

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

July & August 2016



The grand parade by Will John

FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

At the time of writing, I have just returned from the Cathedral in Newport following a service of Ordination for those being consecrated as Deacon. It is uplifting to record that there was strong support from Mathern and St. Pierre. There was also one representative from Mounton Church.

This is a very significant day for our group of churches as we have, in no small part, trained one of these new Deacons, Rick Hayes, over the course of some years. It is also noteworthy in that Rick is 'one of our own' and – importantly- will remain as one of the ministers of this group.

He will soon be introduced to the congregation of Shirenewton with the anticipation that his regular appointment to the service rota will be both welcome and stimulating. Rick (if I get my act together in time!) will soon be listed in this magazine as 'Assistant Curate' to the group. In this respect he joins Nansi Davies as part of the team charged with making spirituality a fundamental consideration within our daily lives.

To this end, there will be a special service in Mathern Church on July 10th to formally welcome Rick and to present him with a set of stoles which will accompany him in his future ministry. A warm welcome is extended to all on this occasion.

Those at Shirenewton will probably be unfamiliar with Rick at this point. Let me assure you that his presence at the churches in Mathern, Mounton and St. Pierre has spanned many years and he has won the respect and friendship of many who worship there. Over a considerable length of time Rick has impressed me personally both with his dedication (covering scheduled services with no complaint as well as 'filling in' frequently in a most assiduous fashion). He has also shown considerable initiative in introducing new forms of worship (Taize, for example) and contributing greatly to non-Sunday activities such as the Mathern Fellowship Group. Welcome Rick, and may God bless you in this new chapter of your life.

The other Saturday I achieved a life-long ambition. It occurred at the Shirenewton Church Fete. Indeed God works in mysterious ways. For many, many years I had clung to the hope of realising three important milestones in my life: (1) To find myself involved in work that was both enriching and which made a difference in the lives of others (after thirty-seven years the jury is still out on that one!). (2) To find myself in partnership with an intelligent (to compensate for my weakness in this direction) and vocal wife whom I love (big tick there!). (3) To savour the

unspeakable joys that only come with the relationship with a genuine WW2 Willys Jeep. It was at the Shirenewton Fete that this blessing was bestowed upon me. The rapture was slightly tarnished by the fact that I was unable to fire the same degree of enthusiasm in Sandra (in spite of arguments that ownership would be right up her street with respect to all weather shopping trips to the *White Company*). Oh yes,



and the fact that the purchase of one that was on the right side of being described as 'a shed' would set me back something in excess of £10,000. The Lord gives and the Lord takes away I suppose. However, I think it a bit mean that he gave me the desire but not the happy outcome.

I mention this self-obsessed drivel by way of expressing my genuine appreciation to the Fete organizers and helpers who showed how a traditional function of this nature should be undertaken. Apart from my brief (but passionate) flirtation with the Jeep, I enjoyed splendid refreshment (second only to what my wife produces) and an all-age companionship which indicated that the Shirenewton Fete Committee had got it (at least as far as I am concerned) absolutely right. Another aspect which struck me was the considerable involvement of non-churchgoers who also contributed of their time and effort to ensure a successful event. It reflected the significance of this ancient church to the wider community. Once again, my thanks to you all and the financial profit produced not only appreciated but well deserved.

There! That brings this editorial to a conclusion. Did you believe that profound ministerial developments and an impassioned tribute, by a sad old git, to an American motor vehicle of over sixty years vintage could be combined in the same article? Not many church magazines can claim (or would want to) that distinction.

Every blessing for the summer (a dramatic fall in temperature and frequent episodes of heavy rain-fall provide the proof for this assertion) to you all.
Julian White (Rector)

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR JUNE WERE:

1. Kevin Bounds £40
2. Diane Marlow £30
3. Kha Koon Cornwell £20
4. Geoff & Elaine Slater £10

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

I'm currently at 36,015 ft en route to Newark with 3 ½ hrs to run and not connected to the internet. The plane does have wifi and, for a mere \$20, I could connect. But I'll be in Philadelphia connected to the hotel wifi before Terry's 9:00am Monday morning deadline and it's Sunday and I have The Sunday Times so I can't be bothered.

Every month, as I read interesting things in the techie press or the techie sections of the mainstream press, I make a note in my 'Parish Mag' file. Normally it's just a url to the story which I can then go back and read whilst writing the entry. You've probably spotted the flaw in this approach when one is writing the article at 36,000 ft not willing to pay \$20 to be connected.

Looking at the list I was going to treat you with thoughts on patent trolls and Brexit (am I the only one who has managed to work Brexit into the Parish Mag on a completely legitimate basis?) and why Mark Zuckerberg (yes, him of Facebook fame) allegedly tapes over his personal computer webcam and microphone. I have taped over my webcam for years. I've even got some links to some potential Picasa (photo organiser) replacements – although the good news is Picasa appears still to work so there's no need for any immediate action. But it is not to be – the information is firmly embedded on the internet and I'm not!

The good news however, is a long term good friend of mine has come to the rescue in terms of something to write about. Good news for me but not for her. Delivered last week was a laptop not booting. The lights came on, the fan whirred and it all seemed normal except it wouldn't display anything – either through its monitor or an external monitor. So why the panic? Well the last back-up was in 2014 and there was a lot of real important stuff on it. Photos, documents, spreadsheets, etc.

Well the good news for her was that I took out the hard disk, put it in a USB caddy and was able to read it on my PC. The relief was palpable. It then transpired that she keep all her passwords in a spreadsheet which wasn't even password protected! Pleeeeeeeease - I've now seen/heard it all.

Remember all those articles I write pleading with people to back-up? I'll say it again - please back-up. No, this is not Project Fear ;-). Disks do fail and, if that hard disk had failed rather than the laptop, it would have all been lost!!!! Backing up is easy. It's cheap. You can get aa 1TB disk for around £40 (can't check that as I'm not connected) and, surely, your data is worth £40? And, for your information, recovering data from a failed hard disk runs into hundreds of pounds. Personally I back up to a hidden NAS device every night. The device is hidden so if someone breaks in and nicks the PC and everything they see the data is safe. You can also back-up to the cloud if your bandwidth is adequate. For those of you on Infinity it should now be adequate.

And to the passwords. I have regularly suggested Roboform (which I use) or LastPass (which my wife uses). They cost about £20 per year. They are secure and multi-platform. I have Roboform on my phone, tablet and, of course, PC. Having such a tool allows you to not only keep the passwords securely but also have multiple different passwords – a different password for each site. So, if someone gets one of your passwords, only one site is compromised. And, of course, the passwords are automatically backed up in the cloud and you can access them from anywhere.

Which finally brings me onto my annual warning. Beware of insecure wifi hotspots when on holiday. And my annual plea: Please use the church website shopping portal (www.shirenewtonshop.com) for purchasing your flights, hotels, airport parking, lounge access, travel insurance, etc.

Have a wonderful summer - see you on the other side.

Safe browsing David Cornwell webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

MACMILLAN FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

A great time was had by all, thank you for everyone's support

The total you raised was £305.

Cheers, Joanne and Caroline

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SHIRENEWTON W.I JUNE '16

On June 2nd the W.I. had an outing to the Parva vineyard, Tintern. The atmosphere was very conducive to the wine tasting experience, the various wines flowed freely, each new taste warranted an appreciative comment or just a sigh of contentment. The wide variety of wines ensured that everyone reached a level of enjoyment.



Factoid: The vineyard now contains about 4500 vines of 17 different varieties.

(Photos courtesy of Diane Ashton Smith)

The evening was rounded off with a lovely meal at the Wye valley hotel. Tea, Victorian, High Tea, Cup, Beautiful
The W.I provided the refreshments at the church fete; the ladies worked hard and gave an excellent service.

Next meeting July 14th the topic is 'life in journalism', should be good.

All ladies are welcome, come along and make new friends and enjoy a free cup of tea and biscuit.



Contact:



Carole Jones (President) 673607 (new number)

Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 641704

SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE CHURCH FETE 2016

The threat of dark clouds was blown away by the warmth and happiness of the carnival parade. Children and parents joined the convoy, led by a resplendent red Rolls Royce Corniche convertible. They eagerly set off from Clearview to the opening of the Fete at the recreation field.



The 2016 Fete had started. A lap of honour around the stalls with the Carnival Queen waving with aplomb to her guests was soon rounded off with a glorious 'afternoon tea' laid on by the W.I.

The Shirenewton School choir then continued proceedings with their renditions of well rehearsed songs.

The carnival music then provided the backdrop as the stalls opened for the fun and business of selling cakes, jams, sweets and the like to eager customers whilst thirsty parents were spoilt for choice between the beer tent and Pimms stall. The wanging of wellies, aiming at coconuts, kicking of footballs and teeing off provided some healthy competitive fun. It wouldn't be our village fete without sitting in a helicopter or driving round a field in Mathews military vehicles!

Months of preparation and discussions brought many helpers together for what was a splendid afternoon, one where the sun decided, on cue, to make an appearance.

One estimate was that around 800 visitors joined in to make the day such a success.

Many thanks go to Shirenewton School, stall holders, sponsors, organisers and friends who all contributed to a smashing day. The smiling happy faces were the evidence of success.

I am also happy to report that £4,731 was raised.



I congratulate and thank all of you. What a super community spirited day.

Regards

Mark
Chair (rtd)

We wish to thank the following sponsors

Stratstone Landrover

Peter Moon

Terry Hicks Terry Hicks

We wish to thank the following donors for the Prize draw

Luxury Food and Wine
Kindly donated by Stratstone Landrover

Meal for 2 at the Tredegar Arms
Kindly donated by Julie & Sarah

Sunday Lunch for 2 at the Huntsman
Kindly donated by Phil Moles

Herbert Lewis Jelly Mould
Kindly Donated by Herbert Lewis

Fish Voucher
Donated by Fabulous Fish at the Garden Center

£10 Gift Voucher
Kindly Donated by Deacon Florists

Two Bottles of Arran Whisky
Kindly Donated by Michael Peirce of the Arran Whisky Company

Jam and Chutney Relishes Hamper
Kindly donated by Caroline Davies

Organic Veg Box
Kindly donated by Riverford

Dimante Evening Bag
Kindly donated by Kinaree

3 Bottles of Wine
Kindly donated by Budgens

One months membership of Curves
Kindly donated by Curves

10 Zumba Classes
Kindly donated by Andrea Hale

Dear theatre-lovers,

The following shows are suggestions for future theatre trips to the Theatre Royal, Bath.

Stepping Out

15th October 2016 at 8.00 p.m.

Wonderfully funny and heart-warming comedy which charts the lives of seven women and one man attempting to tap dance their troubles away at a weekly dancing class. Starring Amanda Holden (Britain's Got Talent), Angela Griffin (Coronation Street), Tracy-Ann Oberman (EastEnders), Tamzin Outhwaite (EastEnders) and Nicola Stephenson (Brookside, Holby City and Emmerdale). £34.50 a head.

The Rocky Horror Show

Saturday 19th November 2016 at 8.30 p.m.

New 2016 tour of Richard O'Brien's classic musical – a young couple driving back from a friend's wedding break down in a forest. Their search for help introduces them to a different world – need I say more? If you don't know the story, you must have missed the seventies, eighties and nineties. Starring Paul Cattermole (S Club 7) and Liam Tamne (Phantom of the Opera, The Voice). Be warned, this show has rude bits! And you can dress the part if you think down-town Bath is ready for it! £30.00 a head.

The Play That Goes Wrong

Saturday 14th January 2017 at 8.00 p.m.

The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society are putting on a murder mystery, but as the title suggests, everything that can go wrong...does! A Mischief Theatre production. £27.50 a head.

The cost of the transport will depend on the number of people going, and can vary between £20 a head and £30 a head.

Depending on responses to the individual shows I will reserve tickets in the stalls and an appropriately-sized coach so you can be conveyed from Shirenewton to the theatre in time for a drink before the show, and be collected at the end of the performance and whisked back to Shirenewton again; and enjoy a few drinks without having to worry about driving, parking, the breathalyser, or that idiot in the white van who drives two feet from your rear number plate.

Please could you let me know by the end of July which shows you are interested in and I will make a group booking and order the transport. I will then send out another email asking for payment and giving details of how to pay. The theatre will need paying for Stepping Out by the end of August, for The Rocky Horror Show by the end of September (although I would like to book earlier as it may sell out fast), and for The Play That Goes Wrong by the end of November.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Bill Clark

WJH CLARK, Beaulieu House, Shirenewton, Chepstow,
Monmouthshire NP16 6RG Tel: 01291641783; Mobile: 07890945187

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our visit to Caerleon Roman Legion Museum was a great success, Dr Mark Lewis met us in the foyer and we had a conducted tour of the museum, visiting the galleries and the Roman garden and eventually we went on to the Roman Baths, which is a very impressive sight.

The society have been preparing information regarding the history of this area to be included in the displays at the National Eisteddfod, that is being held at Abergavenny in the first week of August.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 11th July Archive Meeting at the Recreational Ground,
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Tuesday, 26th July Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 pm a talk entitled
'A House called Chepstow – an American Connection' given
by Dr David Thomas.

Everyone welcome at the above events

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

Velindre Coffee Morning

July 9th 2016 from 10 — 12 noon

At the home of

Maureen Moody, Glenfield Mynyddbach

Bring and Buy

Cakes, Raffle

Coffee and Welsh Cake £1.50

FOR SALE

'Woodchester' Upright Piano for sale in excellent condition £300 buyer collects! Contact Mark 641005.



SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the June meeting

There are still two vacant positions for the co-option of Community Councillors for the ward of Shirenewton - **if you are interested in applying for one of these vacancies, please contact the Clerk** (details below).

Planning applications considered

1. DC/2016/00421 Great Barn, former Great House Farm, Old Road, Earlswood
Existing timber store with felt roof 6m x 3m replaced with single block store with slate roof 7m x 5m. Council noted that due to Mon CC time constraints, recommendation of approval was submitted on 18.5.16).

2. DC/00398 Penderry Farm, School Lane, Earlswood
Agricultural Notification – proposed steel frame portal building for storage of machinery and fodder. Council recommended approval.

Monthly Police Report -

There were no instances of crime in the police report and one call to Brookacre during the month. There had been two road traffic accidents reported and patrols continued to be conducted along the B4235, but there were no calls received regarding anti-social driving/riding there on Sunday 5th June.

Best Kept Village Competition 2016

The judging has now been completed and the results will be notified in September.

Dates of next meetings - Monday 1st August and Monday 5th September, both at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Members of the public may attend and address the Council for the first 15 minutes of each meeting.

Find more 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 www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk

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

SHIRENEWTON SUPER SATURDAY

3rd SEPTEMBER 2016

2pm - 7pm

at The Recreation Hall & Field

This event is the last opportunity to have some Family fun before the children return to school on the Monday. There will be a Treasure Hunt, Rounders and Games for the children, Tea, Coffee and Cake will be available for the adults for the adults, or bring your own picnics. Live Music will be happening throughout the afternoon and evening along with Open Mic sessions and Karaoke. Most of the adults will enjoy taking advantage of the Bar and a BBQ will provide sustenance as the afternoon wears on.

This is the first time that The Recreation Association have organised such an event and we hope that it will be well supported as money from any profits made will go to the village Defibrillator Appeal. Put the date in your diary for this village community event. Tell your friends, bring your picnics but most of all bring yourselves

Organisers of The Village Market were very disappointed and upset that someone went out of their way to deface the advertising banner (located at the junction of the B4235 and Spout Hill) with a political statement. People who live in this village expect and deserve better behaviour

GÆRLLWYD BAPTIST CHURCH
175TH ANNIVERSARY

**We would like to invite you to join us
in celebrating
175 years of Christian Witness at
Gaerllwyd.**

**Services will be held on
SUNDAY 10th JULY 2016
at 6.30 pm
and
MONDAY 11th JULY 2016
at 7.30pm**

**Refreshments will be served after the Monday evening
service.**

We hope you can join us in our celebrations

**We meet at 6.30pm every Sunday and would welcome any
of you to come and share in Worship and fellowship.**

NEWS FROM ST PETER'S, NEWCHURCH

Songs of Praise

Thursday, 4th August, 7pm

Come and join us in favourite hymns, songs and readings - an appreciation of God and the beauty of life.

Harvest Festival and Supper

Friday, 16th September 7pm in the barn at Church Farm, followed by Harvest Supper.

The Bishop will be preaching at this café style service. Please do come and join us.

Tickets on sale soon. This year the fruits of the earth that will be on display will be sold after the service and supper.

Carol Service and Nativity

Sunday, 18th December 2.30pm

Come and start your Christmas here, with carols old and new, and a nativity (Children attending the service are very welcome to join in the nativity, it's a crowd driven experience, and nothing fazes John!). Last year there were two donkeys and I am searching for suitable camels for this year.....

To be followed by refreshments, courtesy of our star bakers.

SAMFAL AGM

6th July at 7.30pm
in the Saysell Room,
formally the Church
Room





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www.keithrowlands.co.uk

Author: Newly launched on Kindle and Kindle Fire

“Noah and an Almighty Flood”

‘hilarious’ ‘laughed out loud’



We are very grateful to Mrs Higgins who has painted a beautiful "Fred's Pond" scene near the main entrance to school and this week came to do the finishing touches by very cleverly turning the wall into a log for the frogs! "Fred" is the RWI character who helps the children learn to decode words. His pond is full of pebbles with letters on so when the children are playing in his pond they are actually learning to read and spell at the same time!

Huge thank you to Mrs Farley and all the parents and children who came into school on Thursday of half term to develop Foundation Phase areas. We now have a fantastic mud kitchen - thank you to Mr Wacey for his superb sink unit creation complete with drainage system and to Mrs Wacey for digging over the area and providing very useful wood and tyres. Thank you to Mr Siddall who put up the mud kitchen fence and made a couple of cars using pallets and broken chairs!

Does anyone have a steering wheel we can have to finish the cars off?

Mrs Farley has created a brilliant working lighthouse and ocean on the patio too. The giant sand pit is now back in use again having been completely emptied and refilled with clean sand and a new lid fitted. **PLEASE ENSURE CHILDREN DO NOT STAND ON THIS LID BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL!** Thank you also to Mrs Sidall, Mrs Langdon, Mrs Morcombe, Mrs Phipps, Mrs Thomas, Mr Reynolds (our caretaker) and of course all their children who came along to lend a hand too.



SENEDD VISIT

Mrs Farley and Mrs Whittington took the School Council to the Senedd on Wednesday where they held their own debate in the old chamber, found out about the responsibilities of the Welsh Government, had a quiz, an ice-cream in the bay and watched the Assembly Members have a very heated debate in the Plenary session!!

SAINSBURYS

Please can you send into school any remaining Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers that may be lurking in wallets or purses by the end of next week (Fri 17th) so we can order some free equipment. Thank you

FP TRIP

As part of their 'Sea-side' topic related studies - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be going to Weston on Tuesday next week. They can wear non-uniform - depending on the weather this could be shorts and t-shirt or coats and jumpers!! If it is sunny, they will of course need to have sun cream applied at home and a sun hat. Please ensure they have a packed lunch with plenty of drinks. They are also allowed to bring a bucket and spade (please label with their name) and money to buy an ice-cream or lolly. I understand some of you may be worried about such a large number of children being on the beach. The children are put into small groups with an adult helper who escorts them onto the beach. The adults mark out the boundary of where the children are allowed to build sandcastles using cones and ropes. The adults supervise the boundary to ensure no one crosses it. If it is really sunny they use the shade under the sea aquarium. When they go and buy their ice-cream they go in their small group with their adult. It is an extremely well organised trip and one we have been on many times over the years

Y1 VIOLIN CONCERT

Mr Stone, Y1's violin teacher, invites all Y1 parents and other relatives to the school hall at 2.45pm on Wednesday to watch Y1 play their violins.

SPORTS DAY

On Friday, Weather permitting, we will be holding our annual Sports Day. Y3-Y5 parents and relatives are invited to join us in the morning - as soon as classes have been registered and have changed into their PE kits they will start. Reception, Y1 & Y2 parents and relatives are invited to join us for a 1.45pm start. If we are blessed with sunny weather, please ensure all pupils have sun cream applied at home, a sun hat and a water bottle. Please bring blankets or deckchairs to sit on as you enjoy the races. As we have pupils in both departments who are not allowed to be photographed we have to respect those parents' wishes and ask you to refrain from taking photographs during the races. School will post photographs (with pupils omitted) on the website for you to enjoy.

SUMMER CLUB

Melinda Phillips (After School Club) will be running a summer holiday club at school during the first few weeks of the summer holiday. If you would like to book your children in you need to contact Melinda as soon as possible contact Ken Penman on 07787151284 or email info@cinderfordtkd.co.uk

TAE KWON-DO SUCCESS

Students from the Shirenewton School of Tae Kwon-Do recently attended their colour belt grading exam in Monmouth - Imogen N, Oscar N, Sebastien, Amélie, Tomos, Anjali & Arjun - congratulations to all of them but especially to Arjun who is their youngest student to date to do a grading exam. For further details of Tae Kwon-Do in Shirenewton



SUMMER CALENDAR

Reminders will be 'schooped' nearer the time (School ID = 10134)

New additions ... in red to help you spot them!

Mondays - Y6 are going swimming this half term

Tue 14th June - Rec, Y1 & Y2 trip to Weston

Wed 15th June - Y1 Violin concert for parents 2.45pm

Wed 15th June - New Reception Parents meeting 6pm

Fri 17th Jun - Sports Day (KS2 am; FP pm)

Wed 22nd Jun - Reserve Sports Day

Fri 24th Jun - KS2 Enrichment Day

Sat 25th Jun - PTA Summer Fayre 11am-2pm

Mon 27th Jun - Transition Fortnight Starts

Tue 28th Jun - New Reception visit & lunch

Wed 29th Jun - Reserve, Reserve Sports Day!

Thur 30th Jun - New Reception visit & lunch

Fri 1st Jul - Reports to go home

Fri 1st July - Swimming Gala 1.30pm

Mon 4th Jul - INSET (Self Evaluation)

Tue 12th Jul - Pupil Committee Elections

Tue 12th Jul - Y6 Lego Workshop (in school)

Wed 13th Jul - Parents' Evening for those that request it & Music Event & Art Exhibition 6pm

Fri 15th Jul - **Chepstow Schools' Police Sports (6 pupils per KS2 class competing)**

Fri 15th Jul - PTA Hog Roast

Tue 19th Jul - Y2 Graduation 9.30am

Wed 20th Jul - Y6 Leavers Assembly 9.30am

Thu 21st Jul - First day of Summer Holiday

Tue 26th Jul - Eisteddfod Rehearsal 11am-1pm

Tue 2nd Aug - Eisteddfod Choir Performance 1

Thu 4th Aug - Eisteddfod Choir Performance 2

Next Year

Please note: Thursday 1st Sept & Friday 2nd Sept are both Inset days therefore the first day back to school for pupils after the Summer holiday will be MONDAY 5th SEPTEMBER.

STARGAZING



Later in the evening the Summer Triangle is overhead. This is a prominent triangle formed by the bright stars Altair, to the South of the triangle, Vega, closest to the Western horizon, and Deneb, to the East. Deneb forms the tail of the cross-shaped constellation Cygnus, the Swan. From our perspective the three stars have similar brightness. However they lie at different distances from Earth. Deneb is an extremely luminous star at 1400 light years from Earth whilst Vega and Altair are less luminous and are both much closer to Earth at a distance of about 20 light years.

The familiar seven stars of Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough, are to be seen in the north-west, with the "W" of Cassiopeia climbing into the north-eastern sky.

The planets Saturn and Mars can be seen to the south with Saturn to the left of Mars. The brighter planet Jupiter is in the west. The waxing Gibbous Moon is above Mars on the 14th July and close to Saturn on the following day.

Forty seven years ago, on July 20, 1969, the Apollo 11 Lunar Lander descended to the surface of the Moon and Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the Moon.

James Bradley was vicar of the parish of Bridstow, near Ross-on-Wye in Monmouthshire until 1721, when he changed vocation and became a full-time astronomer. Isaac Newton considered him to be the "best astronomer in Europe" and he was eventually made Astronomer Royal. Bradley carried out measurements that proved the Earth orbits the Sun, and that led to the first estimates of the distances of stars.

FAIRTRADE NEWS

Flowers make a lovely gift but many recipients (and indeed purchasers) would be distressed to know that most flowers from the developing world are produced by workers, primarily women, who live and work in very miserable conditions. This month Lidl joins a group of supermarkets who supply Fairtrade flowers in Britain : Sainsbury's, the Co-op, Aldi, Morrison, Asda, Tesco and M&S.



In an article published on the Fairtrade Foundation website Jennifer Shepherd reports on the benefits Fairtrade has brought to more than 48,000 flower workers across 8 countries. These include stable incomes, improvements in working conditions, more concern for the environment and health and safety and written contracts with the possibility of sick leave and holiday pay. Workers also have a say in how the Fairtrade premium is spent. This premium has brought immense benefit to the communities - e.g. new latrines, equipping schools, the introduction of adult skills and literacy classes (38% of the adult Kenyan population is illiterate).

It is usually women who receive a gift of flowers. Surely we would take much more pleasure in flowers if we knew they had been produced by women treated with dignity and respect. I recently sent a M&S birthday bouquet of fairtrade lilies to an old friend - she said they had arrived beautifully presented and she was delighted with their appearance and how long they had lasted.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

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Contact Sadie or Hywel Lougher





GARDENING CORNER

I managed to get a good picking of our first strawberries some 5 days earlier than last year, so the assistant head gardener had a fair old dish full for her birthday this year! They have continued to crop well although the early ones are coming to an end already. One variety is a perpetual fruiting one, so we expect to get a pudding at least once a fortnight until the end of summer. Sometimes there will be more sometimes less. I couldn't make out why the plants didn't seem to be growing on very well at first, but then discovered that my copious watering using soaker hose wasn't working. The end bung had come off and so all the water was being delivered on one spot and none elsewhere. No wonder those few strawberries receiving the water looked well!

The apricots and nectarines are still dropping off the trees in the tunnel, so at this rate we won't have a very big crop this year. They usually ripen around the middle of August so they still have some way to go. The two peach trees outside have been badly hit by peach leaf curl this year so I will have to spray them in order to try and keep them going. Looking at the vegetable patch the shallots and garlic have started to be affected by rust, so as the spray is the same I'll treat the peaches and garlic at the same time. I'll do the onions and leeks as well as they will no doubt also become infected shortly if left untreated.

The early broccoli did well and there are now a number of ready meals sitting in the freezer. We found it was better to make the broccoli into pre-cooked meals and then freeze it, rather than freeze it in the raw so to speak (although it is 'blanched' first before freezing. We were finding that the florets would break down and we'd be left with a lot of tiny bits that you couldn't eat!

Talking of freezing, we make as much elderflower cordial as we can, but with the current weather, the flowers on the elder bushes are not lasting very long and so it will be a short season. Despite following recipes, we have always found that bottles of cordial start to 'work' (ferment) and this spoils the taste. We experimented a couple of years ago with freezing the cordial. Wilkinson's have some very good picnic beakers with screw on lids, so we now decant the cordial into several of these, lightly screw the lids on to allow for expansion and place in the freezer. We then take a beaker out at a time, as and when we want some. This keeps it perfect and you don't end up drinking elderflower cordial for three months!

We have recently been away for a week and couldn't believe how much the garden had grown in the period we were away. Amazing what some warmth and plenty of rain will do. We are now in catch up mode, but think we will be struggling to get things into some shape of order for some time to come. WE had to start off with the priority jobs first, and this included saving the sweet peas and clematis, all of which should have been climbing up their supports, but most of which were flat on the ground following a heavy rainstorm. I was concerned that the sweet peas especially would break off when we tried to lift them back up, but a bit of teamwork seems to have saved the day. The really bent flowers were cut off and ended up in a vase indoors. They wouldn't have won any prizes on the show bench, but they still smelt the same so what the heck. Unfortunately a bed of alstromeria's ended up as a lost cause, but you can't win them all. A note for my diary – I must fully retire and have more time. Sub note from the assistant head gardener – I must work harder at trying to tell him his garden is too big!

Keeping on top of the weeding in the vegetable patch, when it is as damp as it is at present is always a struggle. The weeds have to be lifted and removed completely; otherwise they have an ability to take root again at the next shower of rain. Normally if it is dry – and hopefully sunny – I'll just run a hoe between the plants and the weeds soon shrivel up – so much quicker. This means that the flower borders are not getting the attention they need – something I have to put right.

We have started this year's harvesting now, with new potatoes and courgettes in the tunnel, mangetout peas and salad crops outside (well radish, spring onions and lettuce anyway). The first cucumber is ready to be picked (although only 3 inches long!) and the first cherry tomatoes are just starting to show colour. The greens planted outside have all survived the attention of the cabbage root fly again, thanks to the use of root collars, but instead they have been attacked by aphids and the first cabbage white butterflies, so the odd one or two have taken on the appearance of having been shot! I try to manually remove the caterpillars if I can, but the aphids will need a quick spray to sort them out. I'll then try and cover the crops with some form of protection, such as fine netting in order to keep the worst of the critters off. I have one bed of cauliflowers (but the special Romanesco variety), which has been covered since planting out, so hopefully this will stop the heads from becoming useless. As I've said before I don't like spraying but thanks to the EU, who have banned many treatments for the amateur grower (but not the professional – which seeing that most of what we eat as a population comes from the full time grower seems a bit pointless to me! – but then who am I to question!).

I needed to open the bees up yesterday as I needed to see what was happening with them. Unfortunately they were all extremely aggressive – probably because the weather was affecting them (they don't like it thundery). Unfortunately I got stung numerous times, mostly on the left hand and once in the soft underside of the arm. I lost count of the stings in the end, but suffered a bit last night. Normally if they are like this I'd just shut them up and walk away, but this time I had to persevere and accept the pain – either a hero or very stupid! The one hive I had thought was diseased was still not functioning. I had taken a frame of brood from another hive, which had a couple of queen cells on it. The idea being to replace the failing queen. This didn't work as the bees tore down the queen cells – they were sticking with their old queen through thick or thin! Drastic action was required, so I found the queen and killed her. I then took a frame of very young larva and eggs from another hive and replaced a frame in the now, queen-less hive. Realising that their queen had gone they quickly turned a cell into a queen cell, and low and behold we now have a newly mated queen, who is laying well – success! I had another hive that had queen cells in a fortnight ago. I broke the golden rule by tearing down these cells (to prevent swarming) without having seen the queen in the hive. As soon as I had done this I went to carry on to the next hive and on turning around discovered a very large swarm hanging in an apple tree, having obviously exited the same hive earlier (I had assumed that a lot of bees were out foraging – not that they had left altogether. So I now had another hive that was queen-less, so I repeated the trick again with another frame of young eggs from another hive and discovered yesterday that they had established a queen cell that was now sealed, so a new queen should hatch shortly. Despite the aggressive bees it was success all round as I also managed to find and mark three queens as well.

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Nerys's Natty Nosh



A Visit to the Caribbean Islands. The Caribbean stretches for 2000 miles. The Bahamas in the north to Guyana in the south and from Barbados in the east to Belize in the west. The volcanic and coral islands make up this totally tropical paradise. The one thing that is consistent about the Caribbean weather is its year round beauty. Temperatures are almost always moderate with very little seasonal change.

Rum In the 17th century, the first distillation of rum was produced on Caribbean plantations. Each island produces a unique style of rum. When you visit you have to try the local produce. Why not **join me. Cheers!!!!**

Rum Punch Serves 1

1 oz. dark rum
1 oz. white rum
1 oz. gold rum
2 oz. orange juice
2 oz. pineapple juice
Juice of ½ lime
1 dash grenadine
Slice lemon, orange pineapple wedge and maraschino cherry

Shake rum and juices with the ice. Top with grenadine. Garnish with fruit.

Rum Fizz

2 oz. white rum
¾ oz. lemon juice
1 teaspoon sugar
Club soda to fill

Shake white rum, lemon juice and sugar. Pour in glass with ice. Fill with club soda.

Pina Colada

2 oz. light rum
3 tablespoon cream of coconut
3 tablespoon pineapple juice and pineapple wedges for garnish

Shake with ice. Serve in hurricane glass, or blend with ice cream for frozen variation. Garnish with fresh pineapple wedge. Top with whipped cream if frozen.

Nerys's Natty Nosh



Whilst visiting the beautiful island of St Kitts we meet Alex who was preparing Jerk Chicken. I asked him if he minded if I took his photograph to put it in the parish magazine. As you can see he was delighted. A sample of his delicious culinary delights was enjoyed.

Thank you Alex.

Jerk is a combination of herbs and spices.

Jerk Chicken Serves 4

Ingredients

4 chicken portions
2 tbs. groundnut oil
2 onions, chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tsp. chilli paste or fresh chillies
2 tsp. fresh ginger puree
1 tsp. allspice
2 tsp. dried thyme
1 tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. ground nutmeg
Grated rind and juice of 1 lime
Juice of 1 orange
2 tsp. hot pepper sauce
2 tsp. soft brown sugar
Salt and pepper to season

Method.

- 1 Heat the oil in the frying pan. Cook the onions until soft.
- 2 Add garlic, ginger, chilli paste, thyme, all spice, cinnamon and nutmeg and fry for 2 minutes.
- 3 Add the orange juice, lime rind and juice, pepper sauce and sugar.
- 4 Simmer gently until the mixture turns to a dark paste. Season. Cool.
- 5 Slash the chicken and rub the paste all over. Cover and chill overnight.
- 6 Place the chicken pieces on a roasting rack and cook for 40 minutes or until thoroughly cooked on gas mark 5, 190 C.

Serve the Jerk Chicken with cooked rice and peas, glazed pineapple and wedges of lime on the side.
Brush the pineapple lightly with oil and grill until golden brown on all sides.
Squeeze over the juice of one lime.
Enjoy !

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Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gill Lambert	01291 641175
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Church of St Tewdrics's Mathern

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

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Mynyddbach Ward	Lynne Prosser Ian Moore	01291 641666 01291 650766
Newchurch West	Ian Martin	01291 650014
Earlswood Ward	Paul Harris Chair Ken Moton	01291 650871 01291 650268
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Member of Parliament	David Davies daviesd@parliament.uk	020 7219 8360

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Brownies Bev. Leaf 01291 641680
Jaci Crocombe 01291 641681
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Earlswood Hope Mrs Sylvia Jeremiah, Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726
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Gaerllwyd Baptist Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA
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Recreation Hall booking Beryl Saysell 01291 641637
St Peters Church Newchurch
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Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.

DIARY DATES

July	Event	Location
4th 7.30pm	Shirenewton Community Council	Recreation Hall
6th 7.30pm	SAMFAL AGM	Saysell Room
10th 6.30pm	Gaerllwyd Baptist Church Service	Gaerllwyd Baptist Church
11th 7.30pm	Gaerllwyd Baptist Church Service	Gaerllwyd Baptist Church
11th 2.00 pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
14th 7.15pm	Shirenewton Women's Institute	Recreation Hall
16th 10 - 12	Village Market	Recreation Hall
26 7.30pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Huntsman Hotel
Aug	Event	Location
1st 7.30pm	Shirenewton Community Council	Recreation Hall
4th 7.00pm	Songs of Praise	St Peters Church Newchurch
20th 10 - 12	Village Market	Recreation Hall
Sept.	Event	Location
3rd 2 - 7 pm	Shirenewton Super Saturday	Recreation Hall & Field
5th 7.30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
16th 7pm	Harvest festival & Supper	St Peters Church Newchurch
17th 10 - 12	Village Market	Recreation Hall

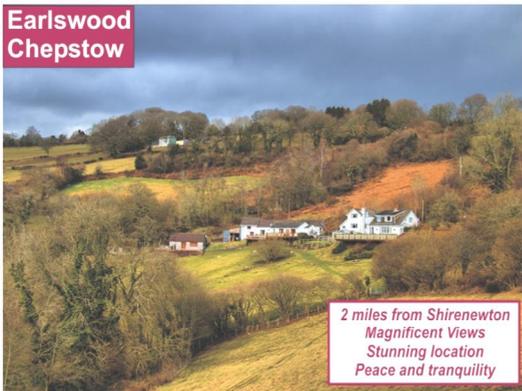
Readers and Sides Persons

July to October 2016

St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
3rd July	7th Sunday after Pentecost	Bob Grattan Diane Marlow	Bob Grattan Diane Marlow
10th July	8th Sunday after Pentecost	Mark Broughton Joanne Tomlins	Mark Broughton Joanne Tomlins
17th July	9th Sunday after Pentecost	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
24th July	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	James Leney Paul Morecombe	Graham Lambert Claire Lewis
31st July	GROUP SERVICE	In Mathern	Church
7th August	12th Sunday after Pentecost	Bob Grattan Ruth Savagar	Bob Grattan Claire Lewis
14th August	13th Sunday after Pentecost	Pat White Frances Grey	Graham Lambert Frances Grey
21st August	14th Sunday after Pentecost	Mark Broughton Cynthia Smith	Mark Broughton Cynthia Smith
28th August	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
4th September	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Bob Grattan Kevin Bounds	Bob Grattan Kevin Bounds
11th September	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Mark Broughton Sally Saysell	Mark Broughton Claire Lewis
18th September	18th Sunday after Pentecost	James Leney Margaret Lock	Graham Lambert Margaret Lock
25th September	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Paul Morecombe Jane Smith-Haddon	Claire Lewis Jane Smith-Haddon

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SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Published: by The Church of St. Thomas á Becket Shirenewton

Editor: Terry Walters 01291 641338 email: terencewalters@hotmail.com

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

Preferred format is an MS Word document attached to an email.

Deadline for September 2016 issue is 9:00am 22nd August 2016