

Parish & Community Magazine

For the communities of Coed-y-Go, Llanyblodwel, Nantmawr,



Porth-y-Waen, Treflach, Trefonen and places in between and beyond

Produced by All Saints and St Michael's churches

Free of charge - please take one

Vol 36: No.7 September 2026

Border Group of Parishes

Llanyblodwel, Llanymynech, Morton & Trefonen



Priest in Charge: Rev. Christina Cobb (pending formalities, see p.5)

Benefice Administrator: Helen Parish, bordergroupadmin@hotmail.co.uk
in the office (in All Saints Trefonen) each Thursday, 9.30am–2.30pm.

Address for mail: The Administrator, All Saints' Church, Oswestry Road,
Trefonen, Oswestry, SY10 9DG.

Benefice website: borderparishes.org.uk

Church services

See pp.4 for the times of church services this month. Please note services are subject to change at short notice sometimes. Please check the local church Facebook pages and noticeboards for updates.

Church opening

All Saints Church Trefonen is open daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm, and St Michael's Llanyblodwel is open daily from 10.00am to 4.30pm. Please feel free to visit your local church to pray, reflect, enjoy the quiet, or just experience an ancient building. You are very welcome.

Principal church contacts:

All Saints Trefonen:

PCC Secretary: Helen Parish, helen-parish1@hotmail.co.uk, 01691 670979

Churchwardens:

K Kimber, bobnkkimber@btinternet.com, 01691 679646;

Malcolm Kirk, malcolm.ref1170@gmail.com, 01691 688595

Safeguarding: Jeanne Bradley, jeannemccarley@hotmail.co.uk

St Michael's Llanyblodwel:

PCC Secretary: Sioned Lindsay, sioned@gmail.com, 07775 437101

Churchwardens:

Roger Taylor, roger@blodwell.com, 07967 652217

Alec Gordon, alecgordon@btinternet.com, 07970 544945

Safeguarding: Sioned Lindsay, sioned@gmail.com, 07775 437101

Bookings and events: St.Michaels.Llanyblodwel@gmail.com

From the Editor



It is a strange thought that summer is drawing to an end, and so are the long school holidays. Our thoughts are turning towards the new school term, or getting back to work after the holidays, or perhaps simply looking forward to some cooler weather - though no doubt as soon as it gets really cold and wet we shall complain, in usual British fashion! As I write this we are still in drought conditions, but with our temperate climate nothing is certain for long.

Our theme this month is 'new beginnings'. Both in the diocese (see p.14) and in our benefice (see p.5) we are looking forward to new leadership; in Thought for the Month (p.34) Peter Woollam encourages us to make new resolutions to listen to each other more attentively; Chris Kirk ponders the resilience (or otherwise) of plants in our gardens during the drought (p.12); while Ann Hindley lets us into the secret of what she has been doing during the heat waves we've experienced this summer (p.26)!

Other items this month include: the 300-year story of the school in St Michael's Llanyblodwel (p.19); musings on the name 'kissing gates' by the P3 group (p.25); a report on a summer of music by the Porthywaen Silver Band (p.28); and two separate items for our God's Acre series, one on how to spot the Wall butterfly (p.42) and the other on taking part in a programme listening for bat echolocation (p.36).

As the summer comes to a close, we have a number of events to occupy and entertain us: the WI presentation 'Snowing Butterflies' is on 3 September (p.7); the First Friday talk at Llanyblodwel church on 4 September (p.33), the Trefonen Garden Club meeting on the 17th (p.13), 'Music of the Voice' at St Michael's Llanyblodwel on the 18th (p.33), Flicks in the Sticks at the Trefonen Village Hall on the 26th (film tbc), while next month there is St Michael's Harvest Supper on 2 October (replacing their First Friday event), and a special Café Blodwel in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on the 7th (see p.33).

Sponsorship for the magazine continues to come in, so that we are a bit nearer our goal of being able to have colour magazines every month (see p.5). We also have a position vacant on our team, to look after our Facebook page (see p.5).

Janey Fisher

Images: cover, p.34 (old man image by karlukav@ magnific), used by permission; specsavers.co.uk; p.16, worksheetzone.org, p.40, butterfly-conservation.org; other images courtesy contributors.

Church Services in Trefonen and Llanyblodwel, September 2026

Date & Readings	All Saints Trefonen	St Michael's Llanyblodwel
Sunday 6th September Ezekiel 33:7-11 Romans 13:8–end Matthew 18:15-20	11.00am* Holy Communion Rev. John Darch With Peter Woollam *Note time	11.00am Morning Worship Abie Tudor
Sunday 13th September Genesis 50:15-21 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	10.00am Morning Worship Chris Kirk	11.00am Morning Worship Rebecca Colpus
Sunday 20th September Jonah 3:10-4:end Philippians 1:21-end Matthew 20:1-16	10.00am Morning Worship Linda Gladman	11.00am Holy Communion Rev. John Tranter With Rebecca Colpus
Sunday 27th September Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-end Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32	10.00am Morning Worship K Kimber & June Brown	11.00am Harvest Festival Service Abie Tudor

Very welcome news for the Border Benefice

People in our four parishes, Llanyblodwel, Llanymynech, Morton and Trefonen, were delighted to learn in July that the Rev'd Christina Cobb had been offered and had accepted the position to become Priest in Charge and run our Benefice. Christina is a resident of the United States and there are, therefore, formalities to complete before she will be able to take up her appointment. The most important of these are visa permissions and DBS clearance. We are hopeful that these can be concluded as rapidly as possible and continue to pray for Christina as she prepares for this new endeavour.

In informing the parishes of this news, Bishop Sarah thanked everyone for all that had been done since March 2024 to sustain the life of our churches. The dedication and generosity of parish members was recognised and people's willingness to give of their time and energy. We realise that this must continue and look forward to welcoming Christina, working with her and ensuring she has our full support. We look forward with joy and hope to the new chapter in the life of our churches.

K Kimber

Magazine matters – Sponsorship and Facebook

The number of readers who support us through sponsorship continues to grow, for which we are very grateful. We now have enough to print in colour three times next year, which is very encouraging. The next colour magazine will be the December/January one. We also plan a colour printing for the May 2027 magazine, when we focus on the Hill Walk weekend. The total of sponsorship pledged or already given is now £385 over the last 12 months, and we hope all our wonderful sponsors (and you know who you are!) will continue next year too.

We need about double that amount to make it possible to print every issue in colour. This would enable us to have more pages as well, and therefore to accept more advertisements for each issue without upsetting the balance of content and ads. So, with a very little more generosity on the part of our lovely readers we could create a much better product!

On another note, we need someone to manage the Facebook page for us. We are looking for someone who is adept at posting on social media to do this, so if anyone is interested in joining our team to take this on, please contact us on trefonenparishmagazine@gmail.com. Many thanks!

Janey Fisher

Trefonen WI

For this year's Summer event, Trefonen WI decided to support our local village pub, The Barley Mow. Having foregone the traditional walk due to the heatwave, 17 of us sat down for a two-course meal in the airy back room of the pub, seated across three tables. Whilst waiting for our food, we sang Happy Birthday (belated) to Shirley Herrington-Jones, and congratulated Julie Hawkins on her recent marriage, and K Kimber on the award of her MBE. We then tucked into good food and enjoyed drinks and conversation.



Gill Buckeridge circulated a copy of an article from *The Advertiser*, 'Trefonen WI Celebrates 60th Birthday' (5 February 1986, see left), which was interesting to read, particularly in the context of our centenary year, to see how things have changed. There were 38 members in 1986, down from a peak of 94 in 1951, which the article attributed to rural depopulation, the arrival of television in the home, and growth in the number of car-owning families. A particularly interesting anecdote related to the Second World War, when Trefonen WI was linked with the town of Wilkawatt in South Australia. Packages of dried fruit were sent from there to supplement food rations, and two members of the

Australian women's organisation travelled to Trefonen after the war and stayed with one of the members.

After dessert, our Vice-President Anne Ashton ran through the outline programme for next year's WI meetings and told us about the second phase of daffodil planting to mark our centenary year. This will be taking place on Friday 11 September, when we will also be enlisting help from Trefonen Primary School.

Our next meeting is an open one on Thursday 3 September, when Shaun Higgins will be presenting 'Snowing Butterflies' (see poster opposite). Please tell your family and friends and invite them to come to what should be an interesting and informative evening. Tickets for non-members are £8, including refreshments, and the show starts at 7.00 pm.

Trefonen WI

Snowing Butterflies

by

Shaun Higgins

Thursday September 3rd, 7pm,
Trefonen Village Hall



Young Charles Darwin, fresh from his voyage to the Galapagos Islands on HMS Beagle, recounts what he has seen and begins to develop his theory about the origin of species

SPICE ROSE PRODUCTIONS

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INSPIRING WOMEN

A Trefonen WI Open Meeting - everybody is most welcome
Tickets (on the door) £8, includes refreshments



If you are interested in joining our friendly WI, which meets in the Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 7.00 pm, please contact Victoria Gemmell at v.gemmell@hotmail.co.uk, or Sarah Solomon at shossol2016@gmail.com.

Congratulations!

To K Kimber, who has been awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours List for her services to Derwen College and her outstanding contribution to further education, particularly for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Very well deserved, and we would like to take the opportunity to thank K for all the many things she does for Trefonen Village and the Borders Benefice. A Local Treasure, and now a National Treasure.

We also hear that she and Bob have celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 years) this summer.

Let's raise a glass



Oswestry Recorded Music Society new season

Spend a couple of hours in town listening to Classical Music? Who does that?

Oswestry Recorded Music Society (ORMS) has been a part of the scene in Oswestry for 67 years. So there must be something to it! We meet once a fortnight through the autumn and winter on a Thursday between 2 and 4 pm. This autumn, owing to work being done at our normal venue the Green Room at Hope Church, we are meeting **at Cabin Lane Church upper room** (there is free parking). Recordings – both from CD and video – are presented by Members, who prepare an introduction so that the audience's understanding of the works is enhanced. We take care to present good quality recordings on our good quality equipment! We have a break for a cuppa at half time – so we catch up on things un-musical as well.

If you would like a couple of hours' relaxation in good company, come and give us a try. Our first meeting this year will be on **Thursday 15 October**. The title of the presentation will be 'Music From Scandinavia', with its gorgeous melodies and harmonies.

Our subs are £40 a year, but we won't chase you until you're really sure you like us. Joining doesn't mean you have to prepare a presentation, but if you have particular favourites, we do have Member's Choice afternoons. We look forward to seeing you!

If you would like any further information, or a copy of the full programme for 2026/27, please contact me at dave@hempyards.co.uk. To see past programmes in detail go to www.oswestryconnects.org/organisation/oswestry-recorded-music-society

Dave Ward

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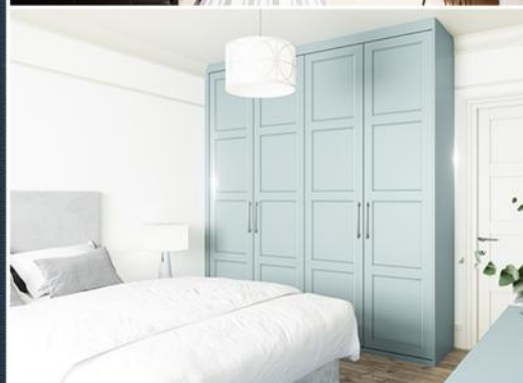
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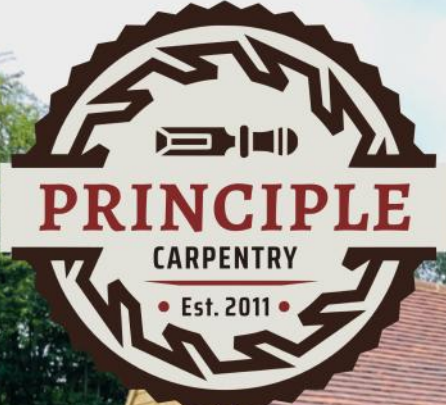
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Prayer Pointers

Lord, guide those who are entering a new chapter of their lives: starting or changing schools, entering the workplace for the first time or a change of job; a new relationship, or becoming a parent for the first time.

We pray for all those who find it hard to move forward in their lives.

For those who are moving away and starting a new life elsewhere.

A Deep and Heartfelt Prayer for New Beginnings

Heavenly Father, I come before you with a humble heart, longing for a fresh start. You see where I have been, the struggles I've faced, and the lessons I've learned. I ask you now to lead me into a new beginning shaped by your grace and truth.

Release me from the weight of the past, healing every wound, forgiving every failure, and restoring every broken place within me. Renew my mind, strengthen my faith, and align my heart with your will.

Give me courage to step forward, wisdom to choose rightly, and patience to trust your timing. Open new doors, and close doors that no longer lead to life. May this new beginning glorify you and draw me closer to your purpose.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Regular Events at Trefonen Village Hall

NB *There is an entry charge for some of these events. Contact the organisers for more information.*

The Community Café is open every Tuesday morning from 10.00 to 11.30am.

Trefonen Football Club run a bingo session in the village hall every Monday evening except bank holidays starting at 7.30pm.

Trefonen & District Garden Club meets 3rd Thursday most months (see advertisement p.13).

Whist Drives take place every 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Dog training classes are on Saturday morning (booking required).

The Village Hall Needs You!

I think everyone will agree that we have a very popular and well used village hall. As with many such halls, ours is a charity and requires a committee of volunteers to manage it. This involves such things as overseeing finance, bookings, cleaning, maintenance, health and safety, etc. Income is largely generated by booking fees and the profit from Flicks in the Sticks evenings. Routine cleaning is undertaken by our cleaner and by hirers. Our bi-monthly meetings last less than an hour.

However, we have a real problem – age! With several of us being real ‘oldies’, the *average* age of the current committee is creeping towards 80! Regular user groups each have a nominated representative on the committee, and the other members are drawn from the community. We desperately need new, and some younger, people to help run the hall – ***that means some of you!*** We would really like someone who could set up and manage an on-line booking form, for example.

If you are interested, please feel free to talk to me, Val Smout, Carol Pickering, or any other committee members.

Bob Kimber, Management Committee Chairman (01691 679646)

Trefonen Garden Club

As gardeners we are often concerned that at the start of the growing season things seem to lag behind. This year I had a few spindly tomato plants left over, not having time to do anything with them before we went away or the heart to throw them out. On our return they looked even worse, but as I had room for three more, I thought 'Okay let's give them a go and see what happens.'

Selecting the best of the bunch I duly potted them up. Within a short space of time not only did they look healthier but it wasn't long before they had caught up with all the tomato plants. It's a bit like giving the poorly plants on the sales benches at the garden centres a second chance. With a bit of care and attention they come back to life – and who doesn't like a bargain!

As I write this, many areas of the country are facing weather conditions not experienced since 1976. Watering has become a real dilemma and time consuming. Water butts are long empty and for me it was a conscious decision that in the garden only the essentials were kept watered, like the fruit trees, vegetables and pots; everything else is taking its chance. The raspberries and blackberries are small, with added competition from the birds. The lawn somehow has remained green and the roses continue to flower and look healthy even though both have not been watered. The rest of the garden is looking tired, having to do the best it can. Many plants will survive, others will not be so fortunate, giving the opportunity to replant and start again next year.

The garden has attracted a wide variety (and in greater numbers this year) of butterflies, bees, moths and other pollinators, enjoying the resilient herbs. Providing water for the birds and other creatures has been essential.

The September garden club meeting sees the return of the successful potato competition and display of garden produce, although it will be interesting to see what the results are like this time. This March members and guests were given two maincrop potatoes, the red skinned Sunset and the white skinned salad variety Bambino, and a special bag to grow them in. On 17 September we will see just how many potatoes you can get from two potatoes!

Prizes for the biggest crop, the heaviest single potato, the oddest shaped potato and more. And in this challenging gardening year bring along your home grown produce or flowers that you are really pleased with.

There is no speaker for this meeting, as it is very much a social event, so if you have not been before do come along, you'll be made very welcome. There will be no Admission Charges that evening! Everybody welcome, members, guests and those who have rarely (or never) been to the Garden Club before!



Chris Kirk



September's Monthly Meeting

7:30 p.m. Thursday 17 September

Trefonen Village Hall SY10 9DY

Potato Competition and Produce Display

Come to the Garden Club's Potato Competition Results Meeting!

(see article opposite for details)

And on 15 October we welcome Kevin Pratt talking on 'Bulbs are not just for Spring'



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Seeking the 100th Bishop of Lichfield

Saying goodbye

As you read this article, Bishop Michael's retirement on the feast day of St Michael and All Angels will either be imminent or recently past. It has been a long goodbye, sometimes sad but often filled with joy and happy memories. Many have said how much they will miss his wisdom, his kindness and his pastoral heart.



Taking a snapshot

In October the diocese will 'hand in its homework' to the national church – just like when there is a parish vacancy, we have to write our 'diocesan profile' (known as the Statement of Needs) for the Crown Nominations Committee (CNC), the small group who will work together to discern the potential candidates for #Lichfield100. The CNC group comprises 14 people: two archbishops, six people appointed by General Synod and six people nominated by the diocese.

This group needs a clear brief from us: what is Lichfield like as a diocese, what are our joys and hopes, what are the challenges and who are we looking for to help us to become all that we can be. A group called the Vacancy in See Committee have been putting the Statement of Needs together on behalf of us all, asking those questions of various groups in June and July this year and collecting that wisdom together in one document.

Your voice matters – speak directly into the process

But the CNC also want to hear from the people of Lichfield directly. Between 5 and 15 October, the Archbishops' Secretary and the Prime Minister's Secretary for Appointments will be meeting with a number of invited groups looking for answers to similar questions.

And everyone will have a chance to speak directly into the process of discernment. There will be an **online meeting on the evening of 14 October, 6pm-7.30pm to which everyone is invited**. There will be more information on how to join on the diocesan website or you can follow this link:

lichfield.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/

Your voice really does matter. So far the most frequent two words we've heard in our consultations for our 'diocesan profile' have been 'huge' and 'diverse'. We can't show people from outside just how big and diverse we are unless they hear lots of different voices from lots of different communities, all joyfully putting in their two penn'orth. So come and have your say! Who knows, it might be your voice which makes all the difference in discerning the right person to be our next Bishop.

Sam Rushton, Secretary to the Vacancy in See committee

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If you would like prayer for an immediate need, e.g. an emergency situation, you can ring any one of the people below. Your message will be passed to each person in the chain (who is available at the time) and we will pray for your need in complete confidence.

Betty Steele 652170

Carol Pickering 238561

Rita Mathias 657934

Chris Kirk 688595

Jill Ferguson 656456

Linda Gladman 07582 808588

We have a small Pastoral Care team at All Saints Trefonen. Members of the team are happy to offer prayer, a friendly visit, or practical support. If you, or someone you know, would welcome some help or support in this way, there is a Prayer/Visit box just inside the church (open daily between 10.00am and 4.00pm). Just write the details on one of the cards provided and pop inside the locked box. The box is checked at least weekly. Someone will then be in contact or we will pray for the need. Any queries, contact linda.jgladman@btinternet.com.

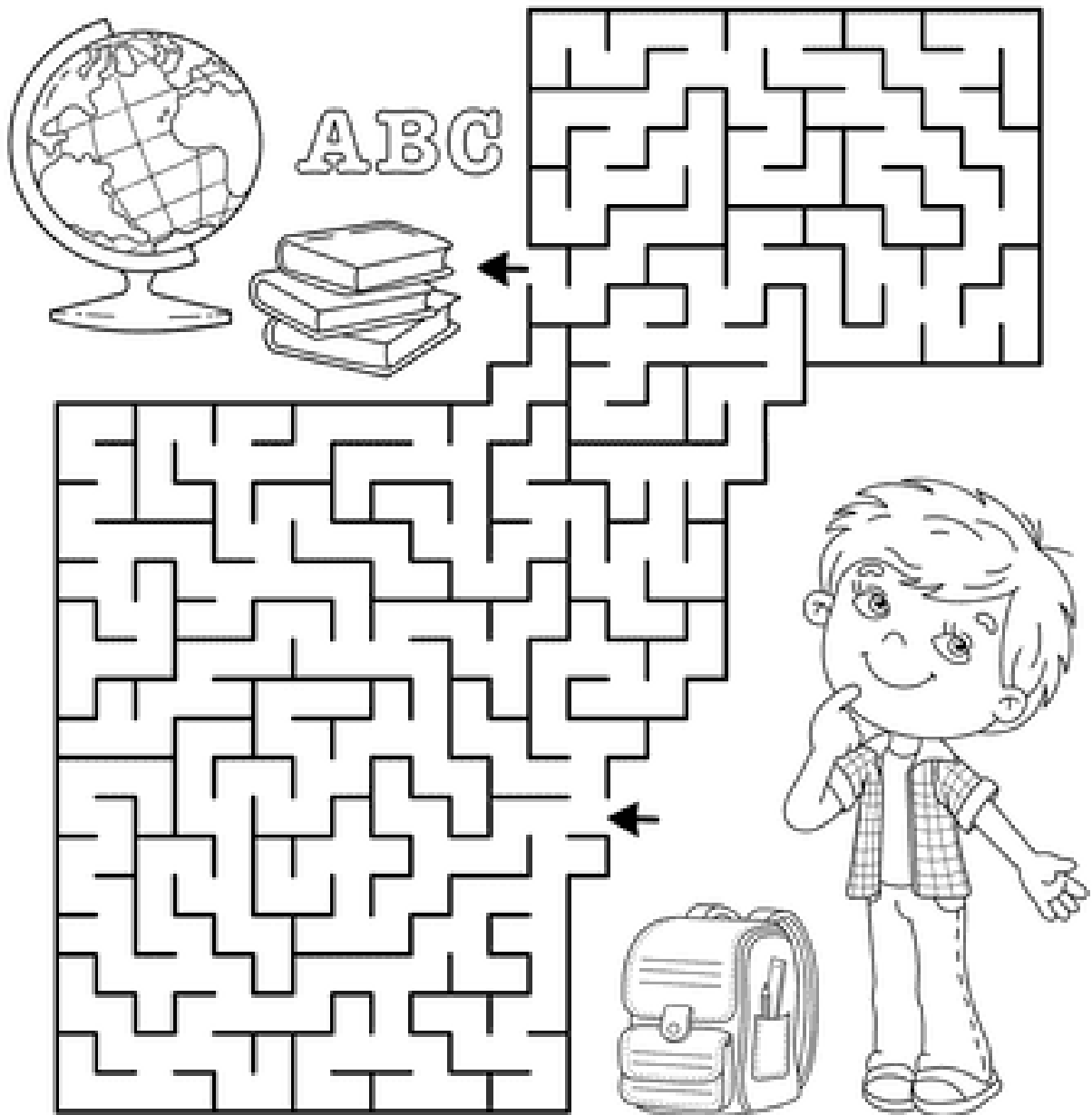
Puzzle Pages

Colouring page

This month we have a combined colouring page and maze - have fun with it during the last few days of the holidays

(The picture comes from Homemade Gifts Made Easy.)

Back to School



Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 to 9. Use logic to solve the puzzle without guesswork. It's a challenging one this month, so get your thinking caps on!

Answer on p.43.

SUDOKU

By KrazyDad

9					2	1		
			5			2		4
	4			3		7		5
		3		7		8		
		6		1		9		
3		9		6			8	
1		7			3			
		8	9					7

Difficulty: Challenging

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(Thanks to Krazy Dad for allowing us to reproduce this puzzle. For puzzle solving tips, and more puzzles, visit Krazydad.com.)



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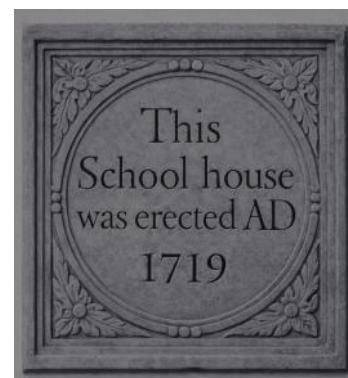
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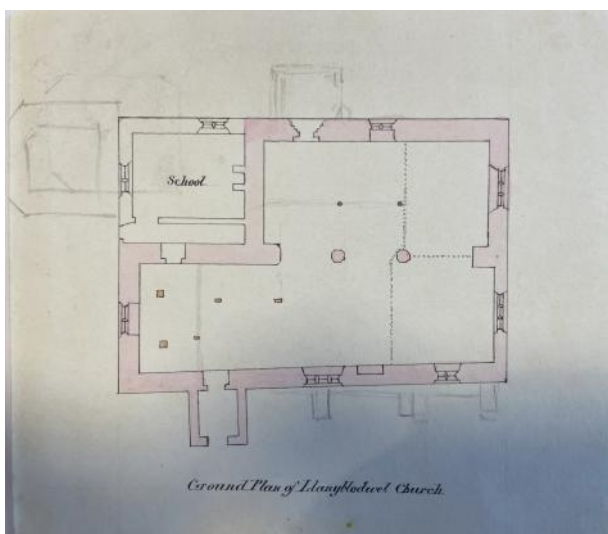


The School Within

Most epitaphs are simple, terse affairs ranging from a straightforward “RIP” to Spike Milligan’s ‘I told you I was ill.’ Tucked away in a corner of the upstairs room at St Michael’s is a memorial with a carved epitaph that runs to nearly three hundred words, that to Ursula Bridgeman of Blodwell Hall, who died in 1713. What the memorial doesn’t mention is that Ursula was the catalyst for founding a church school in Llanyblodwel when, in her will, she left £100 (£18,000 at today’s values) for the benefit of the poor of the parish.



That £100 enabled the Parish to build a school which was incorporated into the north-west corner of St Michael’s, in what is now the Vestry (see 1849 plan, left, and plaque above right, now tucked away in a corner of the upstairs room in St Michael’s vestry, but taken from the original school). In 1739, Ursula’s widower, Sir John Bridgeman, added a further £100, directing the money be used to employ, specifically, an English schoolmaster teaching poor boys and girls in Llanyblodwel, Bryn and Llynclys to read. The schoolmaster was accommodated in a room above the school. Some of the money also went to carrying out immediate repairs to the school.



1849 plan of St Michael’s church (courtesy National Library of Wales)

A further involvement of the Bridgeman family came in 1755 when Judith, youngest daughter of Sir John and Ursula, donated a further £100, directing that the money should be used to buy an annuity in the South Sea Company. (The South Sea Bubble, which brought financial ruin to so many, was 25 years past and the company was now chiefly involved in managing Government debt). The annuity was paid until 1801 when, for unknown reasons, it stopped. Seemingly no one noticed and the school, now over a hundred years old, started to fall into disrepair.

The need for funds to maintain the school became more urgent in the 1820s and the Bridgeman annuity was ‘rediscovered’. The dividends unpaid between 1801 and 1825 amounted to £200/10/- but, since all the trustees were now dead and new ones needed to be appointed, it cost the Church £25/7/2 to recover the unpaid sums. In the following two years £123 was spent on repairs – but too late; the roof was found to be unsafe and both school and schoolmaster removed to temporary accommodation in what is now Bridge Cottage.

(Continued on p.20)

After the repairs, the school returned to the Church, although the schoolmaster continued to live in Bridge Cottage.

A report by the Charity Commissioners in 1839 showed that the schoolmaster was being paid £6 per annum. Funded, during the lapse in dividends, by the Earl of Bradford. After the dividends were re-established, the schoolmaster's salary rose to £7 per year, his recompense for teaching 15 children.

In 1844, the Rev. John Parker took up the living and brought with him both mindset and resources for radical change. He rebuilt much of the church, starting with the dilapidated south wall, then recasting the interior, adding his unique tower and expanding the Vicarage. Last on his to-do list was to remove the school from the church by building a new larger school together with a bespoke house for the schoolmaster. Land some 300 metres east of the church was provided by the Earl of Bradford and here Parker built in his own Gothic style, first the school and then the schoolmaster's house (see watercolour, right). The original school in the church was repurposed as a vestry. In all, Parker spent over £10,000 of his own money on his various plans – equivalent to £1.1 million at today's values.



Watercolour by John Parker depicting his new school and school master's house. (Courtesy National Library of Wales)

This new-build brought to an end the School within and, through lack of proximity and increased capacity, changed the relationship between the children and the Church. This change was extenuated, first by the building of a second school in Porth-y-Waen, at what was called the industrial end of the parish, then the closing of Parker's school at the church-end and finally, the transfer of all schooling to what is now the Bryn Offa Church of England Primary School in Pant. We are fortunate that today Bryn Offa remains a Church School, teaching children the essentially Christian values of courage, ambition, respect and empathy. Whilst the school is no longer within the church, it remains within the Church, and we are grateful to the headteacher and staff for valuing the link to St Michael's that stretches back to 1719.

Alec Gordon

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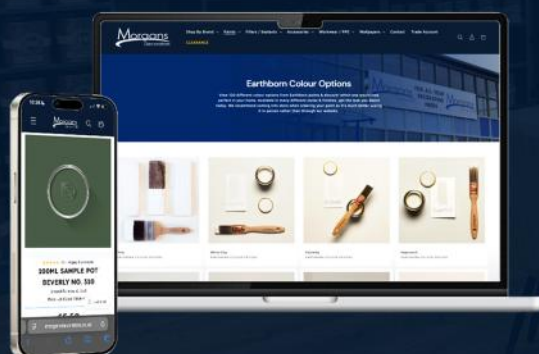
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Why are they called kissing gates?

There are a number of possible explanations. The gate could be said to 'kiss' the posts at each end of its swing, or it could be a corruption of an old northern name 'kisting gate' - a place where coffins were put down to give the bearers a rest. More romantically, the nature of the gate means that, as one person goes through, they tend to turn and hold it for the next one, bringing them face to face. An old kissing game ruled that the first person going through could demand a kiss before letting the next one pass.

These shiny galvanised structures are not to everyone's liking - there's a view that the more muted appearance of timber is more appropriate in a rural setting. Some argue that they can be awkward for those with mobility issues, but they are easier than a stile you have to climb over.

Four members of the P3 group – Artie, Rob, Simon and myself – installed this one just off Little London Lane in Trefonen recently.

Peter Woollam

Old Endings – New Beginnings?

Whenever our editor suggests a subject for our articles in the magazine, I'm always thrown into a mild panic, wondering how I can fulfil the brief! What would people find interesting, thought-provoking? In the end, I think, well, no one HAS to read it, so here goes!!



This very strange weather we're having has set my thoughts off in a funny direction, which is nothing new I can hear people saying – or at least those who know me! While we have been living in cave-like conditions in semi-darkness, with blinds shut against the heat, I decided to turn out the wardrobes and chests of drawers, as they seemed to be difficult to close, both being far too full of clothes. (You all know what I'm talking about, so no pretending you don't!)



Why do we hoard so many things that we 'may grow into' or have grown out of, or are just plain old and tired? Do we feel sorry for them? How



many socks do we have lurking around, waiting patiently for their partners to show up, all the while knowing the washing machine ate said articles long ago. Maybe odd sock wearing could become fashionable? My granddaughter would agree with that sentiment, as nothing she wears matches by any stretch of the

imagination and she is entirely comfortable with that.



How on earth do you persuade your lovely husband that Crimplene is NEVER coming back into fashion, that his minuscule T-shirts would make great dusters, that the jumper he had when he started work really IS past its best and that 40-plus ties is over the top. ('But they are good ties,' he says!...)



I also have to get my head around the fact that zips that don't pull up to the top really aren't a good look, and that I never am going to shorten that skirt!

So, dear fellow Trefonenites (that's a good word!), the Charity bags are filling up, the drawers and wardrobes are breathing sighs of relief, and we shall have new 'his' and 'hers' duster bags! Those of you who have read this far have probably caught on to what will happen when the next party, meal, or holiday comes around – yes, you've guessed it – anguished cries of 'I HAVE NOTHING TO WEAR.....' will be heard!



Until next month, enjoy the rest of the summer and rest assured that every day is a new beginning of something somewhere!

Ann Hindley



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Porthywaen Silver Band News

Summer 2024 has been a fantastic season for Porthywaen Silver Band, packed with memorable performances, warm audiences, and wonderful music across the region.

We kicked off our summer highlights at **Oswestry Music in the Park**, bringing a lively selection of brass favourites to the Cae Glas Park bandstand (right) on a sun-drenched afternoon. It was brilliant to see so many local faces relaxing and enjoying the music in such an iconic setting.



Another major milestone was our performance at the **Shrewsbury Quarry Bandstand**. Playing in the heart of the Quarry to a packed crowd of strollers and brass enthusiasts is always a treat, and the acoustics across the park made for an unforgettable afternoon of music-making.



One of the absolute high points of our season was our summer concert at **Hope Church in Oswestry**, where we had the privilege of performing alongside world-renowned trombone virtuoso **Brett Baker** (left). Sharing the stage with a musician of Brett's caliber was a brilliant experience for the band members, and the enthusiastic applause from the audience made all the rehearsal hours worthwhile.

We officially rounded off our summer schedule at the **Llanfyllin Show** (below and on p.30). As always, the show provided a wonderful, community-focused finale to our outdoor season. Playing against the backdrop of one of the area's premier agricultural events was the perfect way to wrap up months of hard work.





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With the summer season now behind us, the band is turning its focus toward our upcoming autumn repertoire and preparing for the busy winter season ahead. As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our local community—we couldn't do it without you!

Join Us or Get in Touch

As a community organization, we are always open to new players or anyone who wants to support local music. If you'd like to find out more about our upcoming schedules or how to get involved, please get in touch. For more information, contact the band via Facebook, <https://www.porthywaensilverband.co.uk/> or email secretary.porthywaensilverband@gmail.com.



Llanyblodwel prayer meeting and bible study



We meet on second and fourth Wednesday afternoons each month, 2.00 -3:30pm at Sharneyford, Coopers Lane, Porth-y-Waen, SY10 8 LY.

All are invited whether you attend church or not.

Rebecca Colpus

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St Michael's Llanyblodwel Events



Tending the Orchard





The UK has over 2000 varieties of apple, yet how many do we see in supermarkets? The Cambrian Railways Orchard Project (CROP) has established a traditional orchard by planting both half standard and trained apple, pear and plum (mainly heritage) varieties. Alan Braddock brings to life the story of the project - with some samples to taste!

Friday 4th September, 8.00pm

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Thought for the month: Listening

Many of us lead busy lives; some might even use the word ‘frenetic.’ It can sometimes seem difficult to focus on just one thing, to concentrate on the here and now, to see a task through to completion without interruption and other things intervening with their demands on our time. Making plans, mapping things out in detail, forecasting timescales and predicting outcomes can, with the best will in the world, be derailed by unexpected and sometimes urgent distractions getting in the way. Robert Burns put it like this: ‘The best-laid schemes of mice and men go oft awry.’

Is it sometimes the case that time spent listening to others – a spouse, other family members, a close friend – is one of the first casualties? Simply being present and able to ‘tune in’ to someone’s situation, to pay attention to what’s troubling them, can demand much from us. Failure to respond appropriately to their needs with patience, caring, and a willingness to help can be frustrating for them and, ultimately, lead to disappointment in ourselves.



Having time for people, listening and being present in the widest and deepest sense can be the most valuable gift we can give. Shutting out the distractions and concentrating on what someone else is saying can lead to an understanding of what’s really troubling them – something that’s not always ‘on the surface’ but needs a little bit of digging to uncover. What’s the real issue here? Is there anything I can do to help? Opportunities to provide a good ‘listening ear’ can crop up at the most unexpected times and places. Is a preoccupation with our own concerns sometimes so overriding that it prevents us from being sensitive to the needs of others?



Making resolutions is usually associated with New Year’s Day, but is there any good reason why we should rule this out on any other date? What about a September resolution to be a better listener?

Peter Woollam, Worship Leader

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NightWatch



As the sun sets over our churchyards and burial grounds, a whole other world comes alive. Using some nifty technology, we can listen in on this hidden world to find out just what kind of wildlife is thriving there, using a fantastic bit of kit called a passive acoustic monitor. These little devices can be set up to record and monitor a whole range of sounds in environments that would otherwise be difficult to survey, helping you discover what species are about.

The devices can be left out for a few hours, days or even weeks. They utilise a small microphone, to detect and convert incoming sound waves into a signal which can be recorded and stored for later analysis. Once back at home, you can then download the data to analyse and see what species you've heard. Some models will do this for you, some won't; it entirely depends on the model.

For example, It can be difficult to navigate these tools for a first timer, but the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) have made surveying for bats accessible and easy for everyone. Bats use echolocation to hunt for insects at high frequencies that we humans can't hear. Individual species emit calls that correspond to their size, flight, behaviour, environment and prey types. Each will produce a distinctive call that can be recognised on the acoustic monitor or during sound analysis.

One part of the National Bat Monitoring programme is the NightWatch survey. Taking place between July and October, NightWatch is a community science project helping you discover the hidden world of nighttime nature living in your neighbourhood. No experience or previous knowledge is needed to take part, just for you to be over 16 and have a windowsill, garden, churchyard or urban space you have permission to survey.

The process is simple. Choose a date and book your kit via the survey portal. Next, a free kit arrives in the post including an 'AudioMoth'. This is your mini passive acoustic monitoring device! Switch it on, secure in place and you're ready to go. Whatever you spot, you make a record of. Once you're done, post the kit back in the post and wait to hear back from BCT with your personalised report of the bats you discovered during the survey.

More information on how to sign up and book your kit is linked here: <https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/science-research/passive-acoustic-surveys/nightwatch>

Most historic churches now have protected bat roosts, making the surrounding churchyard space even more important for bat conservation. Keeping churchyards chemical free, full of rich and diverse habitats that attract varied food sources, provides critical sanctuary for these nocturnal species. Consider getting involved in your local burial ground for bats and other wildlife in whatever way you can.

Kaitlyn Everson

From the Registers

All Saints Trefonen

18th July, Wedding of Laura Kate Ingram and Lewis Scott Barton

St Michael's Llanyblodwel

1st August, Wedding of Julie Hawkins and Duncan Leonard Beaumont

17th July, Interment of Ashes of Alfred Coleman Tomley

21st July, Thanksgiving Service for Christopher Wynne Griffiths

Harry Roberts



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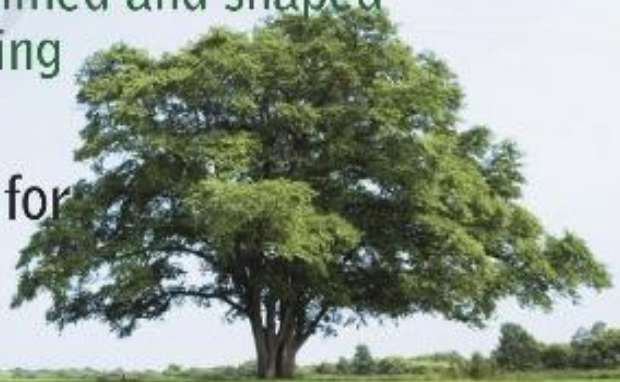
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Just Another Butterfly on the Wall

As the end of summer rolls in, you may have seen some new wings fluttering in your local churchyard. The Wall Brown or Wall butterfly is named after its habit of basking casually on walls or rocky places. This behaviour allows the butterfly to raise its temperature enough to fly around comfortably. Perfectly camouflaged against stones, the best way to identify the species is by checking the eyespots on its wings. One large eyespot on the forewing and four smaller ones on the hindwing is a dead giveaway that you have a Wall on your hands.



The Wall's habitat is diverse across England and Wales, spanning coastal zones, open grassland, disused quarries, railway edges, gardens, field edges and even churchyards and cemeteries. They may be found in sunny spots, basking on warm stone monuments, walls surrounding the churchyard, or the gravel of kerbed graves. Walls lay their eggs on grass tussocks and the broader leaves of coarse grasses such as Yorkshire Fog. Larvae and caterpillars will munch away on the grasses, while the butterflies rely on a variety of grassland wildflowers for nectar.

Inland Wall populations saw dramatic decreases in the 1980s, but not for the reasons you might expect. Habitat loss and degradation or abandonment of traditional farming or forestry practices didn't fit the bill for the Wall, but researchers instead theorise that warming climates are causing the species to have a third brood late in the year, leaving little time for the caterpillars to develop before winter. This brood was then unfortunately lost, causing the downward spiral.

Still, this might not be the end for the inland populations. Many butterfly species can change their voltinism (the number of generations produced per year). This flexibility allows species to respond quickly and often unexpectedly to years with favourable conditions, producing more broods than would be typical. Based on this principle, we can expect inland Wall populations to experience strong natural selection as climates warm, eventually recovering and becoming as resilient as their coastal relatives, where temperatures are more consistent.

It's a waiting game for the Wall, but in the meantime, we can be doing our part to support the species. Leaving coarse, grassy and sunny patches in your churchyard or garden gives them places to do their sunbathing. Creating gorgeous wildflower meadow areas gives the Wall, as well as many other pollinators and invertebrates, lots of variety for food. If you spot a Wall, be sure to record it in your iNaturalist app or send us a photo, especially if you see one in your local churchyard or burial ground. Every record builds a picture of just how important burial grounds are for wildlife.

Kaitlyn Everson



Planning a children's party or a family celebration?

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Bookings Secretary

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All Saints' Church Trefonen – Upper Room for hire

Trefonen church has an Upper Meeting Room that can be let out for community use, generally during the day, Monday to Saturday. Some evenings could be available subject to Church use. The room is accessed by a staircase from the lobby. Note that the stairs are not fully accessible to anyone with limited mobility.

The room is approximately 5.8m (19 ft) x 5.8m (19 ft) at its maximum width. It has good Wi-Fi, can be heated, has a kitchen area with H&C running water, microwave, kettle, crockery and cutlery. There are ample power points around the room. There is also a WC which is accessible direct from the room.

The room has been recently redecorated and there is carpet on the floor. There are plenty of adult and child chairs and folding tables (2 sizes). A projector screen is also available. The room could be used for small meetings and various groups.



If you are interested please contact Malcolm Kirk, one of the churchwardens, at malcolm.ref1170@gmail.com to arrange a visit and find out about costs for hiring the space for a one-off or regular use either weekly or monthly.

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Saturday	12pm-11pm
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Monday	N/A
Tuesday	N/A
Wednesday	N/A
Thursday	5pm-9pm
Friday	5pm-9pm
Saturday (Day)	12pm-3pm
(Evening)	5pm-9pm
Sunday	12am-4pm

Please check opening times, especially for food, before arriving - these vary from month to month. -Ed.

Puzzle Answers

Sudoku

The completed Sudoku puzzle on p.17 should look like this:

SUDOKU Answer

9	3	5	7	4	2	1	6	8
7	8	1	5	9	6	2	3	4
6	4	2	1	3	8	7	9	5
5	9	3	6	7	4	8	1	2
8	1	4	3	2	9	5	7	6
2	7	6	8	1	5	9	4	3
3	5	9	2	6	7	4	8	1
1	2	7	4	8	3	6	5	9
4	6	8	9	5	1	3	2	7



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Notes to contributors

NB IMPORTANT! Deadline for copy for the magazine is the 10th of each month (i.e. 10th September for the October issue).

The deadline allows time for the editorial team to compile the contents and the proofreader to check it, followed by printing in time for publication online and in print towards the end of the month.

We warmly welcome all your contributions, but please be aware that on occasion these may need to be edited for length, syntax or to ensure relevance to our readership. I will always consult with the author if any substantive changes are needed, but in these cases please note that the editor's decision is final.

Also, please remember that if you do send photographs showing people for inclusion in the magazine (particularly where faces are visible) **you need to have obtained their permission**. Please also check the copyright for any images you collect from the internet for publication here - the source needs to be acknowledged if necessary.

Lastly, can I ask that you check your facts carefully and if you are quoting from a book or article, make that clear? Plagiarism is not allowed!

The Editor

Magazine team:

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Assistant editor:	Georgia Cunningham
Proofreading:	Isobel Fisher
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trefonenparishmagazine@gmail.com

Distribution:

The print magazine is in black and white this month, and it is available from the Trefonen Village Shop, Trefonen Village Hall, and both All Saints Trefonen and St Michael's Llanyblodwel churches. It can also be read in colour online and downloaded as a pdf file at www.trefonen.org, and www.borderparishes.org.uk, and www.st-michaels.uk.

Local contacts

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Trefonen Village Hall general contact:	Kath Roberts	671360
Trefonen Village website	www.trefonen.org	
Trefonen WI	Gill Buckeridge	653172

Some useful services

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RJ & AH Orthopaedic	01691 404000	National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Royal Shrewsbury	01743 261000	Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline	0808 801 0800
Wrexham Maelor	01978 291100	Victim Support (National)	0808 168 9111
Princess Royal Telford	01952 641222	National Missing Persons Helpline	116 000

OUT AND ABOUT



Above: The Porthywaen Silver Band line-up at the Llanfyllin Show in August (see more inside). **Below:** Longing for rain - the football pitch at Trefonen Playing Fields in mid-August.

