

Price: 50p

Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine March 2010



The Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Priest in Charge.	Revd. Dr. William Ingle - Gillis	424984
Curate	Rev. Nansi Davies	01633 400519
Church Wardens:	Sally Saysell	641369
	Andrew Baker	641925
	Mrs Susan Lenthall	Newchurch 626389
PCC Secretaries:	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
	David Heritage	Newchurch 641549
PCC Treasurers:	Charles Eickhoff	Shirenewton 641716
	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
Church Hall Booking Secretary	Glynis MacDonald	641818
Mothers Union:	Auriol Horton	641844
Child Protection Officer:	John Waters	641449
Church Flowers:	Maureen Moody	641524
Parish Magazine Editor	Terry Walters	641338
200 Club	Nerys Wilson	641935

Names to Note

Community Council	John Eede (Chairman)	
Clerk to Community Council	Carole Jones	641791
WI:	Claire Lewis	
Scouts:	Dave Richardson	620356
Guides:	Helen Cann	650835
Brownies:	Jackie Broughton	641797
Cub Scouts	Geoff Marlow	641407
Beavers:	Becky Lewis	650304
Police Contact:	P.C. Mike Cowburn	01633 838111
Rec. booking secretary:	Beryl Saysell	641637
Traidcraft:	Marion McAdam	641316
Local History Society	Shirley Bonsey	641362

Neighbourhood Watch Contacts

Community Police Officer	Michael Cowburn	01633 642068
	e mail: michael.cowburn@gwent.pnn.police.uk	
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore	641532
Earlswood	Sue Leat	641207

Please send your notes, & emails for the April magazine to Terry Walters "Bywood" Mynyddbach, Chepstow, NP16 6RW (01291 641338) or email to terencewalters@hotmail.com by 9.00am Monday 22nd March 2010

Local Organisations

We believe the following details are correct and will be publishing the list each month in future. If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Terry Walters Telephone 01291 641338 or email terencewalters@hotmail.com

Beavers
Becky Lewis 01291 650304

Community Carol Services
John Nicholas 01291 641368
jdrnicholas@tiscali.co.uk

Church Fete
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gary@olivecottage.co.uk

Cubs
Geoff Marlow 01291 641407
geoffmarlow@btinternet.com

Earlswood Hope
Mrs Sybil Cullimore 01291 641563

Earlswood & Newchurch West
Memorial Hall
Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel
Avril Smith 01291 650733

Gaerllwyd Baptist
Mrs E Remnant
Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA

Girl Guiding
Helen Cann – Guides 01291 650835
cann71@btinternet.com
Jackie Broughton – Brownies 01291 641797

KAL (Kids Ad Lib)
Karen Millar 01291 641818
Gail Jones 01291 650861

Neighbourhood Watch
Shirenewton & Earlswood
Sue Leat 01291 641207
barrysueleat@yahoo.co.uk
Beverley Moore 01291 641532
Mmoorebev@aol.com

Recreation Association
Gordon Hughes 01291 641356
gordon.hughes3@tesco.net

St Peters Church
Enid Heritage 01291 627794

Shirenewton Local History Society
Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376
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SAMFAL (Shirenewton and Mynyddbach
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Mike Sayce 01291 641625
Stu Dutton 01291 641677
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SMILE (Shirenewton & Mynyddbach
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Charles Eickhoff 01291 641716
eickhoff@shirenewton.org

Shirenewton Mothers Union
Auriol Horton 01291 641844
auriol@btinternet.com

SODS (Shirenewton Operatic and
Dramatic Society)
Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Shirenewton Play Group
Bev Lindsey
BeverlyLindsay@btinternet.com

Shirenewton Primary School
Jayne Edwards 01291 641774
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Shirenewton Tennis Association
P Brabon 01291 641376
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Sunday Club
Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Whist drive
Auriol Horton 01291 641844
auriol@btinternet.com

WI (Womens Institute)
Shirley Bonsey 01291 641362
shirley.bonsey@tiscali.co.uk

Dear Friends,

I went to the dentist on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It was a total coincidence that I'd booked my appointment for that day. But, for those who are into a bit of hardcore penitence during Lent, I can't think of a better way in than having your teeth drilled upon for half an hour! That said, I am convinced there is more to Lent than misery. To be sure: in the Church we set aside this period, 40 days before Easter, to provide time and space for sober reflection on the state of our lives and, importantly, our relationship with God and people. We do not usually find that we have lived up to our ideals—there are always failings and regrets. This is to be expected—indeed it is right that we should recognise this—for, in so doing, we recognise our humanity. Indeed, we recognise our need for right relationships with God and his children—and we resolve to turn and do better.

That said, the time for serious reflection is not endless, but rather is most certainly directed toward the even greater event of Easter. The Christian Church has long had a reputation for having rather more 'thou shalt nots' than 'rejoice and be glads'. Sometimes this reputation has been too well deserved, I must admit. And, yet, it is not at all the core message of the faith, but quite the opposite: the great expectation of the Church, during Lent, as throughout the year, is new life in Christ and a world redeemed. Lent gears us up to get off our backsides and take part in that.

Writing this, as I am, in the midst of yet more snow, I'm starting to wonder if springtime will ever come! But the promise of God is that new life is already in hand. We commemorate Lent to remember that, when Christ began his ministry, he spent 40 days in the desert, trying to figure out just what kind of Saviour he was called by his Father to be. There was no question of the calling—no question that he would redeem his people. But there was the question of 'how'.

So, too, with us. This is fact: at the end of Lent, there is Easter: the feast of Christ's Resurrection, and the promise that God will raise us too. For the Christian, that is given. But the question of our part in God's redemption remains open. Will we use this opportunity for reflection to turn our hearts and deeds towards making a stand for greater justice in the world, greater compassion to friends and strangers, deeper generosity to those who need our grace? We have an opportunity here to emerge

better than we were before—and more faithful to God's vision of a world redeemed. Will we make that choice today?

Blessings,
Fr. Will

PS. The Bishop of Monmouth's Lenten Appeal is supporting two charities this year: the first is the Churches Night Shelter in Newport—a collaboration between seven Churches in Newport which provides bed and breakfast for people who otherwise sleep rough. The second is for the Bible Society, so that they may provide Bibles to new Christians in China—there are 15,000 there a day with no access to the scripture that we take for granted. Donations are through the parish Church.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funeral Service and Burial

The Funeral service and burial of Mrs M Raikes May at Shirenewton Church on the "26th January 2010

The PCC are very grateful for the sum of £294.28 in memory of Mrs Raikes May

Baptism

Charlie James son of Mark Ashley and Elizabeth Walters on the 20th December 2009

200 CLUB

February Results

123	Colin White	£40
214	Phil Choux	£30
53	Leslie Arnold	£20
204	Diane Ward	£10

During February and March we will be collecting subscriptions for the year 2010/2011.

Please note that Nerys Wilson (641935) has now taken over the running of the 200 club from Pauline Dutton

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES

Monday 1st February 2010

Don't forget, if you want to read the full and official Council Notes, go to the church website at www.shirenewton.com or find a copy on the village notice boards, my jottings are just the ...interesting bits of the meeting. Oh and if you think you can repair, mend or fix the village notice boards, please contact: Carole Jones, Clerk to the Council on 641 791 or your local councillor whose name you can find...err ...via Carole Jones Clerk to the Council on 641 791. Glynis

Police Report

Shirenewton & Earlswood - December 31st to January 28th.

PC Cowburn couldn't be at the meeting but his email report commented that considering all the snow and ice, there were surprisingly few incidents to report.

3/1 A vehicle skidded off the road in the lane between Shirenewton and Mounon. Luckily there were no injuries.

4/1 Concern for a property near Earlswood. But all was in order.

6/1 Plat put in a horse's mane near Shirenewton. Suspicious sign.

PC Cowburn proposes to have another Surgery on **Sunday 25th April at 3 pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall** followed by a walk around the village. *(If you have any concerns or suggestions please do look out for him. If we want to see a police presence in the village, let's make him welcome)*

And PC Cowburn reminded the council that there is a joint Neighbourhood Watch / PACT Meeting on Wednesday 3rd March at 7.30 pm at The Huntsman.

Planning

Upper Bushes Cottage – Earlswood

Two Storey side extension: Refusal Recommended

(It was felt that a more integrated and sympathetic approach was needed)

Items of Local Concern

- The 'UDP Draft Conversion of Agricultural Buildings Supplementary Planning Guidance Note'. Snappy title! The councillors agreed that this was a good document. And helpful.
- Blethyn Close. Cllr Graham down reported that although the planning application was refused on 19th Jan, it could still go to appeal.
- Best Kept Village The decision on how to spend the prize money is on hold.

Clerk's report

- Still waiting to hear whether SCC can apply straight to the Secretary of State to purchase the allotment land at Blethyn Close which at the moment is owned by MCC
- The clerk has asked the CEO at MCC about the possibility of Owain Glyndwr status and Village Green status for the main field.
- CEDS and other grant monies. The clerk reminded people that there are pots of dosh out there for local groups and charities. Contact Carole as she may be able to point you in the right direction for more info. *(And from one who knows – it can be done. All you need is stamina, determination, patience, plenty of time, help from GAVO, a computer that works, large bottle of red wine for when it doesn't. Glynis)*

Correspondence

- Leaflets from the ombudsman on 'How to Complain' were distributed to the Cllrs
- MCC Boiler Scrappage Scheme...details sent out to Cllrs.
- Cymru Y Fory (Tomorrow's Wales) had sent out an Invitation to attend a meeting to establish a supporter group to begin the work of raising awareness for the Welsh Assembly 'to have more power'

And finally, next month's meeting will be back in Shirenewton Recreation Hall – 1st March 2010 at 7.30

Glynis MacDonald *(I'm still thinking about horses with plats. Is nail varnish suspicious too?)*



1st Shirenewton
Brownies

Lady Leader
only

Brownies

needs you

We need more
Brownie Leaders
Were running out
Please join now!!



Lowrie

1ST SHIRENEWTON BROWNIES



Girlguiding UK

Leaders Required.

As a Girl-only organisation leaders need to be female and between the ages of 18 - 64. No previous experience is necessary as training will be given. Opportunities to "Job Share". Enthusiasm and a sense of humour are most important qualities. Please note leaders are subject to a CRB check. Contact Jackie (01219 641797) if you think you can help us.

Brownie Report

Feed the Birds and Panto Fun

On 19th January 2010 we made some bird feeders. We had to bring a large plastic yoghurt pot to Brownies. We boiled some lard and added some raisins and sultanas. Then we mixed it all together and poured it into our yoghurt pots. We put the feeders into the fridge at home to help them set, ready to put out in our gardens to feed the birds in the cold weather.

On 21st January the Brownies went to Earlswood Hall to watch the Dick Whittington Pantomime. It was great. We had front row seats.

By Lowrie and Tirion

WHIST DRIVES

27 players enjoyed the Drive on the 4th February and we look forward to more players in March and April as the weather and health improves. So, it is 4th March and 1st April for the next drives starting promptly at 7.30 p.m. at the Recreation Hall. New players are made welcome, please join us, our Table fee is £1. per person which includes light refreshments. We also have a Raffle which raises funds for the upkeep of the Hall. Auriol Horton. 01291 641844



January got off to rather a slow start due to the weather. We eventually managed to hold the Christmas party! Since then we have completed the Cook Island challenge to aid Guides on the Cook Islands to fund their own Promise badge instead of using cast off new Zealand ones! Our next challenge was to "Swim the Channel" with the help of Guides in Surrey. They produced a challenge activity based around the Channel as they are raising funds towards an actual channel swim relay by Girlguiding members in July. Many of the girls managed to complete this and more badges for the camp blankets are on the way.

As part of the Centenary celebrations we are undertaking lots of challenges and trying to fit them in around completing Adventure 100, a selection of individual challenges based on 10 groups with each one worth points. Guides have to achieve 150 points to gain the Award. We are also working on a challenge based around our feet – so if you see lots of Guides with bare feet doing various odd looking activities, that is what it is all about! Lots of fun activities planned for this special year.

If you have a Brownie who would be interested in moving on to Guides when she is 10 she needs to be on the waiting to join list as Shirenewton Guides take Brownies from several Brownie packs and a place is not guaranteed. We are also looking for a new leader/trainee leader. No experience necessary but a sense of humour definitely is!

Yours in guiding,
Kestrel Helen Cann 650835
Kitten Amanda Turner 650763

Shirenewton Community Luncheon Club

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday
March 24th 2010

Tredegar Arms, Shirenewton
Telephone 641274

1ST SHIRENEWTON CUB PACK



Newsletter (February 10)

During the past few weeks we have had an evening designing acrobatic flying machines followed by a competition which not only included the longest flight but also flying through hoops.

On another evening the RSPB came along and provided us with an activity evening which included a quiz, making fat balls and apple bird feeders, a very mucky evening but great fun.

At one meeting one of our junior leaders, Will Davis, gave a talk on falconry and brought along the equipment he uses and lots of pictures of his last hawk. We have also introduced some new and challenging games.

On Sunday the 7th Feb we took part in the district cub scout quiz having entered two teams; unfortunately we did not come in the top three however it was good fun and every one who took part enjoyed it.

Gillian Meeks, representing Monmouthshire District Scouts Team, visited us last week to preset Di and Matt with their leaders warrants in recognition of successfully completing their basic training. A big well done to both.

Future Cubs Activities for 2010:

Friday 5th March Dedication Service of the commemorative Scout Plaque celebrating 100 yrs of Scouting. The service will start at 7:00pm in Shirenewton Church. The District Commissioner Chris Munslow will be attending on behalf of Scouting Monmouthshire.

Sunday 18th April Sugarloaf Climb, Hotdogs on the summit.

Sunday 4th July, Cubs District Triathlon

Sunday 25th April: St Georges Day Parade at Abergavenny

Saturday 15th May: Gwent Area Cubs Link Day for Cubs at Pontypool Park

Fri/Sat/Sun 28th May: PGL Activity Weekend; canoeing, archery, climbing, shooting, quad-bikes and much much more.

Fri/Sat/Sun 27th Aug Cub Camp Botany Bay

Saturday 16th October: District Rugby tournament

Saturday 20th November: District Swimming Gala, Newport

STARGAZING IN FEBRUARY 2010

Much the brightest star in the sky, Sirius can be seen to the South, below and to the left of the constellation Orion. The name "Sirius" is derived from the Greek word meaning scorching. For the ancient Egyptians the appearance of Sirius coincided with the annual flooding of the Nile Valley, vital to growing their crops. This event was of such importance to them that it marked the beginning of their year.

The pair of stars high above Sirius and Orion is part of the constellation Gemini, the Twins, and they are called Castor and Pollux. In mythology Castor and Pollux were the twin sons of the Queen of Sparta. Castor was mortal, but Pollux was not – his father was none other than Jupiter, who had paid a clandestine visit to the Queen. When Castor was killed in battle, Pollux pleaded to be allowed to share his immortality with his brother; this was granted, and both boys were placed in the heavens. Gemini is crossed by the Milky Way – the dense belt of stars that make up our own galaxy.

Mars has a distinctly reddish colour and lies to the South in the evening, to the left of Castor and Pollux. On the 25th the 10-day old Moon is just to the left of Mars. Saturn is rising in the East in the late evening. On the 29th the Full Moon is below Saturn. Towards the end of the month, the very bright planet Venus can be seen setting in the West in the evening twilight.

In March 1781, William Herschel of Bath was observing stars in the constellation Gemini when he discovered a new planet. This was the first new planet to be seen since the beginning of history and resulted in Herschel being knighted and given a royal pension. In gratitude to the king he wanted to call the planet George! However good sense prevailed and it was named after the god Uranus.

Dave Thomas

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

On Sunday 31st January Shirenewton ringers rang a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor. A "Surprise" method is one of a group of methods which have a certain definition (I won't bother you with the details of the definition here, I am pretty sure they would not mean anything to you!) suffice it to say that it is a difficult type of a method to ring. Cambridge is usually the first surprise method learned. This quarter went really well with everyone focussed on the task in hand there were very few trips and the striking tripped along nicely. It was a very enjoyable experience and now we are moving on to more Surprise methods. The first one is called Beverley; named after the town in Yorkshire where it was first rung.

Our Monmouth Branch annual Ringing Course took place on Saturday 13th February. It was strongly supported by our ringers with ten of our ringers participating as students, helpers or tutors. The course was based at Magor in the newly refurbished church hall. We started with tea or coffee, then split into our various study groups for a little theory. After this it was into the cars and off to the first tower of the day. Lunch in the form of gigantic pizzas was held back at Magor, before setting off once more to have some further practical training in a tower. Shirenewton bells along with many other churches were used for both the morning and the afternoon ringing sessions, you may have heard them ringing on that day. We have a new learner Izzy Millar. She is eleven and the youngest of the Millar girls, although she tells me she is known as maxi rather than mini as one might expect.

At the time of writing she has had three lessons. She is being taught for the first few sessions along with some other children of the same age who will ring at Trelleck. Maddie and Kate Stanley are helping with the teaching. These will be the first learners they have taught and the project continues on from the Teacher Training course which took place at Shirenewton in November which both Maddie and Kate attended. We hope to send them off to university when the time comes well equipped to train students who wish to start ringing for the first time.

Pip Penny

SHIRENEWTON & MYNYDDBACH FIELDS ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2010.

Spring by all accounts is to be late this year and I do not think many of us will have daffodils in bloom for Saint David's Day. The buds of many plants are still tightly wrapped and as I write this (late February) frogspawn is yet to appear in my wildlife pond. Wild birds are pairing up, albeit a little later than the traditional day of Saint Valentine and nest boxes should be cleaned and put up by now for their future occupants to get used to their presence.

The fencing contractor is now well on with the task of putting up the perimeter fence and is doing a fine job in spite of bouts of inclement weather, and already several gates have been erected and stiles for walkers to use will soon be installed. When the spring growth of grass and other plant life kicks in the fields will very soon look less like a battlefield and more like we intended; unimproved meadowland. As most people will now be aware the field between the school and Blethyn Close is to be auctioned in mid-March and the association will have a close interest in the proceedings and hope to have an amicable and mutually beneficial relationship with the new owner, who after all, along with the school, will be our neighbour and all of our activities could impinge on each other in some way.

It will soon be hedgehog-waking time when these curious mammals emerge from hibernation to feed up on slugs, snails and other garden pests; but from some reports I have had many have been drowned in their sleep when their holes, (often under tree roots) have been washed out by the floods we have experienced countrywide. Over recent years the numbers of this species has declined and no-one seems to know why; several surveys are on-going. If anyone has hedgehogs in residence please encourage them and also if anyone finds one injured or otherwise distressed I know of a good "Hedgehog Hospital" that takes care of and hopefully re-releases their patients. On this matter or any other wildlife related matter please feel free to contact me on 641773 or call Mike Sayce on 641625 email: mike@shirenewton.org .

Thank you. Mike Gambold voluntary warden.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

On a very cold snowy evening we had our January meeting at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton. We had many 'phone call apologies (which were quite understandable) but we have many stalwart members too, who turned out, one from Chepstow and another walked from Itton and an interesting evening was had looking over our small archive of photographs, maps, books and documents relating to Shirenewton.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday, 30th March at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30

'The Coliseum in Rome'

Given by Richard Perry

You are cordially invited to a

Coffee Morning In Aid of Velindre Hospital

**At The Cayo, Shirenewton
On**

15th May From 10.00 AM – 12.00

**£1.00 per person to include coffee and
Welsh cakes**

BRING AND BUY, RAFFLE, PLANTS AND MORE

For further details ring
Lyn McFarlane on 01291 641594

FAIRTRADE NEWS



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT Feb 22- March 7 THE BIG SWAP!

One of the key aims of Fairtrade Fortnight this year is to encourage people to swap some of their usual products for the Fairtrade alternative. There are now over 4,500 products to choose from. An increasing number of products are available in most supermarkets but as I repeat ad nauseam many can only be found in more specialist outlets e.g. on the Internet or from companies such as Traidcraft: www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

Here are a few other suggestions: footballs from www.fairdealtrading.com trendy clothes for adults and children (and babies!) www.peopletree.co.uk many different products from. ethicalsuperstore and naturalcollection

Surely one of the products most deserving of our support is fairly traded Palestinian olive oil. It's not cheap but it is of excellent quality. You can buy it through Traidcraft (from me if you wish), and it is also available from the Co-op and Sainsbury's. Visit www.equalexchange.co.uk for your nearest stockist. The land of one of the cooperatives producing the oil abuts the notorious separation wall.

The spring catalogue has some wonderful products. Remember some goods come in packs of 6 but you can buy them singly from me.

Do contact me if you'd like to see a copy of the catalogue.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

DICK WHITTINGTON'

Thank you to everyone who made this panto such a happy occasion. Despite all the setbacks of snow and ice, frozen pipes and flooded basements, cancelled rehearsals and broken legs, it was a wonderful village panto, with so many people willing to join in and help to make it such a success!

And I'd like to thank everyone in the audience too, for their generosity re: the refreshments and the programmes. We raised £1255.72 which will be shared equally between the Haiti Appeal and 'Help for Heroes'

Brilliant!

Glynis MacDonald

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

The thing about having a weekend in the USA in-between conferences is it gives one time to sit in the hotel room and tidy up websites. So I've managed to give the church website a bit of a spring clean. The 'Be a whizz' section has gone - it was difficult to maintain and had outlived its usefulness. We now have a 'save the date' listing on the home page under forthcoming events and I've published a general village discussion forum. Anyone can view posts but only those registered with the forum may post. There is also a Kilimanjaro forum but you must be a registered member of the forum to see that.

For those interested in stats, the church website had 2,780 visits from 1,566 visitors in 41 countries/territories in 2009. The top country sending visits our way (in order) United Kingdom, United States, Ireland, Germany, Australia, France, Canada, Brazil & India. There were also visitors from: Netherlands, Spain, South Africa, Japan, Russia, Thailand, Romania, Belgium, New Zealand, Philippines, Austria, Hong Kong, Malta, Latvia, Poland, China, Bermuda & Mexico - again in order of popularity. The website served up a total of 9,840 pages and there was an of 3.41 pages served per visit. This equates to 7.6 visits per day. For those interested in the techie stuff 71.3% of visitors used Internet Explorer, 19.2% used Firefox, 5.6% Safari and 1.9% Chrome. This compares with the global average over 2009 from Wikipedia of 66.9%, 23.3%, 3.9% & 2.6% respectively. It will be interesting to see how these stats are affected by the latest ruling on the 'browser wars' in Europe with Microsoft being forced to offer a choice of browser.

For those visitors arriving from Google searches the top key words used in the search were: 'shirenewton church', 'shirenewton community council', 'shirenewton hall', 'shirenewton', 'shirenewton parish magazine', 'shirenewton church parish magazine', 'glynis macdonald', 'shirenewton parish records', 'shirenewton history', 'church fundraising'. It must be comforting for Glynis to know that she is more popular than shirenewton parish records!

So, as you come to book you summer holidays remember that all flights can be booked via the Church website. Not only are a number of the major airlines on the site, but also a number of sites such as eBookers, etc. You can also book discounted airport parking (Holiday Extras & others) and car hire (Holiday Autos & others). I have an annual Insurance4carhire' policy which means that I don't have to take out the wildly expensive car insurance offered to remove the excess in the event of a prang. Its worth making the effort to use the Church website as all the pennies add up!

David Cornwell Webmaster www.shirenewton.com

The Importance of Listening

A day workshop led by tutors of the Acorn Christian Foundation. Saturday 27 March 2010 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Portskewett Church Hall *"Listening is the highest form of hospitality"*
Henri Nouwen

Please register interest a.s.a.p. with Rosemary Carey tel. 01291 425 010 who will answer any queries There is no fee for the course.

Mothers' Union

On March 10th Patsy Lewis will give an illustrated talk on her visit to Uganda in November, when together with others from Caerwent, she shared in a building programme providing a home for orphaned children - the "Watoto".

This will start with a short AGM. We meet at 2.30 p.m. on Shirenewton Church Room.

The Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer service will take place this year on Friday 5 March at 2 p.m. in Caerwent Church. This annual ecumenical service is carefully planned by a group of Christian women in different countries each year (this year from Cameroon) and is an inspiration to people all around the world. The Service will be followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

SHIRENEWTON WI OCTOBER 09



February 11th saw our first branch meeting for 2010, snow having cancelled January.

It was a fine evening, almost a full house of members to greet our new year and a new member. Dr Naylor Firth was our speaker, the topic for the night 'Namibia'. Fantastic photographs and engaging dialogue transported us to a friendly African desert country bordered on one side by the ocean but with no other open water and virtually no rainfall. We felt the heat and the brown arid landscape where you can drink 7 litres of water and not need the bathroom. Namibia teems with wildlife fully adapted to the arid conditions and with sparse vegetation it is a geologists paradise with all its features readily visible. The country gains its wealth from a rich supply of minerals which are mined and the equally rich fishing from the sea. Dr Firth recounted their wonderful tour involving various modes of transport including a small plane which allowed them to see the patterns of the giant dunes which form the Namib Dessert. There is some farm land in Namibia, but they have to work very hard to make it productive, and water conservation is certainly a priority. We finished the evening feeling it would be nice to be warm but not quite so dry.

Our next meeting will celebrate our WIs fifty eighth birthday and is on the 11th March 7pm at the Rec Hall.

If you need any information please contact:

Mrs Claire Lewis 641675

Mrs Shirley Bonsey 641362

Mrs Diana Such 650638

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for Spring Term

Date		Time	Venue
7	March	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room
14	March	9.30 am	Mothering Sunday Family Service - Church
21	March	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room
Easter			
18	April	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room

Shirenewton Sunday Club welcomes all children from 3 years.

Do come and join us: Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525
Glynis MacDonald 641 818

CHRISTIAN AID PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH



Saturday 8th May

Just pop in to 'The Chantry' between 12.00 and 3.00
and pick up your Ploughman's Lunch.

Picnic outside in the sunshine or shelter from the rain in the conservatory.

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Don't miss out! - contact Karen (650521) or Gail (650861).

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NERYS'S NATTY NOSH

The name "green" curry derives from the colour of the dish. Other Thai curry dishes are identified solely by their colours, such as yellow and red curry. Green curries tend to be as hot as red curries, but have a definite sweeter taste. The curry is normally served with rice or noodles.

Thai Green Curry - Easy - Serves 4

Ingredients for curry paste:

- 5 fresh green chillies, seeded and chopped
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon grass, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated ginger
- 2 coriander roots, chopped
- ½ teaspoon ground coriander
- ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon shrimp paste (optional)
- ½ teaspoon salt

Other Ingredients

- 2 tablespoon olive oil*
- 1 clove garlic, chopped*
- 1 green pepper*
- 120 ml coconut cream*
- 2 tablespoon Thai fish sauce*
- 1 teaspoon honey or sugar*
- 500g raw peeled tiger prawns*
- 120ml fish stock*
- 15 Thai basil leaves, or ordinary basil*

Method

- 1** To make the curry paste, put all the ingredients into a blender or grinder and process into a fairly smooth paste, adding a little water if necessary.
- 2** To make the curry, heat the oil in a frying pan or wok and fry the garlic and pepper. Add the green curry paste and cook on a gentle heat for 4 to 5 minutes.
- 3** Add the coconut cream. Bring to the boil and stir until the cream thickens. Add the fish sauce and sugar/honey and stir well until combined.
- 4** Add the prawns and stock. Simmer for 3 to 4 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the prawns are just tender. Add the basil leaves and cook for a further few minutes.

Tips

- 1** An easier way of preparing this dish is, by buying an already prepared Thai green curry paste, available in most supermarkets.



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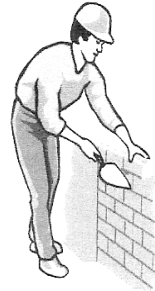
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BEAUTY UNSEEN

An extract from "Country Thoughts" a book of Poems by Minetta Morris

There is a secret valley that many have not seen,
Although they pass so closely by in a busy daily stream.
It borders on a forest where many trees abound,
And a noisy rushing brook runs swiftly through its ground.
People live there close together in cottages so rare,
Though modern people all might say, they needed some repair.
There are quaint little paths, and lovely gardens full of flowers,
In the early morning dawn the cockerel crawls the waking hour.
A pretty little chapel cared for lovingly by some
Is a peaceful resting place for many when their earthly work is done.
They say many years ago the sea invaded from afar,
This is long forgotten now by folks who wish upon a star.
The sun rises, the sun sets and on and on the seasons run,
We hope our secret valley stays forever in the sun.



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WA Mozart: Missa Brevis in B Flat
JS Bach: Magnificat
JS Bach: French Suite no.3
With CCS Orchestra
Soloists from Gloucester Cathedral
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

**Summer Festival Celebration Concert
Wednesday June 30th 2010**

S Coleridge-Taylor: Hiawatha's Wedding
CV Stanford: Songs of the Fleet
A Borodin: Polovtsian Dances
The Drill Hall, Chepstow, 7.30pm

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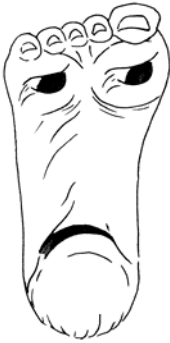
- Real ales, Sunday Roast
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GARDENING CORNER

Another month has almost passed by and the snowdrops promise a change to the seemingly never ending cold, wet and often white cycle of weather that is our winter. I love to see cold, crisp mornings as I know, deep down in the soil, the penetrating frost will be doing its business, killing off pests and diseases. Although we have had what seems more than our fair share of snow this year, I know that this will be having an adverse effect on the pest population, in that its blanketing warmth, will actually be protecting the very pests that we as gardeners will hope that the cold weather will be killing off. We are certainly fed up with clearing the weight of snow from the tunnel roof, and the combined outcome of getting a freezing cold shower! The only practical way of undertaking this is to stand inside the tunnel with a soft headed broom and pushing from the inside. This results in the condensation on the inside of the tunnel falling earthwards – drowning you in the process. I have tried in the past to encourage the assistant head gardener to undertake this task, but more recently there has been a marked increase in the amount of resistance that I have faced. Dead and bodies were mentioned last time, which resulted in me having to do it myself. I wonder why I have an assistant sometimes!

The hot bench has been on in the greenhouse for a number of weeks now and the first broad bean and pea plants have been moved from its warmth onto the greenhouse staging. The rest of the greenhouse is not heated, but is insulated with bubble plastic. I tend to rely on the warmth from the hot bench to keep the rest frost free and it seems to do this quite well. I'll be off down there shortly as I need to transplant the tomato and aubergines into individual pots. Fortunately the hot bench is big enough that I can stand these pots in it as well as they will need more warmth than outside on the benches can provide. Hopefully by the time they have grown too big, the temperatures will have warmed up enough that they will continue on the bench without being checked. I also need to get on and sow the next lot of seeds. Many of you may not have a greenhouse in which to start things off early, but it's surprising what you can get to germinate in the warmth of a kitchen windowsill.

Seedlings can then be potted up and moved to the various bedroom windows – assuming that you don't mind endless pots about the house. The rewards of early vegetables really do over ride the inconvenience of pots everywhere! Although I have been gardening for nearly fifty years now, there is still something new to learn every day. The art of successional sowing, sowing seed little and often, is one I still have never completely mastered. The result is that we still have peaks and troughs of produce, but these days the difference between the two seems to be getting shorter so we are obviously doing something's better. Many years ago when we lived in Devauden, we had a garden and allotment, and we seemed to have plenty of time to freeze excess produce. Whether we haven't had the time in recent year's or just haven't the energy I don't know, but we seemed to get out of the habit of preserving vegetables by freezing, until last year. We have recently (and still are) enjoying broad beans and calabrese from the depths of the freezer, and this has reminded us just how much we have missed this aspect of garden production. I have made a New Year's resolution to put this right this year. I have also been extolling the virtues of home made soups on these pages in recent articles and we intend to make more of these this season as well.

I have purchased one or two different things this year as usual in an effort to ring the changes. Last year I experimented with curly kale and shallots. I'd never grown kale before, although can remember my late father in law growing it in his garden in Hampshire. I have to say that I have been very surprised at the results, which has been tender green leaves since beginning of October and we are still picking at least once a week now, although growth has understandably slowed down in recent weeks. With shallots I can remember both father figures growing these for pickling – and what potent pickles they were too! I can't remember using them for cooking, but decided to try growing some last year following an article in the "Grow Your Own" magazine. Just to see what they would be like. In truth they have been a revelation. They have cooked superbly, are slightly milder than traditional onions, and whats more they have kept so much better.

Continued on page 34

(Continued from page 33)

The few that remain are as solid as the day they were harvested, whereas the onions are all shooting out, and won't last an awful lot longer. A more recent article suggested that some shallots will keep for up to a year without losing any of their qualities.

Recently, whilst the ground has been too wet and cold to do anything with, I have been beavering away in the tunnel and outside in one or two of the oldest established flower beds. The tunnel has been completely cleaned out, and all the beds have been covered in manure, ready for this year's crop. I've been watering the apricot and nectarine trees, and these are showing signs now of the buds fattening up, so hopefully we will get the first flowers opening shortly. Last year we were very successful in securing pollination, simply by leaving the tunnel doors open one sunny day and allowing a couple of bumble bees in. They did what would have taken me hours of hand pollinating! I don't think that they ever escaped from the tunnel, but they must have died as two very well fed and happy bees!

The flower beds have taken a battering – case of chainsaw massacre! There were a number of shrubs that had outgrown their space. Thinking back these were some eighteen years old, so it is hardly surprising, they are too big. I wanted to get these cut down and re-growing before the birds started nesting again. The resulting bonfire has been smouldering away now for over a week, but there is now ample room for the shrubs to re-grow. One or two look as though the cold and wet has brought about their demise, so no doubt I'll need to replace them with something different. Next to tackle is a rather large New Zealand flax that has also long out grown its usefulness, taking up far too much room. Talking of birds nesting, that reminds me that I need to take down the artificial house martins nests. These get infested with mites and other parasites, but it is an easy job to whip up the ladder, undo the two fixing screws, and then sterilize them using the blow torch. Job for another cold day! Happy gardening until next month.
Steve Hunt.

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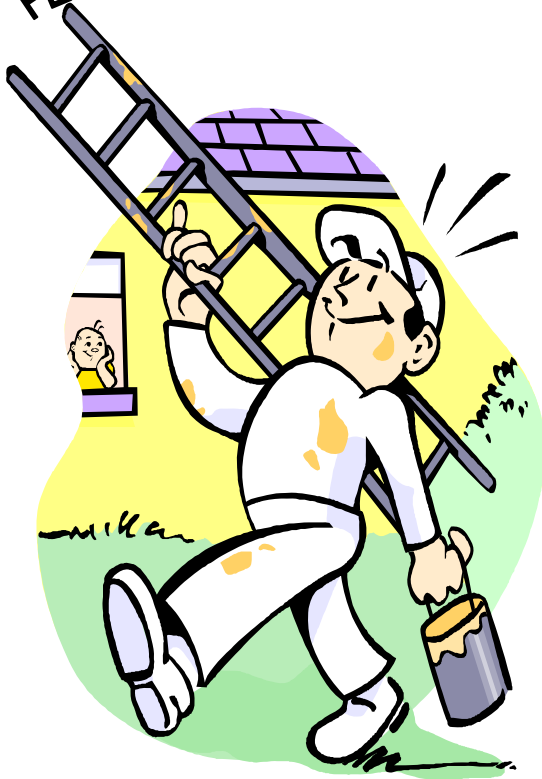
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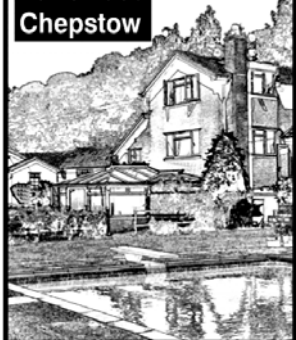
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SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For further details see inside the magazine.

- 1st March Shirenewton Community Council meeting Recreation Hall
- 3rd March Neighborhood Watch / PACT meeting The Huntsman
- 4th March Whist Drive Recreation Hall
- 5th March Womens World Day of Prayer service Caerwent Church
- 5th March Cubs Dedication Service Shirenewton Church
- 10th March Mothers Union meeting Shirenewton Church Room
- 11th March Shirenewton WI meeting at the Recreation Hall
- 20th March "Living the Light" - Itton Hall
- 21st March Passiontide Concert - Chepstow Choral Society
- 22nd March Deadline for Parish Magazine contributions
- 24th March Community Luncheon Club Tredegar Arms
- 27th March Mothers Union Acorn Christian Foundation workshop
- 27th March Tony's Music Quiz at the Tan House
- 30th March Local History Society meeting Huntsman Hotel
- 1st April Whist Drive Recreation Hall
- 18th April Cubs Sugarloaf Climb
- 25th April PC Cowburn Surgery Recreation Hall
- 25th April Cubs St Georges Day Parade Abergavenny
- 8th May Christian Aid Ploughman's Lunch at The Chantry
- 8th May Monmouth Big Band at Earlswood Hall
- 15th May Coffee Morning for the Velindre Hospital at The Cayo
- 15th May Gwent Area Cubs Link Day at Pontypool Park
- 28—30 May Cubs PGL Activity Weekend

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
7th March	3rd Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Mike Peirce Richard Grosvenor	Mike Peirce Richard Grosvenor
14th March	4th Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday Family Service at 9.30 am		
21st March	5th Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	James Leney Bob Grattan	James Leney Bob Grattan
28th March	6th Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Margaret Lock Lisa Morter	Margaret Lock Lisa Morter