

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

September 2016



*The Rood Screen at the rebuilt St Teilo's Church
Welsh Folk Museum St Fagans Cardiff*

FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

The other week I watched the commemoration on T.V. of the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. The various programmes were, on the whole, imaginatively and sensitively presented. About the same time I caught part of a quiz show where one of the young adult contestants failed to identify the date of the Battle of Britain in WW 2 ("It's not my subject, mate"). I lamented how, in some sections of society, recent history was apparently an unknown and irrelevant consideration despite enormous loss of life and the sombre influence it exercised upon future generations.

I thought that I was well acquainted with the situation. After all, was not my grandfather part of all this? Had he not fought – and been injured – at the Somme? Had he not, as a stretcher - bearer, seen the horror and the carnage at first hand? Do I not remember him (he died when I was eight years old) as a somewhat remote and cynical figure who would have "Nothing to with all that" in terms of acts of remembrance?

But it was only after seeing the broadcast programmes that, over sixty years later, I fully linked the two.

Then came the realisation that my grandfather was probably indelibly influenced by the incidents of 1914 – 1918 to the extent that he was never the same again. He had changed from being a young man, full of vim and with a sense of levity (as displayed by his non-combatant siblings), into a person of remoteness nursing his own demons.

It took me over sixty years to realise that he was not the person I thought I knew. The situation compounds itself. He had to absorb, for example, that his eldest son had died, at the age of twenty, of tuberculosis. The shadow reached into the next generation. My mother, born some eight years after her father's traumatic experiences, also only remembers him as a cold and distant figure. She too had to deal with the fact that two husbands and a daughter died at a young age. Add to this, that during this time along came the Second World War. How ironic for my grandfather who had previously survived (just) 'the war to end all wars'.

This family history, and worse, would have been echoed by many. But it is only now that something approaching a complete picture of events dawns on me and I have spent a working lifetime involved in acts of remembrance.

I mention all this simply because one tends to think that one knows somebody intimately. It comes as something of a shock to discover that there is often a side, or a background, to somebody that has hitherto been unknown and offers a reason for why they have developed in a given way.

I find it significant to reflect on the certainty that Jesus knew the true depth of characters. Whereas people, in general, take so much on face value, he had the ability to perceive the true identity of people and what has shaped them over the years. Prostitutes, tax-collectors on the 'make', those who betrayed trust, the weak, the 'lost sheep' – people whom society rejects and are smugly critical of – all have another life story which attracts his concern and compassion.

Do we, who are called to follow his example, extend the same degree of insight?

Harvest Festival

Sunday 2nd October
Family Service
10.00 am

Shirenewton Church.
Bring a harvest basket to
decorate the church!

Followed by

Village Harvest Lunch

12.30 for 1.00 Earlswood Hall

Bring your family and friends for
a sociable community lunch followed by a
charity auction of harvest offerings.

Drinks at the bar.

Tickets: £5.00 adults

£2.00 children under 12

from:

Jane Eickhoff 01291 641716

eickhoffjane@gmail.com

Noelyn Prout 01291 641261

Sally Saysell 01291 641369

Get your tickets early!



SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

I hope everyone had glitch-free holidays. Unfortunately I did not. For some random reason BT decided to downgrade my Infinity fiber broadband to cooper. The pain, the humiliation – and that’s just talking to BT to fix it. Anyway, after many hours of fruitless endeavour I eventually got to talk to someone with a brain and it is now, three weeks later, restored.

Firstly, I’d like to address a couple of older stories which I had intended to cover but then failed to do so as I wrote the last entry at 35,000ft. I’ll not go into details. I’ll just provide a brief summary and the urls for those interested.

Patent Trolls (aka Patent Enforcement Agents) being let into Europe. In 2017, the EU is going to open the Unified Patent Court. This court will make it much easier for patent trolls and corporations in the US to reach into the UK. Read about it here: <http://tinyurl.com/jropbst> - this was initially a Brexit interest story but I think it of interests all the same. An interesting article in the Guardian (yes – I do read it from time to time) re Mark Zuckerberg (him of Facebook fame) taping over his webcam. Read it here: <http://tinyurl.com/h8xhwbe>

An internet second contains: 7,315 Tweets; 737 Instagram photos uploaded; 2,242 Skype calls; and 129,387 YouTube video views and, of course, much more. Read about it here: <http://tinyurl.com/lnpwojm> - this is a very cool website which gives a great impression of the enormity of it all with real time counting.

I’ve started investigating a replacement for Google Picasa. Lightroom is apparently ‘ubiquitous’ in serious photographic circles and is very reasonably priced (I.e. it’s not free). However, I understand that Mylio (from “My life is organised”) is very good. More research is needed.

At the end of July, the Church shopping portal had earned the Church just over £500 – as always, that’s cash paid into Church coffers. So please keep using the shopping portal (www.shirenewtonshop.com) as those small percentages of deals add up and provide a worthy contribution. As I read back this entry I’m afraid it’s a bit fragmented. Sorry. Terry has a deadline tomorrow and I landed at 7:30am this morning from Sri Lanka via Dubai – my brain is barely functional – perhaps I could apply to BT?
Safe browsing David Cornwell

BRING AND SHARE EVENING: OLD WYE BRIDGE

Saysell Centre (Church Room)

Saturday 22 October 7.30pm

Bring a plate of food and come with some friends to find out about the fascinating history and bicentenary of the Old Wye Bridge in Chepstow from John Burrows.



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

NEWS FROM ST PETER'S NEWCHURCH

Songs of Praise

A highly successful Songs of Praise was held on Thursday, 4th August. The evening went with great gusto despite the usual small hitches of needing more readings at short notice, possibly not enough hymn books, and would the urn boil in time?

The congregation had made a selection of their favourite hymns which Kath, our indefatigable organist, accompanied with her usual flair. The singing almost raised the roof, and the readings were diverse, amusing and interesting.

Refreshments were served afterwards, and it was almost dark as the last attendees left for home. Many thanks to all who came and supported us!

Harvest Festival and Supper

A reminder that the Harvest Festival and Supper will be held in the barn at Church Farm (next door to the church) at 7pm on Friday 16th September. Many of you will be aware that last year the decorations were absolutely fabulous, making this traditional celebration of farming and the bounty of the countryside truly memorable!

We are delighted to be able to welcome the Bishop to this café style service, and we hope as many people as possible will come to celebrate Harvest Home.

Book your tickets for the supper! Apply to Liz McCombe T.652957. Adults £8.50, children £4.50

No collection will be taken during the service, which is to be held by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Howard Stone.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

There appears to be a difference of opinion between the Church in Wales and the rest of the country regarding the date of Remembrance Sunday this year. The Lectionary gives it as 6th November; Royal British Legion and Churches Together websites give 13th November. It has traditionally been the Sunday nearest to the 11th Remembrance Sunday is 13th November, not 6th as specified in CinW Lectionary.

SHIRENEWTON W.I JULY & AUGUST 16

On July 14th the topic was 'life in journalism' by Marcus Grodentz. Marcus gave us an insight into his journalistic career in London. It certainly was an education to hear about his experiences.

As tradition dictates we had a Summer meal for the August meeting, this year we frequented the 'Woodland Tavern', everyone appeared to enjoy the meal and the good company, unfortunately, not all the W.I. ladies could attend, they were sorely missed and hopefully we will see them soon. Another enjoyable night of wining and dining, how can you ladies resist joining the W.I.?

The next meeting is 8th September, 'a welsh culture evening'. Please feel free to come along, remember there will be a **free** cup of tea **and** a biscuit.

Contact:

Carole Jones (President) 673607

Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 641704



HARVEST FESTIVAL

At Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel

Sunday 25th September at 3.00 p.m.. Come and join us.

At Earlswood Hope Methodist Chapel

Sunday 2nd October at 3.00 p.m. All are welcome.

There will be no Monday night services. We meet at 3 p.m. every Sunday alternately at both Chapels. There is a notice on the Valley Chapel gate indicating dates

THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD.

LOVE!

I found an article the other day that made me think about my ability to love. The article suggests we replace the word 'Love' and 'It' from the reading shown below, and replace it with our name, more about that later.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, it always trusts, it always hopes, it always perseveres.

Love is not just a word or a feeling, it is an action, we must all work at love, with a partner or spouse, child or friend. During my misspent time I did learn one piece of Latin that has stuck with me through the many years I have spent on this planet, 'Amor Vincit Omnia', which means 'love conquers all', and my Faith leads me to believe in this statement.

Now back to the main topic of this article, the first sentence is 'Love is patient, remember I am now replacing 'Love' with my name, so it will read, 'Rick is patient'. You only need to ask my wife and she'll let you know how patient I am. I have all the patience in the world with people, animals and alike, but give me an inanimate object that doesn't do what I expect it to do, then watch out, my patience wears out very quickly.

Therefore my darling wife would say I can't move on from 'Rick is patient', because I have to spend some time trying to learn to be more patient.

So why not try it out believe me, you will probably get further than me, because I'm still stuck on 'Rick is patient'. Guess what? It's my works computer that is testing my patience at present.

If more people spent time reflecting on 'Love', loving their neighbours for example, wouldn't the world be a better place?

Have any of you heard about Saturday Night Church? It's a wonderful service that takes place in the Rainbow every Saturday night starting at 7pm. A few weeks ago I was asked to speak at the service, and as part of my talk, I used this meditation and asked those present to reflect and let me know where they are? To my surprise, some were no further than me.

This weekend I got annoyed with an inanimate object, namely my computer. I updated my application, (Operating system), as invited by the provider, (notice how I am keeping their name out of the article), but a clue, you look out of them to the world outside.

Well, when I downloaded this application, I found I could no longer send emails, I received them okay, but I had to go through the web to send. I was not happy. I tried to get answers, but nothing came. I was getting more and more annoyed. Patient's is a virtue, unfortunately, as said I lack virtue in this area of my life. In desperation I looked on the web via my email provider, and hay presto, they gave me the answer. I am now able to send emails from my main box.

I am still praying today that the Lord will teach me to be patient in all areas of my life.

Guess what? I am listening to UBC whilst typing this article and they are playing a song, and the artist is singing *'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, it always trusts, it always hopes, it always perseveres.

Well I never! I would never have expected that. I didn't even know that someone had written a song about *1 Corinthians 13:4-7*.

As I shared with you all before, I have enjoyed Ignatius Spiritual Journey, and I still enjoy my times with the Lord today, but a the next how ever long, I am going to mediate on my failing, 'Love is patient', and ask the Lord to fill me with His patience, so I may learn to truly be patient with all things. Then I move onto the second statement.

May our Loving Lord be with each and every one of you now and always.

Yours in Christ.

Rick Hayes

SAFETY FIRST.

Hello to you all,

I am sharing with you an article I produced for the Tata Steel Delivering Our Future magazine, I have to produce an article every other week for the magazine, as the chaplain has a regular column.

This month I was asked to write about health and safety, and I know the communications department thought they had stumped me, as they are rather bemused that I always manage to bring scripture into the column. Well what do they expect; I am the chaplain after all.

At work we are told that we must look out for each other, and we are all responsible for health and safety, although we do of course have a department dedicated to this area. Working within heavy industry, using various chemicals and of course 6000 degrees plus iron in the furnace you wouldn't expect anything less.

Below is the article I wrote for the magazine, I hope you enjoy it. Also it is worth noting, that it doesn't matter what you do, or whether you are retired etc. health and safety is still an everyday activity.

Believe it or not safety issues have been around since the beginning of time. All living things have the ability to hurt themselves if they don't think before they act. Most animals though weigh up the pros and cons, and the risks involved before embarking on anything dangerous.

Here is a piece from the Bible: Genesis 43:9

"I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life."

I myself will guarantee his safety. You can hold me personally responsible for him. Under health & Safety we are to look out for each other, trying to guarantee our safety in everything we do. If we see someone acting dangerously, or taking shortcuts that could cause them and others harm, it is our duty to speak with that person and try to alert them to the implications of their actions. Otherwise we may find we will constantly blame ourselves should something happen that causes injury or worse. *I will bear the blame before you all my life.*

I don't think any of us intentionally intend to hurt ourselves, there are the exceptions to the rule, those who need to self-harm and those who feel they need to end their life, but on the whole most of us don't mean to cause ourselves any harm.

But we must all remember, health and safety doesn't stop at the works gate. We need to think health and safety when we are driving home, when we are out and about, when we are working around the home, in fact in every aspect of our daily lives.

Those of you who have undertaken first aid courses know that health & Safety also comes in to that, where we need to make sure the area is safe for us to administer first aid.

We undertake risk assessments every minute of every day, although we may not realise it. For example: is it safe to overtake the vehicle in front. Don't put your fingers in way of a knife when cutting food, (Like I did the other day).

My message to all of us, yes including me, be safe and look out for each other.

So what do you think? To look at the first applications of health and safety we can go right back to Genesis. And even then the writer shows that we have a responsibility for each other, and we have to be accountable for our actions.

I think the communications department will try even harder to catch me out, and all I can say to that is, thank goodness for electronic Bibles, because you can search them using key words and all the text attributed to that word is then displayed and you then only have to read each to find something appropriate to use.

Take care each and every one of you and may the Lord Bless and protect you all.

Yours in Christ.
Revd Rick Hayes Assistant Curate.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the July/August meetings

There are still two vacant positions for the co-optation 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 in July

DC/2016/00646 Upper House, Pen-y-Cae Mawr, Usk

Conversion of existing stables to ancillary home office and amendment to existing access to highway.

Council noted that there was no Statement of Intent regarding the change of use of the building and questioned the validity of the application. Also that the proposal would enlarge the footprint by 50% as well as increasing the elevation, however there were no objections registered on the Mon CC website. Council recommended approval of the application with a Planning Condition linking the use of the proposed home office to the residential occupation of the property.

Planning applications considered in August:

1. DC/2016/00566 The Cayo Farm, Red House Lane, Shirenewton

First floor extension above existing garage of dwelling house.

Council recommended refusal.

2. DC/2016/00800 20 Clearview Court, Shirenewton

Proposed first floor extension.

Council recommended approval.

3. DC/2016/00761 Church House, Red House Lane, Shirenewton

Alterations to windows and new roof lights with associated works.

Council recommended approval.

4. DC/2016/00828 Agricultural Notification. Grondra Wood, Shirenewton.

Tracking required to facilitate mechanised extraction of timber from Welsh Government Woodland Estate in accordance with Forest Design Plan. This application was noted by the Council with no further comment made.

5. Council finalised the response to the Planning Inspectorate regarding Appeal E6840/C/16/3151033.

6. Council considered the rationalisation of public footpaths at Mynyddbach and unanimously approved the proposal.

Other items of interest:

Annual donations from the 2016/17 budget were made to the following local organisations:

Shirenewton PCC	£250
Shirenewton Recreation Association	£300
Shirenewton Local History Society	£80
Earlswood Hall	£300
Earlswood Hope/Valley Churches	£180
St Peters Church, Newchurch	£60
Shirenewton Playgroup	£100
Monmouthshire County CAB	£60

Vehicle Activated Signage – the faulty signs on the Crick road and near the school have been reported to Mon CC Highways Department.

Dates of next meetings - Monday 5th September and Monday 3rd October, 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

STARGAZING



The seven stars of the Plough can be seen in the northern evening sky whilst the “W” of the constellation Cassiopeia lies to the northeast. The constellation Pegasus includes a large square that lies to the south. The Summer Triangle made up of the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair continues to dominate the night sky to the South. Deneb forms the tail of the constellation Cygnus, the Swan which lies pretty much overhead. Its brightest stars form a cross against the background of the Milky Way. The head of the Swan is a beautiful double star called Albireo. Viewed through a small telescope it can be seen to be a striking pair of stars, one coloured blue the other gold.

In the evening sky, the planets Mars and Saturn can be seen just above the horizon to the south-west at twilight. They form a triangle with the bright star Antares at the beginning of the month, with Mars moving left out of the group as the month progresses. The First Quarter Moon (half is bright) joins this group on the 8th.

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.

RUNNING RACE 11TH SEPT IN EARLSWOOD

On Sunday 11 September, Chepstow Harriers will again be hosting the Wentwood Woodlark running race for the 3rd year. This is an 8 mile ‘multi terrain’ race, which means it is mainly on footpaths but with some tarmac stretches. A field of around 100 is expected, mostly local amateur runners - some fast and plenty not-so-fast!

The race is based at the Earlswood Village Hall. It starts at 11am, on the road just below Earlswood Village Hall. The runners head down to Cribau Mill and then up Grey Hill. From the summit they descend to do a loop through Wentwood visiting Five Paths, Cadeira Beeches and Five Paths again, before splashing through the ford next to New Mill. This year the finish will come directly uphill from New Mill and across the farmland, not up the lane as last year, so there will be less road disruption for the village. The course itself will be marked and well marshalled, and the tape and signs will be taken down straight after the race.

The race costs from £10 to enter, and details can be found on the Chepstow Harriers website. Runners can enter on the day, in Earlswood Village Hall, and all are welcome. Tea and cake will also be served here for all runners after the race.

The organisers would be grateful if residents could try to avoid using the road between the Village Hall and the top of the Cribau Mill path between 1030 and 1115. Marshals will be positioned at most of the important corners, so they will be able to provide a ‘status report’. Spectators are more than welcome, at the start / finish or anywhere along the course.

Thanks
Richard 07584 287887



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 NEW SEASON -- 2016/2017

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY will commence rehearsals for their
2016/2017 season on WEDNESDAY EVENING
AUGUST 31st, 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Arts Hall,
Chepstow Leisure Centre.

After a hugely successful *Summer Gala Concert* at the end of June, CCS has been enjoying a summer break, but a full choral programme for 2016/2017 is in place. The first event will be a **Choral Workshop**, to take place in the Arts Hall, on **SATURDAY OCTOBER 8th, 2.00pm – 5.30pm** when the Society will welcome any interested singers to come along and spend an afternoon with the choir, singing items which may be totally new to them – and some of the choir! - for sheer enjoyment, to have some tea and cake – and then perform the afternoon's work to an audience of friends, family – or anyone! It's fun, enjoyable –and with luck many participants will go away saying "that was good –I'm going to join them"! £5.00 per person, music provided. For further details please see our website or phone Marjorie (01291 623310) or Angela (408624).

The annual Christmas Concert will take place on **SUNDAY DECEMBER 11th, 3.00pm at ST MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH, CHEPSTOW**, and CCS's major Spring Concert will be a full programme with professional orchestra and soloists which will include Mozart's *Requiem* on **SATURDAY APRIL 1st, 2017, again at ST MARY'S**.

Chepstow Choral Society cannot survive without active singers and support. As we commence another full season, we are actively inviting new members for all singing voice sections – soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Our policy is simple – to keep 4-part choral music alive in areas like ours. If you also feel strongly that societies such as ours are important for our area and town, please help us --by joining us!. Marjorie Duerden (on behalf of CCS).



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For more information and details of classes....



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GARDENING CORNER

Bees can be some of the most fascinating of creatures, but I've decided that they can be the most frustrating as well. I've written about a few challenges we have faced this year in the Barn Farm Apiary and we seem to have had a fair old few this year. I'm blaming the weather again – well we have to blame something or someone don't we – and I know, well at least I think, that it's not all down to me! Certainly the extremes can't have helped the bees as they wouldn't have known whether it was Winter, Summer or one of the seasons in between. Even in June the Bee Keeping Association was warning of the dangers of starving bees, especially if you were close to oilseed rape and had taken an early crop of honey (you have to harvest oilseed rape honey immediately it is capped, otherwise it sets like glue in the frames and extremely difficult to deal with). So this didn't bode well. I tried very hard this year to prevent our hives from swarming, but they still managed to defeat me. I did start the year with 6 hives – a nice number to manage and keep on top of – but ended up with 14. I know one of my hives didn't swarm, and I collected one from a hedge near Wentwood, but the maths still don't quite work out! The infuriating bit about all this is that, despite working with them closely every 10 days or so, I have now discovered three of the hives appear to have lost their queens. I have decided not to bother trying to make a new queen in any of these hives for now, mainly because it is too late for her to be born, mature and start to lay eggs in time to build the colony up to a size that will survive the coming Winter. Instead I'll look through them again in the next day or so and probably look to combine the remains of the bees in the affected hives with other, not so strong ones. A few extra bees will probably help collecting the last supplies of the year. I wonder at times, as they can be so clever and yet also so daft! They usually pick up on when a queen is failing, and seek to replace her, and they definitely know if the queen just drops dead one day and seek to replace her as quickly as they can. But in these three cases they must have had their little brains focused on something else completely.

The weather hasn't just been a challenge for the bees. The garden has also been a right battle this year. The late frost as you may have read previously destroyed most of our fruit blossom. Certainly the apricots and nectarines in the tunnel have been a complete waste of time. What fruits did survive have either rotted off or just simply fallen off – probably because of the high temperatures. The same is true in the orchard, where we did get a few apples, pears and the odd plum, but the jays are having a concerted effort at making sure that none are left for us to pick. Normally they have a few, especially when the weather is dry, but the few make little difference in the overall scene of things, but when you only have a few in the first instance, then it is not good news. Jays are as artful as a cart load of monkeys – which is why they survive so well of course. I keep meaning to hang some old CD discs in the trees to see if they will frighten them off, but keep forgetting! No doubt by the time I get around to it, it will be too late anyway! I did manage to rescue the damsons off the tree before they disappeared (the tree is only a couple of years old so the crop wasn't big), but they have been put to the best use possible. The gin has now turned a nice shade of deep plum and the sugar has disappeared, so I'm looking forward to the end result! We also rescued the Victoria plums, but they found their way into the deep freeze, so not quite such an exciting end for them!

The vegetable garden has also been a tale of extremes. I had a fantastic carrot crop early on, but unfortunately the carrot fly found them before I could get the protective netting around. Note for diary, next time you sow the carrot seed put the protective netting around at the same time! Since this failure I've sown another crop and yes, I did put the net around. There should be enough time for a decent crop, especially as the varieties used were fast maturing. Touch wood they are looking good, but the recent dry weather has meant that they have had to be copiously watered. The parsnips never did anything at all, so I had one more go and this time they were fine and are still looking good. Fortunately I noticed that the early and salad potatoes were just showing the early signs of potato blight, so I dug them up, before the tubers became infected. The crop was very good considering the dry weather we have had in recent months, and this had an added advantage in that slug damage was minimal. The main crop are meant to be resistant to blight, but I notice in the last few days that even these are starting to show the tell tale signs of leaves and stems starting to go black. Depending on the weather I will either dig them up in the next day or so if it is dry, or cut the tops off in the short term if it turns wet. It's raining steady at the moment, so may well be the latter of the two choices!

I have sprayed the greens as these were starting to become a magnet for every cabbage white butterfly in Earlswood. This has managed to keep the resulting caterpillars at bay to some degree, squashing between the fingers has helped with the rest. Shame I can't do the same with grey squirrels and those damn jays!

For the first time ever in over 40 years of gardening, the brief, really hot spell we experienced in early August resulted in some plants and crops in the large tunnel actually being burnt. Tops of the tomatoes were burnt clean off, and even some of the fruits, despite the tunnel having a cover on it that is meant to shade out over 20% of the sun's rays, had large burn marks on their sides. Even marrows growing outside, with their tough skins, had burnt patches on their sides. Yet the leeks and beetroot have shown little damage at all. Talking of courgettes, these and the pumpkins are covered in mildew, in spite of being sprayed, yet the winter squashes are looking good – although in need of a decent bit of rainfall.

The flower garden conversely has been doing quite well and the inside of Barn Farm has resembled a florists shop on a number of occasions this year. The sweet peas are still flowering away, although the forecast of gale force winds over the weekend won't do them any favours. The alstroemarias have also done well after a sticky start. Sometimes the blooms on these get damaged by heavy rainfall, but we have avoided that this year – they have just been burnt instead by the sun! For the first time ever I entered a few vegetables into the Chestow show. It was a case of having to as the youngest daughter had thrown down the gauntlet! The assistant head gardener denuded the garden of flowers for several flower arrangements. I ended up with two firsts, two seconds and a third, so I was quite chuffed with myself. I won't say what the assistant achieved, but in the overall scene of things it was better than me!

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt. –

Nerys's Natty Nosh

Blueberries



Native North Americans believe blueberries have magical powers and prize the berries for their healing abilities. Strong blueberry tea relieves pain and blueberry juice and its syrup can quieten a cough.

One cup of blueberries supplies about a third of daily vitamin C requirement for adults. Recent studies show that the pigment of blueberry skins has extra health benefits. The blue pigment is a potent antioxidant and thought to help control diabetes, improve blood circulation, reduce eyestrain, prevent

cancer, retard the effect of aging and improve memory skills. One serving of blueberries provide as many antioxidants as five servings of broccoli, apples or carrots. Studies have ranked them above all other fruit and vegetables for antioxidant activity.

Frozen blueberries will retain their flavour for up to two years.

Blueberries are versatile and can be used in pies, muffins, bread, pancakes.

Served with yogurt, ice cream. Make homemade blueberry jam, jellies, chutneys, relishes, glazes, vinaigrettes and wines. This is a picture of blueberry products sold in Maine USA.

Blueberry Sauce

Ingredients

- ½ cup water
- 2 tablespoons corn flour
- 2 cups blueberries
- 1 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1teaspoon grated lemon peel

Method

- 1** Combine sugar, water and corn flour.
- 2** Heat in a small saucepan, stirring frequently until the mixture boils and thickens.
- 3** Add the blueberries bring to the boil.
- 4** Simmer gently on a low heat for 5 minutes.
- 5** Add the lemon juice and peel.
- 6** Cool slightly before adding to ice cream, vanilla yogurt or fresh melon.

Blueberry Syrup

Ingredients

- 1 cup maple syrup
- ½ cup blueberry juice or juice of pressed frozen blueberries.

Method

- 1** Combine maple syrup and blueberry juice in medium saucepan.
- 2** Simmer gently for 25 minutes. Serve.

Blueberry Smoothie serves 2-3

Ingredients

250g (9oz) blueberries
125g (4½oz) raspberries or other summer berries
125ml (4 FL oz.) plain bio yogurt

Method

1 In a blender mix all the ingredients.
2 When it's a hot day add four ice cubes to the berries in the blender to make a cooling summer crush



Summer fruit Muffins

makes 10- 12 standard size

These muffins can be served all year round using fresh or frozen berries.

Ingredients

10oz (280g) plain flour
3 teaspoons level teaspoons baking powder
4-5 oz. (110- 140g) fine white caster sugar
1 egg
8 FL oz. (240ml) milk or soya milk
3 FL oz. (90ml) vegetable oil or 3 oz. (85) butter melted
5-6 oz. (140 170g) summer fruit (any berries, either alone or in a combination: blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, redcurrants, cherries, fresh or frozen - do not thaw frozen berries; larger berries should be coarsely chopped.

Method

1 Prepare muffin tins with muffin cases.
2 Prepare oven 375F, 200 C, Gas 5.
3 In a large bowl sift the flour, baking powder and sugar.
4 In another bowl, beat the eggs with a fork. Stir in the milk, followed by the oil or melted butter.
5 Pour the wet ingredients into the dry mixture. Stir gently, then add the fruit. Combine, gently.
6 Spoon into muffin cups. Bake for 20- 25 minutes. Frozen fruit will require an extra 4-5 minutes. Muffins are done when the tops are lightly browned and spring back when pressed gently.

Berries

Acai berry, blueberry, goji berry, and blackberry. These super healthy fruits are extremely high in antioxidants and are thought to have many individual health benefits, including the ability to help prevent dementia (blackcurrants), fight off colon cancer (blueberries), improve vision (bilberries) and ward off urinary tract infections (cranberries).

Enjoy!

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	Vacancy	
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Womens Institute (WI) Carole Jones (President) 01292 641791

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St. Teilo's Church

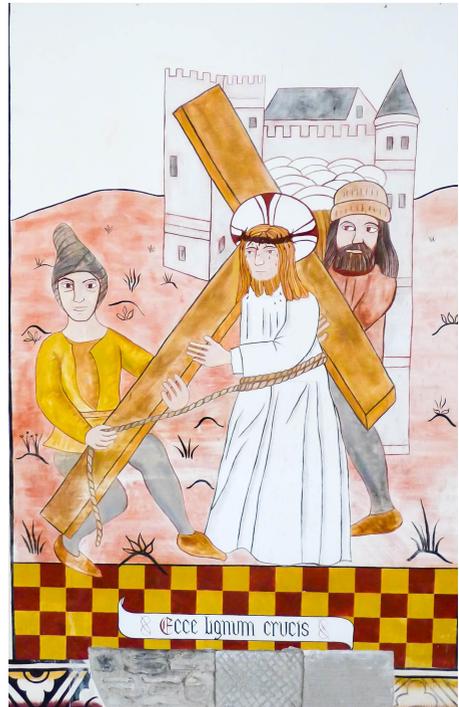
Welsh Folk Museum St Fagans Cardiff.

Used to stand 50 miles west of Cardiff by the river at Llŵchwr, near Pontarddulais. It served the community there for over 700 years and is still fondly known as the 'old church on the marsh'. It ceased to be a parish church in 1850, and by 1973 was no longer a place of worship. Threatened by vandalism, subsidence and theft, it was decided to move the church to St. Fagans.

As the building was taken down, a staggering discovery was made. Under the layers of limewash, 500 year old wall paintings were found. This is why the church has been rebuilt as it may have looked about 1520, when it would have been Roman Catholic. Most worshippers then could not read and would have used the images to inspire meditation and prayer.

The wall paintings inside the church today are copies made using medieval techniques. The brightly-painted rood screen (see front cover) is hand-carved using traditional methods and designs. Such screens would have been found in churches all over Europe in the middle ages.

The church is named after Teilo, a 6th century Welsh saint and contemporary of St David. His name appears throughout South Wales and even in Brittany.



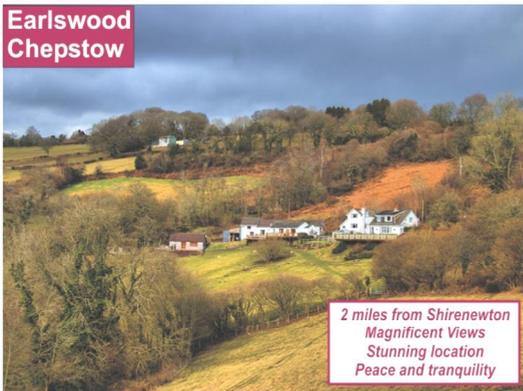
St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
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 Lenev Margaret Lock	Graham Lambert Margaret Lock
25th September	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Paul Morecombe Jane Smith-Haddon	Claire Lewis Jane Smith-Haddon

DIARY DATES

Sept.	Event	Location
3rd 2 - 7pm	Shirenewton Super Saturday	Recreation Hall & Field
5th 7.30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
11th 11am	Wentwood Woodlark Running Race	Start Earlswood Hall
16th 7pm	Harvest festival & Supper	St Peters Church Newchurch Held in the Barn of Church Farm
17th 10 - 12	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall
25th 3pm	Harvest Festival	Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel
Oct	Event	Location
2nd 10am	Family Service	Shirenewton Church
2nd 12.30	Village Harvest Festival	Earlswood Hall
2nd 3pm	Harvest Festival	Earlswood Hope Methodist Chapel
3rd 7.30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
17th 10 - 12	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall
22nd 7.30pm	Bring and Share evening Talk on the The Old Wye Bridge	Saysell Centre (Church Rooms)

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SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

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

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