

NEWSLETTER

FOR

THE MORVILLE GROUP OF PARISHES

VILLAGE HALL



ASTON EYRE



MORVILLE SCHOOL

PARISH COUNCIL



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

FEBRUARY 2026

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Our rates are very agreeable, just £5 for the year and there are spaces available.

I am very grateful to Pugh's Feeds and Brown's Plant Hire and Groundworks, who have voluntarily given double the fee.

The lovely people who choose to remain contributors, helpers and distributors are very much appreciated; you are all important links in the chain of volunteers.

Lent evening prayer 2026

We will be using 'He chose the nails' as our lent resource this year

| | Host Church | Leading | Preaching | Readings | Theme for the week | Intercessions |
|---|---------------|---------|-----------|---|---|---------------|
| Ash Wednesday service 6pm at Morville 18 th of February | Morville | VD | SW | Isaiah 58:1-12 John 8:1-11 | | |
| Wednesday 25 th February 6pm | Aston Eyre | VD | VD | Romans 8:3 John 12:44-50 | He chose to be one of us | VD |
| Wednesday 4 th March 6pm | Astley Abbots | HH | PH | Lamentations 3:40 Mark 2:13-22 | He chose to forgive us | TBA |
| Wednesday 11 th March 6pm | Oldbury | SW | MB | Hebrews 10:19-20 Mark 3:7-19 | He chose to invite us into His presence | TBA |
| Wednesday 18 th of March 6pm | Tasley | VD | SW | 1 John 3:16 John 5:25-29 | He chose to love us forever | SW |
| Wednesday 25 th of March 6pm | Acton round | SW | VD | Romans 8:37 Mark 7:1-23 | He chose to give us victory | VD |
| Wednesday 1 st April 6pm | Monkhopton | VD | SW | Romans 12 John 12:24-35 | He chose to give us confidence | TF |
| Thursday 2 nd April 6pm Footwashing service | Quatford | SW | MB | Exodus 12:4-5,5-10,11-14 John 13:1-17,31b-35 | | VD |

Morville Parish Council

At an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 15th December, Standing Orders were suspended while Josh, owner of The Acton, answered questions from councillors and parishioners about his planning applications for an extension to the pub and an adjacent farm shop. Councillors subsequently voted unanimously to support both applications. Details of both applications and the comments received from both councillors and parishioners can be viewed on Shropshire Council's planning portal.

At the Parish Council meeting on 12th January, councillors unanimously agreed not to ask Shropshire Council to increase our precept [budget] for the next financial year so as not to add to any further increase in community tax whatever Shropshire Council decides on. This decision was made despite our increasing workload which has led us to agree to monthly meetings in future.

The next Parish Council Meeting will therefore be held on Monday 9th February at 7.00pm

For further information please see Morville Parish Council website at www.morville-pc.gov.uk and like or follow our page on Facebook: Morville Parish Council

THANK YOU TO:

the Cooper family, for their kind donation to the newsletter in memory of Joyce and Den.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:

the late Mr James (Jim) Davies, formerly of Meadowley
the late Mrs Deborah Hill

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Miss Docherty on being Executive Head of Morville School
Mrs Billington on becoming Head of School
Miss Owen on the birth of baby Evan

Date for the Diary:
The Morville Annual Community Event
Monday the 18th of May 2026
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Morville Village Hall

Morville W I

As Morville WI prepares to enter its 100th year in May, I was reflecting on what it is that makes being a member of the WI & Morville in particular, so important. Yes we have very interesting speakers (no one could forget Graham Short the "micro-artist") & go on some wonderful outings (Severn Valley Alpacas in Romsley was one of the highlights of 2025), but I think that companionship, laughter and cake sums up things for me.

We ended 2025 with our Christmas party at The Gaskell in Much Wenlock. We had a brilliant night - the food was delicious, the staff friendly & helpful & the room beautifully decorated. We had secret Santa, a raffle and entertainment from two of our talented members, Ruth and Terri.

We didn't rest on our laurels and our January meeting set the bar high. The lovely Sarah Haden introduced us to "Sound Bathing". The village hall looked like a girl guide camp with most of us lying on the floor cocooned in blankets while we immersed ourselves in the sound vibrations. The sounds help to promote relaxation and emotional healing through various instruments like singing bowls and gongs. Some of our ladies fell asleep! It was an excellent way to start the year.

Things have changed beyond recognition from 1926 when:

John Logie Baird demonstrated the first television, it was the year that Winnie-the-Pooh was first published and the iconic red telephone box was introduced.

Oh and the amazing Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim the English Channel (from France to England) beating the men's time by about 2 hours.

Morville WI are always pleased to welcome visitors so if you are interested in finding out more about us, why don't you come along to a meeting, the first one is free. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month and have a welcome drink from 7.15pm with the meeting starting at 7.30. We have a very varied programme with, we hope, something for everyone. We usually follow our meeting with a delicious tea giving members the chance to socialise, and have a raffle and competition each month. There is also a sales table.

You can just turn up on the night or if you would like any further information we can be contacted by e mail at morvillewomensinstitute@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook.

Letting the Light in

Spring does not arrive cleanly or all at once. It comes slowly and unevenly. The sounds of returning birds herald warmer weather, green shoots appear before the cold has fully released its hold. Even as the days lengthen, winter often still lingers. Spring understands something that faith has always known: that renewal is rarely quick, and almost never comfortable.

For me, spring is forever bound to the weeks I spent sitting beside my mother as she was dying. It was a season of watching and waiting. In her final days, nights seemed to stretch without end. At around four in the morning, birds would begin to sing outside her hospital window. Their sound floated into the room as we kept watch, fragile and persistent. Slowly the sky would lighten. Family would arrive. Nurses would come in with their laughter, their friendship, their quiet competence. Little by little, the weight of the night would begin to lift, and the light broke in.

The morning my mother died, a dove cooed outside the window. It was an ordinary sound, easily overlooked, but it felt like a sign: God, by his Holy Spirit, had seen us, and God was present within it all.

The following day, the weather broke into full spring sunshine. Within days, the trees burst into leaf, bright and astonishingly green. Amidst grief and deep tiredness, life was continuing to unfold, and beauty was to be found everywhere, and yet still, for many months, it was hard to worship, hard to pray and hard to hear God's voice.

The Biblical story never pretends that light appears without darkness first. As we read the Christmas story in the depths of the British winter, Luke is careful not to place God's arrival in ideal conditions, but in a world shaped by political pressure, anxiety, grief, and ordinary hardship. God's work of revealing himself does not begin with triumph or glory, but with quiet presence in tumultuous circumstances.

Many of us recognise that pattern in our own lives. We wait for things to feel resolved before we allow ourselves to hope. We tell ourselves that joy can come later, once the worry has passed or the loss has softened. That we'll return to church when the kids are older, or pray again when God isn't so mad about our bad choices. But Luke offers a different picture. Light appears while things are imperfect and unfinished, and bringing all that mess into the light is what makes it easier to bear.

Spring often teaches the same lesson. It does not begin when the ground is warm, but when it is just beginning to thaw. The first signs of life are fragile and (like the camelia in my garden) sometimes thwarted on a first attempt at breakthrough. We might spot a single bud on a bare branch or daffodils appearing in Tesco. These are not signs that winter is finished, but reminders that its days are numbered. Spring has broken into the harshness of winter despite the most unfavourable conditions.

This is not a dramatic kind of hope. It does not erase grief or hurry us toward resolution. Instead, it sits alongside what is unfinished. Luke shows us a God who enters the ordinary: long journeys, crowded spaces, tired bodies, uncertain futures. Light does not come to deny reality, but to dwell within it.

As spring reaches its fullness, it reminds us that light works patiently. Each day grows brighter and longer almost without us noticing. Growth happens slowly and quietly. Faith, too, is less about sudden certainty and more about learning to trust the small signs of presence along the way.

Luke's Gospel invites us to pay attention to where light has already begun to show itself, and to embrace it wholeheartedly, no matter how unfavourable the conditions of life. Because, like the signs of spring in the dark of winter, God is here in the world and breaking into even the bleakest of circumstances. This hope is not sentimental optimism, but learning to recognise the presence of God with us, and gently making space again for him to meet us.

The Reverend Jane Plackett-Ferguson
Chaplain to the Bishop of Hereford

Morville School News

Hello from the Morville school family.

We enjoyed a snowy start to the new year, with pupils engaging well in online learning during unexpected school closures. It was a pleasure to see what they achieved at home, and it has since been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and into their new topics.

We were also delighted to welcome back members of staff: Miss Owen returned from maternity leave after the arrival of baby Evan, and Mrs Billington returned following 12 months of sick leave and will now be taking on the role of Head of School. Miss Docherty will be continuing to support the school in her new role as Executive Headteacher.

The children in Oak Tree class have loved diving into their new topic '*Toy Story*' this term. The children loved sharing their favourite new Christmas toys with each other before turning into curious "toy detectives," discovering how toys have changed over time. A real highlight was their journey into the world of puppets, where they explored different styles before designing and making their very own finger and glove puppets. The children finished their Toy Story project by performing a puppet show for each other and creating a toy museum to share with family and friends.

In Birch Tree Class, the children have been enthusiastically exploring their history topic, '*To Infinity and Beyond*'. They have been learning about space, the moon landing, and the remarkable individuals who have travelled into space or helped make space exploration possible. The children particularly enjoyed identifying objects found in space, including planets, stars, asteroids, comets and meteors, and were fascinated to discover more about the technology used during the moon landing and why it was such a significant moment in history. In computing lessons, the class also explored the International Space Station, learning how astronauts' survival needs are met while in space and how space exploration continues to benefit life here on planet Earth.

In Chestnut Tree Class, the children have been enthusiastically exploring their history topic, '*Terrible Tudors*'. They learned how the Tudor period began at the Battle of Bosworth and developed their skills in using a range of historical sources to investigate key events and figures. The children enjoyed comparing portraits of Henry VIII, discussing what different artistic choices revealed about him as a ruler. A particular highlight was learning about Henry VIII and his six wives, with pupils carrying out their own research and taking part in lively debates to decide who they felt would have been the most suitable wife and why. Alongside their history work, the class have also been developing their artistic skills through a portrait project inspired by mixed-media artist Chila Kumari Singh Burman, using her work to create their own expressive mixed-media self-portraits.

Finally, in January, the staff and children were thrilled to welcome athlete Nekoda Smythe-Davis, GB Judoka, to Morville School. The children, along with some of the braver staff, took part in a sponsored fitness circuit, which proved to be an energetic and enjoyable way to encourage everyone to get active and appreciate the fun of staying healthy. Nekoda then led an engaging and interactive assembly, sharing her inspiring sporting journey and highlighting the importance of resilience, determination and perseverance when working towards personal goals.

Looking forward to sharing our next update – Mrs Billington, Head of School

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2026

Our younger son Dan and daughter-in-law Aimee were staying with us on the weekend of January 23rd to 25th and, avid birdwatchers, they went out into the garden and fields, documenting the birds they spotted in one hour.

The rules state that birds should be on the ground or perched in bushes and trees. The highest number of each species seen at any one time should also be documented. In all, they saw 25 different species.

Amongst the usual and expected birds, (robins, thrushes, dunnocks, fieldfares and redwings, chaffinches, magpies and crows etc) they saw a single marsh tit, (**not** a willow tit !) a bullfinch, a goldfinch , a goldcrest and a flock of “at least 50” linnets, flying along the hedges and up into the trees.

Earlier in the day I had watched a wren and a tree-creeper but in spite of being offered extra cake, they wouldn't add them to the list.

They did, however, count the skylarks hovering above, because “they weren't flying past.”

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Food Bank Collection Box

A collection box has been placed in Morville Church Porch.

All donations gratefully received and will be gifted to Bridgnorth Food Bank.

Regrettably no fresh, perishable or packaged produce. Tins and jars only please.

Thank you!

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

MORVILLE

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Sun | 1 st | 11.15am | Morning Prayer (Lay) |
| Sun | 8 th | 11.15am | Morning Prayer (RT) Refreshments |
| Sun | 15 th | 11.15am | Morning Prayer (Lay) |
| Wed | 18 th | 6.00pm | Ashing Service (SW/VD) |
| Sun | 22 nd | 11.15am | Holy Communion (SW) Refreshments |

ASTON EYRE

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Sun | 8 th | 10.00am | Morning Prayer (Lay) |
| Sun | 22 nd | 10.00am | Holy Communion (SW) |

MONKHOPTON

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------|---------------------|
| Sun | 1 st | 10.00am | Holy Communion (SB) |
|-----|-----------------|---------|---------------------|

ACTON ROUND

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------|----------------------|
| Sun | 8 th | 10.00am | Morning Prayer (Lay) |
|-----|-----------------|---------|----------------------|

Morville Readers and Readings for February

| | | First Reading | Second Reading |
|-----|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Sun | 1 st | Malachi 3: 1 - 5 (Alison Foxall) | Luke 2: 22 - 40 (Helen Smith) |
| Sun | 8 th | Romans 8: 18 - 25 (Louise Shropshire) | Matthew 6: 25 - end (Tim Heatley) |
| Sun | 15 th | 2 Peter: 1: 16- end (Tim Morris) | Matthew 17: 1 - 9 (Elaine Crisp) |
| Wed | 18 th | Isaiah 58: 1-12 (Readers for Ash Wednesday) | John 8: 1 - 11 |
| Sun | 22 nd | Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7 (Hilary Evans) | Matthew 4: 1 - 11 (Mike Skinner) |

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Sun 1 st March | Genesis 12: 1 – 4a | John 3: 1 – 17 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|

PRIEST IN CHARGE

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BEFORE 24th OF THE MONTH

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