

# MORTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2011

### INTRODUCTION

What a winter! But spring is round the corner, lets hope we have a really good Summer. This is the last newsletter I will be involved in as I will not be standing for election in May. I would like to thank everyone for their support during the last 8/9 years especially Paul the Parish Clerk and my fellow councillors past and present.

**Margaret Hawkins**

**Chair**

### ROYAL WEDDING 2011

Thanks to the combined effort of the Village Hall Committee, Church and the Parish Council, there will be a buffet tea for all parishioners in the village hall between 3pm and 6pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011. This will be paid for by the Parish Council.

All parish children 11 and under will be presented with a souvenir provided by the Parish Council. These will be distributed at school to all Morton School Children. Other children will receive their souvenir on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the village hall.

Hope to see you there.



Margaret



### **Morton Monkeys**

**We meet every Thursday in Term  
Time  
from 10.00am to 12.00noon  
in Morton Village Hall.**

This is for mothers/fathers/carers  
and their babies and toddlers under  
school age.

Come along and let your little monkeys  
meet new friends.

Plenty of grown ups to chat with!

Lots of activities for the children.

### Holy Cross Churchyard News

As we begin to consider our Spring maintenance of the Churchyard, some of you may have noticed that certain graves which had sunk towards the end of last year have now been topped up again with soil. These graves will be grass seeded again in the Spring to make good. Thank you for all you are doing to help us keep the churchyard tidy and more easily maintained. It is very much appreciated and there were many positive comments last summer on the improvements.

Revd. Margaret

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more, very competitive prices.**

**For more details visit the website**

**Studio/Gallery opening soon!**

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# HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Rector - Rev. Margaret Jacques, The Rectory, Main Road, Shirland. 01773 836003

Churchwardens - Margaret Hawkins 01246 863418

John Culverhouse 01773 833427

Visit Our Benefice Web site - [www.msschurches.co.uk](http://www.msschurches.co.uk)

Many thanks to all who support us and help to keep our lovely church open for regular worship, for special occasions and for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Thanks also to those who support our social events and come along to our special events.

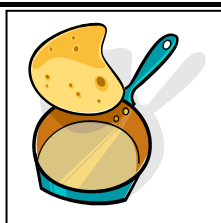
Everyone is welcome to come to any of our services.

## Baptisms and Weddings

If you would like to know more about Baptisms or a Church Wedding please ring the Rector who will be happy to discuss it with you.

## SOUP AND SOCIAL FOR PANCAKE DAY

Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>



In the Rectory Room 12.30 - 3.00pm

Homemade soup, cob and butter,

PANCAKES, tea/coffee

ALL WELCOME      £3.50



Celebrate the Royal Wedding on April 29<sup>th</sup>

Join us all in the Village Hall for tea.

## Why not come along and join us for one of our special services:-

Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> Mothering Sunday 10.30am

Good Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2.00pm Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Easter Day service

During the Easter period we will be having an Exhibition in Church - 'New Beginnings'.

Watch out for the posters.

## THE RECTORY ROOM IS FOR HIRE

Why not use the Rectory Room for your Party, your meeting etc.

A pleasant room with all facilities - crockery, cutlery etc.

Very safe and secluded grounds.

£5.00 per hour.

## Holy Cross Newsletter

Each month we publish a short newsletter which is free to those who request one. If you would like one delivered to your house please ring Rosemary Taylor on 01773 872354.

# Morton Fun Run 2011

Back for its fifth and possibly final year, this year's run will take place on Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>.

When I started organising this event I would see how things went for 5 years and then see how the event had progressed and if the race had grown for it to continue. With the possible disbanding of the carnival and committee after this year's event it may prove expensive to put these runs on as just a village sized fun run due to insurance costs as the carnival insurance has covered the event in previous years helping to keep the entry fee cheaper than usual. Increasing the number of runners by turning it into a 'proper race' and doubling the entry fee may attract a larger field and cover the insurance, but would lose that friendly village fun run atmosphere. After organising events over the past 20 years involving hundreds of athletes I know what amount of organising is involved and the disruption it causes, would the village be able to cope with the increase? I would dearly love to hear other people's thoughts on the matter. Please feel free to drop me a note either through the door or via the contact link on the event web site.

As with the past four years the main event will be a 6km road run (just under 4 miles). The run will start at 11am from the school gates and go up Main Road, out of the village along Stretton Road to the A61. Turn left onto the wide pavement to Mickley Lane, turn left and run all the way to Higham Lane, turn left and run back into Morton onto Church Lane, turn right at the Church and run back down Main Road to turn left onto New St and finish on the playing field. The 6km Fun Run is open to all runners aged 14 and over. The Morton resident trophies are also up for grabs for the first male and female from the village over the line in the 6km event. There have been some close races for the Morton men's trophy over the past couple of years and last year saw the first Morton female entries, will we be seeing a few more on the start line this year?

The Morton Mile Family Fun Run is to be held again after very successful events over the past few years. Starting at 12 noon after the main race has finished, it is a one mile all off- road run taking in a single loop of the trail around the colliery mound and wood. The Family Fun Run is open to all runners, young or old, aged 6 and over, but please be advised that runners aged 6 and 7 must be accompanied by someone aged 14 and over whilst running in the event.

An entry form is enclosed below just in case any of you feel the urge to have a go! Full details of the event will be available from mid February on the event web site [www.runmorton.com](http://www.runmorton.com). Any queries you may have can be asked via the contact link on the site.

Ash.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....Post Code.....

Please circle your gender and age category of the run you are entering:	Male	Female					
6km Fun Run:	Junior (14 -17yrs)	Senior (18+)	Vet Male (40+)	Vet Female (35+)			
1 Mile Family Fun Run:	6/7yrs	8/9yrs	10/11yrs	12/13yrs	14/15yrs	16/17yrs	18+yrs

Entry fees: 6km Fun Run: 14 -17yrs £3.50 18+yrs £5.00 entry on day £1 extra

1 Mile Family Fun Run: £2.00 all runners entry on day £1 extra

I enter this event at my own risk. I am 14 or over and medically fit to compete in the 6km Fun Run, or, my child is 6 or over and medically fit to compete in the Family Fun Run. If my child is aged 6 or 7 I will ensure that he/she is escorted by a responsible person aged 14 or over whilst running in the event.  
I agree not to hold the organisers responsible for any illness, injury or loss incurred as a result of my participation.

Signed..... (parent/guardian for under 16)

Please send completed form and entry fee (cheques payable to Morton Carnival Committee) to;

Morton Fun Run  
21 Main Road  
Morton, Derbyshire DE55 6GS

# Morton Village Hall

First of all we, as a Committee, would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year for 2011 and hope that you will continue to use the Village Hall for all appropriate functions as without your support we would lose a valuable asset for the Community. As you are all aware the Senior Citizens Christmas Party had to be cancelled in December due to very adverse weather conditions - this is one event we all look forward to but unfortunately there was nothing we could do about it as we are sure you will all understand.

We are still working on the access for the disabled and the Parish Council are doing their best in this respect but again nothing seems to go smoothly as one problem after another crops up. We have had new floor covering fitted in the kitchen together with one wall being re-plastered but there are still quite a number of repairs which need to be carried out during this year.

The Hall is still being used by such groups as Taekwondo, Morton Monkeys, The Bowls Club and, of course, the ever popular Bingo which is held every other Monday and to which everyone is welcome. Childrens' Parties have also been on the increase over the past year together with various other functions.

At the present time we are still managing to keep the hire charge down to £5.00 per hour for normal bookings this also includes the use of all facilities, cutlery, pots etc. The Hall is also available for Parties, Wedding Receptions etc; and for information in this respect please ring the Booking Officer or, in case of difficulties, any member of the Management Committee.

Finally, without mentioning any names, there are a number of people who help us in many different ways and we would like to say thank you to all those concerned.

Members of Morton Village Hall Management Committee

## Members of Morton Village Hall Management Committee.

Stewart Towndrow - Chairman 01773 872698      Rosemary Taylor - Secretary 01773 872354  
Ann Wright - Booking Officer 01246 865337      Jane Grant-Smith - Treasurer 01246 861286  
Margaret Hawkins - Parish Council Rep. 01246 863418      Claire Koslowski - Caretaker 01773 590171

**Morton Village Hall is  
available for Parties, Wedding Receptions, Meetings etc.**

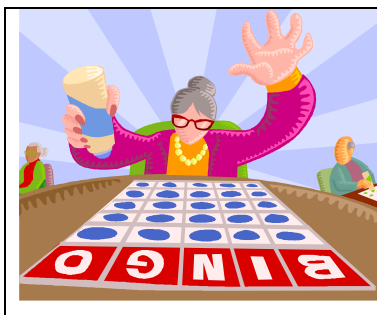
**£5.00 an hour**

**Kids' Parties £25.00**

**Includes heating, use of kitchen, cooker, fridge, dishwasher, urn,  
crocery, cutlery etc.**

Please ring the Booking Officer for any information with regard to booking the Hall.

## BINGO



Come and join us for a fun night  
in the Village Hall!  
**Every other Monday at 7.30pm.**  
Dates on Hall Notice Board.  
25p entrance includes  
tea/coffee and biscuits.

## Morton Bowls.

**We meet in the Village Hall  
every Friday evening, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.,  
cost £1.50 including refreshments.**

There are bowls in the Village Hall that can be borrowed.  
We are a very friendly group both young and elderly so come along and have a chat to us anytime.

## Holy Cross Churchyard News

As we begin to consider our Spring maintenance of the Churchyard, some of you may have noticed that certain graves which had sunk towards the end of last year have now been topped up again with soil. These graves will be grass seeded again in the Spring to make good. Thank you for all you are doing to help us keep the churchyard tidy and more easily maintained. It is very much appreciated and there were many positive comments last summer on the improvements.

Revd. Margaret

## SCHOOL NEWS

With the promotion of healthy eating, Morton School is running a fruit/veg/salad scheme. You can either have the choice of a bag of fruit, a bag of vegetables or a bag of salad. The normal price is £3.00 per bag, but for February only they have the special offer of £2.50 per bag. All orders are to be placed at school before Wednesday 12 noon and will be delivered to School on the Friday, ready for pick up between 3.20pm – 4.00pm. A loyalty scheme will be in place, so if you order 10 or more bags, you get a bag free.

So get your orders in.....

Walt Edson

## GALA NEWS 2011

This years Gala will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011 on the football field at the end of New Street. The 6k road race will begin at 11.00am as usual at the school gates, and the 1 mile fun run will be starting at 12 noon.

The next gala meeting will be on **Wednesday 23 March 2011 7.30 pm at the Sitwell Arms**, so anyone who has time to spare and wishes to lend a hand will be very welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Walt Edson

## NOTES ON MORTON HISTORY 1939 – 1945

### PART 3 1944 – 1945

### *PEACE AT LAST !!*

As the War progressed air activity intensified, with the Hurricane, Spitfire, Wellington, Whitley, Stirling, Halifax, Lancaster, Dakota and the Mosquito being the most common types of aircraft. Not forgetting, of course, the USAAF P38 Lightning and the B17 Flying Fortress.

In the period 1944/45 Miss S.E. Howard replaced Miss Smith as Head Mistress at Morton School. When victory was imminent Miss Howard made sure all the children of Morton School were fully acquainted with LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY.

Morton Colliery CX Co. No.5 played its full part in the War effort although the Hard Coal CX Co. No.6 closed in 1942.

Peace at last – at least in Europe, May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945 V.E.DAY.

We had to wait a while longer for V.J.DAY (Victory in Japan), August 15<sup>th</sup> 1945.

The Village celebrated in fine style.

On the Cricket Field there was a Road Safety First Display followed by dancing by Floodlight in the evening. A Fancy Dress parade – ‘Sidney Greaves and his Chimney Sweeps’ band of assorted players. Tommy Whyman led a procession playing a Barrel Organ. Only Tommy was allowed to approach Morton Isolation Hospital, others in the procession were told to wait at the end of the Hospital Drive.

On both occasions there was a Street Tea Party held in New Street. There was also a Celebration Tea held in the Colliery Canteen. New Street was decorated with Union Flags. Victory Bonfires were made at several sites in the Village. Houses were decorated particularly so if a long lost serviceman was returning.

It was quite a novelty to see the Lamp Lighter on his round each evening, and then to enjoy the illumination from the Gas Street Lights which for six years had simply been monuments.

There were some tragic stories of lives lost in WW2 but thankfully the overall numbers were much less than in WW1 as the Village War Memorial testifies.

The Black-out conditions brought a host of incidents, such as the bus-conductress who saved a passenger’s life after he had slipped beneath the front wheels of her bus at a bus-stop on Stretton Road.

After 6 years of War there was, naturally, great enthusiasm to return to a peaceful way of life as soon as possible. We had emerged victorious through an extremely stressful and austere number of years. The Miners’ Welfare Hall (Village Hall) had been used for various functions during WW2, but was in desperate need of renovation. One such function was on certain Sunday afternoons prior to D-Day, there had been official gatherings of military personnel, centred around the War Memorial. Afterwards, I believe refreshments were provided in the Hall.

Morton Colliery Cricket Club which had laid dormant after the end of the 1939 season was eagerly revived. An immense amount of hard work was necessary to restore the playing area to anything like match conditions. As a boy, I accompanied my father on one of the restoration parties. Although the pavilion had officially been closed and made secure, certain individuals had gained access for one purpose or another? Conditions inside were deplorable, with remains of equipment (pads mainly) strewn around. One item of particular interest, was a large set of leather over-shoes which I was told had been worn by a horse when pulling the roller – there was no sign of the horse!

Many former German P.O.W.s have revisited the Village, sometimes with members of their families. I feel this is something which pays a huge compliment to the way they were treated here during WW2.

BARRINGTON DARBY Local Historian.

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