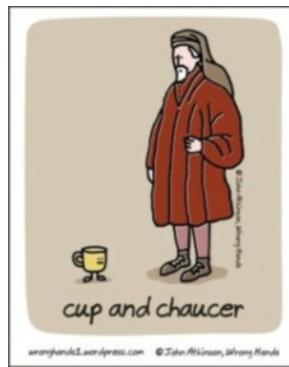
When the Romans left Britain around AD 410 in order to defend other areas of their empire, Britain began to be occupied by Saxon and Angle tribes from Germany. They created their own kingdoms and spoke their own language. Their arrival produced the word 'England' derived from 'Engla Londe'- land of the Angles. They experienced little difficulty in assimilating the friendly British and they drove the 'less willing' Celts back into Cornwall, Wales, Scotland and Ireland- known as the Celtic fringe. The Anglo Saxons referred to these dispossessed people as 'wealisc', meaning 'foreign'- from which we get the word 'Welsh'. To the dispossessed Celts, the Germanic invaders were all Saxons - from which comes the Scottish word of abuse 'Sassenach'. It's interesting to note that the hundred most frequently used words in our language today are all Anglo Saxon in origin - 'the', 'is', 'you' - our basic language building blocks. Indeed, Winston Churchill's famous 'We shall fight them on the beaches ...' speech uses only one word that is not Anglo Saxon in origin - 'surrender', which is French in derivation.

The next invaders who influenced our language in a big way were the Vikings, who began to occupy the north and eastern areas of England in the aftermath of raids that started in the 790s. Perhaps the most obvious word we use today is 'Thursday' from 'Thor's Day', God of Thunder.

Not surprisingly, due to their war-like credentials, we have 'berserk' from 'berserkr' - a viking warrior who entered battle wearing a bear skin, 'club' from 'klubba' and 'ransack' from 'rannsaka'. Thankfully, they also gave us 'happy' from 'heppinn' and, best of all, 'cake' from 'kaka'!

1066 saw the Battle of Hastings and the invasion of Britain by William The Conqueror and his Norman army. This resulted in profound political, administrative and social changes in Britain which were now reflected in the language: words of control and authority such as 'order', 'court', 'trial', and 'judge' all come from Norman French. When it came to the hard work of rearing and tending animals, the words used were English - 'cow' (cu), 'pig' (pigge), 'sheep (seeap)' but eating them were French - 'beef' (boeuf), 'pork' (porc), and 'mutton' (mouton)! The Normans bequeathed over 10,000 words to English, of which about three quarters are still in use today!

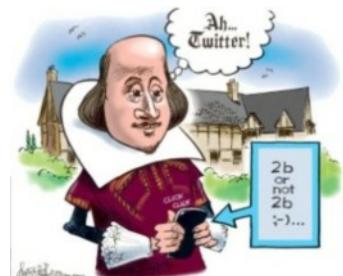
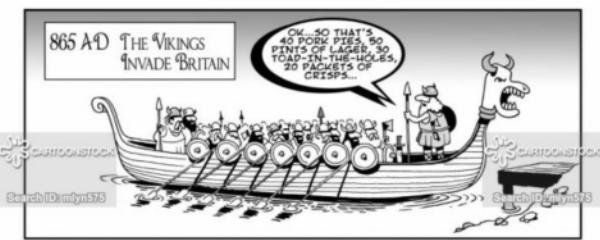
As we continue to travel through time to c.1100, we discover the Anglo-French origins of 'exchequer' and 'cheque' - a cloth divided in squares that covered a table on which accounts of revenue were reckoned by using counters. Later, in the 1260s, the word 'Parliament', from the French 'Parler' (to talk) is created to express the meeting place between royalty and the ruling classes.



When we meet Chaucer and his Canterbury Tales in 1387, we discover that he reintroduces 'Old English' words such as 'friendly' (freondlic). This was partly due to the fact that the Hundred Year War against France had the effect of branding French as the language of the enemy, and the status of English rose as a consequence. The Black Death of 1349-1350 killed a disproportionate number of Latin-speaking clergy and the English-speaking labourers and merchants grew in economic and social importance.

It is in the next few hundred years that the way the population spoke contributed to the words we would recognise today, along with their peculiar spellings. Vowels became longer sounding as 'hoose' became 'house', 'boot' became 'boat', and letters that were previously pronounced became silent, such as knight, cough, comb and gnat.

The Elizabethan era of the 16th and 17th centuries, the time of Shakespeare, saw the revival of classical scholarship and thousands of new words from Latin and Greek were imported wholesale into the language. These included words such as genius, radius, nausea, temperature, comedy and tragedy. By the time 'The King James Bible' had been published in English in 1611, the language was very much established and recognisable as the English we know today.



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Blame it on Henry VIII:

Some of you will know of the existence of a booklet giving a history of Trefonen church. First produced in 2002, it was revised in 2016 and is being re-written for this, the 200th anniversary year of All Saints. Betty Steele was involved in both earlier editions and she and I are compiling this one. Publication will, we hope, coincide with the celebrations to mark the bicentenary. One of the facts recorded is that Trefonen parish transferred from the diocese of St Asaph to the diocese of Lichfield in 1920. Intrigued, I looked into this in more detail.

The Church of England is the 'Established' church in this country, meaning that it is "recognized by law as the official church of a state or nation and supported by civil authority". Since its creation by Henry VIII in 1531 after he fell out with the Pope over the annulment of his first marriage to Catherine of Aragon, he and all subsequent monarchs have been its 'Supreme Head', certain Bishops have seats in the House of Lords and prayers are said daily before parliamentary sessions. This applies in England, but not in Wales – there's no equivalent in the Senedd.

During the 19th century, Nonconformist churches and chapels grew rapidly in Wales, to the point where the majority of Welsh Christians were Nonconformists. There was resentment over the fact that, by the middle of the century, no Welsh-speaking bishops had been appointed in Wales for 150 years. This was also an era when the church was legally entitled to collect tithes from landowners, including the nonconformist chapels - imagine how popular that was! Disestablishment of the Church in Wales was seen as a way to assert national and linguistic identity and address the discontent. Under the influence of non-conformist politicians such as David Lloyd George, the Welsh Church Act 1914 was passed by the Liberal Government, despite fierce opposition from the Conservatives. The Act separated Anglicanism in Wales from the Church of England and disestablished it from the state, the change taking effect on 31st March 1920.

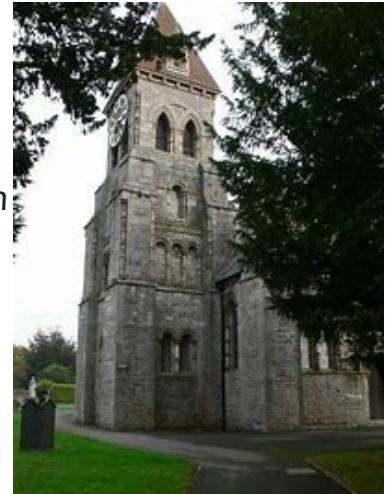


But it gave rise to issues along the English-Welsh border. Historically, the Anglican Church divided its territory into dioceses, with cathedrals and bishops at their heads. Most diocesan boundaries are very old – much older than, for example, those of our shire counties. The Welsh diocese of St Asaph had previously extended into this part of England and so its boundary with Lichfield was re-drawn to coincide with the national border. Trefonen, together with several other churches in Oswestry and the surrounding area, were thus transferred from one to the other.

This was relatively straightforward for those parishes which lay entirely within either England or Wales. But the issue of what should happen in the cases of the 20 churches whose parish boundaries spanned the border had to be resolved. Three of these are nearby – Llansilin, Llanymynech and Rhydycroesau.

The solution was to allow residents to vote in referenda to determine the diocese in which they wished to reside. These were held in 1915 and everyone over the age of 21 could vote. This was one of the first times that women had equal voting rights and preceded the 1928 Act which allowed them to take part in parliamentary elections.

The church of St Agatha in Llanymynech lies just yards on the English side of the border. Of the 526 ballots issued, 315 votes were cast for the Church of England, 130 for the Church in Wales, and 23 were spoiled.



Christ Church, Rhydycroesau, lies a few yards on the Welsh side of the border and here, and at St Silin, Llansilin, there was too narrow a majority to be decisive, though the actual figures were never published. In a second round of voting the following year, Llansilin favoured the Church in Wales by 255 to 228 and Rhydycroesau voted 98 to 78 for the Church of England. Llansilin was the only one of the 20 parishes involved along the entire length of the border to vote for the Church in Wales. The border here follows the course of the Cynllaith, about 800 metres east of the church at its closest point, placing it and the village more decisively in Wales.

I wasn't aware of any plans to mark this particular centenary on 31st March last year, though of course they would have been rather stymied by our going into the first lockdown on the 23rd.



Peter Woollam (with many thanks to Wikipedia)

Henry VIII jokes:

I saw a man in town dressed as Henry VIII. He was sitting on the pavement asking people for money. I thought: that can't be right. Beggars can't be Tudors?

What do Kermit the Frog and Henry the VIII have in common? Same middle name.

Which one of Henry VIII's wives liked to play Skittles? Anne Bowling.

Which of his wives was really bad at archery? Catherine of Arrow-gone.

Which wife was only average in golf? Catherine Par.

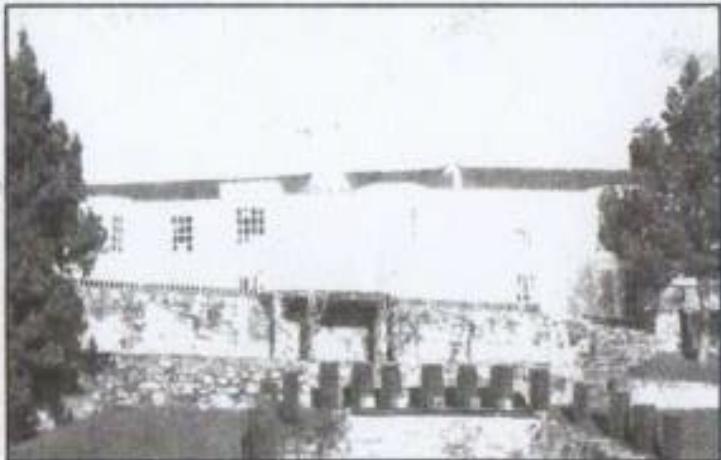
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Now that's what I call

When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.

To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00pm is the new midnight.

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.

If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"

When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.

I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.

I run like the winded.

I hate it when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.

When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"

When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminium can stuffed with celery?

I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.

When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."

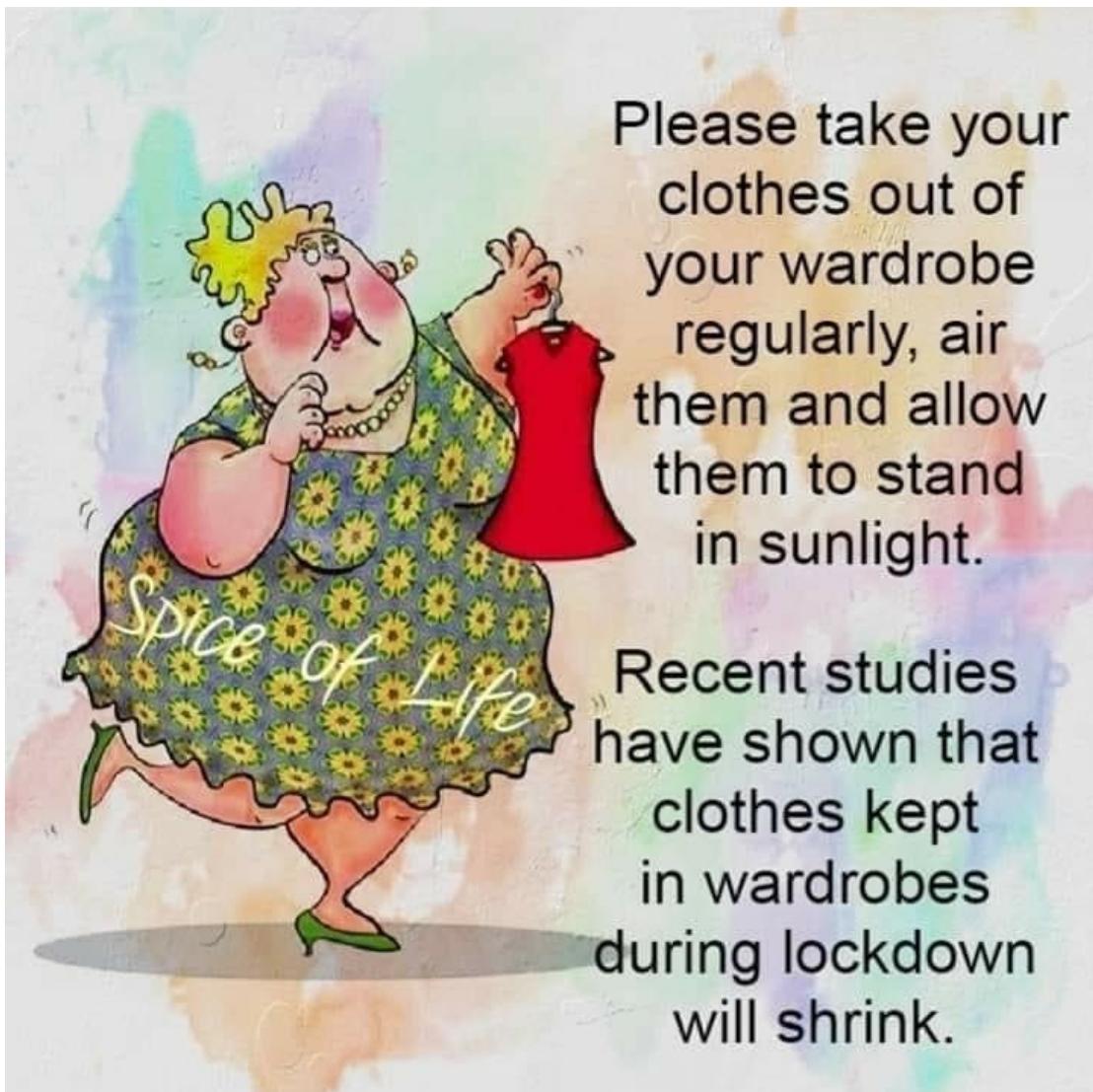
Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.

Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.

My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

... lugubrious!

Haberdashery page:



I shouldn't tell sewing jokes - I'm always running out of material.

Him: "You're not buying all that fabric are you?"

Her: "Yes, but look how much I'm leaving behind."

My friend composes songs about sewing machines. She's a Singer songwriter.

Of course I talk to myself while I'm sewing. Sometimes I need expert advice.

Earlier today police apprehended a criminal who had loaded an industrial-sized loom and 10 cubic meters of wool onto a truck in an attempted robbery of a local textile factory. Police became suspicious of the truck when they noticed the driver weaving all over the road.

All of my neighbours wear woollen jumpers that are a size too small for them. We are a very tight knit community.

A sweater I bought was picking up static electricity, so I returned it to the shop. They gave me another one free of charge.



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Answers to the quiz:

1. The Hairy Bikers
2. Daniel Day Lewis
3. Delaware
4. Cob and Jill
5. Tree rings
6. Pleasant country life
7. South-West England
8. Red deer
9. 1890
10. Iraq
11. Wizard of Oz
12. He wrote the libretto
13. Picture resolution
14. Ecuador and Chile
15. Venice
16. Queens (New York boroughs)
17. Indonesia
18. Meg
19. Shakespeare - 1564 - 400th birthday
20. Lawrence Stanley



Trefonen Village Shop

SHOP & POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES:

Monday - Friday:	8.00 - 6.00
Saturday:	9.00 - 1.00
Sundays & Bank Holidays:	10.00 - 1.00

Telephone 01691 671208

You will find all items found in a convenience store, but if there is anything you would like Hazel to stock, please let her know and she will do her best!

Local Contacts:

Defibrillator Coordinator		Val Smout	657011
Jubilee Club		Alwena Martin	652791
Jubilee Field		K Kimber	679646
Llanyblodwel Parish Clerk		Amy Jones	01691 829571
			llanyblodwelpc@gmail.com
Llanyblodwel & Porth-y-Waen Village Hall Sec.		Myfi Jones	828786
Oswestry Rural (incl. Trefonen) Parish Clerk		Sharon Clayton	01952 884372
			clerk@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
Pre-School: ring 07817 641528	or	Shropshire Council	01743 254452
Trefonen Garden Club		Barbara Court	655387
Trefonen Indoor Bowling Club		Kath Barkley	653172
Trefonen School		Cathy Dunleavy (Head Teacher)	652960
Trefonen Village Design Statement		K Kimber	679646
Trefonen Village Hall Caretaker		Clive & Kath Roberts	671360
Trefonen Village Shop & Post Office		Hazel	671208
Trefonen Village website			www.trefonen.org
WI - Llanyblodwel		Tina Griffith	830823
WI - Trefonen		Gill Buckeridge	653172

Some useful services:

ELECTRICITY (Scottish Power)	0800 111999	CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU	0344 499 1100
SEVERN TRENT WATER	0800 783 4444	CHILDLINE	0800 1111
DWR CYMRU (Welsh Water)	0800 052 0130	SAMARITANS	0845 790 9090
NATIONAL RAIL ENQUIRIES	03457 484950	DRUGS & ALCOHOL HELPLINE	0800 776600
HOSPITALS:			
RJ & AH ORTHOPAEDIC	01691 404000		0808 2000 247
ROYAL SHREWSBURY	01743 261000	WALES DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE	
WREXHAM MAELOR	01978 291100		0808 801 0800
PRINCES ROYAL TELFORD	01952 641222	VICTIM SUPPORT NATIONAL	0845 303 0900
WELSH BLOOD SERVICE	0800 252266	NATIONAL MISSING PERSONS HELPLINE	
			0500 700700

Mobile Library:

No Mobile Library during the current lockdown. Anyone needing access to the internet for emergency purposes can now use computer facilities in a number of libraries across the county, including Oswestry's. Sessions must be booked in advance by contacting 01743 250351.



Deadline for copy for the magazine is the 10th of each month.

This is important! It allows time for the Editor to compile the contents, followed by proof reading and printing in time for publication on (usually) the last weekend of the previous month. The online version will usually be available to download approximately a week before the paper version is distributed.