

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

February 2017



Price: £1

FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

I sit here – at the beginning of the New Year – in order to compose this article.

My frozen hands are ineffectually covered by threadbare mittens as I try to ignore the assault on my person by howling draughts whistling under the door and through the cracked and uncovered windows.

I hear the body-wracking coughs of Sandra as she toils on her knees downstairs scrubbing by hand the icy flag-stones. Draped around her shoulders is a rough hessian shawl which provides scant protection against the bitter temperature. We are driven on in our labours concerned only that we feel our first duty is to the combined parish. Later, at the end of the day, we shall sit down on wooden crates and savour a bowl of thin gruel and warm water served in a pair of mismatched and chipped glasses. Francis Kilvert would have identified with us.

The above is only mentioned to remind you that whilst my colleagues loll and indulge in debauchery over the festive period, we soldier on manfully. Actually, can this description apply to Sandra?

You will assume, by now, that the above drivel is the result of not having much to write about. Wrong! I am working on this piece in order to thank, as soon as possible, those who have contributed skill and effort to ensure that the Christmas and New Year Season has been celebrated in our churches to the highest possible standard and with appropriate imagination.

Among them are our Organists. In many respects they are taken for-granted. But ask yourself if you can play such an instrument to a laudable standard? I certainly can't. The paper-and-comb is the best I can muster, and that to an embarrassing degree of ineptitude. I was reminded of this the other day when, on a cold and dismal afternoon, I popped into St. Pierre church to find Ann Evans, huddled against the elements, practising – as she does week after week – for the next service. The same is true of Kathy Barclay, organist at Mounton, and Dorothy Harris (still nursing a leg injury) and Monnica Williams at Mathern. The only relief is an occasional fag-break which makes it sound as though Ann, Kathy and Dorothy are a slave to the weed. They might have other vices (don't enquire) but I only know that I have been grateful to Monnica on more than one occasion for her generosity in this direction.

I have little doubt that the organists at Shirenewton could, if pressed, recount a similar account of annual commitment largely unnoticed by the rest of us. They too, are worthy of our thanks and appreciation and their dedication throughout the year – frequently taken for-granted – should be acknowledged.

The same is true of our floral decorators (no, no, I don't mean imply that they are chain-smokers as well). They – often unrecognised – contribute to the beauty and richness of regular church life.

Further examples now come to mind. Mike Penny with his committed band of ringers scarcely miss a week throughout the year in bringing us the fruits of their artistry.

Then there are the Churchwardens and other Parochial Church Council members. They undertake a multitude of church-related tasks, a range of which are tedious, time-consuming and unrecognised. They are the representatives of the laity in so many ways. Indeed, they are YOUR delegates and – in no small way – mine. The presentation and health of the parish church, with all of the associated turbulence, is in no small part theirs to contend with. Thank you for your support, vision and diligence.

To all of the above, and to others, I am ashamed to confess that some of the time we would only miss them if they were not around.

Imagine, if you will, what it would be like if the musical call to worship were silent, the service not enriched by live musical accompaniment (those wretched tape/C.D. machines in their place are, I feel, an insult), and the vibrancy of church experience diluted by no floral addition. Many churches, sadly, travel down this path. We are fortunate indeed to enjoy the contribution of such individuals and it seems to be appropriate – as feeble as it appears – to thank them at the outset of the year for the ways they enhance our lives during the rest of the year. Sincere thanks and appreciation to you all.

In conclusion, I must say how uplifted I was to read recent correspondence in *The Times* relating to the type of services offered in our churches. One contributor delighted in the richness of language to be found (increasingly rare these days, he lamented) in the 1662 Rite – found weekly at St. Pierre - as compared to the flimsy contemporary offerings found elsewhere. There was also condemnation of a bishop (not ours, I hasten to add) who failed to engage with an all-age congregation when preaching at this serious time of the year. I pass no comment save that I (somewhat belatedly) consumed my seasonal lunch with particular relish.

I find it refreshing that we don't adopt a 'one size fits all' policy in our Group of Parishes. In terms of the rite of service we regularly use we embrace the ultra-traditional at St. Pierre, the 1984 rite at Mather and Mouton and the contemporary at Shirenewton. Throw in the occasional Litany and Compline as well and I hope, that between us, we offer a range of services both ancient and modern. We honour the past and experiment in light of the future.

Every good wish and blessing for the New Year.

DEREK DAVIS

The funeral will take place on Monday 6th February in the Thomas á Becket Church Shirenewton at 2.30pm and afterwards at The Huntsman Hotel Shirenewton.

All are welcome, family flowers only and donations would be much appreciated for Cancer Research



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 February

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.



St David's Day Celebration At Mounton Church



Saturday 25th February 7pm

Music and Verse

Tickets £10 including refreshments.

All Proceeds to Mounton Church



Tickets available
from Sandra White

01291 622317

Lynne Brierley

01291 621778

**Diary Date –
Saturday 4th March 2017!**



Parish Quiet Day

10:00 to 12:00
The Saysell Centre

Followed by:

ALL WELCOME!



Chepstow Community Fit Club

Chepstow Rugby Club.

(Western Ave, Bulwark, Chepstow NP16 5NW
near Homepage.)

Monday 8p.m & Wednesday 7.30p.m

A not for profit Fit Club designed to give affordable fitness
twice a week to the local community.

It is run on a donations based principle, you turn up and pay
however much you wish for that session.

(Recommended minimum of £1)

Search for "Chepstow Community Fit Club" on Facebook.

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

The Shirenewton ringers had a busy time over the Christmas and New Year period. We rang for midnight mass on Christmas Eve, for morning service on Christmas Day, and then either side of midnight at New Year with before having the bells half-muffled to mourn the passing of the year. As has now become a tradition the ringing over this period was performed with the bell ropes down in the nave of the church and in full view of the congregation, and with respect to New Year an audience of about 50 people drawn in by the mellifluous sound of the bells. With the increased draft together with a heavier mass of rope the bells do become a bit tricky to ring from the nave but there were no mishaps.

The New Year heralds the first of our tours - the Winter Tour. Visiting other churches to ring the bells is a common activity for ringers and the majority of towers welcome visitors. This year we decided to visit Herefordshire in the Lugg valley area. So on the 7th January bright and early 13 ringers set forth to St Lawrence, Canon Pyon to sample the 6 bells and from there to St Margaret of Antioch at Wellington to the heaviest ring of the day (tenor [largest bell] 17cwt and 15lbs – about 3 times the weight of the tenor at Shirenewton. This was another 6 as were all other towers during the morning. Thence we travelled to St Mary the Virgin, Marden, a beautiful church situated right on the bank of the river Lugg. The bells here have only very recently been restored and we were one of the first visiting bands to sample them, and very delightful they were. The last tower of the morning was St Nicholas at Sutton St Nicholas after which we travelled the short distance to The Golden Cross pub in the village for lunch.

In the afternoon we headed to St Bartholomew at Holmer on the north edge of Hereford to ring the six bells, then to the large church of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin at Madley for the only ring of 8 bells of the day. We have sufficient talent in the band now to ring Grandsire and Bob Triples, these being methods in which 7 bells ring changes with the tenor bell keeping time at the end of each row of changes. The methods are called triples because to ring permutations when bells change no more than one place in the row each time then a maximum of 3 pairs can change position. This terminology persists on odd numbers of bells hence changes on 3 bells are called singles, on 5 bells – doubles, on 9 bells – caters: a derivation of quadruples, and 11 bells – cinques.

Finally we headed for the last ring of the day at St Michael and All Angels, at Eaton Bishop – a moderately heavy six with a tenor about twice that in Shirenewton. At the conclusion of ringing the band then headed back to Earlswood as guests of Bob and Karen Millar for a post-tour celebration.

M.D.Penney.

See Photograph on page 43



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 are also actively involved in Paula and Elliot Kempton's **Tea & Tango afternoon at the Drill Hall on Sunday February 19th, 3,00pm** when we will be providing and running the 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



The constellation of Orion the Hunter lies directly to the South in the evening. Four bright stars represent his shoulders and legs whilst a further three form his belt. The reddish star at the top left is called Betelgeuse and is one of the larger stars that can be seen. It is a red super-giant star and is destined to blow up as a supernova. If it were to explode today, it would become as bright as the Moon. The bright white star at lower right is called Rigel and is a blue super-giant. This is an extremely powerful star but at great distance, and is at least 60,000 times more luminous than the Sun. Most bright stars have Arabic names. Very old star names originated among people who lived in the Arabian Peninsula more than a thousand years ago. Some are later Arabic translations of ancient Greek names. Betelgeuse is an Arabic name meaning the "hand of Orion" whilst Rigel translates as the "Foot of the Central One".

In the early evening the brilliant planet Venus can be seen in the west. The slightly orange-coloured planet Mars is to the upper left of Venus. Mars is a lot less bright than Venus. On the 1st the crescent Moon, Mars and Venus align to form a line, whilst on the 31st the three are close together again.

In early morning the very bright planet Jupiter is to the south-west just above a star called Spica, and slightly yellow Saturn is low on the south-east horizon. The Moon is close to Jupiter on the 15th and the crescent Moon is to the left of Saturn on the 21st.

Astronomy produces beautiful images. NASA selects a "picture of the day" which can be found at <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/>

DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

It has been a busy few months since the last write up relating the AEDs (automated external defibrillator). Since the last update we have secured 5 AEDs! One for Shirenewton Primary School, the remaining four are for community use and will be sited at locations throughout Mynyddbach, Shirenewton and Earlswood. One of which is already in place at The Huntsman Hotel. We are in the final stages of siting the other community AEDs and so will be offering training to people who would like to know how to use them, dates to be confirmed. Many thanks for your kind and generous donations and patience whilst we have been busy securing the funding from the British Heart Foundation and speaking with local businesses and venues about siting the AEDs. Many thanks to those who have been part of this journey and continue to be apart of it, particularly Phil Moles who has a way of making things happen!

SHIRENEWTON W.I OCTOBER '16

Christmas meal in the Huntsman has become quite a tradition for Shirenewton W.I. and for good reason, the food was of the usual high standard, and of course the good company was enjoyed by all.



January '17

Welcome to the New Year, we certainly have a fun packed program planned for this year.

We began the new year with an interactive and very informative talk about 'Tranquil Tea', Michelle Ward presented us with a wide variety of teas to smell, and of course to taste, a good time had by all.



The tea tasting soon came to an end as we needed to have the customary cup of tea!! This was accompanied with cake sent to the

W.I. by Mrs Winifred Such, a long serving member, for her 70th birthday in her celebrations. Winnie and her husband, Reg, have been married for 70 years, otherwise known as Platinum, (a miracle if you ask me). Shirenewton W.I. send their congratulations and good wishes to them both.



The next meeting is February 9th, 'The Shirenewton Murder', come along and find out all about it.

To give you plenty of time to organise your busy lives, on June 8th there will be a fashion show with refreshments, this is very popular, We will be selling tickets for this event closer to the date with more details to follow.



Contact:

Carole Jones (President) 673607

Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 641704

NEWS FROM ST PETERS CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

Our Carol Service the Sunday before Christmas was a happy event, followed by ever popular mince pies. A suitable start to the festivities!

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:

February 5 th	14.30	Family Worship
February 19 th	14.30	Eucharist
March 5 th	14.30	Family Worship
March 19 th	14.30	Eucharist

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

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Shirenewton Church Website - Fund raising information and shopping portal, Church Information and Community Information

Welcome back. Let's start with a review of 2016.

The Shopping portal (www.shirenewtonshop.com) raised £800 for the church. As always, that is cash paid into the church bank account. So thanks to all those you use it. All those small amounts add up and £800 is not a bad effort and an improvement on 2015. The new shop is up and running and fully populated. It has a wide range of well-known brands and some less well known options. So why not make your new year resolution to use it? It's real simple. Go to www.shirenewtonshop.com click on the shop's name and shop. We'll get a small commission on anything you spend.

The Church website itself (www.shirenewtonchurch.com) has attracted over 9,100 page views from ~5,100 sessions. For some reason there appears to have been a lot of interest from Russia. But other than that, it's the standard UK visits with a smattering from the USA, Canada and Europe. Browsers were Chrome (57%), Safari (13%), Firefox (10%), YaBrowser – those Russians (6.5%), Internet Explorer (4.7%), Opera (4%) & Edge (1.6%). Don't forget the Church website has a wide range of community information in addition to the Church stuff.

In the broader computing world, the malware and ransomware threat remains as relevant as ever. The very latest is a phishing campaign targeting Gmail accounts. It hit the mainstream press this week. It's particularly nasty as, if it gets access to your account, it immediately sends emails to Gmail contacts targeting them. The modus operandi is an email which has an image of an attachment. Clicking on that image opens a new tab which prompts you to sign-in to Gmail again. But, of course, it's a fake page which steals your user name and password. So, as always, the lesson is don't click on unknown attachments.

David Cornwell
webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

THE CHRISTINGLE AND CAROL SERVICE

What a lovely way to start Christmas. Once again, Shirenewton Church was full of people and children of all ages, eager to be angels and shepherds, kings and townfolk telling the Christmas Story. We are so lucky to have so many of our old Sunday Clubbers returning to join in. And The Halleluiah Chorus brought tears to my eyes.

The collection came to £430.95 which we have sent off to The Children's Society. Thank you to everyone who came along!

It is just so lovely to sing 'Away in a Manger' in just a candle-lit church.

Jane Smith Haddon and Glynis MacDonald "

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the December meeting (there was no meeting held in January)

Planning applications considered

1. DC/2014/01110 Little Grondra Farm, Shirenewton

Conversion of redundant barn to a dwelling.

Council noted that this application had been withdrawn as the bat survey was not robust enough. Council member to visit site again in April 2017, subject to a revised and acceptable bat survey being received by Mon CC.

2. DC/2016/01200 The Cayo Farm, Red House Lane, Shirenewton

Conversion of existing storage/workshop shed to living accommodation as part of the main dwelling and construction of a single storey building linking the main dwelling to the converted shed.

Council noted that the shed is currently for agricultural use and that an application has been submitted to change this to residential. Also that the footprint of the proposal would not be increased. The neighbour has no objection to the proposal. Council further noted that the proposal can be seen from Footpath 41 which runs alongside the property. Council recommended approval subject to Mon CC guidance on increases in footprint for residential properties not being exceeded.

3. DC/2016/01241 Rhewl Farm, Shirenewton

Discharge of Condition 5 from planning consent DC/2014/00939.

Council had no comment to make on this application.

4. DC/2016/01262 Maybee Cottage, Usk Road, Shirenewton

Moveable shepherds hut 16ft x 7ft with wheels on a metal chassis with tow bar. To be used as a holiday let for tourism purposes.

Council noted that this proposal is part of a 5 acre small holding. The hut will be self-sufficient with solar panels on the roof, a composting toilet and soakaway. It is not visible from either the road or the cottage. There will be no visible signage. Council recommended approval with the condition that the hut is used solely for the purpose as described in the application.

5. DC/2016/01286 Red Barn Farm, Crick Road, Shirenewton

Demolition of existing mobile home/chalet dwelling and the erection of a new replacement dwelling.

Council noted this flat roofed chalet style building was in poor condition. It has all services on site plus a septic tank. The proposal is to replace it with a three bedroomed house with conservatory and double garage. Council was aware that the chalet style building had been sited with no planning permission many years ago but had since been given a Certificate of Lawfulness to be retained for the security of the farming enterprise. Council recommended approval with the condition that the conditions of the Certificate of Lawfulness still apply and are transferred to the new dwelling.

Dates of next meetings – Monday 6 February and Monday 6 March 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

Give Dog Fouling the Red Card

Shirenewton Community Council has joined this scheme which helps to raise awareness of dog fouling problems in the community and other areas of the County. The majority of dog owners are responsible and carry bags to dispose of dog waste in the specialist bins provided, but there are some people that do not comply. Dog waste is the most offensive type of litter and is consistently raised as a matter for public concern. It can have health risks such as toxicariasis an infection caused by roundworm parasites which can be found in dog faeces.

The 'Give Dog Fouling the Red Card' Scheme has two levels of reporting offences: The yellow card allows residents to report an offence without providing a witness statement. The information provided, with accompanying evidence, will be considered by the community council and if appropriate they will remind the dog owner of their responsibilities to pick up after their dog.

The red card is available if the resident is prepared to provide a witness statement. This information will be considered by Mon CC's Environmental Health Department, who in the first instance will contact the resident to discuss what was seen before deciding on appropriate action. A witness statement can be used as the basis for a fixed penalty notice being issued to the dog owner if the officer considers there to be sufficient evidence.

The Penalty

Where there is evidence, the offender will be given a fixed penalty notice which is a fine of £75 to be paid within 14 days (reducing to £50 if paid within 10 days). Failure to pay will result in Monmouthshire County Council prosecuting the offender in the Magistrates court.
What to do next ...

Please make sure you dispose of your dog waste responsibly and carry a dog waste bag when you walk your dog (a supply can be found in the telephone kiosk in Shirenewton). You can then put it in any public litter bin, one of the four dog waste bins in the community, or take it home and put it in your grey or black bag for the household refuse collection.

'Give Dog Fouling the Red Card' signs have been put up in the community warning residents that offenders could be reported and giving details of how to make a report. Mon CC will take action if council officers, police officers or residents report an incident. If you believe you have witnessed an offence of dog fouling please contact www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/dogfouling or fill in the Environmental Health Department's e-form. Information sent using these forms will only be used to deliver the service requested.

Hilary Counsell
Clerk to Shirenewton Community Council

Spring term Enrichment sessions started yesterday - Foundation Phase pupils enjoyed participating in Spanish, Muddy Maths, Masterchef, Horrible Historians, Animation, Groovy Gamers, Dance, Hockey and BEAR Club (**B**e **E**nthusiastic **A**bout **R**eading). This term we welcome the support of Mrs Francis-Laing and Miss Caroline who are leading the Dance sessions and the deputy head girl of Chepstow School, Emily Pine-Smith, who is sharing her expert hockey skills. A good time was had by all!!

FP DELVE & DISCOVER DAY

Today, Foundation Phase children have been introduced to their new topic for this term and have been 'Delving into Dinosaurs!' They arrived in school this morning to find part of the grounds taped off and received a video message from a palaeontologist, Professor Rewaj, who suspected there may be dinosaur bones in our school grounds ... it didn't take the children long before they'd found 12 large bones and numerous smaller bones. They have spent all day investigating dinosaur activities and resources in their classrooms which were transformed overnight! Check out the class bogs over the weekend for photos of their exciting day!!

Y4 SCIENCE LESSON

Year 4 enjoyed an afternoon of fun science activities at Chepstow School this week. They learned how Egyptian's measured, investigated what materials filtered water, looked at real sheep's heart and kidney and watched Miss Morris do some crazy experiments!

"I was very ecstatic when we saw the flames go up, Miss Morris blew into a tube which was connected to a funnel of flour, above this were 2 Bunsen burners and the grains of flour caused a MASSIVE flame. She also did an experiment with a jelly baby to show how much energy was in it – she put some stuff in a test tube and a Bunsen burner underneath it and picked up a jelly baby with tweezers and carefully put it into the test tube ... it EXPLODED! It was great ... fantastic ... brilliant and we are really looking forward to science lessons in Comp. Hopefully we can go again soon."
By Jayden, Frankie & Morgan



RWI WORKSHOP

Huge thank you to Mrs Farley, our Foundation Phase Leader and Read Write Inc Manager, for running a RWI workshop for Reception parents after school this week, enabling the parents to gain a better understanding of how we teach children to read and write and ways they can help at home. We have been using RWI to teach reading and writing skills for about ten years and as a model school frequently welcome teachers and Headteachers from other schools into our lessons to share our excellent practice.

MATHS OPEN MORNING

Hopefully your child brought home today a letter about our Maths open morning which you are invited to on Wednesday 1st February. Please return the slip confirming your attendance and preferred year group asap (by 27th January at the latest!). Many parents ask us what computational strategies we teach so they can support their child at home without confusing them by using methods they were taught in school ... this will be an ideal opportunity for you to find out!

SPRING TERM CLUBS

We are pleased to offer the following clubs this term:

Club	Day	Time	Year Groups	Staff
Arts & Crafts	Monday	Lunchtime	Y1 & Y2	Mrs Farley & Miss Whyte
Just Dance	Monday	Playtime	Y3-Y6	Mrs Burbidge
Minecraft	Monday	3.30-4.30	Y2-Y6	Mi Little Pad staff
FP Choir	Tuesday	Lunchtime	Y1 & Y2	Mrs H Stephens
KS2 Choir	Tuesday	Lunchtime	Y3-Y6	Mrs McDonald
Code Club	Tuesday	Lunchtime	Y3 & Y4 + Digital Leaders	Mr Ledville-Smith
Chess	Wednesday	Lunchtime	Y3-Y6	Mrs Buchan
French	Wednesday	Lunchtime	Y1 & Y2 - FULL	Club Bonjour
Minecraft	Wednesday	3.30-4.30	Y2-Y6	Mi Little Pad staff
French	Thursday	3.30-4.30	Y3-Y6	Club Bonjour
Table Tennis	Friday	Lunchtime	Y3-Y6	Sports Council
Please Note: Attribute Sports Clubs will start up again after the half term holiday				

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Last week in Y1, Elisabeth & James worked hard to earn themselves a HT certificate.

This week's head teacher certificates were awarded to:

Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Anwen, Annie & Hugo	Ffion, Aiden & Euan	Ella, Oliver & Alexander	Caitlin, Evie & Albert	Jayden, Roshan & Matilda	Alfie, Lily & Bobby	Caleb, Harry & Seren J

Single Parent Group

Message from Domini Barnes (Founder of Abergavenny Single Parents Group): "I run a group for single parents with their children. I generally run these sessions during term time – weekly at Abergavenny Community Centre apart from the once per month. I have just opened a session at Bulwark Community Centre. Please see dates below. All single parents are welcome."

Bulwark Community Centre Sundays between 2 – 4pm

15th Jan – 12th Feb – 12th March – 11th June – 16th July – 10th September – 15th October – 12th November

Abergavenny Community Centre – Sundays between 2 – 4pm

January – 22nd & 29th; February – 5th; March – 5th, 19th & 26th; April – 2nd; May – 7th – 14th & 24th; June – 18th & 25th; July – 2nd & 9th; August – NO SESSIONS; September – 17th & 24th; October – 1st, 8th & 22nd; November – 19th & 26th; December – 3rd & 10th

SPRING TERM DATES

Please note: New dates in red to help you spot them!

Mon 23rd Jan - Hearing retests for selected Rec pupils

Thu 26th Jan - Y6 Football match Vs Eveswell at Shirenewton

Thu 26th Jan - FP Enrichment Afternoon

Mon 30th Jan - Governors' Meeting

Wed 1st Feb - Open Morning for parents (Maths)

Thu 2nd Feb - FP Enrichment Afternoon

Mon 6th Feb - PTA meeting 6.30pm

Mon 6th Feb to Fri 10th Feb - Safer Internet Week

Tue 7th Feb - Y5 & Y6 Digital Leaders > workshop trip

Thu 9th Feb - FP Enrichment Afternoon

Fri 10th Feb - Football Final at Caldicot Leisure Centre

Mon 13th Feb - Welsh Fortnight starts

Mon 13th Feb - Curriculum Cymraeg Workshops all day

Tue 14th Feb to Fri 17th Feb - Y6 to Gilwern

* * *

Mon 20th Feb to Fri 24th Feb - Half Term

* * *

Wed 1st Mar - St David's Day Eisteddfod

Fri 3rd Mar - Welsh Fortnight ends

Mon 6th Mar - Y4 trip to Hilston Park

Tue 7th Mar - Wildlife Quiz 1st Round (4 x Y6 pupils)

Wed 8th Mar - Parents Evening 4-7pm

Thu 9th Mar - Parents Evening 4-7pm

Fri 10th Mar - Eisteddfod Coffee Morning 9.15am

Tue 21st Mar - Wildlife Quiz 2nd Round

Fri 24th Mar - Red Nose day

Mon 27th Mar - Governors' Meeting

Fri 31st Mar - KS2 Enrichment Day

Tue 4th Apr - Y3 trip to Gilwern

Wed 5th Apr - Easter Assembly 9.30am - Y1 & Y4 parents are invited

Fri 7th Apr - Last day of Spring Term

Mon 10th Apr to Fri 21st Apr - Easter Holiday

PTA NEWS

The children are busy doing self-portraits to be put onto a Shirenewton School tea towel. The towels measure approximately 79cm by 51cm and are 100% premium cotton. The PTA is selling them for £4 each to raise money for the school. Order Slips should have come home in book bags this week.

If you haven't yet received an order form, they can be picked up from the school office.

Don't forget, if you want to be a 'friend of the PTA' please send your email address to r.dalton1976@outlook.com and we can keep you in mind for our upcoming events.

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

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



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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker for the November meeting was Prof. Ray Howells who gave a talk entitled 'New Approaches to the Iron Age in Wales'. The title was taken from a chapter in a new book about to be published by the University Press and to be recommended by anyone interested in early Welsh history.

December saw the society visit the church at Llanvaches where we were given a warm welcome by the Rev. John Waters and an interesting talk on the history of the village church, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. We are so lucky to have so many old historic churches to visit, this was our fourteenth church/chapel that we have visited within five miles of Shirenewton. Our members then proceeded to the Woodland Tavern for supper to celebrate the festive season

As is tradition twenty two of us met on Wednesday, 28th December to walk up to Grey Hill to see the sun rise in line with the standing stones to celebrate the Winter solstice (a week late, but the sun only rose a minute later!). It was a glorious morning with the sun rising, only just obscured by a line of dark clouds on the horizon and you guessed it we then rushed down to the Woodland Tavern to have a hearty breakfast.

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

Tuesday, 14th February Society's' Annual Dinner at the Huntsman Hotel
7.00 pm for 7.30 pm
Our after dinner speaker will be Peter Bonvoison
who will talk on 'Llanmelin'

Everyone welcome at the above events

Further information and contact details on our web-site:

www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

FROM SHIRENEWTON CHURCH

It seems a long time ago now but Jane and I would like to thank everyone who supported the Advent Fair in the Church Room way back at the beginning of December and also those who came along to the Carols Around the Christmas Tree. We raised £ 520: 95 for 'Medecins sans Frontiers'.



And this was very kindly added to by Shirenewton School who donated an extra £72:55 from their Carol Service which they held in the Church.

So now we will be able to send £595:50 to this very worthy charity where doctors and nurses volunteer to help in areas of crisis, war, natural disaster and epidemics. Once again, thank you.

Jane Smith Haddon and Glynis MacDonald

FAIRTRADE NEWS NOV 16



In this Presidential Inauguration week – and today also sees the spectre of the UK becoming an onshore tax-haven if Mrs May doesn't get what she wants – it behoves me to concentrate on the positive! And therefore to draw your attention to Fairtrade Fortnight : February 27th-March 12th.

This will be the 23rd Fairtrade Fortnight in the UK!

There are 617 communities in the UK with FT status – town, city or county, 8,222 FT church or faith groups, 1,737 schools and 177 universities. Chepstow itself is celebrating 10 years of Fairtrade! Sales of FT in the UK have reached £1,6 billion.

AND YET

- An average cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on about 38p a day!
- Over half the children in Malawi's main tea producing areas do not complete primary school. 1 in 10 children do not reach their 5th birthday!
- 1 in 4 children in Kenya's coffee and tea growing regions are malnourished, leading to stunted growth.

These are communities who work as hard as they can producing goods we largely take for granted. Every time people purchase these products they enable large companies to continue to exploit their workers. Surely it is time to recognise that we, as consumers, should take more responsibility.

There is much talk of 'free trade' agreements at the moment amid a great deal of uncertainty. It would be a tragedy if new deals make impoverished workers' lives even harder but it requires a large measure of optimism to hope that their lives will be improved in this maelstrom of events.

What fairtrade can do : 'With the support of the co-operative and the agricultural training I could increase my cocoa production and thereby increase my income as well. Last year I bought my first bed with the additional revenue. We are really happy' – Emma Georgette, Cote d'Ivoire.

Marion McAdam 641316 msm316@gmail.com
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GARDENING CORNER

It sometimes seems that life in the countryside can literally be a war of attrition! It doesn't matter what you do, there will be something that will come along and make life difficult! On a bad day I wonder whether it is all worth it, but still you carry on. With many things it tends to end up with a 'status quo' so the wire netting around the beehives keeps the green woodpecker at bay, but you hope a badger doesn't come along and turn the beehives over. The squirrels have a certain percentage of the top fruit, but you manage to keep it down at a hopefully acceptable level, similar with the jays. Of course in the vegetable and flower garden there is always some little insect or disease that wants to kill or eat what you are growing and again, as I try not to spray too much, you hope that a balance in nature keeps the problems to an acceptable level. Our latest challenge however is a new ball game altogether. I hope to some degree that we have won a small battle but we know that it will be impossible to win the war! You are probably wondering what I'm drivelling on about? Well it's goldfish to be exact. We have two ponds and some twenty years ago we inherited half a dozen fancy goldfish that the owner didn't want. There were two koi carp as well but sadly they died, presumably of old age, several years ago. The goldfish however have thrived and we now have many fancy ones – gold and white, white, fantails etc. Well at least we did. Heron's have always been a nuisance but a net over the top of the ponds has stopped their little games. But the fish were still disappearing and eventually a half eaten one was left on the side of one of the ponds. Now many weeks ago a wild mink ran across the road in front of me early one morning, so putting two and two together I thought this had to be the culprit. They can do so much damage, will bite through wire, and generally kill anything and everything that they get hold of. So I set a trap, but to no avail. Then one night I got up and shone my fishing torch out of the window to see a very large otter crunching on another goldfish! Being a European protected species my heart sank, I was excited to see one in the garden, but upset at the fact that all our fish would probably disappear over the coming nights. I thought about the trap, but as the otter was twice the size I doubt it would have even got its head in it! Next morning I removed the trap and set about covering the small pond with wire netting. To date the otter hasn't broken through, but a friend of mine who is an otter expert has said that we'll be lucky to keep it at bay. He thought it was probably a breeding female as it was hanging around, whereas a male tends to roam far and wide. We don't really care what it is but we would like it to move on elsewhere!

The weather isn't being too kind to the bees either at the moment. Far too mild which means they will be using up very valuable food stores. We received a warning from the National bee unit via email that colonies were starving in some areas. This prompted me to put some bee fondant on each hive which will hopefully keep the hives going. I will check in a week or so time to see if they need any more. Normally they would be fed sugar syrup, but this time of year they cannot evaporate the water and so they would succumb to disease. So fondant it is. There was one exceptionally mild day this week and as it had been wet I decided to go and split some firewood so that it can be drying in the shed.

There were a number of bees flying around and I was pleased to see that there was some activity from each hive, so they appear to be alive at the moment. I just hope I can keep it that way. Also out and about were queen wasps – attracted by the smell of the fresh split logs. I killed five just in the one afternoon so hopefully that will be five less nests to attack the bees next year.

The soil is quite wet at the moment, so in the garden I divide my time up into different tasks depending on the weather. When it has been wet, I have tidied up the numerous hedges and have started tidying up inside the greenhouses and tunnels. This has included pruning the apricot and nectarine trees. Unfortunately the latter are not looking too good, so I may have to replace them this next year. I'll see how they fare this summer and if they have little fruit they will be for the chop!

When it is dry enough I have a go at weeding some of the raised vegetable beds as they are narrow enough that I can reach over without stepping on the soil. I have bought some new soft fruit canes this winter. At the moment these have been potted up and are in the big tunnel. Hopefully they will be sending out roots ready to grow on in the spring. I want to plant them up inside what was the fruit cage, but this is in a sorry state having been bent and buckled by a snow fall many years ago. Having been left derelict for several years I removed all of the ash trees and wild bramble that had been growing rampant and poisoned off the stumps. Hopefully this will get rid of the bulk of them. I have now managed to weed through the beds, installed new timber and imported a fine mix of soil and rotted horse manure from our top field. I am now working on the cage itself and have removed the bent framework and replaced it with new timber. I have a little more to do, but it is starting to look good and will be ready for some new netting in the next few weeks. The top netting won't go on until the spring and in future I'll need to make sure that I remove it in the autumn so that any unexpected snow doesn't have the same impact as before. It is a lot of work, but the few raspberries we have in the garden get hammered by blackbirds every year, and so we have to stop them somehow. No doubt the squirrels will then become a problem, so we'll have to keep an eye on them!

All the seeds ordered before Christmas are now sitting in tins and it won't be long before we sow the first crops. Onions and the some of the salad crops will be the first to go in. I'm intending to get a small amount going as early as I can in the hope that I can get a few things ready for the local shows – pests and diseases permitting! I bought quite a lot more flower varieties as well in order to keep the flower arranger in the household happy. I do love to see fresh flowers in the house. Some don't last that long but whilst they do, they tend to give off beautiful fragrance which is a joy to behold – unless of course you suffer from hay fever. Fortunately the assistant head gardener hasn't been too affected in recent years, although a room full of sweet peas possibly might be a vase too far! Here's hoping you had a good Christmas and the New Year is being kind to you so far. Above all, start looking forward to the new gardening year. It isn't that far away – we already have primroses and the first snowdrops showing white so spring can't be far away. Happy gardening until next month.
Steve and Felicity Hunt.

Nerys's Natty Nosh



To Freeze or not to freeze, what is the answer?

Pastry

When making pastry, double the quantities and use the extra to make flans or tartlets for the freezer. Short crust, puff and flaky pastry all freeze really well, both cooked and uncooked. Freezing seems to improve the texture and flavour of unbaked short crusts. The pastry can be shaped into flan or tartlet cases and frozen baked or unbaked, uncovered in the tins. To protect the pastry place the flan or tartlets in a plastic box, stack with a piece of waxed paper between each layer, so that it's easier to remove, one at a time, label and date.

Freeze- unbaked pastry 3 months, baked pastry 6 months.

Baking-

Unbaked pastry, thaw at room temperature until soft enough to roll out shape onto a pie, or roll out to make flans or tartlets, bake according to recipe. When cooking frozen tartlets or flans return to original container and bake adding about 5 minutes to normal baking time.

Baked flan and tartlet cases, thaw at room temperature for about an hour and then refresh in the oven if needed. Always make sure the reheated filling is piping hot before serving.

Choux Pastry.

Make the pastry.

To freeze unbaked: line a tray with baking parchment and pipe out small blobs for profiteroles, sausage shape for éclairs or a circle for a ring. Freeze uncovered and when frozen remove the baking parchment and pack into polythene bags, foil or container. Date and label and freeze for up to 3 months.

To freeze bake: grease baking trays, pipe mixture into desired shape and bake according to recipe, until firm and crusty. **Slit** and cool. Open freeze until solid, pack in layers divided by greaseproof paper in a container. Date and label and freeze for up to 6 months.

To use: unbaked- place frozen shapes on baking parchment and bake according to the recipe, allowing 5 minutes longer than for freshly made choux pastry.

Baked -place frozen shapes on baking parchment and refresh for 10 minutes on 325F, 170C, Gas Mark3.

Savoury: fill with creamed cheese and glaze the top with a little marmite. Alternatively fill with pate, tuna and mayonnaise or coronation chicken.

Sweet: fill with cream or ice cream, berries and top with chocolate sauce or coffee icing.





Biscuits: - It's not worth freezing baked biscuits as they store well in tins. However uncooked biscuit dough is good, as you can have fresh, biscuits whenever you need them.



Bread: - Bread freezes well in its package. Sliced bread can be toasted straight from the freezer. Freezer life 6 months.



Cake: - Freezes well. Avoid synthetic flavours and go lightly with spice. Chocolate, Vanilla and coffee cakes freeze well. It is better to decorate the cakes once thawed. However decorated cakes can be frozen but they will need careful preparation to avoid spoilage. Plain cakes can be kept for 4 months and cakes with butter icing for 3 months.



Cream: - The higher the fat content the better the result. Clotted cream freezes very well and will keep for 12 months. The cream must be really fresh. The most successful way of freezing double or whipped cream is to chill it first and then semi whip it before freezing. This will avoid the cream separating.

Butter cream, freezes well and can be kept for 3 months. Royal icing tends to crumble and is therefore not recommended for freezing.



Scones:- freeze well and can be placed in plastic bags. Will keep for 6 months. Thaw at room temperature or reheat, 400F, 200C, Gas 6 for 10 minutes.

Yeast:-Divide into 1/2 -1oz cubes, wrap in foil, then put them in a plastic bag ready for freezing. Recommended freezing time 1 month. Thaw at room temperature for 30 minutes.



Peanut Shortbread Balls makes 25



Ingredients

- 4 oz. (100g) butter
- 1 oz. (25g) grated parmesan cheese
- 4 oz. (100g) plain flour
- 2 oz. (50g) cornflour
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 oz. (25g) salted peanuts, roughly chopped
- Paprika to garnish

Method

- 1** Preheat the oven, 350F, 180C, Gas mark 4.
- 2** Cream butter, stir in cheese, flour and cornflour and bind together with egg yolk. Mix in peanuts. Knead well by hand till mixture forms a dough.
- 3** Roll teaspoons of mixture into small balls and place on a greased baking tray. Flatten slightly. Chill for 15 minutes. Bake for 25-30 minutes. Cool slightly. Lift onto wire rack to cool completely.

To serve now, sprinkle with paprika.

To Freeze: - Pack in a container, seal, and label. Use within 2 months. Thaw for 1 hour then sprinkle with paprika or cream cheese. **Enjoy!**



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



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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
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Shirenewton Ward:	Vacancy Vacancy Mario Lenza Richard Kopp Beverley Moore	 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

Treasurer Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk
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
jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Shirenewton Tennis Association

P Brabon 01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com

Shirenewton Toddler Group

Jude Langdon 07981 368213
Paula Rimmer rimmerpaula@mac.com

Fairtrade/Traidcraft

Marion McAdam 01291 641316

Womens Institute (WI)

Carole Jones (President) 01292 641791
Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.

DIARY DATES

Feb	Event	Location
5th 6:00pm	Evening Worship	Shirenewton Church
6th 7:30pm	Community Council	Recreation Hall
5th 2:30pm	Family Worship	St Peters Church Newchurch
9th 7:15pm	Shirenewton Womens Institute	Recreation Hall
13th 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
14th 7:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Huntsman Hotel
18th 10:00am	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall
19th 2:30pm	Eucharist	St Peters Church Newchurch
27th 7:00pm	St Davids Day Celebration	Mounton Church
March	Event	Location
4th 10:00am	Parish Quiet Day & 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
18th 10:00am	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall
19th 2:30pm	Eucharist	St Peters Church Newchurch
April	Event	Location
1st 7:30pm	Chepstow Choral Society	ST Mary's Church Chepstow
15th 10:00am	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall

Readers and Sides Persons

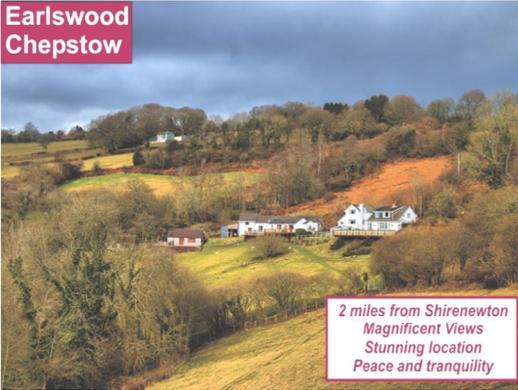
St Thomas á Beckett Church, Shirenewton

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
5th February	4th Sunday before Lent	Bob Grattan Pat White	Bob Grattan Claire Lewis
12th February	3rd Sunday before Lent	Mark Broughton Ruth Savager	Mark Broughton Graham Lambert
19th February	2nd Sunday before Lent	Bill Clarke and Janet Horton	
26th February	Next before Lent	Mark Broughton Kevin Bounds	Mark Broughton Kevin Bounds
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		



The Shirenewton ringers outside the porch at Eaton Bishop.

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Tel: 01291 641382 Mob: 07780 968353

Email: parsonsgrove@btconnect.com

Website: www.parsonsgrove.co.uk



SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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