

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

March 2017



Price: £1

FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White (Rector & Vicar)

It is a sign of advancing age, I suppose, but don't the seasons seem to come around more quickly these days?

From a church perspective it seems no sooner than we emerge from the Christmas festivities than Lent is upon us. The tendency among many is to think 'let us get motivated when Easter arrives, then we can join in with the celebrations associated with the high-point of the Christian Year'.

We would be seriously impoverished if we thought that way.

At this point, I believe, the old adage holds true '*No Cross, no Crown*'. In other words, unless we take the rigours of Lent seriously, unless we seek after God with commitment, unless we are prepared to endure an often uncomfortable spiritual ride, then the richness and depth of the Easter message is immensely diluted.

I wish to expand on a word which I used above – *spiritual* which, I tend to think, is often confused with *religious*. The two are not necessarily inter-changeable. This was evidenced during the morning service recently at Mathern when a number of the congregation expressed their personal definition of the words under scrutiny. This ranged from a scholarly definition by Tony Utting to a more prosaic understanding by myself.

For me, the word *religious* carries a rather dusty and dry meaning. We seem to have moved some way from Saint Paul's description which – helpfully – implies that it should be experienced rather like muscles working together in the hand, for example, to create a diverse whole. Now it appears that *religion* stands for a somewhat fossilised structure upon which human will has placed regulation and constraint.

The word *spiritual*, on the other hand, implies something individualistic whilst seeking a common destiny and something which involves, indeed invites, personal exploration. We might take a number of wrong turns on our spiritual journey but the sign-post always points towards the divine. It is, in part, exchanging the idea (as advanced by the poet Francis Thompson) of God uncomfortably in pursuit of us, to a realisation that God is calling us forward with Jesus Christ as our guide.

Lent, which could well have commenced by the time you read this, is all about making constructive use of this journey (to use a somewhat irritating contemporary expression). It should prepare us to stand, somewhat challenged perhaps, more informed in the presence of God come Easter Day.

We have a number of time-proven aids at hand. In this respect I wish to draw your attention to the Quiet Morning in Shirenewton Church on Saturday, 4th March from 10.00am until noon.

Lent is also the time when special things happen! Among them is a visit from our Bishop, the Right Reverend Richard Paine, to our group on March 12th. He will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in Mounton at 10.15am and will be available afterwards to meet and converse with us.

Therefore let us determine to make Lent significant this year. It begins, of course, on Ash Wednesday – 1st March - where Communion with Imposition of Ashes will be available in Mathern Church at both 10.00am and 7.00pm.

Every blessing for the spiritual venture of Lent.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Monday 6th February 2017

Funeral

Derek Richard Michael Davis 1931 - 2017



PARISH MAGAZINE SUBS NOW DUE

Thank you for taking the Parish Magazine over the last 12 months. Subscriptions for the 2017 magazines are now due. If you wish to continue to receive the magazine and have been unable to meet up with your local distributor to pay for the next 10 issues of the magazine, will you kindly forward your £10.00 subscription to Bob O'Keefe, 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 6UA . Cheques should be made payable to: **Shirenewton Church PCC.**

We do hope that you find the magazine interesting and useful.

200 CLUB

200 Club subs are due in March. Each number costs £10, and this year there will be 10 draws (monthly excluding January and August), each with prizes of £40, £30, £20, and £10. Please give your subs money to your usual Parish Magazine distributor.

If anyone would like to join the 200 Club, or would like further information, please contact me by email at 200clubshirenewton@gmail.com, or by telephone on 01291 641175.

With our thanks for your continuing generous support.

Graham Lambert

200 Club winners in February were:

1. Mike Seale £40
2. Fabian Cornwell £30
3. Joy Moore £20
4. Emily Slater £10



OUR EVENING SERVICE AT THE SAYSELL CENTRE ST. THOMAS á BECKET CHURCH

You are warmly invited to share in our monthly informal evening meeting on the first Sunday of each month.

Please join us in the Saysell Centre (Church Room) from 6.00 to 6.45pm on the

5th March

2nd April

7th May

4th June

2nd July

and the first Sunday in each month thereafter.

This will be a time to sing today's worship songs, a time for prayer, a time to meet – a time to connect with God in a fresh way.



SHIRENEWTON PARISH QUIET MORNING

Saturday 4th March 2017

10:00 to 12:00

in The Saysell Centre (formerly the Church Room)

Come along for a morning of quiet prayer and reflection.
Kick start your Lenten observance with a chance to learn or
refresh useful prayer techniques.

All welcome - *why not stay on for the Lent Lunch?*

SHIRENEWTON LENT LUNCH

Saturday 4th March 2017 at 12:15

in The Saysell Centre (formerly the Church Room)

All welcome

Homemade soup and bread served in a friendly setting!

£5 per person

All profits raised will support **Dogs for Good** – an innovative charity, exploring ways dogs can help people overcome specific challenges and enrich and improve lives and communities. www.dogsforgood.org

Prior booking not essential, but preferred: email
lem.shirenewton@gmail.com to reserve a place

St Thomas' church, Shirenewton
Forthcoming Services
26th March – Mothering Sunday
10:00 Family Service

9th March – Palm Sunday

10:00 Eucharist with distribution of Palms

14th March – Good Friday

10:00 Walk up Gray Hill with Bible Readings

Children and dogs welcome – followed by hot cross buns

14:30 Meditation in Church

16th April – Easter Sunday



YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU CAN YOU HELP?



WITH

Fundraising events for the local community and charities

The village fete

Any new ideas for the the village

Social events

Sponsorship of events

If you are interested in helping
Please contact..

Tony on 641261 tony.prout@hotmail.co.uk

Colin on 641046 colinst@hotmail.co.uk

Volunteers do not necessarily have
the time; they just have the heart

All meetings will be chilled and informal and will be held in the pub

ST PETERS, NEWCHURCH

Services at St Peters are held at 14.30 on the first and third Sundays in the month: if there is a fifth Sunday, a service is held at one of the group churches. Times vary for group services.

The service times and dates until the end of March are as follows:

March 5th 14.30 Family Worship

March 19th 14.30 Eucharist

Services last about an hour and are fairly informal. Everyone is very welcome to join us at any time

Church Events for 2017

July 1st Saturday Summer Fair at Church Farm 12.00 – 5.00 Stalls, bouncy castle, BBQ, teas, raffle

September 15th Friday Harvest Festival at Church Farm 19.00 To be followed by a harvest supper

December 17th Sunday Carol Service 14.30 The Christmas Raffle will be drawn.

Liz McCombe
Churchwarden

SHIRENEWTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION

A.G.M.

Will be held on
Monday, 27th March 2017
at the
Recreation Hall

All residents of the Community are invited to attend this meeting to see how the Recreation Committee has performed during the last year and help plan our direction for the coming years. Residents who would be interested in joining the Committee will be particularly welcome. This is a valuable Community Resource and would benefit by new ideas and suggestions .



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL
*CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd & Making Music,
and is a Registered Charity (no. 112798)*
www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

As we commence our 2017 programme schedule, a lot is happening at CCS! Not only are we busy now rehearsing for our major Spring Concert on **SATURDAY APRIL 1st at St Mary's Priory Church Chepstow (details below)**, we have also been actively involved in the Paula and Elliot Kempton's **Tea & Tango afternoon** at the Drill Hall in February where we provided delicious tea and cakes to support them. Later this month we are launching "**our new recruitment programme with a difference**" – targeting MEN! Watch this space ---

Chepstow Choral Society cannot survive without active singers and support. Our policy is simple – to keep 4-part choral music alive in areas like ours. For that, we need sopranos, altos –AND tenors and basses. If you also feel strongly that societies such as ours are important for our area and town, please help us by joining us!. We have had a welcome influx of new members since the summer – so come along on Wednesday evenings to Chepstow Leisure Centre Drama Room (7.30 – 9.30pm) and find out more!,

Marjorie Duerden (on behalf of CCS). Tel 01291 623310 for further information.

SATURDAY APRIL 1st 2017, 7.30pm

ST MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH, CHEPSTOW

***W. A. MOZART ---- REQUIEM
J. F. HAYDN ----- MARIA THERESA MASS***

***ALISON WRAY (SOPRANO) HELEN BRUCE (ALTO)
ALEX BEVAN (TENOR) PETER BROOKE (BASS)***

CCS ORCHESTRA (Leader PAULA KEMPTON)

Tickets £10.00, available from Chepstow Bookshop & choir members. Please see website (above) for further details

STARGAZING



At around 10 in the evening mid-month, the Constellation of Leo the Lion can be seen to the South. It is one of the few constellations that looks like its namesake. It commemorates the giant lion that Hercules slaughtered as the first of his labours. Leo is dominated by his head, which looks like a sickle or back-to-front question mark. The bright blue-white star Regulus is at the base of the question mark. The name Regulus translates as "prince" in Latin, whilst its Arabic name means "the heart of the lion".

The seven stars of the Great Bear are in the eastern sky and the "W-shaped" constellation of Cassiopeia can be seen in the north-west. Orion the Hunter is still a fine sight in the south-

In the early evening of the 1st the crescent Moon, Venus and Mars form a triangle in the western sky. Venus is much the brighter of the two planets. On the 2nd the three form a line.

Before dawn, the bright planet Jupiter is in the south-west and is just above the star called Spica. The planet Saturn is near the horizon to the south. The almost full Moon is close to Jupiter on the 15th and is near Saturn on the 20th.

In March 1781, William Herschel of Bath was observing stars in the constellation Gemini when he discovered a new planet. This was the first new planet to be seen since the beginning of history and resulted in Herschel being knighted and given a royal pension. In gratitude to the king he wanted to call the planet George! However good sense prevailed and it was named after the god Uranus, conforming to the tradition of naming the planets after characters in classical mythology. Incidentally, Herschel's house in Bath is open to the public.

Q: How does one astronaut on the moon tell another astronaut that he is sorry?
A: He Apollo-gises.

Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall

AGM

Monday 10th April 8pm at the hall

If you would like to find out more about the hall or help run events then please come along.

All welcome.

**Simon Stanley
Chairman
01291 641616**

SHIRENEWTON W.I.

February 2017

'The Shirenewton Murder' presented by Keith Tayton had us on the edge of our seats. Keith informed us about the unfortunate death of a stable boy employed in Shirenewton Hall 120 years ago, he died from a shotgun wound. The tragic death was recorded as accidental. The stable boy's sister wrote to the Home Office questioning the verdict, alas to no avail. Conspiracy theories have been discussed over the years, was it truly an accident? or a murder covered up by the people in authority at that time? What do you think happened?



The next meeting will be the birthday party, March 9th. Shirenewton W.I. will be celebrating 65 years, and we will be enjoying the occasion with fish and chips! And cake of course.

There will be a FASHION SHOW on June 8th at the Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Tickets are now available from Diane Ward (641843) and Sue Davies (641227) £5 includes nibbles and drinks, all are welcome.



Contact:
Carole Jones (President) 673607
Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 641704



Shirenewton Pantomime "A thousand and one tights"



SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

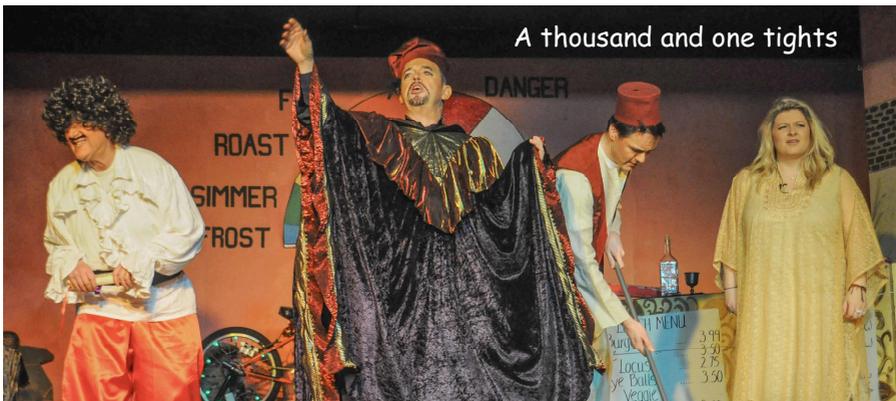
As February comes to an end, March and Spring beckons people's thoughts to Easter holidays and the garden. Mine, as always, turn to internet security. The shopping portal (www.shirenewtonshop.com) has a comprehensive travel section featuring over 50 different websites covering Hotels, Airlines, general travel portals (such as Expedia, Opodo, eBookers, Skyscanner, etc.), car hire, airport parking and some specialist sites like Great Rail Journeys, Legoland and Brittany Ferries. So please book your Easter travel via www.shirenewtonshop.com.

On the side of gardens check out the 'Home & Gardens' category. Looking for inspiration on gifts? The 'Gift Ideas' category will surely assist. BTW: if you come across any old links on the site which don't work please do let me know. The wife found one the other day – very upsetting!

There is nothing particularly exciting happening in the world of computing at present. The hackers seem to be diverted by the various elections around the world! However, that doesn't mean you can let your guard slip. The predicted trends for 2017 include a ramp up in Ransomware (whereby malicious programs encrypt your data and demand a ransom for its release - don't pay just back up), increased attacks on mobile devices and, of course, the ever popular 'advanced payment' scams becoming ever more sophisticated. The real increase in sophistication of the attacks is the quality of the emails sent. There have been some examples of emails which are almost indistinguishable from the real thing. So emails purporting to be from British Gas, BT, etc. no longer have amateur errors (such as spelling mistakes, etc.). So, as always, beware.

One thing to note from personal experience. If you have a btinternet.com email address, be aware that it seems a lot of genuine emails are being caught in spam – especially, bizarrely, those originating from other btinternet.com email addresses. So it's worth checking your spam folder on a weekly basis. On that happy note I'll wish you safe browsing until next time.

David Cornwell
webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com



SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the February meeting

Vacancies on the Council

Following successful interviews, Mrs Michelle Davies of 2 Clearview Court, Shirenewton and Mrs Bryn Price of 'Brynawel', Earlswood were co-opted and welcomed onto the Council to represent the Shirenewton ward. (Contact details in 'Local Contacts' at the back of the Magazine).

Planning applications considered

1. DC/2016/01469 Sunnybank Farm, Earlswood

Alter access to agricultural land from highway (gate already in place). Present entrance no longer big enough for safe access of highway with larger vehicles and or trailed implements/machinery. Current access only 11 feet, require 24. Council recommended approval. (Voting: 6 for/1 abstention).

2. DC/2017/00082 23 Clearview, Shirenewton

Removal of Condition 2 from planning consent DC/2015/01386

Council noted that this application had been submitted whilst work is continuing and refers back to the original application which was unanimously recommended for refusal by this Council. It was felt that there was a disregard for the due planning process.

Council considered the reasons the applicant put forward for removal of Condition 2 and noted that all properties and boundary walls at Clearview were of brick construction, it was further noted that any street lighting issues were a matter for the Highways Department and Victorian lighting would not be in keeping with surrounding properties. Council recommended refusal (Voting: 5 for/2 abstentions).

3. Public Path Extinguishment Order 2016 - Footpaths 7, 8 (part) and 15. Shirenewton/Mynyddbach.

Council recommended approval (Voting: Unanimous)

4. DC/2017/00097 The Gate House, Penyaemawr. Modification or Removal of Condition. Description of Proposal: Variation of conditions 3 (colour of shed) & 4 (time requirement) of planning consent DC/2016/01137.

Council had no objection to the variation of colour and recommended that a time extension be allowed of a further five months. Voting: 6 for/1 abstention).

Council noted that the following two responses had been made to Planning on 13.1.17:

- a) DC/2016/01344 Sunnybank Farm, Earlswood – conversion of redundant agricultural building into residential accommodation. (Majority approval)
- b) DC/2016/01369 Springhill, Earlswood – detached garage. (Unanimous refusal).

Monthly police report

The report was circulated prior to the meeting but no officers attended. Council was advised that the Community Officer for this area is now PC Matt Screen of Chepstow. Two local thefts were reported plus three single vehicle traffic collisions on the Usk Road due to ice and a falling tree. Calls had been received in relation to vehicles being burned out, dumped and rallied round Wentwood Forest. Natural Resources Wales is aware and regular police patrols have been carried out. There were two calls to Brookacre during the month.

Other items of interest

Donation towards defibrillators - Council considered a request for a donation towards the purchase of three additional defibrillators for the community and agreed to make a donation of £260.

Coffee Mornings – as part of community consultation, the Council agreed to arrange coffee mornings to coincide with the Village Markets in the Recreation Hall on 15 April and 16 September 2017 (subject to permission from the organisers). Community Councillors will be present to answer your questions and receive compliments and complaints regarding the work of the Council. Please come along to talk with the local people that represent you and tell us your views.

Dates of next meetings – Monday 6 March and Monday 3 April 2017 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 draft copies 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

Best Kept Village Competition 2017 Can you help?

The Community Council will be entering Shirenewton in the competition again this year and we need to rally the troops.

Judging will take place between 1st - 31st June and marks are given for the appearance and condition of the village, village hall and playing field, war memorial, churchyard, bus shelters and surroundings. The condition of hedges, fences, walls and verges is also taken into account, as well as the tidiness of flower and vegetable gardens, outhouses and sheds. Bonus marks are given for the general appearance of the village, noting the absence of litter and refuse dumps. BUT, marks are deducted for any unsightly areas.

Last year Shirenewton scored well, but lost the Best Kept Village award to Llanfair Discoed, Do you think we can do better than that this year? Of course we can. It will mean everyone in the village helping, not only with their own gardens, plant pots and hanging baskets, but also by being aware of their surroundings and taking care of the public parts of the village - the entrances to the village, weeding and clearing verges and footpaths and picking up litter near your home. Planting troughs will take place in mid-May and if you are able to donate plants, they will be very welcome. If you can help with planting or would like to sponsor a trough, please let me know, offers will be gratefully received.

Shirenewton has entered this competition for several years and scores well because residents are proud of their attractive village and take care of its environment. Let's make a special effort this year and aim to walk away with the Best Kept Village prize.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council attended our Governors meeting on Monday evening and very confidently presented all the projects that have been completed last year. Some of the projects which School Council organised during 2016 included: sponsored triathlon, behaviour questionnaire, anti-bullying sketches, visit to the Senedd, learning walks in Mrs Edwards' Alliance schools, peer observations during staff appointments, Harvest cake sale, Children in Need activities, stalls at the Christmas Fayre ... to name but a few! Check out the 'pupil voice > school council' section of the website to see the full range of projects completed.



Key Stage 2 School Councillors also led a Junior assembly this week sharing their recent decisions, two of which follow next ...

LUNCH TIME FOOTBALL

Some Year 6 boys wrote a letter to School Council detailing how much they enjoy playing football during lunchtime playtime and explaining the problems they are currently facing! After speaking to some of these boys and Mrs Smith, our lead mid-day supervisor, School Council decided that any key stage 2 child who wishes to play football must bring in a change of clothes and change of footwear and will then be allowed to play football on the pitch, even if it's a bit muddy!!!! Currently football is played on a section of the yard which causes many problems for children wanting to play other games. They will write a letter to parents next week and this will start after half term.

ATTENDANCE REWARDS

School Council have devised a list of rewards that all classes who attain an attendance rate above the school target (96.5%), over the course of the term, can choose from:

- Picnic on the meadows
- Extra playtime
- Camp fire with toasting marshmallows
- Movie session
- Non-uniform day
- Class top table with milkshakes

After voting in assembly this week, both Year 3 (99.1%) and Year 6 (96.5%) have chosen the same reward ... a "movie session"!

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

Unfortunately, it will not be feasible to run an Easter Holiday Club. The Summer Holiday club will run, as normal, for the first two weeks of the summer holiday, details will follow nearer the time.

CLIMBING

Massive congratulations to Holly in Year 4 who won the first round of the Welsh Regional Finals - Youth Climbing Series in North Wales last week. Wow! That upside down climbing wall looks extremely difficult!



HEADTEACHER AWARDS

This week's head teacher certificates were awarded to:

| Rec | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Harrison, Oliver & Lucy | Isabelle, William & Natalie | Rose, Chloe & Toby | Ella R, Hudson & Caitlin | Carter, Oscar W & Barny GL | Paige, Amelia & George | Imogen N, Ben & Lloyd |

GOLDEN TICKET WINNERS

Lucky golden tickets winners this week were:

| Rec | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sienna, Evie & Jessica S | Millie, Elisabeth & Emma | Barney, Laila & George S | Evie, Juniper & Anjali | Daniel, Regan & Morgan | Sam, Marcus & Callum | Pippa, Will H & Alex |

PTA NEWS

Save the Date - Friday, 3rd March, 2017. 7pm. Shirenewton Primary School Ladies Night

Who wants to join us for a night of entertainment, shopping, prosecco and cream cakes?

Doors open at 7pm where there will be several stalls selling an array of items, plus some fully qualified beauticians doing mini manicures.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and cream cakes will be available to purchase, plus a licensed bar.

Take your seats at 7.30pm for a fashion show of ladies and children's clothes (modelled by students and volunteers from the school). The show lasts for about 45 minutes, after which you can browse the rails and make purchases. There will be over 1000 items of ladies and children's clothing to suit all tastes, from top high street brands, with savings up to 50% and even 75% off original store prices. Sizes range from 8-22 for ladies and 2-14 years for children (boys and girls). All come with a 28 day full refund policy.

Open Morning

We were delighted to welcome 35 parents into our Maths lessons this week. It was a hugely successful open morning with extremely positive feedback from everyone who attended.

Thank you to Mrs Eickhoff, our Maths co-ordinator, who delivered a detailed presentation explaining how we teach certain mathematical concepts. If you weren't able to attend and are interested in finding out what computational strategies we teach (or did attend and need to refresh your memory) - Mrs Eickhoff's power point will be put on the website in the next few days ... we will send a schoop when it's uploaded!

STAFFING NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Burgham will be returning to school following her maternity leave and will be teaching Year 3 full time after half term. Whilst we are very excited to be welcoming Mrs Burgham back, at the same time are extremely sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs McDonald, who has been a valuable and hard working member of our team. Hopefully, we will still benefit from Mrs McDonald's first-class teaching skills as she will be our first-call supply teacher.

Mrs Dennehy has also provided the staffing committee governors with her return to work date (Monday 24th April) and they have approved her request to return to teaching part-time (Mondays and Tuesdays). During the summer term, Mrs Dennehy will cover classes across the whole school releasing staff to attend courses or meetings and covering other non-contact time and illnesses.

PARENTS' EVENINGS

There will be a change of dates for some parents' evenings this term. Spring term consultations are scheduled to take place on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th March and this will remain as planned for Y1, Y2, Y4, Y5 and Y6 classes. However, Y3 consultations have been brought forward to the week beginning 13th February to allow Mrs McDonald to report on progress before she finishes covering Mrs Burgham's maternity leave. Also, as Reception parents have only just had their consultations with Mr Ledville-Smith in January - their next set of parents evenings will be postponed until Wednesday 3rd May and Thursday 4th May.

Teachers will be arranging the appointment times next Friday so if you have a preference for a later or earlier time or a particular day, please let school know before then!

SAINSBURYS ACTIVE KIDS



Once again, we will be collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers this year. Please send in any vouchers you have to help us top up our sports and cooking equipment.

We will also be selling tickets for a raffle on the night, with the top prize being a £50 voucher to spend on clothes from the fashion show, plus other lovely prizes donated by our stall holders.

We will be selling tickets at £4 each or 3 tickets for £10. All adult tickets will include a glass of fizz (a non alcoholic option will also be available). Tickets available in advance from the school (01291 641774) or contact Shirenewton Primary School PTA via Facebook.

3) **The next PTA meeting** will be Monday 6th February, 6.30pm in the school, all welcome!

4) **Don't forget you can leave an email address at** r.dalton1976@outlook.com to be put on our list of event volunteers.



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MeetTheBeat25

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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

January saw us meeting at the Recreational Hall, our intention was to set up two telescopes and view the night sky. Unfortunately, the evening was wet and very cloudy and any thought of using the telescopes were out. Luckily our speaker for the evening Dr David Thomas had prepared a talk to incorporate the night sky as it would look on that evening if it were not for the cloudy conditions, projected on to the screen. The software allowed us to put in our coordinates and the date and time and showed us the night sky on that evening as viewed from the Recreational Field. A very clever piece of technology!

We also showed a short historical film entitled 'This Fair Land of Gwent', which was made by Monmouthshire County Council on 15mm film.

We held our Annual Dinner on the 14th February at the Huntsman Hotel, where we had Peter Bonvoisen as our after dinner speaker giving a talk on 'Llanmellin, Iron Age Fort'

A very enjoyable evening was had with good food, an interesting talk and of course most important good company

Dates for your Diary:

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

Tuesday, 28th March Society Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 pm.
Speaker for the evening will be Prof. Maddy Grey who will
give a talk entitled 'Medieval Cross Slab Tombs

Everyone welcome at the above events

Further information on our web-site: www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety

FAIRTRADE NEWS



On the internet you can readily find a graphic which illustrates the fact that 10 enormous multi-national corporations overwhelmingly control the products that we generally buy. It is sometimes quite difficult for consumers to trace exactly who owns what. I found it interesting that 2 varieties of porridge oats dominate on supermarket shelves. I noticed that first one, then the other would have some sort of special offer - buy 2 at a reduced price, or 10p off this week etc. Competition in action. Mmmm. I found that in fact Scott's Oats and Quaker Oats are owned by the same company! The jolly Scotsman, complete with kilt is pictured on a box that states that the oats are 'milled in Scotland' - some are grown in Scotland (as explained on the website) - whether all are grown there is not clear. 'Quaker' encourages us to think of probity, but it has nothing to do with the businesses set up in the UK that had a paternalistic and caring attitude to its workforce. Both Scott's and Quaker are owned, in fact, by PepsiCo! (Incidentally Mornflake Oats are produced by the 4th oldest family firm in England. Independent!!) Btw I had absorbed the idea that Body Shop is now owned by L'Oreal. BUT I now find that L'Oreal is owned by my old favourite, the baby-milk producing Nestle!

However, stepping down from my soapbox (temporarily) - Sustainability is one of the core criteria for FT and it is encouraging that 1 of the largest dairy companies in New Zealand has committed to source animal feed that contains palm oil only from a sustainable source. This is great news for the threatened animals in Indonesia like orang-utans and tigers.

FT Fortnight is 27/2-12/3 this year and of course this year Chepstow is celebrating 10 years of being a Fairtrade town. This is quite an achievement. Our status has to be comprehensively reviewed every 2 years. Masses of evidence have to be compiled, showing our activities. It is quite a bit of work! Reading of the difference we help make to poor producers' lives is the encouragement that keeps us lugging boxes around, turning up at school assemblies, local markets, running tea parties, compiling evidence and generally trying to inform consumers of the power we all have to make a difference!

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com



Daniel & Matthew Haines **LLANVAIR LANDSCAPES**

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GARDENING CORNER

One of the key pleasures I get from gardening –despite the obvious ones of enjoying your home grown produce and keeping fit(ish) – is enjoying what nature has to share with you.

In the past I have talked about badger cubs playing in the field alongside our garden, watching a weasel hunting mice whilst I was sorting out our log shed, as well as dormice in our tunnel and the most recent attention from an otter on our fish ponds. Without being in the garden, you would miss these wonderful occurrences. The weather has improved enough over the last few days and the soil has dried up just enough, to allow me to spend time out in the flower beds, cutting the old growth down, with the assistance of the 'other' head gardener, then weeding and digging over the soil. All this was to the sound of the woodpecker drumming away at a very large beech tree in the field below us - definitely more melodious than some of the music you hear on the radio these days! I love to feed the birds and I use a weeping beech tree alongside the house for this purpose. It has the added advantage of being ideally situated to sit in the comfy chair and watch what comes along. We get all the usual 'garden' birds, but looking up from my toils this week I witnessed the arrival of our local sparrow hawk, swooping low and fast round the tree and then flying up into a very large ash tree at the end of the garden. I didn't see whether it had successfully ambushed any of the feeding birds, but it was obviously aiming to keep a watching brief. Eventually the birds started to drift back in, sure that it was safe to commence feeding again. A family group of long tailed tits arrived and started mobbing the fat squares. The sparrow hawk was still around and swooped back down again, catching some of the long tailed tits unawares. Realising they couldn't fly away they retreated to some of the finer branches and sat looking at the hawk, which had now taken up residence at the top of the tree. It moved to a 'better' branch on the other side of the tree, thinking it could probably get to the little birds, but as it did so the little birds fluttered across to the other side of the tree, again hiding in the finer branches which would stop the hawk reaching them. Back and forth the hawk went for some five minutes, each time the long tailed tits changing position. Eventually the hawk decided it had better things to do and flew off to find prey elsewhere. I've seen this happen several times now and you have to admire those tiny little birds for keeping their nerve and not panicking. There always appears to be some drama happening outside the window, and most of this would be missed if you didn't enjoy time outside in the midst of it all.

Work is starting to pick up now as the first seed sowing of salad crops and the peas and broad beans has taken place in the warmth of the propagating greenhouse. The hot bench is heated to a steady 20 degrees, which is ideal for encouraging most seeds to germinate.

The postie has recently delivered various packages, which have included shallots, new potato varieties (including some sweet potatoes, which we are trying for the first time) as well as some soft fruit plants (raspberries and strawberries) and dahlia tubers and gladioli bulbs for keeping the flower arranger in the house happy. The shallots have already been planted, but the potatoes have been left in a wooden tray to 'chit' and will probably be planted out in April whenever the

weather improves enough. The raspberries have been planted out in the fruit cage whilst the strawberries and dahlias have been transplanted into pots and will remain in the greenhouse – the latter until probably May time, when frosts are no longer a problem. The strawberries will also be planted in the fruit cage once they have grown on a bit. We have had a fruit cage for many years but it has not functioned for probably the last 10. I hadn't taken the netting off, when we had a bad snowfall one night (yes it does happen occasionally). The weight of the snow on the net bent all the supports and made a right mess of the cage and things went downhill from there. Ten years on there were ash trees big enough to make into firewood, which had grown through the netting – you could say it was a bit of a mess! The trees have all been cut and poisoned, the firewood burnt, and new beds and paths created. Although I say so myself the cage is looking quite good! All that there is left to do is erect side netting and then buy some netting to go over the top of the cage. Although there won't be that many raspberries this year, hopefully next year will be a bumper crop.

As the weather permits I will continue to weed and clean up the raised beds in the vegetable garden. Last year's leeks and Brussel sprouts have all but finished, but we are still picking savoy cabbages and some kale. These will finish in the next couple of weeks, but I've noticed that the first florets of purple sprouting broccoli are just starting to appear so it's looking as though we will continue to keep picking fresh produce at least for a few more weeks yet. The stored garlic are now almost finished but we are still using our own shallots, onions and potatoes, although this milder weather won't do them any favours.

In the tunnels and large greenhouse I have completed removing all of the spent soil and replaced with a nice mixture of soil and manure. Whilst replacing the soil in the greenhouse I took the opportunity to plant a crop of early potatoes as well. Bit too early really, but I will cover them over with horticultural fleece once the shoots start to appear above the ground. If not the first frost would soon cut them to the ground. I noticed in the big tunnel that the apricots and nectarines are starting to get ready to flower – the buds are definitely swelling. Hopefully this year we won't get a late frost that destroys the crop – unlike last year. But the trees are too big to cover up, so we can only 'go with the flow'.

The mild weather won't be doing any favours for the bees and I have continued to monitor food supplies. All hives have been given a bag of fondant icing and some are taking it down whilst others are not. One sunny, but cold day last week I noticed that eight of the hives had bees flying from the entrances, so a good sign. But I was a bit despondent, thinking that the other seven had probably already perished. This would have been a huge loss, but certainly not unheard of in a bad year. The weather eventually turned much milder and I was pleased to see bees at the front of every hive, one or two had just that, one or two bees, so these hives may have perished and the bees I saw may have been 'nosey neighbours' seeing if there was anything worth stealing. Bees don't stand on ceremony if they think they can get away with it! Hopefully by the time I write next month's page the situation will be clearer. I hope it will be good news, but you can only do your best.

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

SARA (SEVERN AREA RESCUE ASSOCIATION)

SARA is recruiting! The team at Beachley are looking for new crew, and for new supporters to help with fundraising, and also for other roles in running the Lifeboat & Rescue Station to a professional standard.



The SARA Team is getting busier each year, and 2017 has already seen a high number of callouts for the land search and the lifeboat crew. Have you got what it takes to join your local Search and Rescue Organisation? Would you like to support it? The Supporters of SARA is a small but growing team of members who are not operational, but help to raise the essential money, which is needed to keep the

Station operational. Fundraisers will need to commit to supporting at least 6 events a year. Other Supporters have skills such as administration and vehicle mechanics which are essential to keeping the operation going. SARA is having an Open Evening at Beachley on Thurs 30 March, for people interested in becoming 'Supporters of SARA'.

SARA is also looking for new crew members to join the Land Search Team, with a training programme starting in May. Once qualified, crew who would like to can then also train for lifeboats, swift water or cliff rescue as well. Training generally happens on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings.

Whether you are thinking about training to become operational crew, or to help in other ways, download and send-in the Application Form from www.sara-rescue.org.uk/join-us, or contact beachley.trainingmanager@sara-rescue.org.uk if you would like more information.



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2pm - 11:45pm

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**Bands to be
announced!**

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Nerys's Natty Nosh and Friends.

My husband is a huge fan of kulfi ice cream, but, only the way that it's made by his grandmother in India. The smell of the cardamom and saffron when it is being made is divine! I decided to invoke some of those heady aromas into a Panna



Cotta. I had found a recipe by Rachel Allen which I attempted to adapt to make it dairy free. Unfortunately I couldn't get my hands on any gelatin leaves, so instead found a Sainsbury Panna cotta mix. I have to say that this made this dish incredibly easy to make (almost embarrassingly so!). It was all made the night before, to ensure setting (although it was set within a couple of hours) and zero stress on the day of eating!

Cardamom Panna Cotta

Ingredients

- 12 green cardamom pods
- 100 ml Alpro single cream
- 400 ml Coconut milk can
- Sainsbury Panna cotta mix
- 1 mango, peeled and cut into slices, to decorate



The dairy cream alternatives

Method

1. Crush the cardamom pods with a heavy knife. You should find little black seeds inside.
2. Place the cardamom seeds, cream and some of the coconut milk in a NutriBullet (or something similar) and blend.
3. Place in a pan on a medium heat and add the panna cotta mix
4. Add the rest of the coconut milk and whisk
5. Divide between 6 small cups and chill in the fridge for about 3 hours or until just set.
6. Serve topped with some mango slices and grated lime zest.



Cardamom Panna Cotta and mango

Thank you Caryl Nagrani for sharing this recipe with us



Shirenewton Pantomime "A thousand and one tights"





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Morning Prayer: 3rd Sunday (9.00am)
Evening Prayer: 2nd & 4th Sunday (6.00pm)
Evening Prayer & Short Communion: 3rd Sunday (6.00pm)
No evening service on the 1st Sunday in the month.

Saint Andoenus, Mounton Holy Eucharist: Every Sunday at 10.15am

Saint Peter, St. Pierre Holy Eucharist (1662 rite): Every Sunday at 11.30am

Saint Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton Holy Eucharist (Contemporary rite) at 10am
Morning Prayer 10am (Once a month)

Combined Group Services:

30th APRIL 2017 (ST. PIERRE)

30th JULY 2017 (MATHERN)

29th OCTOBER 2017 (SHIRENEWTON)

31st DECEMBER 2017 (MOUNTON)

N B There will be no other Services on these days

SEPARATE NOTICE WILL BE GIVEN OF ANY
ADDITIONAL SERVICES OR VARIATIONS

LOCAL CONTACTS

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Terry Walters
Telephone 01291 641338 or email terencewalters@hotmail.com*

Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Rector | Revd Julian White Jel.white@btinternet.com | 01291 622317 |
| Parish Priest | Revd Nansi Davies CBE | 01633 400 519 |
| Lay Eucharistic Minister | Gilly Lambert | 01291 641 175 |
| Parish Visitor Coordinators | Revd Nansi Davies CBE Diane Marlow | 01633 400 519 01291 641 407 |
| Church Wardens | Sally Saysell Paul Morcombe | 01291 641 369 01291 641 671 |
| PCC Secretary | Bill Clark | 01291 641 783 |
| PCC Treasurer | Graham Lambert | 01291 641 175 |
| PCC Members | Mark Broughton Charles Eickhoff Janet Horton James Leney Jane Smith-Haddon Frances Gray Andrew Baker Kevin Bounds | 01291 641 797 01291 641 716 01291 641 783 01291 641 271 01291 641 525 01291 622 465 01291 641 925 01291 641 648 |
| Gift Aid Secretary | Ruth Savagar | 01291 641 411 |
| Organists | Karen Millar Ruth Savagar James Leney | 01291 650 521 01291 641 411 01291 641 271 |
| Sunday Club | Lynn Morcombe | 01291 641 671 |
| Tower Captain | Mike Penney | 01291 650 653 |
| Saysell Centre Booking | Glynis MacDonald | 01291 641 818 |
| Safeguarding Officer | Lynn Morcombe | 01291 641 671 |
| Church Flowers | Maureen Moody | 01291 641 524 |
| Parish Magazine Editor | Terry Walters | 01291 641 338 |
| 200 Club | Graham Lambert | 01291 641 175 |

Church of St Tewdrics's Mathern

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

MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Clerk to Community Council | Hilary Counsell shirenewtoncc@gmail.com | 01291 421307 |
| Shirenewton Ward: | Bryn Price Michelle Davies Mario Lenza Richard Kopp Beverley Moore | 01291 641217 01291 641583 01291 641333 01291 641581 01291 641532 |
| Mynyddbach Ward | Lynne Prosser Ian Moore | 01291 641666 01291 650766 |
| Newchurch West | Ian Martin | 01291 650014 |
| Earlswood Ward | Paul Harris Chair Ken Morton | 01291 650871 01291 650268 |
| MCC for Shirenewton | Graham Down grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk | 01291 621846 |
| Member of Parliament | David Davies daviesd@parliament.uk | 020 7219 8360 |

Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts

Comm. Police Officer Louise Thorpe 01633 642068
louise.thorpe@gwent.pnn.police.uk
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Beverley Moore 01291 641532

Earlswood Sue Leat 01291 641207

Other Local Organisations

Beavers Julie Hitchcock 01291 650548

Brownies Bev. Leaf 01291 641680

Jaci Crocombe 01291 641681

Church Fete

Earlswood Hope Mrs Sylvia Jeremiah, Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726

Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel

Avril Smith 01291 650733

Gaerllwyd Baptist

Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA

Girl Guides

Helen Cann 01291 650835 cannhelen@gmail.com

Recreation Association

Gordon Hughes 01291 641356 gordon.hughes3@tesco.net

Recreation Hall booking

Beryl Saysell 01291 641637

St Peters Church Newchurch

Enid Heritage 01291 622708

Shirenewton Local History Society

Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com

Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)

Neil Fuller 01291 641324

Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Initiative for Local Enterprise (SMILE)

Charles Eickhoff 01291 641716 eickhoff@shirenewton.org

Caerwent Group Mothers Union

Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer

Auriol Horton 01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com

Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818

glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Shirenewton Play Group

Beverly Lindsay Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com

Shirenewton Primary School

Mrs Jill Mitchell, Associate Head Teacher 01291 641774

email jillianmitchell@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Jayne Edwards 01291 641774

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Shirenewton Tennis Association

P Brabon 01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com

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Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.

DIARY DATES

| March | Event | Location |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 3rd 7:00pm | Shirenewton Primary School Ladies Night | Shirenewton Primary School |
| 4th 10:00am | Parish Quiet Morning & Lent Lunch | Saysell Centre |
| 5th 6:00pm | Evening Worship | Shirenewton Church |
| 5th 2:30pm | Family Worship | St Peters Church Newchurch |
| 6th 7:30pm | Community Council Meeting | Recreation Hall |
| 13th 2:00pm | Shirenewton Local History Society | Recreation Hall |
| 18th 10:00am | Shirenewton Village Market | Recreation Hall |
| 19th 2:30pm | Eucharist | St Peters Church Newchurch |
| 26th 10:00am | Mothering Sunday | Shirenewton Church |
| 27th | Recreation Hall AGM | Recreation Hall |
| 28th 7:30pm | Shirenewton Local History Society | Huntsman Hotel |
| 30th evening | SARA Open evening | Beachley Station (Just passed the Ferry Hotel) |
| April | Event | Location |
| 1st 7:30pm | Chepstow Choral Society | ST Mary's Church Chepstow |
| 1st 7:00pm | Springfest | Huntsman Hotel |
| 2nd 6:00pm | Evening Worship | Shirenewton Church |
| 3rd 7:30pm | Community Council Meeting | Recreation Hall |
| 9th 7:15pm | Shirenewton Women's Institute | Recreation Hall |
| 10th 8:00pm | Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall AGM | Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall |
| 15th 10:00am | Shirenewton Village Market | Recreation Hall |

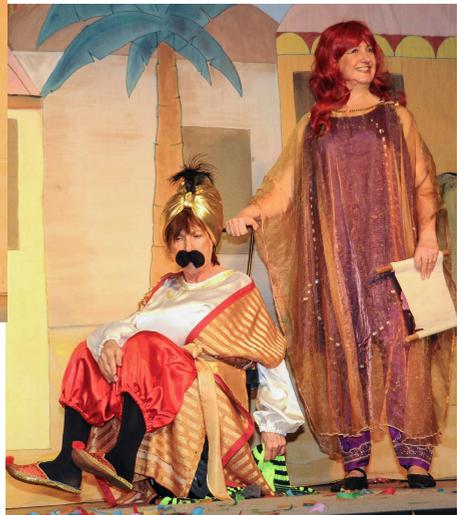
Readers and Sides Persons

St Thomas á Beckett Church, Shirenewton

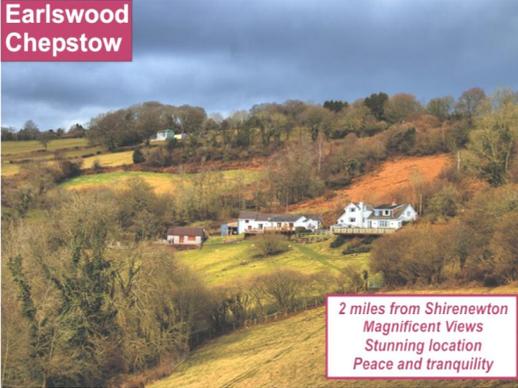
| Date | Sunday Service | Readers | Sides Persons |
|------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5th March | Lent 1 | Bob Grattan Frances Carey | Bob Grattan Claire Lewis |
| 12th March | Lent 2 | Sally Saysell Margaret Lock | Graham Lambert Margaret Lock |
| 19th March | Lent 3 | James Leney Joanne Tomlins | Joanne Tomlins Claire Lewis |
| 26th March | Mothering Sunday | | |



Shirenewton Pantomime
"A thousand and one tights"



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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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Editorial policy is to print what you provide, space and technology permitting.

The views expressed are those of the contributor.

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

Deadline for April 2017 issue is 9:00am 27th March+