

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

April 2015



Price: £1

FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear People of the Parish,

It is that time of year again when the church 're-invents' itself. This is a clumsy way of expressing the situation whereby an institution adopts the policy of 'spring-cleaning' which would have been familiar with domestic heads of years past.



What I mean is that we have just experienced the annual process whereby the local church has taken stock of events relating to the past year, proffered suggestions for coming months, and reviewed the membership of its decision-making leadership – the Parochial Church Council. Exciting isn't it? Well, I tried to present it in terms other than 'a Report on the Annual Vestry Meeting of the Church of ...', an article unlikely to have had you rolling with feverish anticipation in your beds this month past.

It is the time, however, to acknowledge with gratitude the service and contribution of so many who strive to maintain the significance of our historic foundation. It is also the opportunity to welcome those who are prepared to commit their time and expertise to advancing the work of their local church.

We were delighted to receive the services of Sally Saysell who generously agreed to continue as Vicar's Warden. Sally has achieved the reputation of being a knowledgeable advocate of church matters, 'hands-on' in a variety of ways and an excellent ambassador of the church presence within the community. On a personal level, I am indebted to Sally who – along with husband Allan – contribute so much of genuine value to the Christian witness in this area.

In like manner, it was heartening to have Andrew Baker stand again as People's Warden. Despite a busy schedule, his input in respect of church concerns is both consistent and illuminating. The people associated with the Church of Saint Thomas a Becket are fortunate indeed to be represented by his voice of authority and sensitivity.

Gratitude is also expressed to Kevin Bounds for keeping the accounts in such a professional manner and for husbanding our finances in a constructive and

proactive way. In the midst of a challenging fiscal atmosphere we are fortunate to be in receipt of his skills.

Bill Clarke, Secretary, is to be warmly thanked for the assiduous approach he brings to this important aspect of church administration. His meticulous stance in this area ensures that an accurate record is kept of ecclesiastical dealings with the wider society.

I am mindful of the considerable debt of gratitude we also owe to the Reverend Nansi Davies. For many years Nansi has been the backbone of ministry within the parish and her no-nonsense approach has seen us through more than one period of difficulty. Her generosity and directness is to be prized within a society that often seems seduced by political cant and vapid jargon. After a period of indifferent health and domestic issues, it is good to have Nansi back among us on a regular basis where her strong leadership is greatly appreciated.

I feel old and faintly useless. So, tell us something we don't already know, I hear you retort. I mention this by way of welcoming and congratulating the most recent addition to our team of ministers – Gillian Lambert. In a short space of time Gillian has proved to be an accomplished officiant at the Sunday services, even going so far as to gently remind me as to what page we should be on during the service which I still struggle to master (anything more modern than the 1662 rite causes me confusion in this area). Flippancy to one side, I know that many (including myself) benefit from her composed ministry and dignified presentation of devotional considerations. I have no doubt that her gifts in this direction are warmly appreciated.

And so, the Easter season is behind us. The new life promised at this time has seen us accordingly move forward in terms of church structure and, despite inevitable hesitations, we seek to commend Christ to the world in both time-honoured fashion and with new initiatives.

With every good wish and blessing,
Julian E LI White

SHIRENEWTON BRING AND SHARE

The programme of community events in the Church room continued on Friday 6th March with a very pertinent and emotional presentation by Ian Mills of Abraham's Children in Crisis. The charity supports children of all faiths and none in war-torn Gaza.

Ian told the story of how the charity provided a safe haven, education, and physical and mental health care and support for Christian, Moslem, and Jewish children, as well as children who had lost their families before they knew what their religion might be. He showed a series of slides with very little commentary – the slides told the story most evocatively, showing the terror, the appalling destitution and poverty alongside the beautiful landscape in the area. The charity also works with blind children and injured children, and most importantly with children suffering from post traumatic stress disorder, all of which was reflected in the pictures.

The slide show included pictures of Christian, Moslem, and Jewish children, and adult supervisors, visiting the sites of importance for all three faiths, clearly enjoyable days out of the classroom for all of them; and the landscape shots frequently showed churches, mosques and Jewish Temples in the same picture because they were physically so close to each other. It was a very effective and understated way to put across a powerful and moving message about the conditions in Gaza and what the charity is doing in practical terms to alleviate the suffering of children.

The Church has raised money for Abraham's Children in Crisis from time to time, and although this was a community event, not a fundraising event, an impromptu raffle raised several hundred pounds for Abraham's Children in Crisis.

The next bring and share community event will be on Friday 24th April when The Reverend Catherine Todd will talk about her role as a prison chaplain.

NEWS FROM ST PETERS, NEWCHURCH

We hope you will be able to join us at one or all of the following events taking place at the church during this year. Further details will be available nearer the time.

Events in 2015

Thursday 14th May

Saturday 18th July 2015

Thursday 17th September 2015

Saturday 7th November 2015

Songs of Praise

Family fun day at Church Farm

Harvest Festival followed by harvest supper

Autumn Fayre

Do you ever think? ...

Do you ever think, what's it all about?

Do you want the chance to explore your faith?

Do you ever sit in church and long to disagree with the sermon?

Do you not come to church because you hate being read to and preached at? Do you feel you're being fed the party line?

Then the new Shirenewton House Study Group might be for you!

I am setting up a Group to meet once a month to explore and discuss the Bible and what it means to us. I will be facilitating the Group to ensure everyone gets to participate fully and keep order, and pose questions on the selected readings, but the content of the discussion will come from the group members. There will be no right and wrong answers.

We aim to meet in fellowship and so will be convening at members' homes. However, please don't feel obliged to offer hospitality or feel excluded because you don't have space or don't feel able to host a meeting. We are interested in you and your views, please come along anyway!

A typical evening will last for about an hour and a half, from 7:30 till 9, and will include introductions, a chance to read the passages on which we are focussing before a discussion to address two or three questions on them and then an informal conclusion with refreshments.

Initially at least, we will be focussing on readings for one of the Sundays in the month; this means there will be no materials to buy and therefore no charge to attend. No prior experience is required and there is no need to prepare beforehand.

To maximise the number of attendees I will try to set the meeting date to accommodate as many who are interested as possible, with a first meeting in May. If you would like to know more or are interested in taking part please contact me: either via email at: lem.shirenewton@gmail.com or by phone: 01291 641175

Gillian Lambert

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR MARCH

1st prize	Simon Stanley
2nd prize	Barry Morris
3rd prize	Nansi Davies
4th prize	Roy Raikes May

The next 200 Club Draw in April will be the start of the 2015 -2016 season's draw.

Thanks to all members that have paid by "Standing order", for those members that pay on an annual basis, can you please forward your membership of £10 to Bob O'Keefe at; 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, NP16 6UA. Many thanks to those of you that have already sent me your subscriptions.

The Draw makes a sizeable and essential contribution to the Church funds.

The Draw pays out: £40, £30, £20 and £10 for 9 months, and at Christmas there is a bonus draw of £100, £50 & two prizes of £25..

A list of the participants will be available in the Church for the new season's draw.

MONEY FOUND IN MYNYDDBACH

On Sunday 1st March at around midday I found a fairly large sum of money in Mynyddbach by the side of the road. It was new notes in a rubber band. Unfortunately, due to the high wind and looseness of the rubber band a number of notes had been detached from the bundle and were blown into the hedges, etc. I found as many of these wayward notes as I could.

I reported the find on Facebook and to the police who took it into protective custody. The cash has not been claimed from the police and, therefore, it is now legally mine!

I'd like to give the owner one last chance to claim it from me. So if you lost a fairly large sum of money on or around 1st March contact me david.cornwell@gmail.com or 01291 641614). If you can convince me it's yours (I will require evidence and ask you lots of questions about amount, size of notes, etc.) I'll give it back to you. If it has not been claimed by 1st May I'll be donating it to the church!

David Cornwall

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

13th June 2015

A fun day out for all the family
games, activities, stalls,
entertainment, grand prize draw,
refreshments and lots of lovely local cakes!

Planning for the fete is underway and the new fete committee would really welcome any offers of help as we have a number of stalls in need of manning. Full support & training will be given!

If you would like a chat about how to get involved or to understand what it is all about, please email or call:

Mark Tomlins

marktomlins@me.com

07545 189464

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Planning applications considered in March

DC/2015/00103 Meadow Barn, Usk Road, Shirenewton

Erection of a single storey oak framed extension.

Council recommended approval.

Extracts from the minutes

March Police Report - Newly appointed Inspector Thompson had been invited to attend the meeting, she introduced herself and explained the restructuring of the force and the new processes effective from 1.4.15.

Inspector Thompson confirmed the following points:

That the Council will continue to receive a monthly report, a PcsO will attend bi-monthly meetings and the Inspector will attend quarterly, or when requested for particular issues.

The Inspector will circulate a monthly blog on the first Monday of the month.

That calls to Brookacre will remain in the monthly police report as the Council considers it a concern in the community.

Issues of noise and speeding traffic/motorcycles on the B4235 - there is to be proactive and visible police education and enforcement from Easter through the summer months. Yellow bike signs are to be reviewed; speed audits will take place; double white lines may be placed in key areas (local people to be involved in the locations).

Meeting to be held with Community Councils on 6.3.15 at Chepstow Police Station to ensure communication and support. A Councillor suggested also inviting the Motor Cycle Action Group to take part in discussions.

Article to be circulated through social media sites, biker magazines and the local press.

Police to use the biker base in Abergavenny for education/safety and enforcement if necessary.

The monthly police report had been distributed prior to the meeting.

There were two reports of theft, one from a land rover parked at a property off the Usk Road and one from a garage lock up on the Usk Road where a large number of tools and some velux windows were taken.

There was also report of a white flat bed transit with a chevron tailgate acting suspiciously in the lane between West End/Brookacre and Pen-y-cae-mawr. No registration number was taken.

There were five calls to Brookacre during February.

Items of local concern -

Small grant applications for funding available from 2014/15 budget.

Two applications had been received by the closing date and Council resolved to make payments of £60 to Shirenewton Local History Society and £100 to Earlswood hall, as requested in their applications.

Review of the process of making future donations to local organisations.

Council resolved that with effect from the 2015/16 budget, £1,200 will be advertised on the website and in the Parish Magazine as available by application from organisations in the community in April, closing date end of June. Applicants will need to identify their project and its total cost. A further £300 will be available for other applications throughout the year which will be considered on their merit (no second payment to be made to an organisation in the same year). Clerk to draft a pro-forma for consideration/ratification at the next meeting.

Lease options for Earlswood Recreation Field.

Clerk had requested 'Expressions of Interest' from the community on the website and in the March issue of the Parish Magazine.

Council agreed that a local agreement would suffice for the rental of the field, with the option of the following year, if agreeable to both the Council and the tenant. Clerk to contact the Land Agent and ask him for his invoice for advice so far. Clerk to draft an agreement for consideration at the next meeting, also to contact previously interested people if no response to advert in Parish Magazine.

Telephone kiosk - . Kiosk refurbishment completed on 1.2.15. Owner has decided to donate the kiosk to this Council for the benefit of the community and just lease the square metre of ground it stands on. A Deed of Gift and Lease had been drawn up and agreed by Mr Tayton, paperwork also approved by Council and signed by Chair at this meeting. Clerk to meet with Mr Tayton for his signatures. Invoices for cost of work paid at this meeting, shelving to be installed in the next few weeks then Clerk to inform Big Lottery that work has been completed and finalise paperwork.

David Davies MP will attend the Council meeting on 13 April - in response to a letter sent on traffic issues on B4235.

Dates of next meetings: Monday 13 April and Annual Meeting followed immediately by the ordinary meeting on Monday 11 May 2015 at 7.30 pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Find full information in the draft copy of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous minutes of meetings can be found on the Council's website <http://www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk>

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council -
Mrs Hilary Counsell
Tel: 01291 421307
E-mail: Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

STARGAZING

The seven stars of the Plough constellation are directly overhead and Leo, the Lion can be seen to the South. Orion the Hunter is just above the Western horizon whilst W-shaped Cassiopeia is to the North-West. The Plough and Cassiopeia can always be seen at our latitude, but Leo and Orion are only above our horizon during the Winter months.



The second star from the left of the seven stars in the Plough is called Mizar. On closer inspection it can be seen to have a close companion called Alcor. Mizar and Alcor together are sometimes called the "Horse and Rider", and the ability to resolve the two stars with the naked eye is often quoted as a test of eyesight.

In the evening sky, the very bright planet Jupiter is high in the south-west. On the 26th the Moon is just after "First Quarter", where it is half-light and half-dark, and is close to Jupiter. The brilliant planet Venus lies to the west, and is just above the crescent Moon on the 21st.

On clear nights, when the Moon is new and seen as a fine crescent, the rest of the Moon can often be seen as a very dark grey against the black sky. Whilst the bright crescent is directly illuminated by the Sun, the rest of the Moon is in its own shadow. The shadow is dark grey rather than black because of "Earthshine", where light reflected from Earth illuminates the Moon very faintly.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

The society's Annual Dinner took place at the Huntsman Hotel on Tuesday, 21st February. Our after dinner speaker was Keith Tayton who gave us an account of his research into the postal service and how it affected Shirenewton. Since buying and renovating the old post office in the village he has spent time looking into past owners of the building and found out just how the post arrived and was distributed around the area. The system seemed to have worked very well, letters were delivered within a day of being posted, and this was quite remarkable when you consider the transport system at the time. Everyone was in agreement that the meal and talk was a great success.

Our society has been in the process of researching the names of the men on the village war memorial who died in the 1st World War. We plan to hold an exhibition to commemorate the fallen of the parish at the Church Room, Shirenewton in conjunction with the County W.W.1.Exhibition & the Community Council. St Thomas a Becket Church will be holding a Flower Display in the church and will be serving light refreshments during this weekend. The details are below:

Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 13th April Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton,
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

W.W.1. Commemoration

Friday, 17th April Church Room, 10.00am – 4.00pm 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Saturday, 18th April Church Room, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Sunday, 19th April Church Room, 12.00 noon 4.00 pm

Tuesday, 28th April, Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 pm

Talk entitled 'The Lost Lake' given by Steve Clarke

Everyone welcome at the above events

Further information on our web-site: www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

SHIRENEWTON WI NOVEMBER 2014



This year WI celebrated a hundred years since the start of the movement in Britain. March is the month Shirenewton celebrates its start, so we combined the two events on the 12th March with a party. The Huntsman Hotel provided a sumptuous feast, liquid refreshment was provided by our president Jenny Bonner who unfortunately was unwell and not able to join us. Carole Jones presided for the evening ensuring our celebrations flowed smoothly. After taking our fill of the delightful savoury and sweet buffet selection we enjoyed a round of pass the parcel for two centenary items. This was followed with a fun quiz and a prize for the winner. Our tables were decorated with colourful primroses which at the end were raffled, members each had a ticket at their place. We were joined for the evening by two visitors who enjoyed celebrating with us, plenty of fun and good conversation. We rounded the evening with tea, coffee and a bit more cake.

Our April meeting is Thurs. 9th 7:15pm at the Recreational Hall with a talk on 'Genes' by Rhian Morgan.

May 14th is our annual meeting and vote on resolutions for the National AGM in June.

**To help support 35 years of caring by
St. David's Foundation**

**Shirenewton W.I. will be holding a coffee and
cake morning on
Saturday 9th May
10am until 12
at the Recreation Hall**

Please come along and show your support

WHIST DRIVES

Please note that the whist drives will be held on the 2nd Friday and not the first Thursday of each month from May onwards. Auriol



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The next neighbourhood watch meeting for the Shirenewton and Earlswood area . is Wednesday the 29th of April at 7.30 pm at The Huntsman pub .

We are asking for local people in these areas to attend if interested in neighbourhood watch or OWL (The Online Watch Link) because over recent years numbers that attend these meetings have dwindled to the same few each time. It would be good if we could attract residents from streets /smaller areas to attend to represent their area. We would not want to lose this valuable commodity in our rural areas, that should work hand in hand with OWL, which is brilliant for communication (security advice etc.) and updating residents on incidents/crime but Neighbourhood Watch has the personal touch which in the rural areas is what is still needed .

Regards

Andy Jones CO70 – Chepstow Police Station

Dog Poo Removal on the SAMFAL Fields

We know most of you do, but for those who are not aware, please would all dog owners remove their dog's poo from the SAMFAL fields.

This is because:

- ◆ A hay cut is taken from some of the area
- ◆ Other parts are cut and raked by hand
- ◆ School children and Guides are encouraged to range across the fields
- ◆ Ponies graze for part of the year

Many thanks
The SAMFAL Team

FAIRTRADE NEWS



Back to bananas! A seemingly inescapable topic for anyone interested in Fairtrade! We have just returned from an astonishing stay in Costa Rica - aviary/zoo/arboretum/park with the most wonderful array of plants, trees, BIRDS and other

creatures! Even the names are breathtaking : fiery-billed aracari, resplendent quetzal, chestnut-mandibled toucan, white-throated mountain gem etc etc! (200+ species of birds in a fortnight!)

AND the original home of the industrialized banana!

Apparently it is now the world's 4th major foodstuff (after rice, wheat and milk). 19th century US railroad baron Minor Keith started to grow this import from the Caribbean to feed his workers on the land adjacent to the railway line from San Jose to the port of Limon. Its cultivation proved successful and the fruit was exported to the US. The company he founded: United Fruit would become an integral part of the whole region's economies and a behind-the-scenes puppet-master to its political systems.

Bananas - a fruit afflicted with a high rate of spoilage - require a vast economy of scale and a supply of (cheap) labour. It is also a very delicate fruit to cultivate, partly because bananas are not grown from seed, they are clones. So one disease can wipe out the whole lot. Consequently the industry has traditionally used vast quantities of chemicals, with predictably ghastly consequences for workers e.g. sterility. Numerous lawsuits have been filed, but superior access to sophisticated lawyers have generally derailed claims.

Fairly traded bananas are produced in a way that protects workers' health. In fact many are organic and even where this is not the case a criterion for the award of the Fairtrade mark is a sustainable approach to the environment. Along with workers' pay and rights this is yet another reason to buy Fairtrade.

So don't succumb to the blandishments of (the ridiculously wealthy) Mr and Mrs Walmart by buying the cheap ones in Asda! Think of the hard-working farmers and do the right thing!

Marion McAdam 641 316 mms316@gmail.com

Or visit [Traidcraft](http://Traidcraft.org) of the Fairtrade Foundation direct.

THE MODERN BANANA ORIGINATED IN DERBYSHIRE !

Terry Walters

Next time you buy some bananas, look for the cardboard box they were packed in. You will almost certainly be buying the Cavendish variety of bananas, probably descended from a single plant grown at Chatsworth Derbyshire 170 years ago.

The Chinese or Cavendish dwarf banana is the basis of nearly all the sub-tropical banana trades. Bananas started life perhaps 10,000 years ago somewhere in south-east Asia - the word "banan" is Arabic for "finger". It may have been the world's first domesticated plant and its British debut was in 1633 in the shop of a herbalist in the City of London.

Only the wealthy could afford to cultivate this rare treat. Just before Christmas in 1834, William Spencer Cavendish, the 6th Duke of Devonshire, wrote to the Chaplain at Alton Towers: "My Dear Sir, A thousand thanks for the Banana, it arrived quite safe and I am delighted to have an opportunity of seeing that most beautiful and curious Fruit. It is the admiration of everybody and has been feasted upon at dinner today according to the directions."

By the following year the Duke's gardener, Joseph Paxton was successfully growing bananas at Chatsworth. Tradition has it that Paxton had been fascinated by a banana plant depicted on Chinese wallpaper at Chatsworth. He correctly concluded that the banana must be native to China and became intent on obtaining a specimen. For many years this story seemed to be just a myth as nobody could find the illustration. But when the room was rearranged in the 1920s/30s, the banana, hidden for years behind a large four-poster bed, came to light.

By this time Chatsworth had been growing bananas for nearly 100 years. In 1829 some plants had been sent to England, where in due course one of only two surviving specimens was bought for the Duke of Devonshire by Joseph Paxton. He named it *Musa Cavendishii* (the Cavendish plantain) and in 1836 a Chatsworth-grown banana was exhibited at the Horticultural Society's Show, causing a sensation and winning for Paxton the Knighton Silver Medal.

A few years later the Duke supplied two cases of plants to a missionary named John Williams, destined for Samoa. Only one *Musa Cavendishii* survived the journey and that single specimen was the forebear of bananas that flourish in Samoa and other South Sea islands today. In 1839 poor Williams was beaten to death and eaten by the natives of Erromanga in the New Hebrides, supposedly in reprisal for cruelties previously carried out by an English boat crew.

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

Ringling bells the British way is unique to the British Isles and former British colonies. Thus it is possible to visit and ring as far afield as New York, Honolulu, Sydney and Cape Town. For continental Europe the only "British style" ring is in the gatehouse of Dordrecht Cathedral in Holland. Across the rest of Europe bells are either swing chimed to create a cacophony of sound, with this often being electrically (not humanly) driven, or bells are struck by hammers from a keyboard – a carillon of bells rung by a carillonneur - more akin to a musical instrument. A recent example of the former swing chimed method is the new set of bells at Notre Dame, Paris and examples of the latter carillon are common in Northern Europe particularly in Holland. There are a handful of carillons in the UK which are usually secular e.g. at Bournville and Loughborough.

Ringling in the UK traces its origins back to the Reformation. To create a distinctive ringling sound for the newly established Anglican Church the apparatus was developed to ring bells "full circle" - that is the bell starts from an "up" position (mouth heavenward) and swings through a 360° arc aided by the kinetic energy inherent in the up position. It then swings back to its original position. A skilled ringer can hold the bell in the up position during this cycle thus allowing a team of skilled ringers to co-ordinate the bells in any sequence desired. Swinging a bell in the "down" position will produce a sound but because of the pendulum effect a small bell will swing at a much faster rate than a large bell and sequencing the sounds becomes impossible – hence the cacophony of mid and southern European bells.

To train a ringer for the British style of ringling takes a lot of skill development and training. The ringer needs to be able to control the bell at each part of the cycle so that the striking of the bell can be predicted and co-ordinated with the other ringers, with a desired accuracy of less than 0.1 second. The physical activity of ringling needs to become automatic so that the ringer can begin to concentrate on the sequences of the bells – that is to begin to ring methods. Methods are ways in which the bell sequences are rung to create the different permutations of numbers. Thus, for example, the six bells at Shirenewton can be rung in the sequence 123456 but can immediately change to a 214365 sequence and then to a 241635 sequence, with each bell not changing its position in the sequence by more than one place. A possible 720 different such sequences can be produced without repetition. Methods to achieve this can be relatively simple in their construction or can be of considerable complexity. Thus method ringling is a combination of a physical activity together with a high degree of mental concentration, and couple this to a social activity constitutes an ideal and fascinating pastime.

Shirenewton is currently recruiting new ringers so if you think you might be interested just come along to our Friday evening practice between 7.30 and 9.00 pm. You will need to climb the spiral staircase and it is advised for safety reasons that you only enter the ringling room when the bells are silent.
M.D.Penney.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

So I'm sure that you have all been waiting in eager anticipation for April's parish magazine so you can learn what happened to the old XP laptop I'd upgraded to Zorin. Yes I sold it! £63.11 + postage was the price paid. Not bad for something I'd had sitting in the corner for about 5 years. So, eBay does work and I commend it to you.

Moving onto the shopping portal. It's currently down whilst the underlying software is upgraded and I've put up a temporary one with the main shops. Hopefully by the time you read this it will be back up and running with all the 200+ shops available. If there are any specific shops you use all the time and which are not on the church website, do let me know and I'll try and add them. It's not always possible but it's worth researching.

In other news, I've now fitted two of our cars with dashcams the 3rd one will be fitted in the next month or so. These continuously record the view in front and write the movies in small clips to the inbuilt microSD card. The old movies segments simply get overridden when the card is full. I have an 8GB SD card which gives about an hour's continuous loop. Who knows, one day it may prove useful.

In additional news, I'm building up to purchasing a drone to play with. My wife doesn't know this yet so, we will soon find out if she reads my column! I'll of course keep everyone informed.

So, as you start booking your Easter and summer holidays please use the Church website. There is a comprehensive travel section and you can book flights, hotels, hire cars, car parking, lounge access and, in fact, everything via the church website and help the church without it costing you anymore.

Safe browsing.

David Cornwell

webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

Earlswood Village Hall



**Come along to a traditional
'Skittles and Games Evening'**

Saturday 9th May 7.30pm

Adult £8:00

Child £5:00

Price includes a Ploughman's Supper.

There will be a Licensed Bar featuring

Bob the Barman's Speciality Beers

Tickets from :

Christine Stanley 641 616 chris@earlswoodmarketing.com

Glynis MacDonald 641 818 or glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com#

Louise Dyke 650 076 louisedyke607@btinternet.com

Come and join us!

21st June



+



This is a date to put in your diaries !

**Earlswood Hall's Annual Mid-Summer Walk
up to the top of Gray Hill**

And back.

Followed by Afternoon Tea in the Hall

Details tba



*World War I Travelling Exhibition
and
Shirenewton Church Flower Festival*

*A Travelling Exhibition about World War I in
Monmouthshire will be coming to Shirenewton on
Friday 17th to Sunday 19th April 2015
The Church Room, Shirenewton*

*At the same time there will be an
"In Memory" Flower Festival in Shirenewton Church*

*The Exhibition and Flower Festival will be
open at the following times:*

Friday 10:00 am until 4:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am until 4:00 pm

Sunday 12:00 noon until 4:00 pm

Coffee and Cake

*will be available between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm on
Friday and Saturday and between 12:00 noon and
3:00 pm on Sunday.*

*Everybody is invited to come and view the
exhibition, wander round our church and enjoy a
cup of coffee and slice of cake.*

*There are no entrance charges, all voluntary
donations will be given to
Help the Heroes.*



Chepstow Agricultural Society
Homecraft Section

are holding a

COFFEE MORNING

on

Saturday, 25th April

at

Beaulieu House

Shirenewton

(by kind permission of Janet Horton)

AT 10.30 AM

£2.00

Everyone welcome

Help at home

Lougher Home Care Ltd

Companionship, Personal Care

Meal Preparation , Shopping

Accompanied Trips , Over Night Stays

We can help with the things you find difficult.

We are a local company with mature local carers

Contact Sadie or Hywel Lougher

Tel 01633 88 11 77

Email sadie@lougherhomecare.co.uk

Web site www.daycarewales.com

Members- Care Forum Wales #

UKHCA (United Kingdom Home Care Association) #

Regulated by and registered with #

CSSIW (Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales) #

Approved by and working with Monmouthshire County Council

CARERS WANTED

Contact Sadie or Hywel Lougher

GARDENING CORNER

A lot has happened since I last wrote. We are now proud grandparents to a gorgeous little girl, Freya Rose, 8lbs 10ozs, born on Mothering Sunday. A perfect day to time her arrival. By the time that you read this I will also have partially retired, so longer days thanks to the extra hour in the evening and more of them. I've set myself some big targets in an effort to get the garden back into shape. The vegetable areas will be the first to receive the extra attention, followed by the flower beds and cutting area. In addition to these I have some long term projects which I will now be able to hopefully complete such as a stone facing to our current boundary wall (only some 20 years in the waiting!), followed by the re-laying of a patio area (where I didn't quite get the levels right with an adjacent fishpond), and finally the re-pointing of all the patio slabs. So I won't be looking for any other jobs for some time, although I will have to fit decorating in somewhere along the lines! This is because we had a bit of a flood in the house in the New Year and so will shortly be having new wooden flooring and carpet laid in order to repair the damage. Fortunately I was around at the time and heard water running in the house, a quick dash inside found a flexible pipe had come away from a toilet cistern. It looked like it had only just gone, but the sight of water running through the living room light fittings was a bit disconcerting to say the least. Fortunately the ceilings stayed undamaged, but we dread to think what might have been if we had been away or out for the day!

However that is all in the future so for now I can busy myself out in the garden – at least when the weather permits! Promise of a few better days ahead should make all the difference. The heated propagator is full up with germinating seeds and some of the young, more tender crops such as peppers and tomatoes. Things aren't moving that fast as the weather has been quite cool and decidedly grey in recent days. We certainly didn't have any daffodils open in the garden for St David's day, which is the first for several years. Having said that I did cheat a little as we had a lot of pots of daffodils in the greenhouse and these were coming into flower. With a little dryer weather I was able to get most of these planted in the flower beds outside, so a little bit of 'instant gardening' took place. Some were a little tender and got flattened the same day by a strong southerly breeze. The flowers were quickly picked and ended up in a pot in the kitchen, but the bulk of them survived, and are now providing a lovely display outside – something that the honey bees are enjoying! Talking of them, I'm touching wood that they have come through the winter with flying colours. All four hives seem to be flying well with plenty of bees and stores still inside. The problem will be if we get a cold, wet spring, as the queen will be laying now and there will soon be more hungry mouths to feed. Cold and wet means no bees flying to forage for food and pollen, and it is then that hives are at risk of starving.

Apart from odd days the weather recently has tended to be a bit damp, so the ground hasn't really started to warm up or dry to any degree. Digging is therefore

out of the question, and as a result I've planted nothing outside as yet. Vegetables such as shallots have, as is usually the case, been started inside the greenhouse in pots. This will get them started and allow me to plant them outside when things have warmed a little. The onion sets arrived this week and I'm thinking that I might do the same with them, but we'll see what happens weatherwise. They tend to perform better if they are in garden soil, so fingers crossed. Other jobs outside if the conditions are right will include weeding and feeding the two asparagus beds. One of these needs the timber replacing in order to keep the 'raised bed' intact. The timbers are currently drying well in the small tunnel, so I will give these a good dose of wood preservative in the coming days, and hopefully repair the beds at the same time. There are several that need attention, and if there is enough timber I intend to build several new beds on what was a flower bed area, that I have tried to recover from the weeds and bramble. This is because over the years I have increased the numbers of beds that I grow flowers for cutting in, and as a result I'm struggling to be able to fit in all the vegetables and to keep a good rotation going. So more beds, more flexibility – not to mention more flowers for cutting to keep the assistant head gardener happy!

In the largest tunnel I need to finish the clearing up of last year's crops as already things are moving and being grown on ready for planting out. The apricot trees and nectarines are now noted into flower. I have left the tunnel doors open for now and I have already noted the odd bumble bee paying the flowers the necessary attention. Normally this time of year I am chasing bumble bees around the garden to try and catch them with a net – and then shutting them in the tunnel. This year I'll keep an eye on whether they can find them on their own initiative! I'm also replacing most of the strawberries this year. Young plants are growing on in pots at present and hopefully they will be ready for planting out some time next month. Although they will be in their first year, they should still provide a reasonable crop. Last night's pudding was stewed strawberries, blueberries and black currants an incredible cacophony of vitamin c in a dish – only let down by the copious covering of Devon custard! Down the one side of the tunnel, there is insufficient room to grown anything taller than about a foot, due to the angle of the tunnel sides (they are not straight sided like some growing houses – the width of ours – 21 feet – making up for the lack of straightness). In order to make use of these I use fold away growing bags. These are very large, taking nearly three bags of compost each from the start. However they allow you to grow some good crops and I only tend to replace the top six inches or so before starting again, as few send their roots any deeper than this. I grow mostly salad crops in these bags, the most usual being cut and come again salad leaves. I grow these initially in small cells in the greenhouse before planting out in the grow-bags, replacing every two weeks or so in order to maintain a continuous supply during the summer. Other crops grown will be spring onions and radish, as well as early baby carrots. I planted the first lettuce crop in one bag last night, and the rest of the crops are on germinating as we speak. Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

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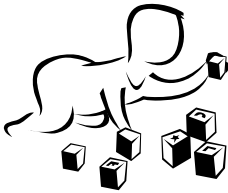
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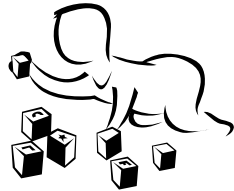
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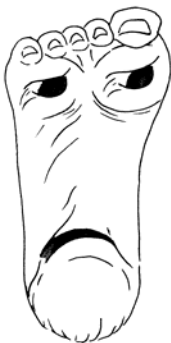
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NERYS'S NATTY NOSH

Mint is a very popular herb that can be grown easily in containers or the garden.

For thousands of years mint has been used for its flavour and medicinal qualities. Mint is a remedy for calming the stomach and relieves travel sickness and congestion of colds and flu. It contains the mineral Iron, needed for healthy blood and calcium for strong bones and teeth, beta-carotene, vitamin B, C and E.



Mint Sauce Serves 4-6

Ingredient

Small handful washed and dried mint leaves
2 teaspoons caster sugar
2 tablespoons boiling water
2 tablespoons vinegar

Method

- 1 Put the mint and caster sugar on a board and chop them finely.
- 2 Place the chopped mint in a jug and stir in the boiling water.
- 3 Add the vinegar and leave to infuse for 30 minutes.
Serve.

Parsley

Curly and flat leaf parsley have similar nutritional benefits. A traditional herbal remedy, parsley is high in antioxidants, Vitamin C and Iron. Parsley is an anticoagulant, and contains oils that help to relieve menstrual problems, fluid retention and cramps.



Parsley Vinaigrette makes 150ml / 5 fluid ounces

Ingredients

125ml/4 fl. oz. olive oil
3 tablespoons white wine vinegar or lemon juice
1½ tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
½ teaspoon caster sugar
Salt and pepper to taste

Method

- 1 Place all the ingredients in a jar, secure with a lid and shake vigorously, until a thick emulsion forms.
- 2 Use at once or store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to three days.
- 3 Serve as a salad dressing or top on grilled meats or fish for extra nutritional benefits. **Enjoy!**

NERYS'S NATTY NOSH

Basil. Has a distinctive aroma and is one of the most widely known and grown herbs in the world. Often associated with Mediterranean cooking, basil is native to India and Asia as well as parts of Africa. Sweet basil is the most common, but dozens of other varieties include lemon, cinnamon, and Thai. Basil is a member of the mint family and has been used as a medicinal plant. Its oils and extracts are said to have antioxidant and antibacterial properties.

Roast Vegetables and Fresh Basil pesto Pasta Serves 2

Ingredients

200g whole-wheat penne pasta
1 aubergine (about 200g)
1 red pepper
1 small courgette
½ tbsp. olive oil

Basil Pesto

1 tbsp. pine nuts
2 sundried tomatoes (soaked in water)
1 bunch fresh basil
1 small bunch fresh parsley
4 tsps. Olive oil



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C fan, gas mark 7.
2. Cook the pasta according to the packet instructions, without salt. Drain.
3. Cut the aubergine and pepper into 10 pieces each and the courgette into 6 pieces.
4. Brush the vegetables lightly with the olive oil and place them into a baking dish. Roast them for 25–30 minutes until done. Turn twice during roasting. Sprinkle with black pepper.
5. Meanwhile, toast the pine nuts in a dry frying pan until golden brown. Leave to cool.
6. **Make the basil pesto.** Put a few basil leaves to one side. Place the sundried tomatoes, remaining herbs, toasted pine nuts and the olive oil into a bowl and whizz with a blender. Stir in a large spoonful of cold water. Taste and season accordingly.
7. Add the pesto and roasted vegetables to the pasta and toss well to coat.
8. Divide the pasta over 2 plates, garnish with the reserved basil leaves and serve immediately. **Enjoy!**

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Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gill Lambert	01291 641175
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	Diane Marlow	01291 641407
Church Wardens	Sally Saysell	01291 641369
	Andrew Baker	01291 641925
PCC Secretaries	Bill Clark	01291 641783
PCC Treasurers	Kevin Bounds	01291 641818
PCC Members	Mark Broughton	01291 641797
	Charles Eickhoff	01291 641716
	Janet Horton	01291 641783
	Dr James Leney	01291 641271
	Allan Saysell	01291 641369
	Jane Smith-Haddon	01291 641525
	Frances Gray	01291 622465
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Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650521
	Ruth Savagar	01291 641411
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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
200 Club	Bob O'Keefe	01291 641686

Church of St Tewdrics's Mathern

Secretary and Church Warden Monnica Williams monnica.williams@virgin.net

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	Tony Hughes	01291 641360
	Mario Lenza	01291 641333
	Phil Moles	01291 641521
	Beverley Moore	01291 641532
Mynyddbach Ward	Lynne Prosser	01291 641666
	Ian Moore, Chair	01291 650766
Newchurch West	Louise Dyke	01291 650076
Earlswood Ward	Paul Harris	01291 650871
	Ken Morton	01291 650268
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Parliament	David Davies	020 7219 8360 daviesd@parliament.uk

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Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore	01291 641532

Earlswood	Sue Leat	01291 641207
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Brownies	Bev. Leaf	01291 641680
	Jaci Crocombe	01291 641681
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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
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Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)	Alison Broughton:	alison.broughton10@gmail.com.
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Initiative for Local Enterprise (SMILE)	Charles Eickhoff	01291 641716 eickhoff@shirenewton.org
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DIARY DATES

April	Event	Location
9th 7:15pm	Shirenewton WI	Recreation Hall
13th 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
13th 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
17th 10:00am	County W.W.1 Exhibition	Church Rooms
18th 10:00am	County W.W.1 Exhibition	Church Rooms
19th 12:00am	County W.W.1 Exhibition	Church Rooms
20th 9:00am	Parish Magazine Deadline	
24th 7:00PM	Bring and Share	Church Rooms
25th 10:30am	Chepstow Agricultural Society Coffee Morning	Beaulieu House Shirenewton
28th 7:30pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Huntsman Hotel
29th 7:30pm	Neighbourhood Watch meeting	Huntsman Hotel
May	Event	Location
8th 7:00pm	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
9th 10:00am	Shirenewton WI Coffee Morning	Recreation Hall
11th 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
14th	Songs of Praise	St Peters Church Newchurch
14th 7:15pm	Shirenewton WI	Recreation Hall

	Saint Thomas a Beckett Shirenewton	Sunday Services	Start 10.00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
5 th April	Easter Sunday	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
12 th April	Second Sunday of Easter	Mark Broughton Wendy Baker	Mark Broughton Wendy Baker
19 th April	Third Sunday of Easter	Bob Grattan Joanne Tomlins	Bob Grattan Joanne Tomlins
26 th April	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Kevin Bounds Diane Marlow	Kevin Bounds Diane Marlow
3 rd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	James Leney Frances Grey	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
10 th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Bob Grattan Mark Broughton	Bob Grattan Mark Broughton
17 th May	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Bill Clarke Wendy Baker	Bill Clarke Wendy Baker
24 th May	Pentecost	Jane Smith-Haddon Margaret Lock	Jane Smith-Haddon Margaret Lock
31 st May	Group Service at Shirenew- ton Trinity Sunday	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
7 th June	First Sunday after Trinity	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker
14 th June	Second Sunday after trinity	Ruth Savagar Cynthia Smith	Claire Lewis Cynthia Smith
21 st June	Third Sunday after Trinity	James Leney Kevin Bounds	Kevin Bounds Graham Lambert
28 th June	Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Mark Broughton Janet Horton	Mark Broughton Janet Horton



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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

Deadline for May 2015 issue is 9:00am 20th April 2015