

Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine March 2013



*The Tredegar Arms Shirenewton
Image by Terry Walters*

Price: 50p

Dear Friends,

We are now in the season of Lent and I confess that my letter for last month's magazine is lost, where and how I do not know. It was prepared and ready to send to our esteemed Editor when my computer simply died. I could neither retrieve the letter nor anything else due no doubt to my ineptitude. Some many hours later I managed to enliven the machine but too late to rewrite the letter to meet the submission deadline. It was frustrating because I wanted to say how good it was to see so many of you at the several Christmas services. I hope perhaps many of you will come during Lent followed up at Eastertide.

Lent is a time to pause and reflect where we are on our journey through life and Christians consider how they are living out their discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ. It's a time not only for giving up something that will benefit others as well as ourselves, but also in some cases, of re-establishing good practices of reading our Bibles and spending a moment or two in daily prayer. Some will make a decision to read something outside their normal interests such as the lives of the saints or of other people of faith who can help us make the decisions that keep us on the way that God has prepared for us through the example of His Son Jesus Christ. Our life-history is shaped by the decisions we take, many of which are influenced by our faith. So let us use Lent as a time to review and renew our decisions and commitment as Christians.

Last year as only a small number joined the Lent Course in the Church Room I have decided this year to encourage those who would like to study the Scriptures to attend the course led by our Bishop every Friday at Magor Parish Church at 7.30.p.m. Bishop Dominic will be leading us in considering the Letters of St. Paul and I am sure it will be a very interesting course.

Finally, I am sure many of you will know that Mr. Ernest Jones, affectionately known to many of us as Ernie, was buried at Shirenewton churchyard in February. He was a very regular member of our congregation and he will be greatly missed especially by me as he always had something interesting to say to me as he left church at the end of the service. We continue to uphold his wife and family in our prayers.

Every Blessing
Nansi Davies
Parish Priest

SHIRENEWTON PARISH VISITORS

We have a team of five Parish Visitors who are members of the Church of St Thomas á Becket's congregation. They are trained and supported to offer a listening ear and time to chat with those in particular need -- the housebound, the sick, the bereaved, or those facing some other kind of crisis. They are also there to welcome new people into the village and help them to integrate into the community more quickly. They are not professional counsellors, carers or social workers, but ordinary people who are willing to be alongside you when you most need it. Their service is free to those of all faiths and none, with no strings attached.

Confidentiality

Our Parish Visitors work within a strict code of confidentiality so that you may be confident that whatever is shared with them goes no further. The one exception to this is that Visitors may share the minimum information necessary to obtain support and advice themselves, if necessary, from our clergy or other appropriate person. This would only happen with the person's consent.

How to Find Out More

Contact our coordinator, the Revd Nansi Davies Tel 01633 400519 or Diane Marlow Tel 01291 641407 for an informal chat about your need.

If you would like to become a member of the Parish Visitors team please contact Nansi or Diane.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Burial

Ernest Edwin Jones 1923 - 2013 Wednesday 6th February 2013

Winnie and her family would like to thank our many friends in Shirenewton for their incredible support, exceptional kindness and numerous cards sent at this very sad and difficult time.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in His name call and invite you to observe the season of Lent.

In his first Letter to the Church in Corinth, St Paul wrote of the Resurrection as being at the very heart of the Christian life. He said, "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."

It is the Resurrection that is the central Christian belief and at the very heart of our faith. It is to the subject of the Resurrection that St Paul returns again when he writes to the Church in Colossae. There he told the Christian believers, "So if you have been raised with Christ seek the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds that are on things above, not on things that are on the earth, for you have died and your life lies hidden with Christ in God" St Paul goes on to describe how Christians should practice self-discipline and give thanks for all that God has done for us.

On Wednesday, we begin the great season of Lent which is a time of preparation for Easter when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, and it is a traditional time for the bishop to call his people to practice self-discipline and to observe Lent together as a diocesan family. The four traditional Lenten observances are prayer, fasting, bible study and almsgiving. I urge you all to embrace these practices so that together we may enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's life and death and resurrection.

During Lent, many of our churches provide extra opportunities for prayer so that we find time for God who always finds time for us. Prayer is more about listening than talking; real prayer allows God to speak to us in the quietness and stillness of our hearts.

Fasting is a traditional practice that is a 'prayer in action'. It heightens our awareness which enables us to be attentive to God; it expresses solidarity with the poor and hungry. It also reminds us that we do not live by bread alone and that we need to be spiritually fed as well. As usual, I am asking people to give up a meal on Ash Wednesday and Fridays in Lent and to give the money they would have spent on those meals to the Lent Appeal. If we each eat a little less, others can live a lot more, it may be that you will also give up alcohol, meat, chocolate or something else as an act of self-discipline.

This Lent, I shall be leading bible studies each weekday evening for five weeks and in five different locations across the diocese - in Raglan, Blaina, the Cathedral, Pontprennau and Magor. I shall be looking at St Paul's Letters and his teaching about the central doctrines of the Christian faith. In the past, these evenings have been wonderfully supported and I hope that again this Lent we can gather together around God's word.

Once again, I am asking people to contribute towards my Lent Appeal. I have been delighted at your generosity over the years. This year, the money will be divided between the work of a local charity that cares for people who are poor and vulnerable and also a children's home and school in Bethany, not far from Jerusalem.

The Raven House Trust is the local project. It is based in Newport but covers all areas of the diocese. It has strong links with many churches and the Trust is chaired by Canon Henry Davies. The Trust provides needy people with such things as furniture, bedding, crockery and food from items that are donated by churches, schools and members of the public. They rely upon volunteers and provide training opportunities for young people. Over the last Christmas period alone the Trust provided 853 food parcels and 750 gifts and toys. These gifts to the value of over £32,000 had been donated by churches and schools. Throughout the year they provide basic household items for poor and needy people including people who have been previously homeless.

The Trust is in constant need of financial support to meet its running costs which include a large van for collecting and delivering items of furniture and for a shop and store in Newport.

The overseas project is the Jeel Al Amal Boys' Home and the Jeel co-ed day school in Bethany which was founded in 1972 by a Palestinian Christian couple for disadvantaged children and orphans. The school has 230 boys and girls of primary school age. Those who came on the diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land visited the home where about 90 orphan boys are provided with a home atmosphere, education, clothing, food and medical care. The home employs house mothers and teachers and staff and they hope to be able to enlarge the building and provide greater educational opportunities. When we visited we saw the new music room and the children gave us an impromptu concert!

The home and school have faced many difficulties as a result of the political and economic situation in Bethany but has survived thanks to donations from friends and churches and McCabe Pilgrimages (with whom we travelled) who through their Educational Trust support the Jeel Al Amal Home and school and other projects in the Holy Land. Bethany is of course, the place where Jesus visited his friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus and where he raised Lazarus from the dead.

St Paul tells those who have died and risen with Christ to seek the things that are above, but the scriptures also make clear our need to care for those below - the poor, the widows and the orphans. Lent provides a time to do both through the spiritual and practical disciplines of prayer, fasting, bible study and almsgiving.

In the Early Church, Lent was a time of preparation for those who were to be baptised at Easter and for those penitents who were being restored to the life of the Church. Later, it was seen as a time of such blessing that all Christians came to observe this holy Season and so I pray that it will be a time of great blessing for each one of us.

May the crucified and risen Lord bless you now and always,
Dominic

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES

Notes from the Community Council Meeting

Monday 7th January 2013 - Glynis MacDonald

Police Report

PC Louise Thorpe wasn't at this month's meeting so I have cut and pasted local crime that has been sent to me by the Neighbourhood Watch.

Wed 13th A phoney bogus flo-gas metre-man (pardon?) called at a property at St Arvans. The resident rang the company who confirmed that they didn't have any workmen in the area that day.

12th Feb Two quads stolen from two farms – the nearest was at Gwenesny

4th Feb A watch was stolen from St Pierre gym.

2nd Feb There was an attempted break-in to the Devauden shop but the baddies couldn't get in and therefore nothing was taken.

2nd Feb Premises at Abbey Mills Tintern were broken into and booze was stolen.

29th Jan There was a bit of a crime spree in Bulwark, firstly at a garage where a (3rd?) quad and a trailer was stolen, then at Lidl where the offender was identified and then at the Spar where the offender was 'dealt with'

17th Jan Theft of a muck spreader. If you get a wiff of any info, please let the police know.

Warning: be aware of white vans, blue vans, and black vans possibly with Irish number plates where miscreants are trying to sell stolen and/or dodgy chainsaws from the back. There was a report that someone in the Monmouth area was miss-sold a dodgy chain saw for £60 but it turned out to be only 16 inches and not the 22 inches the purchaser had paid for.

Planning Applications

Only one! Yippee! I had high hopes of a speedy get away!

D/C 2013/00007 Hillcrest, Earlswood . Change of use to regularise the existing curtilage of the property. Construction of a 'manege' and erection of a storage shed.

The main points of discussion were over the use of the word 'manege' ...was that the same as 'ménage'? Also, how long had the 'field for horses' been a 'field for horses' because 10 years ago, it used to be part of the garden? Apart from those hugely fascinating issues – there were no problems with this application and 'Approval was Recommended.

Then the councillors expressed a good deal of pleasure because MCC had communicated positively with Shirenewton Community Council over splays and verges. And everyone was very happy.

Finance and Invoices

Hire of the Rec came in at £420 which was two years of rent as someone had forgotten to invoice SCC. This was now rectified. Also, there was a query as to the amount of money that Shirenewton Recreation Association was paying for new goal posts. As avid readers of this column will remember from last month, the Rec Asn. had asked for a donation of £200 towards the £1100 for new posts. The total was made up of a £700 grant from the Lower Wye Area Committee and £200 from the Rec. It was suggested that this was excessive and that you could get much cheaper goal posts that were just as good by looking on line. It was suggested that £400 could have been saved. But another councillor said they had to be sturdy and moveable posts because they needed to be taken down during the cricket season. However, this was rebutted by the comment that this is usual practice on sports fields and hardly one that is unique to Shirenewton. It was suggested that in future, proper quotes – and more than one - should be obtained before granting sums of public money.

S.C.C received confirmation that MCC would pay the 2013/14 precept in three instalments of £4,989 at the end of April, August and December.

More excitement followed as the MCC Quote for this year's Grounds Maintenance Contract was £977 which is only £20 more than last year.

To discuss attendance at the Mon CC Local Development Plan Pre-Hearing (26.2.13) and Examination (7.5.13).

This is one of those meetings I wouldn't go to, even if you paid me enormously large wedges of dosh. You see, the meeting on the 26th February which is in Magor is only to tell you how the meeting on 7th May, also in Magor will be conducted. At Meeting A, you don't get to speak at all, or comment, or try to put anything on an agenda. No, you just listen to people telling you how the bureaucratic procedure will...proceed at Meeting B. But (and here comes the killer clause) unless you've been to Meeting A, there is no way you'd be able to speak at Meeting B. Mind you, there'd be no guarantee you'd be able to speak at Meeting B anyway. (Is this an exercise called 'Consulting the Stakeholders' by any chance?). Anyway, the question was posed by the Chair – 'Does this council wish to be represented?' This was greeted by silence. Because everyone knew what was going to follow. 'It's quite important to go'.... There was a general studying of agendas. 'Would anyone like to go?' Further concentrated studying of agendas. 'Will anyone come with me?'. Finally a volunteer ... volunteered and so off on a jolly, go our two representatives. I'm sure it won't be that bad. (Who am I kidding?)

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The proposed '**Local Commemoration of World War 1**' will be discussed at next month's meeting as the cllr who had knew something about it wasn't present at this month's meeting.

The proposed discussion on **Cold Calling Control Zones** (carried forward from December) will be discussed at next month's meeting as PC Louise Thorpe needs to be at the meeting to give more details. Graham Down will be issuing letters to everyone to explain what it entails and gauging whether people wish to sign up for it.

Items of Local Concern

MCC Cllr Graham Down reminded people that there's still £6000 in the Lower Wye Area Grants pot which has to be used by 20th March. Concern was voiced over the rather grim anti-park posts outside the school – some of which were reported to be lying down. (Although on Fri 15th I drove past them and they are all back up and standing) They were described as 'cheap and nasty' posts and were put up without any local consultation. It was suggested that boulders would look nicer and would stop parents parking on the outside grass verges.

It was reported by one cllr that the daffodil bulbs which she planted in the autumn (which are donated annually by Cllr Graham Down) are growing.

Concern had been raised about the stability of that big rock, you know, the one that sticks out of the bank along the Usk road – on the left as you drive to Chepstow. After all the rain and wind and wintery weather - was it still wedged in nice and tightly? Highways had been notified and they'd checked it out and they found it stuck in good and proper, and that it was unlikely to be going anywhere in the near future.

Another cllr wished to congratulate MCC on their very good snow clearing this year and to flag up their prompt and timely action. It's not often that MCC gets a thumbs up – but it was agreed that praise be given where praise be due. (This is the second dose of surprised thanks for MCC) The farmers were to be congratulated too, for helping out with their tractors and gritting although it was pointed out that the farmers did get paid for their help. (At this point, I put up my hand and proffered my thanks to David Adams and his boys for clearing the snow away from Earlswood Hall Carpark to help the audience reach the Panto. He was heard to say that he didn't get paid for that. But on the other hand I was delighted the audience was able to turn up and see his son, Gareth Adams, the star of the show - to the full.)

The Clerk was asked if she could provide monthly details of enforcement notices but it was suggested that this info could be found on line should anyone want to find out – and that the Clerk is not full time and so has she limited time and resources. It was suggested that she could delegate this to someone else maybe? Well no, she was the end of the line... she has no one to delegate too... There is still work to be done on the Wentwood Mill Road where there are pot holes large enough to drown herds of elephants in. But where is Wentwood Mill Road? Lengthy discussion followed... Anyway we were reminded that potholes do not need to be reported to Highways via the Community Council.

Members of the public, on spotting jumbo potholes are urged to go straight to Highways and report the matter asap.

Clerks Report

Six Cllrs attended training in Chepstow in January. There were mixed reviews as to just how helpful the training was.

Poor Land Field. This field is not registered with Mon CC and not only that, but Mon CC has 'no interest' in it. Ah well....

Registration of land at Gaerllwydd. The clerk has been in touch with the Welsh Government...but nothing has happened yet.

However, as per usual at this time of night, just when you are thinking that it must be home-time, an issue of great importance immerges. Verges. Yes, Verges. Again. You don't get to hear about verges for ages and then, suddenly there they are, springing up right, left and centre (can you have a central verge?) Anyway, it's official, the verges in Gaerllwydd don't belong to MCC but nevertheless we must keep an eye on these verges because these are not insignificant verges – these are Big Wide Verges. Now suppose some unscrupulous person was to sneakily try to incorporate them into a Master Plan this could turn into a real big issue. But then... if someone were to start fencing in these big verges, surely this would be spotted and therefore SCC could and would swiftly take action against these dastardly Masters of the Universe. OK, OK, it was getting late, always a danger period for...umm.. verging on the ridiculous.

The Registration of a Footpath to Llanmelin Hill Fort. This is going nowhere. The clerk has been advised not to follow it through.

Queen Elizabeth 11 Fields Challenge. The field is now officially and formally a Queen Elizabeth 11 Field and a Deed of Dedication has been received.

Once again, we heard that the notice boards at Gaerllwydd and Mynnyddbach are still waiting to be repaired but that snow, wind, rain, flood, fire, pestilence and a plague of boils have, once again, prevented this work from taking place.

The Electoral Boundaries came up for a mention again and we heard again that people who live next door to the polling station at Earlswood have to come to Shirenewton to vote.

SCC received a letter and leaflet from Urdd Gobaith Cymru drawing attention to the Urdd National Festival in Pembrokeshire in May this year; also requesting financial support. NO.

A discussion was instigated about the merits of local groups sharing equipment. Nice idea but impractical. (eg... how to solve the difficulties of, for example, the U3A sharing a piano around the area.)

By this time the £1 coin in the meter had been used up and my laptop had gone into sleep mode. So I packed away and waited for the magic words :-
'And the next meeting will be on Monday 4th March 2013 at 7.30'

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ERNIE

From Living to Work or Working to Live

By Ernest E. Jones (1923 – 2013)

Written in 1966

There are many things that give me pleasure, I love certain music played on the violin and the cello, and I would love to be able to play. The birds singing, the sound of the brook running, the very many smells and sounds of the countryside, the simple things in life that are mostly free give me immense pleasure. Money as such it has not meant that much to me, only that in business if you have enough you are able to take advantage of opportunities when they come along. I have little interest in investments outside farming, other than as a safeguard against the needs in old age. As I lay down my pen I am gratified to have been able to finish this collection of written thoughts, and if you read and enjoy this I will find that an honour.

FAREWELL TO JOHN AND ANN NICHOLAS FROM THEIR FRIENDS ON THE PCC

We are very sad to say farewell to John and Ann Nicholas who will be leaving the village at the end of February after many years of support for the community and our Church. John has been a stalwart on the Parochial Church Council as the Fabric and Safety Officer and Ann has been a major contributor to village events, especially the Church Fete cake stall. We will miss them both very much and we wish them all the best in their new life in Tutshill.

John has done so much that we think we need a small team to replace him. Charles Eickhoff has volunteered to look after the projects side of the role, but we need a couple more volunteers, especially anyone living near the Church, to look after locking and unlocking the Church and the Church room, turning the central heating on and off, and checking security. If you feel you can offer some help on a shared basis, please let the Church Wardens or the PCC secretary know – Sally Saysell on 01291641369; Andrew Baker on 01291641925; or Bill Clark on 01291641783.

FAIRTRADE NEWS



Christian Aid produced a leaflet this year called 'Count Your Blessings - Make Lent Count' with a list of daily reflections. Facts and figures that tell the story of the lives of millions around the world. Here are a few that caught my eye:

- About 20% of the population in the developed nations consume 86% of the world's goods.
- Women own only 1% of the world's property.
- At least 37.6% of the world's population live under authoritarian regimes.
- Guatemala has the fifth highest percentage of malnourished children in the world, despite being a middle-income country. Tax-dodging by companies means that it has insufficient income to tackle the problem of hunger.
- The leading killer of adolescent girls in Africa is childbirth.
- In the UK, less than 15% of average household expenditure goes on food and non-alcoholic drinks. In developing countries people spend 60-80% of their incomes on food.

Buying fairly traded goods is a straightforward way of showing solidarity with poor producers enabling them to work their way out of poverty.

The new Spring Traidcraft catalogue is now available

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

'200 CLUB TO WIN YOU NEED TO BE IN'

Please return your subs, preferably by Direct Debit to Bob O'Keefe or through your local collector. We need Direct Debit forms early March to allow banks the time to action them for the end of March draw.

RESULTS OF THE 200 CLUB DRAW

February

- | | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 1st | Beverley Moor |
| 2nd | Barbara Walters |
| 3rd | Jemima Leaf |
| 4th | Joy Jones |



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

SATURDAY MARCH 16th 2013
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

MUSIC FOR PASSIONTIDE

Chepstow Choral Society

W. A. Mozart: Vesperae Solennes de Confessore
KV. 339

Anton Bruckner: Requiem in D minor

& Orchestral music

Alexandra Cowell (Soprano) Dawn Burns (Mezzo-Soprano)
Benjamin Smith (Tenor) Robert Garland (Bass)

CCS Orchestra (Leader: Paula Kempton)
Musical Director : Graham Bull

Tickets £10 (students, under-18s free) are available from Chepstow Bookshop, or choir members (tel. 01291 623310, 620414 for further information). Any unsold tickets will be available on the door. Chepstow Choral Society acknowledges the support from Ty Cerdd in helping to make this concert possible. The Society is a registered charity (no.1127098).

www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

SHIRENEWTON WI

We arrived at the hall to find the main room was like a sauna. Part of the floor had been skimmed and all the heating was on to dry it out and the humidity was high. We decamped to the smaller room which suited us well as a number of our members were unable to come. We had a visitor who we hope will become a member.



Unfortunately we again started the meeting with a silence to think of Winnie Jones, whose husband Ernie had died suddenly. Many members had attended his funeral which had taken place the week before. Ernie had been a big supporter of the WI and we will miss him.

The meeting took the form of a quiz and social. Wine and nibbles were served during the quiz and tea and biscuits afterwards. Three members had devised the quiz which had us scratching our heads. Our knowledge of Newport was particularly poor, perhaps that should be the subject of a future meeting. Our next meeting will be March 14 and will be our 61 birthday party.

CHEPSTOW FOOD BANK

Crisis-hit families in Chepstow are to be given a helping hand now that the town's Food Bank is officially open. The initiative, run by Churches Together, with backing from national organisation the Trussell Trust gives out three day emergency supplies of food. Individuals and organisations may donate NON-PERISHABLE, IN DATE FOOD to the Food Bank which at the moment is warehoused at the TOWN ARCH but is to move to premises under the auspices of the BRIDGE CHURCH BULWARK where the co-ordinator, Mrs SARAH COLEMAN is based. Care professionals, such as Doctors, Health Visitors, Social Workers, Police, Citizens Advice Bureaux, identify people in crisis and issue them with a Food Bank voucher. Food Bank Clients then take their voucher to one of two local Food Bank Centres where they can be redeemed for three day's emergency food.

Volunteers meet clients over a cup of tea or a free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer - term problem.

The Warehouse Manager is Mr Alf Pagden who can collect food if your church so wishes and you cannot deliver it to the Food Bank

CONTACT: 01291621933 or 07712424906

**SHIRENEWTON
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March 27th
April 24th

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& Songs. £2

Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
groups/181560798590317](https://www.facebook.com/groups/181560798590317)

Home Heat Helpline - Families First

Home Help Line is looking to raise awareness of the Helpline during the winter months.

The Helpline is a free, impartial and confidential service connecting people on low incomes or in poor health to financial help towards managing their energy bills. Manned by trained, friendly advisers, the Helpline provides advice on rebates and grants that people may be eligible for, as well as energy saving advice to help reduce energy bills. Certain callers may also be eligible for further support, including the Priority Services Register – an industry safety net ensuring vulnerable customers will not be cut off from their energy supply, even if they are unable to pay the bills.

With the cold weather set to continue, people will have their heating costs at the forefront of their minds. So it would be great to make sure the right people know about this service, and get the help that they are eligible for.

Contact 0800 33 66 99 or www.homehelpline.org.uk

Do You Need Help When You Are Away On Your Holidays?



I am a reliable and trustworthy 13 year old girl and live locally in Mynyddbach. If you would like my help whilst you are on holiday give my mum or dad a call on 01291 641970.

While you are away I will.....

- Feed and look after your pets
- Water the plants/pots and hanging baskets
- Close curtains and turn on lights

&/OR if you also need someone to regularly walk your dog when you are busy or delayed home from work I would love to help you with that too!



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Exploring and Understanding the Psychic Within

An Interactive Workshop

At the Shirenewton Recreation Hall

April 12th 2013

Cost £2.00 on the door

The workshop will include;

A talk on what it is to be a medium/psychic with terminology explained.

Questions will be answered and experiences shared within the group.

If enough people wish to continue to explore and develop themselves, we can arrange a weekly or fortnightly development circle.

Please call Rose on 01291 641943 or 07912 384011
as seats are limited



Shirenewton Primary School PTA Car Boot Sale & Family Fun Day

Sunday 17th March 10 till 12

At the Junior Playground Shirenewton Primary School

Car Boot Sale, Scavenger Hunt and Refreshments

Pitch Fees: £5 a car (tables available @ £2 each)

Spaces are limited and must be booked in advance

Please contact Sarah Stone on 01291 650672 or

Jane Watkins on 01291 641744 or email:

shirenewtonpta@gmail.com

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'Reviews of The Emperor's New Clothes'

Newchurch News

5 stars *****

'The Emperor's New Clothes' was Simply Unbelievable!!!'

Earlswood Evening Echo

5 stars*****

'The plot of this favourite old yarn was woven with such dexterity, it defies description! Brilliant!'

Itton Inquirer

5 stars*****

'Would the Emperor's vanity be uncovered in the final moment? The audience was well rewarded. Fantastic!!!'

Devauden Daily

5 stars*****

'I was in stitches! A plot well patched together. A tale well spun! A fable well fabricated. You really were wise if you saw the Emperor's New Clothes! '

The Crick Chronicle

5 stars*****

'The Emperor's New Clothes was sheer entertainment! I've never seen anything quite like it'

Shirenewton Sunday Times

5 stars*****

'Gareth Adams gave a fine upstanding performance as the Emperor. And the Mannequin deserves an Oscar!'

Mynnyddbach Mail

5 stars*****

'I was sitting on the edge of my seat. Would all be finally revealed? Seamless!'

Portskewett Post

5 stars*****

'We need to see lots more of young Gareth Adams. He has hidden talents!'

The Chepstow Chunterer

1 star *

Quite good

Earlswood Hall invites you to a
A 'Skittles and Games' Evening



Saturday 20th April 7.30

£8.00 and £5.00

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Tickets available from:

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Bob Millar on 650 521

Mama Mia' Evening



Saturday 25th May 7.30

Come and join us in a Greek Taverna (aka Earlswood Hall) for a fun 'Mama Mia' evening. Food, along the Mama Mia theme, is included in the ticket price and will be followed by a 'sing-a-long' showing of Mama Mia.

There will, of course, be a Licensed Bar.

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STARGAZING

At around 10pm mid-month, the Constellation of Leo the Lion can be seen to the South. It is one of the few constellations that looks like its namesake. It commemorates the giant lion that Hercules slaughtered as the first of his labours. Leo is dominated by his head, which looks like a back-to-front question mark. The bright blue-white star Regulus is at the base of the question mark.

The bright planet Jupiter is in the Evening sky to the south-west and to the upper right of the constellation of Orion. On the 17th, the crescent Moon is close to Jupiter, forming an interesting group with the red star Aldebaran and the Pleiades star cluster, particularly when viewed through binoculars. Saturn is rising in the south-east in the late evening with the almost Full Moon sitting below the planet on the 29th.

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, conforming to the tradition of naming the planets after characters in classical mythology. Incidentally, Herschel's house in Bath is open to the public.

The Vernal Equinox occurs on 20th March, when day and night are equal, with exactly 12 hours between sunrise and sunset. This is a useful day for getting your bearings right as the sun rises due east and sets due west wherever you may be.

Dave Thomas

CHEPSTOW MOBILE POLICE SURGERY DATES

Huntsman Hotel Car Park Shirenewton 9:30 until 11:30 am	Tredegar Arms Car Park Shirenewton 9:00 until 11:00 am
10th February	12th February
10th March	14th March
7th April	11th April
5th May	9th May
2nd June	6th June
30th June	4th July
28th July	1st August
25th August	29th August
22nd September	26th September
20th October	24th October
17th November	21st November
15th December	19th December

THE VILLAGE PEOPLE

No....not the slightly passé and yet still vaguely hip band...these 'village people' are a team of intrepid (or should that read bonkers) adventurers all hailing (roughly) from Shirenewton. Early July will see 'The Village People' attempting to summit the six highest peaks of Britain: one in each of the countries that make up the British Isles (and one in the Isle of Man....how we'll be wishing it were the Isle of Wight instead). This gargantuan feat, involving a scary uphill mileage is to be accomplished in just one 72 hour period! My goodness – this is sounding like a lot of blisters.... The aim of this epic (apart from the blisters) is to raise money for the charity '**Wateraid**', and our plan is to hold an exciting fundraising event in the rec during the summer months – of which more anon. So – if you see any of these people trying to cadge a lift....let 'em walk!

The Village People:

Dave Cornwell, Tony Prout, Alan Prout, Karen Millar, Jane Summersmith, Ian Woods.

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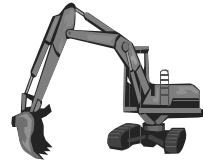
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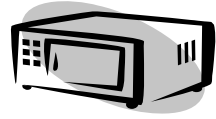
Topping

Chainsaw Work

Strimming

For other work and any odd jobs please call.

Nerys's Natty Nosh



Where would I be without my microwave? It's in constant use in my kitchen. The microwave has revolutionized cooking for busy people. It can cook vegetables, fish, meat, cakes, puddings, sauces, and soups to perfection. The food retains its vitamins and texture, and it thaws frozen food quickly and successfully. Washing up, preparation and cooking time is reduced, giving the cook more leisure time.

The microwave can be used to :-

- A** Cook bacon rashers perfectly crisp.
- B** Soften chopped onion ready for sauces, soups, or as an accompaniment for steak, beef burgers, and hot dogs without the unhealthy fats from frying.
- C** Make delicious creamy scrambled eggs.
- D** Melt chocolate (stir halfway).
- E** Cook rice in a few minutes; brown rice takes a little longer.
- F** Soften syrup, treacle or honey for drizzling or measuring.
- G** Warm citrus fruit for a few seconds to yield more juice.
- H** Warm bread rolls, croissants, and bagels in just a few seconds.
- I** Cook corn on the cob (set it on paper towels).
- J** Make porridge in a cereal bowl. No washing saucepans.
- K** Soften butter for spreading or for making cakes.
- L** Cook potatoes for a few seconds to make moist and fluffy jacket potatoes. Alternatively cook the potatoes for a few minutes and then place on top of an Aga or in a hot oven for a crispier skin.
- M** Melt jelly cubes with a small amount of water.
- N** Prepare sauces and gravy in minutes.
- O** Heat up milk for coffee or sauces.
- P** Make delicious casseroles in half the time and save on heat.
- Q** Cook a whole cauliflower in less than 10 minutes and retain the nutritious liquid for making a sauce.
- R** Cook asparagus to perfection in minutes, retaining the texture, nutrition and colour.
- S** Heat up frozen fish cakes or rosti for a minute before frying. This will ensure speedy cooking.
- T** Chips and pies can be cooked successfully on a special browning tray adapted for microwave cooking.
- U** Thaw virtually any foods quickly.
- V** Cook a whole chicken in approximately 20 minutes, depending on size.
- W** Reheat Yorkshire puddings and pancakes in a few seconds.
- X** Leftovers; without that "reheated" taste.
- Y** Make cakes, florentines, shortbread, chocolate crispies in minutes.
- Z** Heat up convenient foods.

Flapjacks Makes 24

Countless studies have shown that a daily helping of oats is heart protective because the soluble fibre in oats sticks to “bad” cholesterol and removes it from the body, therefore preventing it from clogging arteries. The term “flapjack” means to flip, as in flipping a pancake. This was the original meaning of the word, which according to the Oxford English Dictionary dates from the early 17th century. It wasn't until 1935 that the term was first used in the UK to mean an oatmeal bar baked with butter, brown sugar, and syrup. The bar may be soft and chewy or light and crisp, and because it contains oatmeal, a grain that reduces cholesterol, flapjacks are deemed to be “ healthy”, regardless of the rest of the ingredients.

Ingredients; conventional cooking.

125g (4 oz) butter or margarine
2 tablespoons syrup
90g (3oz) light muscovite sugar
250g (8oz) rolled oats

Method;

- 1 Lightly grease a shallow cake tin about 20x30 cm (8x12 ins).
- 2 Preheat the oven to 180C, 350F, Gas Mark 4.
- 3 Combine the butter, syrup, and sugar in a saucepan and heat gently until all the ingredients have melted . Add the oats. Mix well.
- 4 Spoon into a prepared tin and smooth the surface with a palette knife.
- 5 Bake in the oven for about 30 minutes.
- 6 Leave to cool in the tin for about five minutes, then mark into 24 fingers.
Leave to cool completely, then cut and remove from the tin.

Ingredients; microwave cooking.

Sunflower oil, for brushing
125g (4 oz) butter or margarine
25g (1oz) white sugar
40g (1½ oz) light muscovite sugar
250g (8oz) rolled oats
4 level tablespoons golden syrup

Method;

- 1 Place the butter and sugar into a bowl heat in the microwave for 1 minutes, until the butter is melted.
- 2 Stir in the syrup, then work in the rolled oats until completely mixed.
- 3 Press the mixture into a greased 8” micro proof dish, cook for 5 minutes. Leave to cool, then cut into pieces.

Enjoy cooking !

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	Andrew Baker	01291 641925
	Mrs Susan Lenthall	Newchurch 01219 626389
PCC Secretaries	William Clark	01291 641783
	David Heritage	Newchurch 01291 622708
PCC Treasurers	Kevin Bounds	01291 641818
	Enid Heritage	Newchurch 01291 622708
PCC Members	Mark Broughton	01291 641797
	Charles Eickhoff	01291 641716
	Janet Horton	01291 641783
	Margaret Lock	01291 641884
	Dr James Leney	01291 641271
	Mrs Diane Marlow	01291 641407
	Allan Saysell	01291 641369
	John Nicholas	01291 641368
	Jane Smith-Haddon	01291 641525
Gift Aid Secretary	Ruth Savagar	01291 641411
Maintenance & Safety	John Nicholas	01291 641368
Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650521
	Ruth Savagar	01291 641411
	Kath Whittington	01291 641600
Sunday Club	Kerry Baker	01291 641925
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650653
Church Hall Booking	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818
Safeguarding Officer	Dr. Kerry Baker	01291 641925
Church Flowers	Maureen Moody	01291 641524
Parish Magazine Editor	Terry Walters	01291 641338
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	Carol Jones	01291 641791
	Phil Moles	01291 641521
	Beverley Moor	01291 641532
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	Ian Moore	01291 650766
Earlswood Ward	Paul Harris	01291 650871
	Ken Morton	01291 650268
Newchurch West	Liz McCombe	01291 652957
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Earlswood Sue Leat 01291 641207

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Brownies Jackie Broughton 01291 641797

Comm. Carol Services John Nicholas 01291 641368
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Serian.Edmonds@Lloydsbank.com

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Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall

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glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel

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Enid Heritage 01291 622708

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Whist drive Auriol Horton 01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com

Womens Institute (WI) Jenny Bonner 01291 641929

DIARY DATES

March	Event	Location
4	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
7	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
10	Mobile Police Surgery	Huntsman Hotel
14	Mobile Police Surgery	Tredeggar Arms
14	WI Meeting	Recreation Hall
17	Shirenewton Primary School Car Boot Sales and Family Day	Shirenewton School Playground
21	Fete Meeting	
27	Community Lunch Club	Tredeggar Arms
April	Event	Location
4	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
7	Mobile Police Surgery	Huntsman Hotel
11	WI Meeting	Recreation Hall
11	Mobile Police Surgery	Tredeggar Arms
20	Skittles and Games Evening	Earlswood Hall
24	Community Lunch Club	Tredeggar Arms
29	Fete Meeting	

Signs of the Times

"Toilet out of order please use floor below"

In the Laundry

"Automatic washing machines, please remove all your clothes when light goes out"

In a London Department Store

"Bargain basement upstairs"

Saint Thomas a Beckett Shirenewton		Sunday Services	Start 10.00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
3 rd March	Third Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist	Bob Grattan and Margaret Lock	Bob Grattan Margaret Lock.
10 th March	Mothering Sunday Family Service	The Children	The Children
17 th March	Fifth Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist	Janet Horton Bill Clark	Janet Horton Bill Clark
24 th March	Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist	Margaret Woodliffe Cynthia Smith	Margaret Woodliffe Cynthia Smith
31 st March	Easter Day Holy Eucharist	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Claire Lewis John Nicholas

Signs of the Times

In an Office

After tea break staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Second hand shop

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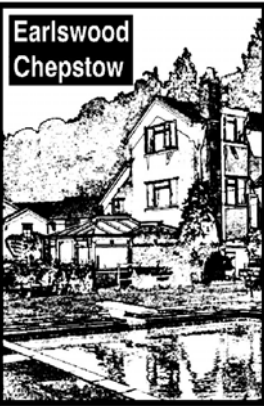
Health Food Shop

"Closed due to illness"

Safari Park

"Elephants please stay in your car"

Earlswood
Chepstow



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