

Parish & Community Magazine



May 2021

"The Holy Spirit appeared as tongues of fire over the heads of the believers on the day of Pentecost."

(Acts of the Apostles, Ch. 2)

No. 4

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

Volume 31

Produced by All Saints and St Michael's churches

Border Group of Parishes

Llanyblodwel, Llanymynech, Morton & Trefonen



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Church Services in May:

With the gradual lifting of restrictions on our movements, we can now look forward to services resuming in our churches. These will, at first, be the subject of similar control measures to those which were in place during the later part of last year - mask wearing, numbers limited so as to enable social distancing, no community hymn singing, etc.



As we went to press, a full diary of services in May was not available, but the churches will be keeping people informed via the other now well-established routes.

Readers may recall that 2021 sees the 200th anniversary of All Saints Church, an event which deserves celebration. It is hoped to mark the occasion with a service at 3.00pm on Pentecost Sunday (23rd May). If the restrictions then in force permit, it will proceed as an 'admission by ticket only event', so keep a lookout for notices elsewhere.

A reminder:

Step 3 of the roadmap - no earlier than 17th May:

- You'll be able to meet indoors with 1 other household, in no more than a group of 6.
- You'll be able to meet outdoors in groups of no more than 30 people.
- All indoor hospitality, including restaurants and pubs, can open.
- All remaining outdoor entertainment can open.
- All indoor entertainment such as museums, cinema and children's play areas can open.
- All remaining accommodation such as hotels, hostels and B&Bs can open.
- All indoor group sports and exercises classes will be allowed.
- Some large events, such as theatre and concert performances, sporting events and conferences will be allowed. Indoor events will be capped at 1,000 people or 50% of capacity, whichever is lower. Outdoor events will be capped at 4,000 people or 50% of capacity, whichever is lower.
- Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes. Christenings and bar mitzvahs will also be allowed.

Step 4 - no earlier than 21st June:

- All limits on social contact will be removed.
 - All remaining business and large events, such as theatre performances, will be allowed.
 - There will be no restrictions on the number of people that can attend weddings and other ceremonial events.
-

Front cover:

I went looking for a more 'modern art' style of depiction of the experience of the early disciples at Pentecost and found this one, posted anonymously on the internet. *Ed.*

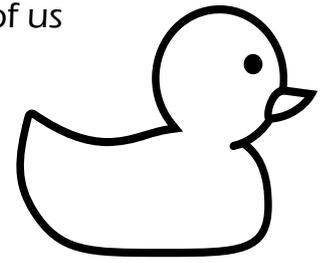
SSHH!! FINGERS CROSSED

Ann Hindley

We MAY be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel!

Easter came and went for the second time in Lockdown and many of us have had our second lockdown birthday.

A HUGE thank you to all those who contributed to the decorations that made up the great Easter Display on the Memorial Green! The Trefonen Hillwalk Duck sat proudly wearing his Easter ribbon, reminding us that his presence is still important while he awaits our next Hillwalk Duck Race!



Many thanks also to SIMPLY RIBBONS of OSWESTRY who very kindly donated all the wonderful ribbon used for the display!

The Display could not have been achieved without the ribbons and the unbounded enthusiasm from the Trefonen Folk, who crafted Flowers, Easter Bunnies, Easter Eggs and Easter Chicks! It all withstood the strange and varied weather thrown its way and our resident Park and Gardens Officer, (New job – she WAS the Zoo-Keeper!) Helen P did not report any damage and has done a splendid job - Thank you!



On another light-hearted note, some of those who have followed my ramblings monthly may remember that Ray and I were attempting to finish a jigsaw which had been ongoing for 2.5 years!! Yes, that is not a typo - it really did take that long! I am very pleased to report that we have indeed finished the said puzzle and to prove it took a photograph! Isn't it strange the things we have found important during Lockdown!!!?? We are now engrossed in a puzzle made up entirely of Chocolates! Well, it is generally considered to be the less fattening way to enjoy chocolates, although the jury is definitely out on that one!

Looking forward to seeing actual people sometime soon, having hugs with the family, a haircut, a holiday and Community events!

Our Wildlife Friendly community

The WI's initiative to establish and identify Trefonen, Treflach and the surrounding area as a wildlife friendly community is drawing in people from across the area, which is what we had hoped. We are working to co-ordinate and present in an open way the 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.

We have contacted Shropshire Wildlife Trust, which is piloting Local Nature Recovery strategies and undertaking mapping and observation of the Oswestry area. This shows that there is currently limited data recorded for Trefonen and Treflach and we have registered an interest in training.

For the moment we are encouraging people to photograph and record anything relevant which moves or grows. We are trying to assemble evidence of what we have, where and when.

K Kimber 01691 679646 bobnkkimber@btinternet.com



Bryn Offa CE Primary School

At time of going to press, the schools are still on their Easter holidays, but the school managed to accommodate having all the children return after the first week in March and the protocols put in place worked incredibly well. We anticipate everything will continue to work well as we begin our new term in the coming days.



Testing is a part and parcel of everyday life, as is the new 'normal' in school, but gradually things that had to be stopped are slowly resuming, albeit in a different format or re-thought altogether. Revd Kathy and others are still producing school assembly videos which we are using each week in each classroom and we even managed to have an Easter assembly! Each of the children received a Holy Week cross, retelling the events of Holy Week, to make and have at home.



Each of the children and staff had their chocolate egg for Easter and each of the classes had their own Easter stained glass window and a couple for communal areas too, stressing the need for the light of Christ shining through it! And the new term will afford new opportunities to engage everyone again on the importance and significance of faith and belief of one form or another and respecting each other, regardless of difference of belief or none.

Now that, in theory, the warmer and better days are coming, we hope to build on our outdoor activities and pursuits, even participating in sporting tournaments, meets and competitions in a Covid secure way. Not forgetting, of course, that the education of our children and young people was, and still is, affected by the pandemic. But we are committed to working tirelessly in partnership with the school and parents to bridge that gap and ensure the pupils of Bryn Offa are and continue to be, well educated, well rounded and well-adjusted members of the school and community at large, and reach their fullest potential of who they are, what they are and what they would like to be, both in school and out of it.



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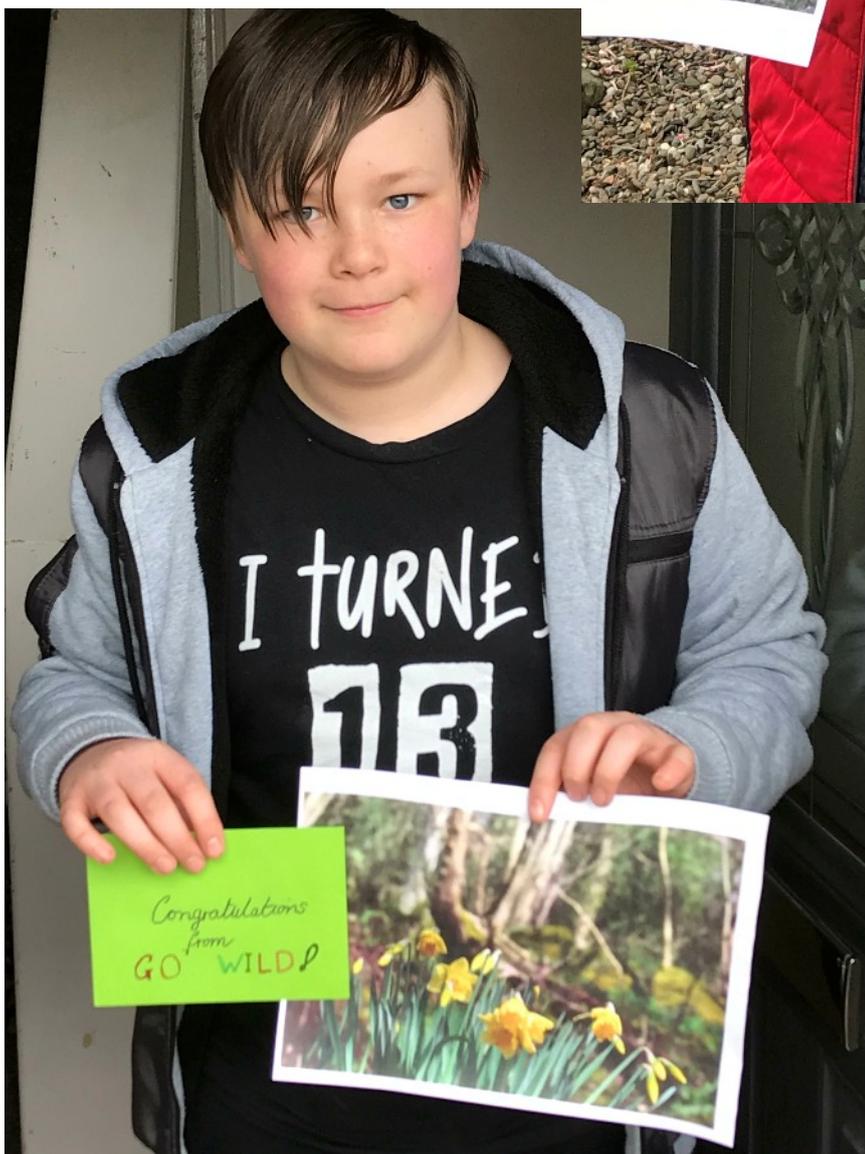
Go Wild Photography Competition Results!

You may remember that, in March, Trefonen WI Go Wild group ran a nature photography competition. We're pleased to publish the results in the junior sections. The prizes were kindly donated by local people.

Aimee, aged 10, is pictured here with her 'Mystery of Nature' photo and her £10 Booka book token prize.



Sean, aged 11, with his winning photograph of a Spring Lamb.



Adam, aged 13, with his winning entry 'A Woodland Walk'.



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Trefonen School News:

As we write this monthly update on the school, we are now in the Easter Holiday Break, which the Staff very much welcome after a very challenging Spring Term. No doubt the Children also welcome the break and the opportunity, as restrictions are slowly and carefully relaxed, to spend time with family and friends.



The last few weeks of the Spring term were very busy in the build up to and preparation for celebrating Easter, albeit in a different way. Whilst the School and Staff could not celebrate Easter in church, time was taken preparing individual assemblies for each class as they would have done. This was all then put together, including a contribution from Rev Kathy (and of course, the delicious chocolate eggs!). Then, from their classrooms, the children were able to watch, enjoy and take part in the full assembly on the class video screens.

NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE - We are very excited to announce that our new school website will be launched on Monday 19th April. The web address will remain the same. Information will be transferred over from our old website into the new site. Please bear with us as we begin to work through and update information on the new site and discover all of the fabulous new things that we can do.



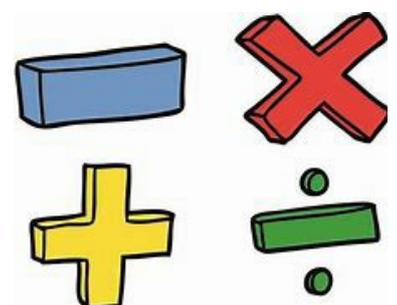
Trefonen School are excited to be taking part in this year's Sustrans Big Pedal event. We have signed up to take part in a 10-day event, from April 19th - 30th, when we will be encouraging children to travel to school by bike, scooter, wheels or by walking. Each day, each class will collect data on how they travelled to school and submit it to the Big Pedal competition. Our best five days of pedalling or walking will be used as our school data to compare against other schools.

FOTs are still busy organising fundraising events such as the EASTER TRAIL around the village over the Easter holidays and THE TREFONEN SCHOOL JOURNEY TO TOKYO CHALLENGE during summer term, challenging the school pupils to walk, run, swim, bike, scoot, hop, skip or jump the distance from Trefonen to the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo. 5920 miles!

Here is also some news from the classes prior to the Easter Break:

ROBINS - We have enjoyed writing about our favourite books and had a lovely time writing directions to some hidden treasure in our gardens!

NIGHTINGALES - have been working hard with their maths, spellings, handwriting, geography and science. Also some wonderful book reviews, travel brochures and some very exciting dragon stories!



WRENS - have been busy being history detectives, trying to find out about what it was like to go to school in Ancient Sumerian times. They all agreed that school now was better, when they found out that only boys went to school and if you did something wrong you were punished by being whipped! They have continued to find out about Sophie's adventures with the BFG, and they wrote about the best dreams you could have after finding out that the BFG collected dreams in jars. Their dreams involved becoming the best mountain bikers and horse riders, visiting strange lands, teddies coming to life and lots of other exciting things. They also made plans to get rid of the other unkind giants and had lots of great ideas including building robots and robot hedgehogs to destroy them.



PUFFINS - enjoyed taking part in the Marches Athletic Challenges - netball shots and vertical jump. For their John Muir Award, they focused on producing maps of the playing field, whilst enjoying the beautiful spring sunshine, and visited Bwyltai woods. Also, pupils sat quietly and reflected upon the past year for the National Day for Reflection. Some pupils shared their thoughts and experiences with the class and others took part in some mindful colouring; all with hopes for a brighter future together.

HAWKS - enjoyed the spring sunshine and taking part in great PE lessons outside, they also spotted a red kite, which was very exciting. Class finished their biographies on Harriet Tubman, an abolitionist who escaped slavery and helped many others to do the same. She also fought to abolish slavery in America, which happened in 1865.



By the time the magazine is published, School will be back into the Summer Term, looking forward to an exciting time. Year 6 will be preparing for Transition to Senior Schools. School will also be preparing for the new Reception intake and their transition preparations for starting primary school in September.

Summer Term Dates:

Monday 3rd May

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Monday 19th July

Tuesday 20th July – Tues 31st August

Bank Holiday

Summer Half Term Holiday

Last day of Summer Term

Summer Holiday.

See also page 29 for details of the vacancy for a Clerk to the School Governors. Ed.

Harry Roberts



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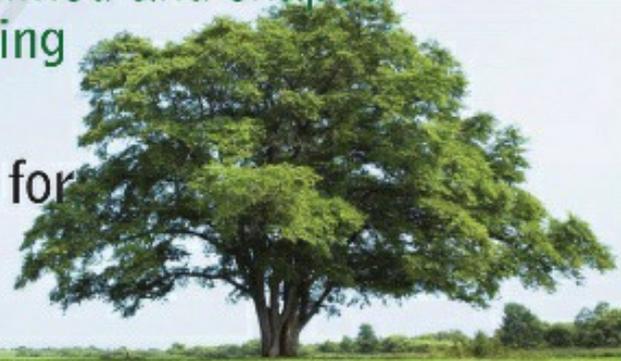
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TREFONEN GARDEN CLUB – WE'RE BACK!

**Next Meeting Patsy Rayner on The history and development of the Japanese Garden
Thursday 13. May 7:30 p.m. by Zoom
All welcome! No charge!**

**The Zoom link will be available on Tuesday 11th May.
Contact trefonengardenclub@gmail.com for further details.**

**June Meeting James Allison on Water Gardening
Thursday 17th June 7:30 p.m. by Zoom**

**Remember the Plant Swap table in the Churchyard, bring and take away, plants and
seeds, any monetary donations to the Hill Walk Charities via the Village Shop.
But please label your plants!**

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Trefonen WI:

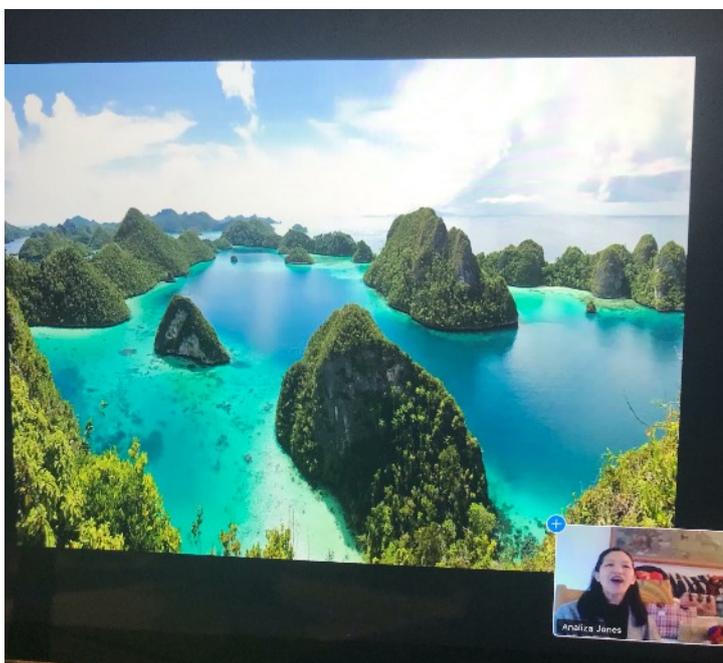
Our April meeting saw us meeting on Zoom again and we're getting better and faster at the format.



It looks as if we'll be Zooming in May and, perhaps, June, but then who knows ... a garden catch up in June? Road map and second vaccination allowing of course.

Our president, Deana, introduced Analiza Jones, whose topic was Making Hand Woven Bags in the Philippines.

Analiza spoke with charm and enthusiasm about her childhood home on one of the Philippines' over 2,000 populated islands. She showed us pictures of beautiful white sand beaches and bountiful crops.



She described the Philippine culture of using everything, so pineapples are eaten, the squeezed pulp is fed to pigs, the crown is planted to make the next crop and the leaf fibres are woven into very fine shirts for men, while slices of the stalk are hand woven for fans.

Less well known to us is the abaca plantain, farmed for the fibres in the stem for paper and rope which was very popular with the American navy.

More recently, thin layers of the stalk are used to make bags and we saw videos of men and women stripping the stems and separating off the pulp from the fibres with scant regard for health and safety considerations.

After sun drying, the fibres are sold at the market and progress to joiners, who combine them into long strands which are then spun into balls. Some weavers use hand looms to make cloth from fine abaca fibres and cotton and Analiza showed us a variety of other weaving techniques to make a whole range of beautiful bags with beaded, wooden or rope handles.

We also saw use of the butal palm tree and large family groups working together outdoors or in caves using natural or synthetic dyes originally fixed with male urine. After time in a large can over an open fire, the fibres are dried on the ground, pounded to make them more pliable, then hand woven into bright bags in the equivalent of 'Weave and Natter' groups.



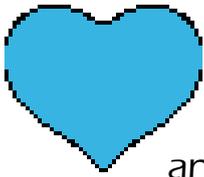
Analiza illustrated her talk with power points, maps, fibre samples and lovely colourful bags, shoes and mats. She told us that the pandemic has caused huge problems for production and export and also that young Filipinos are not keen to continue these traditional skills for as little as £5 - £7 per week, so now they are training prisoners to take up the crafts.

Analiza welcomed questions then Pam thanked her for her information packed and fascinating talk.

Our meeting continued with reports from our health, wildlife and Go Wild groups. Looking ahead we have a talk from David Allan on May 5th on 'Manners Please, Dearest ...' exploring Victorian etiquette. We've been asked to bring a book and a fan, so the photos may be fun! In June, we will learn about Training Female WW1 Secret Agents with Bernard O'Connor.

Visitors and new members are welcome. Please contact Victoria Gemmell (07773 365992; v.gemmell@hotmail.co.uk) for further details.

Gill Buckeridge & Victoria Gemmell



WI Women's Health Alert

One of the WI's resolutions for this year was to raise awareness of specific problems in women's health, specifically Coronary Heart Disease and the symptoms and diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer. With this in mind, a group of us who have a general interest in Women's Health issues was formed.

Each month we shall not only look at one issue in more detail, but also send out information regarding access to screening and health checks, specifically with women in mind [but some of which may also apply to men].

Awareness of symptoms and tests can lead to an earlier diagnosis. Knowledge is POWER!

Our topic for discussion in May is Stroke / CVA (Cerebral Vascular Accident) - a danger to both men and women. Generally speaking, the symptoms & causes of a stroke are very similar in men as well as women.



Initially I will give an outline of a stroke in general and then be more women specific.

What is a Stroke?

A stroke is a blood clot or a bleed in the brain that can lead to permanent neurological damage, complications and sometimes death.

The long-term problems caused by stroke can include: Paralysis, Loss of feeling and sensation, Speech impairment, Tiredness, Anxiety and Loss of concentration. It is vital to summon help as soon as possible.

The advert that some of you may have seen draws attention to this. FAST, Face, Arms, Speech and Time to call 999.

Act **FAST** and call 999.



There are different types of strokes, depending whether the disruption in blood flow resulted from a blockage or a burst.

Ischaemic Stroke: the blood vessels in the brain are blocked by a clot or have become too narrow for blood to get through.

Haemorrhagic Stroke: the blood vessel bursts, rather than being blocked.

Subarachnoid Haemorrhage: there is bleeding into the area around the brain known as the subarachnoid space.

Sometimes, a person will have a *Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA)* or a 'mini stroke'. This is caused by a temporary disruption in the blood supply to part of the brain. The individual usually makes a quick recovery, but a TIA must be taken seriously as it can increase the likelihood of a stroke in future.

Something to ponder is that every 5 minutes a stroke destroys lives.

There are some aspects of women's lives that can increase the risk of a stroke such as taking the contraceptive pill, pregnancy and having migraines. For most women, taking care of their health and managing risk factors will go a long way in the prevention of one.

Taking the oral contraceptive is overall a low risk. Your stroke risk will be assessed by your G.P. before the contraceptive is prescribed.

Stroke is also very rare in pregnancy, but it is vital that all pre and post birth appointments are attended.

The risk of stroke is rare under 60 if taking HRT, but it will be assessed before being prescribed, particularly if there is a family history of blood clots.

If you have migraines with an aura, then you are at twice the risk of having an ischaemic clot.

The risk of having a stroke goes up as you get older, so it is important to take control of your own health.

Stay active, eat a healthy diet, maintain a healthy lifestyle, watch your waist size, stop smoking and cut down on alcohol intake.

5 LIFESTYLE CHANGES TO MAKE HEALTH LAST

- Be more physically active** (Illustration of a bicycle)
- Limit your alcohol intake** (Illustration of a wine glass)
- Eat a balanced & healthy diet** (Illustration of a scale with an apple and a banana)
- Reduce your stress levels** (Illustration of a person in a yoga pose)
- Don't smoke** (Illustration of a cigarette with a red slash through it)

If you would like further information, you can download an information pack from the Heart Research Institute UK (www.hriuk.org) website. The Stroke Association (www.stroke.org.uk) has a PDF 'Women and Stroke' plus a helpline number: 0303 3033 100. There is also a Think Ahead Stroke website (www.think-ahead.org.uk). I found these websites very helpful in the preparation of this article. Thank you.

Helen Parish

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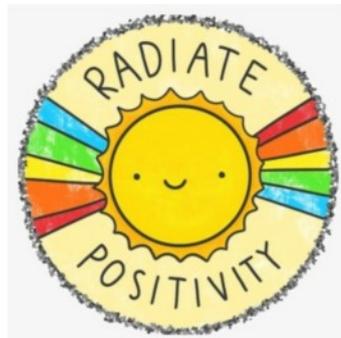
From the Rectory:

My dear friends,

May already, it hardly seems possible, but here we are, the 5th month of the year, and I could talk to you about 'gathering nuts in May', 'May Day' or even 'mayday'. But when thinking about my letter, I was in the middle of Holy Week and Easter, and time and time again, I heard a question ... 'May I sit/do...'. 'May I?' A question, asking if it was possible if ... and the answer would either be a 'Yes, you may' - a positive, or a 'No, you may not!' - a negative.

For over a year, pretty much many of the 'May I's?' were: 'No, you may not!' Our lives have changed almost beyond recognition, we have been at home, only been allowed out for exercise or for emergency/essential journeys, retail was limited to food and medication.

In the middle of all that 'May not, it isn't possible', the negative came the 'ok, that's not possible but ..'. Finding a positive stance, a silver lining on the dark cloud of fear and despair, people did things for others within the parameters of the 'may not'. They helped out neighbours in all kinds of ways, assisting those not known but who were working for us, and so much more besides. Plusses, positives all around surrounded us. Life and liberties, as we had known and enjoyed, weren't possible - understandably. But within that, people found things that were possible and did them and are still doing them, and that is to be commended and I hope we will take forward.



For a time we even had, once or twice, an affirmative, 'yes, we may', only to have that reversed again. But not to be deterred or put off, people rallied once more and found new ways to connect. They were prepared to learn new computer skills and things we would never have considered possible, or were willing to learn and undertake, were willingly and wholeheartedly undertaken and embraced, and I hope we will take that spirit forward with us as we journey on.

For the last few weeks, and in the weeks to come, we are being told more and more that we 'may'. More and more things are possible and more and more I am hearing that we are heading back to normal. I hope that we're not in lots of ways. Don't get me wrong - I want to see my family as much as the next person, I would like to be able to go for an occasional meal out, even to hold a church service where people can sit where they like and be able to sing. I don't mean those things. I mean to take what we have learnt, the spirit of embracing the possible, exploring what can be done with enthusiasm and seeking to do it. I mean not close our minds to things outside our comfort zone or knowledge, to continue to be aware of others' needs, to continue to make time for, and to value, the things and people that mean and meant so much, and so much more besides. I hope, as we move forward into the 'Yes, we may...', we may give ourselves permission to carry the gifts we have been given with us.

Til next time, stay safe and well.

Yours in Christ,

Kathy



Your Church Needs You ...

The pandemic has hit all of us hard, as individuals, communities and as our churches, spiritually, emotionally and financially. We have had to learn new ways of 'doing', 'being' and connecting.



Churches were closed, then reopened but different, closed again and have now reopened once more, though still with Covid restrictions.

Our AGM (aka Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM)) gives us an opportunity to look at all these things and their impact and review where we are and where we might hope to be in the coming year.

Yes, we'll have reports of the past year and the appropriate elections, but we hope it is also a place for planning for the future and participating in the Diocesan initiative – Shaping For Mission (see elsewhere).

The church is Your church, so why not come and listen and perhaps take part in either the APCM or the Shaping for Mission meeting. You'd be very welcome. We are hopeful that we can meet in person on the dates below and we proceed accordingly. If we are able, they will be held in accordance with up to date regulations, but at a minimum will be socially distanced and with face coverings. Why not join us ...

Llanyblodwel 17 May at 7pm
(Electoral Roll was opened on 17 April til 1 May)

Trefonen 19 May at 7pm
(Electoral Roll was opened on 19 April til 3 May)

Reports will be circulated in advance so, if you're hoping to come, please let your local PCC secretary know so they can send out the information to you. (Llanyblodwel: Pearl Morris; Trefonen: Helen Parish).

Revd Kathy

ANNUAL MEETING



Bouquet of Thanks ...

To all those who helped in any way with the activities and services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. It was greatly appreciated by Revd Kathy and many others. With your help, the church was able to reach out to people in many ways and celebrate this most holy season of the church year. We couldn't have done it without you – from reflections to prayers, readers to gardeners, cleaners to communicators, deliverers to 'cutting-out' people, flower arrangers to booking clerks and so many more. You all played your part. Thank you.



Thank You!

Revd Kathy

From the Registers:

Funeral Llanyblodwel 16th March Margaret Hughes

Sofa Club and Dementia Activities:

Another month and another step along the road. Up to six of us can now meet in each other's gardens and, from the 17th May and all being well, we can meet in each other's houses. So the opportunities to begin meeting up again are emerging. We are getting there!



Sofa Club will, with God's help, walk onwards in faith and hope. The following activities are planned, all happening in small groups and weather permitting!

13 May – short service for Ascension Day 'To the Moon and Back?' This will link in with the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative, so please look at 'Thy Kingdom Come' section elsewhere in the magazine.

27 May – Cosy Cushion Conversations.

10 June – short service '2 for Tea x Three'

For further information contact Revd Kathy 07944 504330



Thy Kingdom Come

In 2016, the then Archbishops of Canterbury and York encouraged us to wait and pray like the first disciples had done between Ascension and Pentecost for God's kingdom to come and then the Spirit would equip us to try and work towards bringing that about in our own place and situation, focussing our attention individually and collectively as well. During this time we are asked to identify either 5 individuals and pray for them that they may come to know God, or know him better or in a new way, or to pray for groups who might need the same, or to do both. It may be even we ourselves need that, as we have somehow 'lost' God during the pandemic or even before or since, so we make a concerted effort to take time to pray so ...



Prayer Works



Between 13 – 23 May, ie Ascension to Pentecost, we join with many others throughout the world, our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, as we will join in the global initiative to pray – thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

During this time we hope to have a number of events and activities that link into the wider whole ...

Morning Prayer using the special 'Thy Kingdom Come' booklet.

Free Prayer Journals for people to use during Ascension to Pentecost will be available in the churches in the coming weeks.

School Assembly based on Cheeky Pandas and online children's activity and All Age Worship.

Special Reflections Based on Luke chapter 15.

Leather cord bracelet to make to remind you to pray daily for your 5 family/friends who you would like to know God or know him in a new way will be available too to those who wish them.



For further information about any of the things listed above, then please contact Revd Kathy 07944 504330 or kathsoutherton@hotmail.com.

Shaping for Mission:

A good many people will have seen the segment on Countryfile recently about Rural Churches and the truth was and is that the rural churches, although they are by no means alone, the same issues are effecting the urban churches too, with rising costs, attendance figures going down, limited and stretched resources and there being more and more of a disconnect with the wider community. What is the future of our churches? And where and how do we go from here?

During the last year plus, there has been an enforced disconnect but opportunities have arisen to have some new points of connection through worship and community outreach in many and various ways, and that is why the timing of this initiative is a bonus because naturally we have had to review, plan and do quickly and adapt and now we can plan and shape better and more equipped for the future.

But shaping better and being better equipped may involve change, even letting go of long held and treasured ways of being and doing, or at the very least, rethinking and maybe reworking and this process may be painful but the vine branch will only stay healthy if pruned regularly and the same is true of rose bushes and the other things.

We have in recent weeks completed a realistic and honest review or audit of where we are, and are now in the process of using the foundation to help shape our church in the deanery and locally as we move forwards together and stronger, not forgetting what has gone but using it as a solid base on which to build. Our Deanery reps are hoping to meet with people across the Benefice from the PCC, wider congregation and community members to not only present the outcome of the audit/review but also to have input as to what and how things might be shaped for the 21st Century. If you think the church isn't relevant anymore, then come and share with us why and how, and what we might do to change that! If you think the church has taken a wrong turning, come and help us find our way again. If you think we get some things right but others so, so

wrong or if you think we should stay exactly as we are, or were, then come and join with us as we plan. In the coming weeks, each of the parishes will be having an open meeting for people from PCCs, wider congregation, members and community will be having a meeting, look out for details of when the one is in your area on Facebook, on our webpage, in pew sheets, posters locally etc. For now if you have any questions or comments then please contact Linda Gladman, Caroline Stewart or Revd Kathy.



St Michael's:

Hopefully we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel, service hopefully will start in May, date in May magazine.

It was so special to be able to attend the service at Llanyblodwel on good Friday, it was a very meaningful service, was enjoyed by all of us who were able to attend. Thank you Kathy and for all the other services over Easter that were put on social media.

Eirlys Williams.



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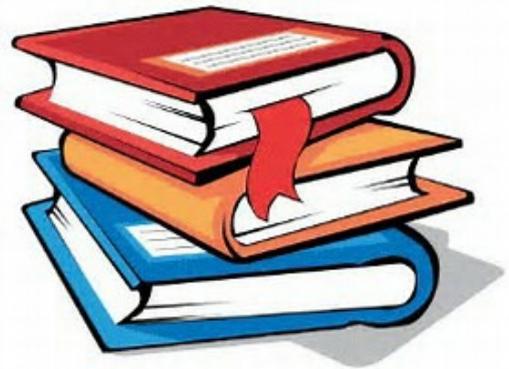
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Quiz:

Answers on page 42

To what do each of the following refer?

1. Eastings then Northings
2. 4ft 8¹/₂in
3. Bactrian and Dromedary
4. 2πr
5. A Shropshire Lad
6. Ich Dien
7. Nessun dorma
8. ... - - - ...
9. Et tu, Brute?
10. 240V, 50Hz
11. Three Lions
12. Lisa del Giocondo
13. Rallentando
14. Belisha
15. Subaltern
16. Mercury, Gemini, Apollo
17. U₂₃₅
18. Flambé
19. German Bight
20. Grandsire

Missing words – song titles:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| i. The Police: | Every _____ you take |
| ii. Phil Collins: | Another day in _____ |
| iii. Marvin Gaye: | I heard it through the _____ |
| iv. Animals: | House of the _____ sun |
| v. Righteous Brothers: | _____ melody |
| vi. Bonnie Tyler: | Total _____ of the heart |
| vii. The Beatles (and others): | Roll over _____ |
| viii. Beach Boys: | Good _____ |
| ix. Rolling Stones: | Paint it _____ |
| x. Eagles: | Hotel _____ |

Find the missing word which goes with the one before and the one after.

Example: phone _____ mark. Answer: book.

- a. Rocking _____ shoe
- b. Thin _____ breaker
- c. Hot _____ mark
- d. Dancing _____ bee
- e. Left _____ throw
- f. Foot _____ cannon
- g. Back _____ under
- h. Fast _____ pet
- i. Look _____ back
- j. Double _____ off

Vacancy for Clerk to the Governors at Trefonen CofE Primary School:

We need to recruit a new Clerk for the School starting latest in September 2021, but an earlier appointment could be agreed. Formal interviews will take place with the Chair of Governors and School Head, but applicants are welcome to contact the Chair who can provide further details and answer any questions.

The role will also be advertised externally through the school and Local Authority.

The main role of the Clerk is to provide advice and guidance to the Governing Board on governance, constitutional and procedural matters. The Clerk contributes towards the efficient functioning of a Governing Board and its Committees by providing:

- administrative and organisational support.
- guidance to ensure that the Board works in compliance with the appropriate regulations.
- advice on procedural matters.

In practice this means drafting an agenda in consultation with the Chair of Governors and School Head and compiling and circulating the associated papers prior to meetings. (S)he will attend, and taking minutes of, Governing Board and Committee meetings and maintain an archive of Governors documents; also follow up actions assigned at meetings. All work is treated as Confidential.

Generally there are nine Governors/Committee meetings each school year (three each term). Whilst currently held via Video on Teams, it is hoped that by September they can be held in school. Governors meetings are usually held on a Thursday, starting at 3.45pm and generally finishing by 6pm. Each meeting together with the Agenda setting can involve up to 6 hours of work.

There also can be other meetings required during school term time with the Chair and/or Head and Statutory Committee meetings which are required to be clerked. Please note this is an hourly paid role.

Whilst previous experience is welcome, full training can be provided through the DfE to a "Level 3 Certificate in the Clerking of School and Academy Governing Boards" which is recognised by the Chartered Governance Institute (ICSA).

Any potential applicant will be required to obtain an Enhanced Disclosure & Baring Service (DBS) check through the School before being accepted for the role.

If interested, please contact the Chair of Governors - Malcolm Kirk at kirk.m@trefonen.shropshire.sch.uk.



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Trefonen Garden Club:

Jeremy Gadbury

The Trefonen Garden Club met in mid April, its first meeting for over a year (aside from an AGM), on Zoom, now a very acceptable way of meeting, for keeping in touch and being pleasantly informed and entertained. The next two meetings are on Thursday 13th May - Patsy Rayner on The History and Development of the Japanese Garden - and Thursday 17th June - James Allison on Water Gardening - and are also on Zoom.



Local Gardening Clubs have been encouraging each other through the various lockdowns and restrictions, from time to time allowing members from other clubs to join in. It was good that the Trefonen Garden Club was able to reciprocate and invite others, as well as get Trefonen Garden Club regulars together.

The Club arranged a Plant Swap table in April in the Churchyard. This will run throughout the summer, with any monetary donations for the Hill Walk Charities via the Village Shop. This was well supported and very successful last year.



Bring your surplus seeds, clearly marked in a packet to put in the seed box, or any surplus plants you have grown. Make sure the plants are well watered and labelled before leaving them either on or under the table. If you haven't any plants to donate you can still pick up a plant or two. Keep walking through the Churchyard through the summer, you may be pleasantly surprised.

The Garden Club is looking forward to doing more as conditions allow, the possibility of outings to NGS gardens before the summer is over. The Trefonen Garden Club is back!



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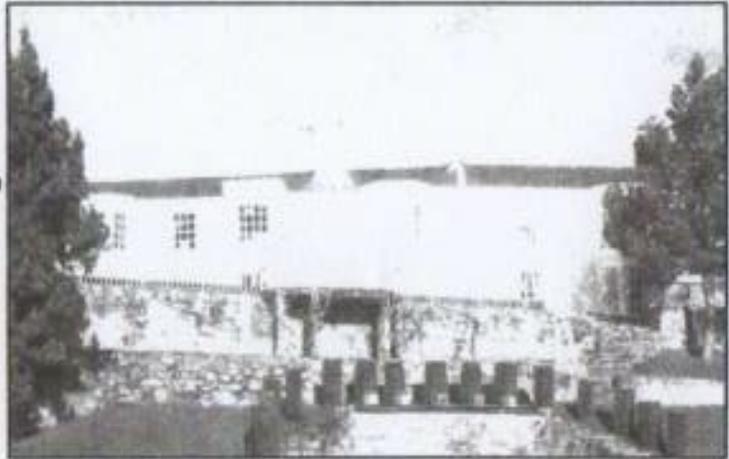
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Who Threw The Stew?

This year we will be marking the 200th anniversary of All Saints Church, Trefonen. I am sure that this special occasion will be marked with musical concerts taking place in the churches. It's very likely that we will listen to some classical music composed by artists such as Mozart, Bach and Beethoven, and I find it fascinating to think that as the building was in construction, Beethoven was busy writing his piano sonata, No.31, and disturbing the neighbourhood as he hurried around the streets of Vienna grunting, muttering, sometimes stopping to write on a notepad or breaking into a loud laugh, looking completely dishevelled with messy hair and clothes.



When I listen or play his, or any other composer's music, I find it really helps to have some background information about who wrote it and why it was written. It gives me a greater understanding of the music, and humanises the composer who, more often than not, is long dead. The information puts flesh on bones, and you discover that in some ways they share some of the characteristics of the 'celebrities' and well known people of today ... well, apart from their genius! So here's just a few little titbits about some composers which wouldn't seem out of place in today's tabloid press!



We'll start with the 'Big Daddy' of them all - J.S Bach, otherwise known as 'The Old Wig' by one of his (less than respectful) sons. He came from a huge musical family - 75 became musicians with 50 being called Johann! In fact, the name 'Bach' meant musician in the area where he grew up. The Bach family loved nothing better than getting together for a good old knees up with plenty of music, food and drink. The only surviving portrait of J.S Bach shows a portly fellow; indeed records show that his yearly salary as an organist was partly paid in beer, and for his second marriage to Anna Magdalena he spent a fifth of his annual salary just on the wine!

This portrait of Bach shows him with quite a pronounced scowl. This might be due to the fact that his eyesight was failing, but also that he didn't suffer fools gladly! As a young man he challenged a musician whose bassoon playing he disliked to a duel and, in later life took off his wig and flung it at a musician who was playing the wrong notes!

There is no question that Bach is considered one of the finest, if not the greatest composer that has ever lived and yes, the music just flowed from his quill, but he worked incredibly hard. Tales from his youth show a dedicated boy, whose Father had died when he was only 10, practising and writing music in the middle of the night by the light of the moon, as candles were too expensive. On one occasion he walked 250 miles to hear a famous organist as he couldn't afford the travel expenses. A touching story from this time relates that, returning home from one of his listening trips, he ran out of money with still many miles to go and hunger pains gnawing at his stomach. He passed an Inn and suddenly, from a window, he saw two herring heads thrown from it. Ravenous, he picked them up, opened them and discovered two gold coins!



I'm sure many of us have heard of Mozart, the child genius. But how many of us are aware of just how gifted he was? He started playing the harpsichord at 4, was composing at 5, became a brilliant organist, violinist and singer shortly after that, and composed his first opera at the age of 12. Mozart learnt to understand music as he learnt speech; it was just another language, and he needed it like an animal needs food. It's well documented that often people who display such giftedness have issues with socialising. Not Mozart! He was lively, fun-loving and very affectionate. As a little boy he developed a crush for Marie Antoinette, and told her that he intended to marry her!

His Father, Leopold, also a musician, and Mozart's teacher, capitalised on his son's talents and took Mozart and his sister, Nannerl (also a pianist, whom Mozart adored), on huge tours of Europe giving concerts everywhere. The constant travelling took its toll on Mozart's health. He contracted smallpox, and wrote in letters about how he would hold his body up in the air with his hands to ease the bruising on his body from the incessant bumping around in the travelling carriage. His health problems in later years probably stemmed from this unnatural lifestyle.

Leopold liked the children to be dressed in sumptuous miniature versions of adult clothes for their concerts, and this love of finery remained with Mozart into adulthood. No matter how busy his schedule was, he always started the day, usually at six in the morning, with his hair being powdered and patterned by a hairdresser! His lifestyle was opulent, even though he couldn't afford it as he was hopeless with managing money. This didn't stop him giving generous parties as he loved socialising, but he would spend the time writing musical ideas on napkins and tablecloths, which he would then re-write whilst listening to his wife, Constanze, relating the gossip of the evening.



You would think that such a brilliant, successful musician would be honoured in death with a grand funeral attended by thousands. This was not the case for poor Mozart who died tragically young at 35. As he was not nobility his body was sent to a cemetery outside of Vienna with three or four corpses to a grave, with no family or friends at the funeral. Nobody can remember exactly where his body is buried - so his remains are lost to us forever. What a tragic end; and to think what he might have composed had he lived another 35 years!



Unlike Bach or Mozart, Beethoven found composing a real struggle. He was constantly re-writing, scribbling out and cutting up his scores. Surviving manuscripts, ready for the copyists, still looked like a bomb had hit them; he agonised over every note! Beethoven's appearance and lifestyle reflected this chaos. His appearance was very messy, as were the rooms he inhabited - think student accommodation times by ten! He was very tempestuous in character, and this is reflected in his music which is incredibly powerful and dark at times, but equally his music can be light-hearted, joyous and gentle, reflecting his love of the natural world.

(contd.)

People were often scared of meeting Beethoven as he had a reputation as a firebrand, but if he liked you he would be wonderfully kind and welcoming. As a teenager he took on the responsibility of caring for his two younger brothers after his Mother had died and his drunken, abusive Father continued his alcoholic decline. He had to become the main breadwinner whilst desperately trying to further his musical studies. His Father had recognised his talents as a young boy and wanted to exploit his prodigy to make lots of money. He took two years off of Beethoven's birth year and would regularly wake up his young son in the middle of the night to make him practise ... what a brute!

Beethoven's life grew ever more challenging when his hearing began failing him when he was only 26. By the time he was 30 he was profoundly deaf. For many musicians, this would be the end of a musical career. Not Beethoven! He continued to compose, conduct (badly) and in later years when he was losing his internal sound memory, sawed the legs off his piano, and used the floor as a sounding board, lying with his ear to the wooden floor, and hitting the piano notes at various volumes to gauge if the volume fitted with the music he could hear in his head. Ironically, it is widely accepted in the musical world that Beethoven wrote some of his best music whilst being profoundly deaf!

So, 'Who Threw The Stew?' Not surprisingly it was Beethoven, at a waiter, in a restaurant, who brought him the wrong dish. Beethoven complained, the waiter snapped a rude reply before returning to the kitchen. A moment later he returned carrying lots of plates for other diners. Beethoven, now thoroughly angry, picked up his gravy laden meaty stew and threw it at the waiter's face. It made the other diners laugh, as did Beethoven. I do hope he apologised ... poor waiter!

If you've never listened to any of the music by these composers, here are a couple of suggestions to 'whet your appetite!' Bach's 'Goldberg Variations' are very accessible, often played on the piano instead of the harpsichord. For Mozart, perhaps his opera 'The Magic Flute', and for Beethoven you can't go wrong with a symphony - perhaps the sixth, 'The Pastoral'.

*Viola Piper
(Name & address supplied)*



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Trefonen FC:

Trefonen Football Club is delighted to share the news that we have been given another green light to return to playing football. An announcement from the Football Association of Wales, circulated on 10th April, outlined the news that outdoor sports activity in Wales can return from Monday 26th April, thus bringing the restrictions regarding sport in Wales to a similar level to those in England.



Despite restrictions in England allowing for friendlies for some weeks, we have been unable to due to our connections with Welsh football. The easing of restrictions in Wales mean we will be able to participate in friendly matches from the 26th April. Team Manager Matt Digwood has been busy organising friendlies for May, these of course will be in accordance with all relevant Covid-19 restrictions. It is also looking increasingly likely that next season will somewhat resemble normality.

As some readers may have seen, throughout April we have held regular training sessions on the village pitch and I speak on behalf of all at the football club in saying I have been very encouraged by the good turnout, commitment and structure at each session. Exciting times ahead!

As usual, for all the latest news and ongoings, please follow the club's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Greg Stokes

Lapwing and Curlew records wanted, please Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group Bird Survey 2021

The Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group has been monitoring local Curlews, Lapwings and other birds since 2018, and the 2021 survey is now underway.

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.

If you see or hear Curlew, Lapwing, Kestrel or Cuckoo any time between now and mid-July, anywhere in the area, we'd like to know, please.

It's not too late to help with the survey, if you are able to do so. It only takes two half days, one as soon as possible, and the other in mid-June. A map to record what you see, and simple survey instructions, will be provided.

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 same website

**Please email your records and offers of help to Leo Smith
(leo@leosmith.org.uk)**

Cricket page:

Peter Woollam

The domestic cricket season is now underway and international matches are scheduled to begin here in June. I've got a ticket for the England v Pakistan One-Day match at Edgbaston in July; I hope it goes ahead. I know that not everyone appreciates the game, but it's really a very straightforward format.

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out. When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in. There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the men who are in are out. When both sides have been in and all the men have been out, and both sides have been out twice after all the men have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game.

Simples!



.....
A woman is giving birth and her husband rushes to the hospital to be there. On his way, he decides to call the hospital to see how she's doing, but he accidentally calls the local cricket ground. Someone answers.

"Hi. How's everything going there?"

"Well, we have three out and hope to have the rest by lunch. Last one was a Duck."

My wife says she's leaving me due to my obsession with cricket. I'll be honest, it's knocked me for six.

A cricketer walks into a hospital with blood pouring out of his eyes. The doctor says "Ebola?" and the cricketer replies "Nah, batsman."

I couldn't figure out why the cricket ball kept getting larger. Then it hit me.

My wife asked me if I had seen the dog bowl. I replied that I didn't know he played cricket.

"You're looking glum." "Yes. My doctor says I can't play cricket." "Really? I didn't know he'd ever seen you play!"

Captain to the umpire: "My players would like to know if there's a rule in cricket against thinking."

Umpire: "Thinking. Not really. Why do you ask?"

Captain: "Well, because my team thinks you must be blind."

A friend of mine has retired from being a cricket umpire. He doesn't lift a finger now.

Answers to the quiz:

1. Grid references on Ordnance Survey maps. Go across (left to right) then up.
2. Standard gauge on the majority of world railways. It is the distance between the inner edges of the rails, not between their centres.
3. Species of camel. The Bactrian (two-humped) is found in Central Asia and the Dromedary (one hump) in North Africa.
4. Formula to find the circumference of a circle. The other one you were thinking of, to find the area, is πr^2 .
5. A collection of poems by A E Houseman, published 1896. Born in Worcestershire, he spent little time here, but had "... a sentimental feeling for Shropshire because its hills were on our Western horizon".
6. German: "I serve". Motto of the Prince of Wales, it appears under the three feathers motif. Also found on some Welsh regimental cap badges and Welsh international rugby shirts.
7. Italian: "None shall sleep". Tenor aria from Puccini's opera Turandot. Made more famous when Luciano Pavarotti's recording was used by the BBC as its theme during coverage of the 1990 World Cup.
8. Morse code for 'S O S'. Often read aloud as "dit, dit, dit, dah, dah, dah, dit, dit, dit".
9. Latin: "And you, Brutus?" Julius Caesar's last words in Shakespeare's play of the same name on seeing his supposed friend Brutus amongst the knife-wielding conspirators.
10. Your domestic mains alternating current electricity supply; 240 volts at a frequency of 50 Hertz (cycles per second).
11. Emblem on the shirt worn by English international cricket and football teams.
12. The subject of Leonardo da Vinci's painting 'Mona Lisa'.
13. Italian music term: 'Slowing down'. Sometimes occurs in the last line of the last verse of a hymn in church - a practice of which I strongly disapprove (but don't tell the one who plays the Joanna that I said so).
14. Leslie Hore-Belisha. MP and Minister of Transport 1934 - 37. He introduced the Zebra Crossing, hence the 'Belisha Beacon'.
15. An officer in the British army below the rank of captain, especially a second lieutenant.
16. The first three NASA human space flight programmes which led to men setting foot on the moon. Mercury: 1961-63, Gemini: 1965-66, Apollo: 1967-72.
17. Not a German submarine, but the fissile isotope of Uranium - it can sustain a chain reaction. This is the one used in nuclear power plants and weapons. It makes up just 0.72% of naturally occurring Uranium and so a great deal of processing is needed to achieve the 85% ratio for weapons grade material.
18. In cookery: drench food with e.g. brandy, cognac or rum and ignite.
19. An area of the North Sea with Danish, German and Dutch coastlines. Heard in UK shipping forecasts.
20. One of the oldest (mid 17th century) but still most popular patterns of changes used by church bellringers. You might hear Grandsire Doubles from a 6-bell tower (e.g. St Sylin, Llansilin), Grandsire Triples from an 8-bell tower (St Oswalds, Oswestry), Grandsire Caters from a 10-bell tower (St Giles, Wrexham) or Grandsire Cinqes from a 12-bell tower (St Chad's, Shrewsbury).



- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| i. Breath | a. Horse |
| ii. Paradise | b. Ice |
| iii. Grapevine | c. Water |
| iv. Rising | d. Queen |
| v. Unchained | e. Over |
| vi. Eclipse | f. Loose |
| vii. Beethoven | g. Down |
| viii. Vibrations | h. Car |
| ix. Black | i. Out |
| x. California | j. Take |

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CUT KEYS

Local Contacts:

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:		NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE	
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:

A limited service is resuming. The Library will visit on 20th May, 9.05 - 9.40am, for customers to collect pre-ordered books at the door of the vehicle. Customers will not be able to board the vehicle. There are two ways you can order books for collection:



1. Request specific titles. This can be done using the online catalogue or by e-mail to Libraries@shropshire.gov.uk with details of what you would like.
2. Request a 'Ready Reads' bag. This is a bag of books chosen for you by the mobile driver according to your preferences. If you would like to do this, please e-mail the address above with the number and type of books you would like.

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.