

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch Magazine

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR JANUARY

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
3rd February	Sunday before Lent 9.45 a.m.	Jean Jones Peter Jones	Jean Jones Peter Jones
5th February	Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist at Caerwent Parish Church 7.30 p.m.		
10th February	1st Sunday of Lent 9.45 a.m.	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds
17th February	2nd Sunday of Lent 9.45 a.m.	Family Service	The Children
24th February	3rd Sunday of Lent 9.45	Margaret Lock Diane Marlow	Margaret Lock Diane Marlow
2nd March	4th Sunday of Lent	Mothering Sunday	The Children

St Peter's Newchurch first and third Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m.

Priest in Charge.	The Revd Nansi Davies	01633 400519
CHURCH WARDENS:	Sally Saysell	641369
	Andrew Baker	641925
	Mrs Kath Whittington – Newchurch	641600
	Mrs Susan Lenthall – Newchurch	626389
PCC SECRETARIES:	Andrew Baker - Shirenewton	641925
	David Heritage- Newchurch	641549
PCC TREASURERS:	Kevin Bounds - Shirenewton	641818
	Enid Heritage - Newchurch	641549
GIFT AID SECRETARY	Ruth Savagar	641411
CHURCH MAINTENANCE & SAFETY OFFICER	John Nicholas	641368
ORGANISTS:	Karen Millar	650521
	Ruth Savagar	641411
	Kath Whittington	641600
SUNDAY SCHOOL:	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
TOWER CAPTAIN:	Mike Penny	650653
MOTHERS UNION:	Auriol Horton	641844
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:	John Waters	641449
CHURCH FLOWERS:	Maureen Moody	641524
PARISH MAGAZINE:	Bob O'Keefe	641686
200 Club	Pauline Dutton	641677

NAMES TO NOTE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL	John Harvey (Chairman)	641279
Clerk to Community Council	Carole Jones	641791
WI:	Jenny Bonner	641929
SCOUTS:	Dave Richardson	620356
GUIDES:	Helen Cann	650835
BROWNIES:	Jackie Broughton	641797
BEAVERS:	Becky Lewis	650304
POLICE CONTACT:	P.C. Andrew Mason	01633 838111
REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell	641637
TRAI DCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR		
S'NEWTON & MYNYDD BACH -	Beverley Moore	641532
Earlswood	Jayne Kirby	641217

Please send notes, discs or emails for the March magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Friday 22nd February for inclusion in the March magazine.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th Feb.	Community Council Meeting— Recreation Hall—7.30
7th Feb.	Whist Drive— Recreation Hall—7.30
8th Feb	Concert at Llantarnam Abbey— (See Ad for details)
13th Feb.	5 week prayer course starts Wednesdays at Caerwent Church
23rd Feb	Barn Dance—Earlswood and Newchurch West Hall
26th Feb	History Society Meeting—The Huntsman Hotel—7.30
3rd Mar	Whist Drive—7.30 Recreation Hall
8th Mar	Concert for Passion Week—St. Mary's Church Chepstow (See advert)
12th Mar	M.U. Meeting recommence

And to conclude: -

Moses and the Red Sea.

Nine year old James was asked by his mother what he had learned at Sunday School. "Well mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across to safety. The he radioed to headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.

"Goodness, James is that really what your teacher taught you?" His mother was quite startled.

"Well no Mum. But if I told it the way teacher did, you'd never believe it.

Such things would never happen at our Sunday Club Would they???

Riot Policing

A young clergyman fresh out of training thought it would help him better understand the fears and temptations his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came to the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked:

"What would you do disperse a frenzied crowd?"

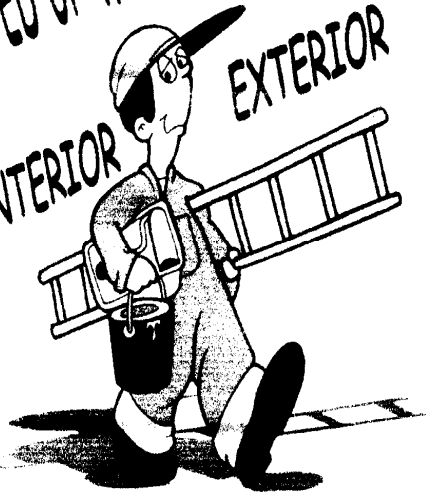
He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offering plate around.

He got the job.

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Dear Friends,

As you know the date of Easter changes each year and as I have mentioned in an earlier letter, this year it is particularly early which means Lent is also early. Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent, is on February 6th and we begin our Lenten pilgrimage with the imposition of Ashes at a service of Holy Communion at Caerwent Church at 7.30p.m. I do hope many of you will join me as we prepare to journey together towards our Easter Celebrations.

To help us on our journey we will be studying The Lord's Prayer with the York Course about this wonderful prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. Because most of us know it off by heart perhaps we do not give much time or thought to what each of the sentences mean for each of us in our daily lives. The Course will give us the opportunity to share with the speakers on the Course some refreshment of the deeper meanings. The Right Reverend David Hope, recently retired Archbishop of York, introduces the speakers who are, Canon Margaret Sentamu (wife of the present Archbishop of York), Dr. Kenneth Stevenson, Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr. David Wilkinson, Principal of St. John's College, Durham and Dr. Elaine Storkey, broadcaster and lecturer. There will be five sessions beginning on Wednesday, February 13th at 7.30p.m. at Caerwent Church, each contains a 14 minute radio-style starter for group discussion, with Simon Stanley putting questions to the three main speakers. Each session ends with reflections by Dr. Elaine Storkey followed by open discussion. Over the years, the York Courses have proved a huge success with groups throughout the world and deservedly so. In addition to the speakers supporting booklets will be available. I look forward to seeing many of you.

Each year Bishop Dominic sends his Pastoral Letter to be read to congregations at each service on the Sunday before Lent, 3rd February this year, and if anyone who is unable to attend one of the four services in the Group that Sunday and would like a copy, please ask your Churchwarden for one. Last year the Bishop asked parishes to give up a meal one day each week during Lent and send the money saved to help the people of the Highveld Diocese in South Africa to which our Diocese of Monmouth is linked. Last year the Bishop received £25,000 from the parishes and £10,000 from individual donations. The Caerwent Group of Parishes contributed £75.50. Perhaps we can improve on that this year although I recognise that each of our parishes is supporting other very good causes with generous donations.

A child in one of our Sunday Clubs asked what does Lent mean and why is it important that we should be involved. A very good question. From earliest times, the Church has observed Lent as a time when we can pause in our busy lives to reflect on how we are progressing in our Christian lives, time to think about how we are living out the promises made at our baptism. It's an opportunity to 'turn around' our lives and to get back on track with being the people God wants us to be. We are on this earth for a short time and perhaps, like me, you may feel that the older we get the faster the time seems to fly. So are we prepared for eternal life which Jesus promised and won for us with his death and resurrection? Our Lent Bible study course will help us to become the Easter people ready to celebrate the great festival on Easter Day.

Finally, a warm thank you to everyone who has so generously given a donation towards a gift in memory of Hugh Trenchard which amounted to £700. The PCC's have decided to pay for two pieces of framed art work chosen by Gill which she will be able to take with her and a cheque. Work is progressing with the preparation of our Group Parish Profile in readiness for placing an advertisement to bring us a new Priest in Charge so please continue to pray that God will call a priest to come and join us to lead us as we continue to build God's Kingdom in our parishes.

Love and peace be with you,
Nansi Davies
Priest in Charge.

From the Registers

A funeral service and the celebration for the life of Dr. Joyce Mary Flatman was held on Friday 4th January.

Born 1916 died 2007

HAVE YOU LOST ?

A purse containing a considerable sum of money was found in the Church area during the Christmas period. If you believe it to be yours, contact Mr. John Nicholas on: - 01291 641368

had to push the wheelbarrow uphill when loaded – not the best of directions! It had to be done this way though as I have decided to experiment with the cold frame that lies alongside the propagating house. In the past this has also been used for raising and hardening off plants (getting plants raised in the houses used to the colder air outside!). Instead I'm going to copy what the Victorians did by creating a "hotbed". This has involved digging out all the soil in half of the cold frame (hence the need to push up hill as I had a handy place to put it all). Instead of soil the area dug will be filled in completely with almost fresh horse manure to a depth of approximately a metre. This will heat up as it starts to decompose. I'll add a little more as it starts to rot down, but after about a month the manure will be covered in about six inches of soil, into which will be planted a variety of seeds. The heat from the composting manure will encourage very quick germination and encourage the crops to grow in no time at all, and should provide some really early pickings – even before the tunnel. When the bed begins to cool down, the first crops will be picked and replaced in early May by melons and courgettes, which should continue to crop until November. The soil will then be removed and the compost spread on the remainder of the vegetable patch, to be replaced with new, fresh manure and the process started all over again. The Victorians used to grow pineapples in this way, long before global warming was an issue, but I don't think I'll give them a try just yet! Still must get on I need to start chasing those horses – the under gardener has her shovel and bucket at the ready!

*Happy gardening until next month.
Steve Hunt.*

Wanted – Cleaner for Earlswood Memorial Hall

2 – 3 hours a fortnight.
Term time only.

Contact:-
Glynis MacDonald on 641 818 for more details

I planted some broad bean seeds in pots over Christmas and I noticed this weekend that they are just starting to germinate. They are on the bench in the small propagating greenhouse, but this remains unheated for the time being. I won't be putting the hot bench on probably for another three to four weeks. Although meant for warming up seed trays and encouraging the seeds to germinate, the ambient heat from this bench also helps to keep the general temperature up in the rest of the greenhouse. This allows me to start sowing less hardy crops such as tomatoes, melons and cucumbers that need a long growing season to achieve their best results, but which need some extra warmth. The beans are to be planted next in line to the potatoes as an experiment. I raised and planted some broad bean plants out in one of the raised beds at the end of November, and it will be interesting to see which survives best and provides the earliest crop. Once the hot bench goes on I'll start to sow a few varieties of lettuce. These will be ready to plant in the tunnel about middle of March and should provide some useful leaves by end of April. I'll also be sowing some "pick and come again" leaves straight into the tunnel bed. I tried these for the first time last year and they proved a great success. I have both an Italian and a French mix, so it will be nice to compare the different flavours of each. I will also put some French dwarf bean seeds in pots at the same time as the lettuce. These will be left to grow on in pots for a time in the greenhouse whilst they get bigger and the days get longer, before they too are planted in the tunnel for the earliest crop going. If we get any cold nights they will be covered over with horticultural fleece as the slightest wiff of cold weather will make them curl up and die in pretty short order.

Over the Christmas break I managed to finish off the new area alongside the driveway. This had to be filled up with soil to a depth of some half a metre, along a new retaining wall. This area is being planted with varieties of spring bulbs and once it gets a bit warmer will be levelled off and sown with grass seed. The first half I did in November is looking well and the first bulbs are showing already. I took the gamble and sowed grass as well and it just goes to show generally how mild this winter has been so far as it has germinated well. The later planted bulbs may not come to anything, but they only have two choices! Filling this area in with soil was hard work as I had

Shirenewton Church 200 Club

The result of the December / January draw was:

Ticket No	Winner	Prize
190	Pat White	£40
79	Barry Priest	£30
81	Betty Bryant	£20
234	David Morgan	£10

Shirenewton Church 200 Club

During February and March we will be collecting subscriptions for the 200 Club for the year 2008/2009. As usual our collectors will be Barbara Davies (641553), Pauline Dutton (641677), John Nicholas (641368) and Peter Jones (641627). New members are always welcome; please contact one of us if you would like to join. Subscriptions are £10 per number, and the prizes each month are first - £40, second - £30, third - £20, and fourth - £10, with double the prize money in December. There is no draw in January or August. Thanks go to our collectors for their hours spent gathering in the subscriptions, to Auriol for keeping the accounts correct and banking the money, and to you all for your generous support which helps to sustain our village church.

Pauline Dutton

HELP IS NEEDED

Help is needed with cleaning the Church in: April, July, October, November and December.

If you are able to help please add your name to the list that is in the Church porch

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for the next couple of months

Date	Time	Venue	
3rd February	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
10th February	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
17th February	9.45	Family Service	The Church
24th February	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
2nd March	9.45	Mothering Sunday	The Church
9th March	9.45	Sunday Club	The Church

*Shirenewton Sunday Club welcomes
all children from 3 years. Do come and join us.*

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641818

The Sunday Club Mini Christmas Fair.

A lovely happy festive occasion where we raised £295 for the Tigers Club - the charity that helps orphaned street children in Kampala, Uganda to find safety, security, homes and self respect. A great result! Thanks to all the hard work from the Sunday Club and to all those who came along and supported them and the Tigers Club. The pot of bulbs that I bought are showing signs that spring might be on the way.

Gardening Corner

For the second time in less than a year I have ended up getting stuck in floods whilst on my travels. The first was back in July, when I ended up sleeping in the car in the middle lane of the M5 overnight. This time wasn't quite so bad as I was on the train, but it still took me six hours to get back from Reading! Whilst sitting on the coach being transported back to Newport station, I had the time to look out of the window and reflect on the year gone and wonder what the year ahead might bring in the way of good fortune or otherwise for the gardener. I guess the ground will dry out eventually, if not, perhaps we'll have to think about planting rice instead of potatoes! Its at times like this I'm so glad that we have two sizeable greenhouses as well as the large polytunnel. Inside all three it is nice and dry no matter what the weather throws at us. This does allow me to plan ahead and to carry on with the work whilst other, less fortunate gardeners must sit and watch and wait for the weather to improve before they can start to take action.

This year I have great plans to use the tunnel and greenhouses more effectively. I am currently digging up one side of the tunnel for its entire length. This will give me a bed some 2.5 metres wide and approximately 17 metres long. This has never been dug and planted before, having spent its entire life to date as a covered border for raising potted plants on. I'm building a timber side on the one edge of the bed as the garden slopes away. This will enable me to get it a little more level and is also allowing me to incorporate plenty of organic matter as well, so adding considerably to the depth of the bed. Within the next couple of weeks I will be planting a few early potatoes. These should be ready for early May, allowing a following crop of summer salads. This is most likely to be peppers or similar such crop. It wouldn't be advisable to plant tomatoes as these are the same family as spuds and so it would make them more prone to disease. I will also be sowing two or three rows of early carrots. These will provide the sweetest, most tender roots ever. I sowed several rows back in October and we have enough carrots left for probably two more meals. It was extremely satisfying to be eating home-grown baby carrots and Brussels sprouts for our Christmas meal fresh picked from the garden. Not many food miles involved in that meal!

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Carols around the Village Christmas Tree

The singing around the tree was also great! We raised £95 for the Tigers Club. Jane and I would like to thank 'The Tredegar Arms' for the use of their carpark and the refreshments afterwards, the mass turnout of the Chepstow Town Brass Band and their wonderful playing and also the Community Council for supplying the Christmas tree. Thanks also to John Saysell and co who have arranged a special system whereby the tree wont fall down. Thank you also to everyone who came along and sang so lustily.

We have received a letter from the Tigers Club telling us how much they appreciated the cheque for £415.00

Now those of you who are : (a) observant and (b) can add up... will spot the difference (see above) But some extra pennies came in .
Thanks to a donor that could not sing.

Glynis MacDonald

A Review of 'Flock to Bethlehem'

Shirenewton Church's Christingle.

The Christingle was another roaring success this year. Hmmmor perhaps I should say a 'baaaa-ing' success. Anyway, £360 was raised in the collection to be shared equally between the 'Children's Society' and the 'Archbishop of Wales Fund.

It was good to see the church heaving with people - so much so, that various local houses were subjected to 'chair raids' to seat the audience. Not often a church has to do that these days I suspect.

The cast was a mixed bunch. The Sunday Clubbers, and young bell ringers were as fantastic as ever - the singing was enthusiastic, the dancing was great and the lobbing of the lost sheep into the crowd, forceful. The older members of the cast... the... errr... stalwart ladies and of course James were I am sad to say...brave. They try hard.

But credit must go to the audience who joined in with gusto with sheep-like and occasional goat-like noises at approximately the appropriate places. Marvellous!

On that note however, I look forward with trepidation (and a mental note to provide an umbrella) should ever the authors write a nativity play based upon a flock of camels.

Chris Tingle

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL 7TH JANUARY 2008

Police Report from PC Mike Cowburn

01/12/07 Rowdy youths reported around Cock a' Roosting
03/12/07 Distressed elderly lady in Shirenewton
11/12/07 Suspicious vehicle in Earlswood – white Mercedes van
registration NX53Z or similar
12/12/07 Tree down in Shirenewton
13/12/07 Drunk refusing to leave pub
18/12/07 Another suspicious vehicle in Earlswood – flat bed lorry
reg T775T or similar
24/12/07 Four suspicious males in a silver people carrier in
Shirenewton
29/12/07 Two vehicle road accident in Shirenewton at one of the
junctions with the Usk Road.

Public Consultation - comments from members of the public attending the meeting.

Two people put the case to the council that applying for money for local bodies such as Earlswood Hall, PCC & Shirenewton Recreation Committee adds an extra burden to the people who volunteer to run these organisations and asked the council to re-consider their decision to insist that they re-apply for funding each year. This was not discussed further at this meeting, but should appear on the agenda again soon.

Planning


The Summer House, Shirenewton. Extension to existing house.
Approval recommended.

Twin Oaks, Shirenewton. Modification to existing plans for erection of two new dwellings.
Approval recommended subject to a few conditions and/or clarifications.

Forestry Commission Office in Wentwood. Change of use to general offices.
Approval recommended.

Newton Brae, Shirenewton. Rear two storey extension.
Approval recommended with recommendation for changes to some windows.

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Home Farm Court, Shirenewton. Change the windows overlooking the courtyard to extend them to ground level to become French windows. Approval recommended.

The Grondra, Shirenewton. Re-instatement of original structures and features subject to recent court case. Approval recommended.

The Grondra, Shirenewton. New kitchen and garage extensions. Approval recommended.

Items of Local Concern

- Options for the shop will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
 - Allotments. The National Allotments Association have opposing views to MCC and believe that the land is covered by the various Allotment Acts. So this issue is still unresolved.
 - Grass cutting – MCC have said they will no longer cut the grass at the Rec & Mynyddbach unless the community council pays for it to be cut. There is something of a stand-off between SCC & MCC as the councillors feel this is being imposed without any consultation with the communities affected. Whilst this debate continues the councillors did want to make it clear that the grass will be cut, the issue is who will pay for it.
 - Replacement of the rocking horse in the recreation field playground. It will cost over £4,000 to replace with similar horse. Decision on this was deferred until after a visit to the school by a play leader who will ascertain what the local children would like to replace the horse.
 - Best Kept Village 2008 – entry will if councillors can rally support from the wider community through a village wide meeting in early March.
 - Interruption of water supply, generators are on their way but may take a little time to commission once on site.
- Community Council Website, the clerk suggested councillors take a look at a free site currently being used by Mathern, this raised wider discussion as to what SCC wants to achieve from their own website which can't be covered by the existing pages within the church website. Consensus view was that the church site meets the needs of the council at present but that the content should be reviewed and possibly extended.

Next meeting February 4th 2008 at 7.30 pm

PARISH MAG UPDATE ON CHURCH EXTENSION FUND
CHURCH EXTENSION FUND-RAISING

The church extension shell is now virtually complete and we have begun fitting it out. Please take a look at it – I'm sure you'll be impressed both by the sympathetic design and by the quality of the workmanship that has gone into it.

Fitting out entails heating, lighting, electricity, plastering and flooring as well as installing the kitchen and two toilets. Needless to say, this all comes at a price and at the last fund raising meeting, we thought we should provide an update on our funding.

To date we have raised £160,000 plus obtained a personal loan of £25,000. This is just sufficient to pay for the shell and associated fees (but not the retention on the contract). Fitting out will cost us around another £30,000. We decided to go ahead as soon as we could do the work rather than waiting until we had raised this money to avoid the risk of a substantial delay. We will pay for this by another loan which means that on current projections, we will complete the church extension with loans of around £60,000 to be repaid.

The £160,000 raised to date has come from personal donations as well as organised events like the village golf day, sponsored bike rides and proceeds from the church fete. We have obtained limited grants and also registered the church as an environmental body to get monies from the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme!

We are looking forward to planning the events that can take place in the extension – ideas so far include Cubs, art classes, dance classes, lecture evenings, lunch clubs and many others. Please let us know your ideas – we will solicit these more formally as the fitting out progresses.

A recent innovation has been the launch of a "Friends of Shirenewton Church" scheme. For an annual fee of £100 you get to support an important village amenity as well as the opportunity to attend an annual event. Put a note in your diaries – the first of these is being planned for March 14th at Caepwcella courtesy of Mike Peirce. Details on how to join the Friend's scheme are on the church website – www.shirenewtonchurch.com – or please phone me for an application form. Your support for this scheme would be very welcome – we want to use the extension for a raft of activities and the quicker we can pay off



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the costs of it, the quicker we can start using it as a community asset.

We have been fortunate in attracting a number of "significant donors" – but there is plenty of room and time for more so if you would like to contribute to the extension in any way please feel free to contact me or any of the fund raising committee – John Nicholas, Glynis MacDonald, Dave Cornwell, Pauline James and Mike Peirce.

Finally, we are beginning to build up a regular income from the shopping portal on the church website. I use it a lot and recommend it highly - it's an easy way of locating all sorts of suppliers and very simple to use.

Thanks for all your support
Kevin Bounds
Chairman, Fund Raising Group
Telephone; 01291 641818

**ST. PETER'S
NEWCHURCH**

THE BURIAL REGISTERS

HERBERT BRINLEY FRANCIS MORGAN SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2007
ANDREW DUFFIELD MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2008

SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES

Due to the weather and ill health our numbers were down to 25 at the beginning of January, February could be tricky but we hope health and numbers will improve as the year goes on! Our next Drives are on 7th February and 3rd March both on Thursdays starting at 7.30 p.m. promptly at The Recreation Hall Shirenewton. New players are always welcome.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton. 0291 641844.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Mrs. And Mr Sam Weavin of Druids Heath Farm would like to thank all those that attended the party to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary , at Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall on 28th December, and generously made donations to the Special Needs School—Maes Ebbw that their Granddaughter attends. A total of £570 was donated.

Our most sincere thanks for this generosity.

Sam & Beryl Weavin

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society had a busy December, starting on the 1st December with the Gwent History Council holding their A.G.M. at the Recreational Hall. The meeting was well attended despite the terrible weather conditions. We met for our December meeting at Pen-y-Cae-Mawr Chapel, where we were warmly welcomed by the chapel members, who gave an informative talk on the history of the chapel producing the registers and minute books. The building and graveyard showed what care and attention the members of the congregation take in looking after the chapel, we were all very impressed. We ended the meeting with tea and mince pies, and wishing everyone a happy Christmas.

The traditional walk up to Grey Hill to observe the winter solstice took us along a different route than our usual track, this year we approached from the south side which we all agreed was a gentler climb, but once our seventeen members (and two dogs) arrived at the summit the sun rose at 8.12 am but unfortunately behind a large bank of clouds! We were consoled with an excellent breakfast at the Woodland Tavern.

On Tuesday, the 29th January we will be holding our annual quiz at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30, everyone welcome.

On Tuesday, 26th February at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 there will be a talk entitled 'The Early Prehistory of South Wales' given by Elizabeth Walker (from the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff) who is an authority on this subject, who has for the last two years been studying the area around Shirenewton and made some interesting findings. This will be an interesting talk and we are very lucky to have such an eminent speaker.

**WOMEN'S WORLD
DAY OF PRAYER**



Friday 7th March 2008

**God's Wisdom Provides
New Understanding**

A Service Prepared by Christian Women of Guyana

At St Thomas A Becket
Church
Shirenewton
From
2.30 p.m.

ALL WELCOME - MEN WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Caroline's Cookery Corner

I like to take a salad into work with me every day summer and winter. Easy to take in a plastic container they offer more variety than a sandwich.

Pear and cottage cheese is a favourite, on a bed of watercress pile a peeled, diced firm pear, cover with cottage cheese and top with mayonnaise. I like to top it with mustard and cress or chives and add a diced tomato and red onion around the edge.

Left over chicken can be mixed with chopped celery apple a few split almonds, halved grapes and mayonnaise. I have to admit I sometimes buy those individual microwave rice packs for a quick salad. Brown rice, flaked smoked mackerel chopped hard boiled eggs, chopped celery and spring onions mixed with French dressing and a dollop of horseradish sauce makes a filling salad.

I think I have mentioned before that peeled and finely sliced brussel sprouts make a good salad base. Mix the sprouts with grated carrot, sliced radish, red onion, apple celery and halved grapes and mix all with French dressing. I usually make my dressing with raspberry vinegar for a fruitier salad.

Crispy chopped bacon, hard boiled egg, lettuce, red onion, celery, cooked beetroot tomato and cubes of cheese can be tossed in French dressing or mayonnaise.

Cooked pasta mixed with tuna, red pepper, black olives, red onion and celery can be mixed with french dressing or mayonnaise

Max used to take a salad of microwave pilau rice mixed with chicken, onion, tomato cucumber grapes and mayonnaise, with a touch of mango chutney added.

My children used to take a salad roll to school. Cut the top off a crusty roll (about the size of a coin), carefully take out the all the inside with your fingers taking care not to split the sides. These can be filled with practically anything not too soggy. I used to fill with diced cheese, or chicken, tomato (without the seeds) bacon lettuce cucumber, spring onion and mayonnaise.

Bulgur, which only needs soaking in hot water, makes a good alternative base. I mix it with sliced radish, red onion, celery, and grapes, a handful of seeds (pumpkin—sunflower, etc.) and french dressing for a really crunchy salad.

Also like to grow my own shoots on the kitchen window sill; beetroot and radish are my favourites, but there are many to choose from and add variety to any salad.

Our thanks once again to Caroline Davies

Shirenewton W.I.

There was a good attendance for the first meeting of 2008. A reminder that membership fees are now due for this year.

All members agreed that the Christmas dinner at the Tredegar Arms was excellent.

Shirenewton WI is entering the Gwent WI quiz at Usk in February. Certain events were highlighted from the Gwent WI News, including the ACWW* (Associated Country Women of the World) lunch on 1 March at Ponthir Hall where the guest speaker will be the World President Dato Ursula Goh.

A visit to Wormtech in March.

The lunchtime debate at Cwmbran Library on 26 February, which is also open to the public, the subject being 'trafficking of women and children in Wales' which is one of the campaigns to stop it that WI is involved in. Representatives from Amnesty International, the Police and Bernardos will be at the meeting.

Gardens visit 22 May to Eastgrove Cottage Garden and Stockton Bury.

The spout rota was organised for this year.

Margaret, our secretary, is organising a scrabble evening this month. There is a flower festival at St Woolos Cathedral on 27-30 November. Our guest speaker this month was Dr Dorothy Witcombe a marine biologist, the subject was Underwater Pembrokeshire. The photography was taken by the speaker who is also an experienced diver. The photos and talk began from the coastline at St Bride's Haven and then gradually down to 30 metres in depth. We were all amazed at the beautiful colourful scenery and life under the sea water. From Irish Moss which is harvested in some countries, anemones, sea squirts, spider crabs, sea urchins, star fish, soft coral, sponges, and many more,.

The next meeting in on Thursday 14 February with the guest speaker giving a talk on kidney transplants.

We were asked to collect plastic milk bottle tops to help obtain a wheelchair for a member in Ponthir WI.

Anyone is welcome to our meetings - we now meet every 2nd Thursday of the month.

For more information on ACWW visit www.acww.org.uk

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

10 members gathered at The Recreation Hall for our meeting on 9th January. Prayers were led by Rosemary Carey who reminded us that our theme for 2008 is Time for Relationship (with God and with other people).

After going through the Diocesan Calendar for the year and receiving and approving the Branch's Statement of Account for 2007 members watched a slide show of parts of Bangladesh – some of the most southern part showing the refugee camps near the Myanmar border and all of which have been subject to severe flooding recently.

There will be no meeting in February – we will resume on 12th March at the Recreation Hall Shirenewton at 2.30 p.m. when the Overseas Boxes will be collected.

Members please note in their diaries that the Netherwent Deanery Road show will be held at Rogiet Community Hall on Wednesday, 23rd April. This will be in place of a Diocesan Sharing Day in Newport and Branches have been asked to make every effort to support this. We shall also be grateful for the support of members and friends for the MU Make a Mother's Day Appeal (Mothering Sunday is on the 2nd March this year). Cards will be available shortly. We would love to have some new members. If you cannot attend Branch Meetings but are in sympathy with our Goal which is to be specifically committed to strengthening and preserving family life and marriage, by our Christian faith and through practical action; and would like to be kept informed of the way in which we do this; we would welcome you as a Deanery member for a subscription of £10.00 p.a. Please contact the Deanery Leader on 01291 641844 for further information.

Auriol Horton, Branch Leader.

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FAIRTRADE NEWS

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT is almost upon us : 25 February - 9 March! Perhaps this is a good opportunity to summarize the importance of Fairtrade. The Fairtrade Foundation is an independent body which awards the FAIRTRADE mark to products which meet international standards. These include guaranteeing a stable and fair price, so that producers can plan. Workers' basic employment rights are guaranteed and producers are encouraged to care for and improve the environment so that long term development is sustainable. The Fairtrade price includes a premium which is set aside for farmers and workers to spend on social and environmental projects: these decisions are taken democratically by committees of elected farmers and workers, men and women.

Here are just a few examples:

Sugar cane growers in Malawi have used the premium to drill bore-holes. Women and children no longer have to collect water from the crocodile infested Shire River.

By cutting weeds, instead of using herbicides, 1,900 organic coffee farmers in Sumatra are helping to protect local endangered species, including the Sumatran tiger.

A group of 133 banana farmers in Colombia have set up an environmental protection programme that includes reforestation, a community rubbish collection service and a plastic waste recycling scheme.

During FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT there will be stalls and various local activities. Dates and details are yet to be confirmed.

Do contact me for a TRADCRAFT catalogue or info or visit www.fairtrade.org.uk or www.traidcraft.co.uk or www.traidcraftshop.co.uk
Marion McAdam 641 316 msm@gmail.com

Stargazing in February '08

The Southern evening sky is dominated by the glorious constellation of Orion the Hunter. Four bright stars represent his shoulders and legs whilst a further three form his belt. Sirius, the sky's brightest star lies to the lower left of Orion. It is also called the "Dog Star" and appears particularly bright because it happens to lie nearby compared with other stars, at a distance of 9 light years – the distance travelled by light in a period of 9 years. This can be compared with the bright blue-white star at Orion's right leg called Rigel. This is an extremely powerful star but at great distance, and is at least 60,000 times more luminous than the Sun.

The reddish planet Mars lies to the south above Orion. It is becoming less bright through the month as it moves away from earth in its orbit around the sun.

Yellowish Saturn can be seen to the south, in the evening sky, just below the constellation of Leo, which actually looks rather like a lion facing to the right.

Venus continues to be brilliant in the morning sky.

On 1st February, its well worth looking south at the early morning sky as Jupiter can be seen very close to Venus. Even better, the crescent moon appears near Venus and Jupiter on the morning of 4th February. On 15th February, the moon lies near Mars, whilst on 21st February the moon is close to Saturn.

The seven stars making up the Plough can be seen in the north-east, whilst the W-shape of Cassiopeia is to the north-west.

Dave Thomas

Beauty and the Beast



Beauty lives with her father - a lovable absent-minded professor. The family is looked after by Mrs Clap the colourful pantomime dame. The young girl Chavs appear bedecked in racy sports gear, baseball caps and plenty of "bling". They are eyeing up the local rock talent – Dwayne. He likes to impress the girls especially Beauty but she refuses him. He is looked after by his dotty mother Mrs Chav. Bargains are made in the "Broke and Arms" Pub and Beauty's father a professor and a mad inventor spends the rent money on an old nag of a horse named "Winnie the Wee" (guess why – it could be worse!).

We now enter the gloomy castle of the Beast where the furniture becomes alive and the clock bongs. Meanwhile the professor wanders off and is captured by the Beast - he literally finds himself in hot water. The Beast is going to boil him up in the cauldron for his tea. Everyone arrives to his rescue but things become chaotic. Eventually Beauty appears and is kind to the Beast and cooks him dinner. She feels sorry for him so gives him a kiss. This breaks the spell. The Beast turns back into a handsome prince and the furniture into his servants. By now they have both fallen in love – Ahhhh....

Earlswood Hall was once again packed with people who laughed their heads off at this hilarious family pantomime. This is the ninth year that S.O.D.S has produced another spectacular and humorous entertaining show. Most people who take part are local and have a wealth of talent including not only the Cast on stage but the background Production and Front of House teams. We say a huge thank you to Dwayne's Mum (alias Glynis MacDonald) for directing in such an amusing "hands-on" way, and for bringing together a team capable of producing such a tremendous community event, particularly once again drawing out the talents of some of the very young members of the cast

We look forward to the fun and frolics of producing our tenth pantomime next year and thank you all for supporting us.

Barbara Walters



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY is offering its annual presentation of choral music which is appropriate for Lent with a *Passiontide Concert on SATURDAY MARCH 8th at St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm.* The programme will include a tribute to the great British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, who died 50 years ago this year, as well as a performance of Faure's *Requiem*. Tickets may be obtained from *Chepstow Bookshop/choir members* and further information may be obtained by telephoning Marjorie Duerden (01291 623310).

SATURDAY MARCH 8th, 2008

Music for Passiontide

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow.

7.30pm

Gabriel Faure.....Requiem

Anton Dvorak.....Te Deum

Ralph Vaughan Williams.....Benedicite

With CCS Orchestra

Charlotte Ives (Soprano)

Neil Bellingham (Baritone)

Musical Director: Graham Bull

*Tickets available from Chepstow Bookshop
For further information, please tel. 01291 623310*

Music Federation. Chepstow Choral Society is affiliated to the Welsh Amateur

EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL

Hello readers and once again welcome to the Hall for January 2008.

I trust that you have all had a nice Christmas and New Year break despite the weather.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer our warmest congratulations to Beryl and Sam Weavin who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on the 28th December with a party at the Hall. It was particularly nice to see so many local people attend. Our grateful thanks to Sam and Beryl for inviting us all, everyone had a really great night, with wonderful food and atmosphere.

Hall Maintenance: - We are still awaiting for someone to come and repair the outside rendering for which we have received a grant.

Security measures have been taken with regard to the Hall keys. In future hirers' of the Hall will only receive to look after. The entrance door and window in the Ladies toilets has been repaired.

A further batch of new chairs have now been delivered improving the overall comfort of the Hall.

Christine and Glynis have recently had a meeting with the authorities and have made an application for some chairs suitable the disabled. It is hoped these will be delivered shortly.

Some notes for your diary:-

- 23rd February— Barn Dance
- 29th February—A private function
- 13th March— A private function
- 15th March—Llangibby Hunt Barn Dance
- 8th May—Chepstow Show—Flower arranging
- June—A Kids Ad Lib production date t.b.a.

Finally it is sad news that David and Enid Heritage have informed the committee that they find it necessary to resign from the committee.

David and Enid have been dedicated members of the committee for many years and will be sorely missed.

John Spary.



Beauty and her Beast
&
Our Next Generation of Stars





1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES

Happy New Year to you all, although it does seem a long time ago now. We ended last year on a high note with the indoor camp near Upton upon Severn. It rained all weekend and the Environment Agency announced that they were moving the flood defences into Upton as I was driving up the motorway. It didn't affect our weekend too much as we had planned for indoors but with our track record last year (the flood defences were in Upton when we went in July and the main road only reopened 2 hours before we got there due to severe flooding) I am thinking of setting a challenge of building an ark.

Guides reconvened with the now traditional party consisting of games and food. The theme this time was "pink, fluffy, feathery, sparkly" which allowed everyone to wear a most interesting selection of clothing! Six Guides decided this was the right time for them to take their Promise – it didn't look quite right with them all in pink rather than blue. Our next few meetings will be taken up completing various badges and challenges. Kitten has the difficult job of keeping track of who has done what; who missed that critical evening when we did such and such; can we do something else to allow the girl to complete the badge..... hard work ahead for girls and leaders alike.

Once the girls have sewn all the new badges on their uniform we will be returning to the Go – for – It programme challenges and later in the term we are planning a tea party for mums. Later in the year the whole Guiding county of Gwent are planning a special week to highlight Guiding and the need for more volunteers. If you have connections in media/PR and could offer advice or help I would be delighted in hearing from you!

Yours in Guiding,

Kestrel - Helen Cann tel.01291650835

helen@canndevauden.freereserve.co.uk

Kitten - Amanda Turner tel. 01291 650763

Bumble, Bee and Koala

SHIRENEWTON , MYNYDD BACH & EARLSWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

Details of the police report are include in the Community Council report.

P.C. Andy Mason, (our local police officer) has been transferred to Monmouth, his responsibilities will be taken over by P.C. Mike Coburn. It is with regret that Andy is leaving, he has been a great support to this local group. We wish both him and Mike Coburn every success in their new posts.

It has been reported that an organisation is posing as a genuine charity, and that leaflets are being posted through doors requesting that bags with unwanted clothing, bedding, towels, toiletries and cosmetics be left out for collection. This a deception; the goods are being subsequently sold on for profit, thus depriving genuine charities. Should you receive such a note and have suspicions regarding it's validity, please contact:

The Consumer Standards Office on: 08454 040506 or

Gwent Police on: 01633 838111.

We have been advised that a large quantity of Anglian Water Board uniforms have been stolen. Although this is well out of our area, we should be aware of potential impostors.

The next meeting of the Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Group will be on Wednesday 27th February—7.30 at the Huntsman Hotel. All are welcome to attend.

Nick Bruce

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BROWNIE BIRD EVENING

The spring term is getting off to a flying start with a bird Evening on 22nd January. The girls are practicing their wood work skills and are involved in making bird boxes under the expert instruction of Robert and James Thomas. We are hoping to put up the finished boxes at school to encourage birds to nest in the school grounds .The girls are also going to be involved in activities to sharpen up their bird identification skills in time for the RSPB Big Garden Watch on 26-27th January.

Jackie Broughton – Guider in Charge (641797

The Bells.....The Bells

Fireworks and bells heralded the beginning of the New Year in Shirenewton.

The bells were muffled and rung to ring the old year out. James Leney then climbed up to the tower roof taking his cornet with him, the bell ringers climbed into the belfry and removed the muffs from the bells. At midnight James rang The Last Post out over the roof tops and as he stopped the bells rang forth to welcome the New Year. Then there were fireworks going off all over the place and then some partying to be done at Glynis and Kevin's House. A good evening was had by all.

Two of our newest ringers 11 year old Thomas and Hannah Leney went on their first ringing outing on 5th of January with the Kids. Ring.Out group. We rang at Llantilio Pertholey , Llanarth and then after a huge lunch at The Hogs Head, Tredeam on to the ring of 6 at Skenfrith. They had a lot of fun and coped with the different bells very well.

Pip has achieved her ambition of ringing a peal on 10 bells to celebrate 10 years since she started to learn to ring. 10 ringers travelled down to Swindon to ring a peal of Cambridge Royal on the Christ Church bells in 3hour and 11 minutes. This is a hard method and Pip has been travelling over to St Stephen's in Bristol for several years to learn it.

Pip Penny

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mike.gambold@googlemail.com

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Shelly Martin

On

01291 641820

THE WORLD PREMIER OF:

'SORTED'

A new play by Glynis MacDonald

Directed by Will Smith Haddon

A comedy about confusions, complications and
Lady Chatterley's Lover, in the back room of a
charity shop.

Earlswood Hall

Thursday 10th, Friday 11th and Saturday 12th April

Tickets: Barbara Walters 641 338

Shirenewton Church website
And
Shopping Portal

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Two little stories this month.

Story 1: I have a trip to Miami in February for a conference. The conference hotel was quoting me over \$300 per night + tax. By using the travel section on the shopping portal and I used the various hotel search sites to book exactly the same hotel at just over \$200 per night all in! I'm staying three nights so a saving of about \$300 and a commission to the church!

Story 2: Browsing with my wife the other night trying research and book a summer holiday. We searched Google and clicked on an interesting link promising a video of the location of interest. A new window opened and the video appeared blank, the sound track was clearly not the promised video of the location but something altogether more unsavoury and a message popped up inviting me to install some software to watch the video. I immediately recognised the classic 'codec' scam. A codec is a file compressor which is required to play some non-standard video formats.

If I had clicked to install I could well have installed a variety of nuisance or malicious programs. This is a well known issue with the main targets being, of course, teenagers. Some rogue codecs plague users with pop-up adverts, while others invisibly install keyloggers that try to grab confidential data. BE WARNED - my policy is never to install these codecs - if it doesn't work with a standard Windows & Mac programs you are well advised to treat with caution.

I've updated the virus "Be a Whizz" section of the church website to include the latest 'A list' recommendation for Security Suites and add some useful (free) utilities.

Safe and happy browsing.

David Cornwell

SHIRENEWTON FIELDS ASSOCIATION

As many of you will be aware the Association is in the process of purchasing approximately 10 acres of the 'Green Wedge' between Shirenewton and Mynddbach (the two fields to the right and left of the footpath leading out of Tan House Court). The purchase is now well advanced and we anticipate an exchange of contracts this month with completion in February. Following completion we will hold a Public Meeting in the Recreation Hall to explain to the community our aims and to seek the views of the Community on our proposals. Details of dates and times will be in the next Parish Magazine .

If anyone wishes to discuss our plans before the meeting please contact me, Mike Sayce on the following numbers:

01291 641625

saycemichael@btinternet.com

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