

## Shirenewton Parish Magazine

adfent | advent 2020

## O DYWYLLWCH I OLEUNI DARKNESS into LIGHT

salm psalm 18, 28



December 2020/January 2021

## FROM THE VICARAGE Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

Christmas will be somewhat different this year and this year has been markedly different from those that have gone before.

I am, of course, referring to the situation of the Covid 19 pandemic and the effect it has had on society as a whole. As I write, Wales has just emerged from another Lockdown whilst England is subject to it's constraints for a while yet.

There are those who long for 'a return to normality' whilst the rest of us search for coping mechanisms and an appreciation of the 'brave new world' which seems to lie ahead. Take some comfort, if you will, that the Church is adept at changing to meet unexpected circumstances and historically has been equipped to offer certainty in an unpredictable life.

Christianity is not something 'set in time' but, rather, runs parallel to time itself and more than able to address the vagaries and changes that come with it. In this respect, and comprehended with flexibility, the faith can be said to be 'the same yesterday, today and tomorrow'. It is prudent to remind ourselves of this as we stand on the brink of one of the great Christian festivals — Christmas. This time of the year is something much more than a remembrance of something that happened about two thousand years ago, something nailed to a specific historical time; it is something to be treasured in the present and to be carried forward with relevance into the future.

This year, as usual, there will be a Christmas themed selection of services offered which will, hopefully, explore this consideration. There will be some adaptations to comply with Covid restrictions presently in force, but each of our four churches will continue to proclaim the seasonal message of hope, anticipation and joy. We intend to stand with the Church Universal in articulating the love of God which surpasses any anxiety which may surround us in worldly terms.

Bishop Cherry is, of course, mindful of such considerations and whilst the following words are addressed to the Clergy in her Pastoral Letter, I feel they have a relevance for all of us at this time. She writes:

"I invite you to join the Bishops of the Church in Wales in praying the prayer below at 6pm each evening from Advent Sunday to Christmas Eve.

Heavenly Father, in the midst of a troubled world, you are light and

Send us your healing for those who are ill. Your strength for those who are suffering, Your compassion for those who grieve. Your courage for those who work for the healing and service of others.

Bless our nation of Wales with the life-giving spirit of your love. And grant us your mercy,

Revealed in the person of Christ your Son. Amen.



Thank you for all that you are doing in the service of the gospel. We continue to live in challenging times and I am aware that many of you are weary, if not exhausted. Do look after yourselves and attend to your own prayer and spiritual life alongside caring for others. Let us try this Advent to have a little more being and a little less doina." continued...

This Advent, in common with wider society finding itself in troubled times, we are presented with a clear choice: do we respond with apprehension or see the new opportunities which lie before us?

Just as there is the uplifting news of possible new treatments to combat the Corona Virus, new opportunities open up this Advent to develop our progress in the spiritual life. Let us then journey onwards with gratitude, good-heart and confidence.

Every blessing to you during this season of uplift and promise and may the new year bring you closer to God.

Julian E LI White (Rector & Vicar)



#### NOTES FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

#### CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS AND EVENTS

The Parochial Church Council (the volunteers who look after the Church on behalf of us all—see list on the Contacts page) will try and ensure that we can celebrate Christmas in spite of coronavirus restrictions. The ideas below may need to be changed if the restrictions change, so please watch out for posters round the villages and follow the Shirenewton, Mynyddbach and Earlswood Community Facebook page for final details.

Let's light up our villages this Christmas! The Christmas message is about the light of hope shining in the darkness so it would be lovely to put up additional exterior lights that everyone can see and lift all our spirits. We will have our Christmas tree in the TA Car park as usual. We sincerely thank the Tredegar Arms, the Community Council and the Haines brothers from Oakland Farm, Llanvair Discoed for their support in making this happen.

The service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December will be a Christmas-themed service with carols, voices of Christmas and a small six-voice choir. Everyone is welcome, and the PCC will ensure numbers are within the allowed maximum and record names of attendees. If you would like to attend his service, please call Bill or Janet on 01291641783 before noon on19th December and let them know. Places will be limited.

We are going to try a virtual Nativity and Christingle this year. A short out-door trail will be set up for people to follow moving round various stations to collect the makings of a Christingle and hearing the nativity story. See more details elsewhere in this magazine or call Jane or Glynis for more details (Jane - 641525, Glynis - 641818).

We are planning to hold a Midnight Mass in the Church on Christmas Eve starting at 11.30 p.m. Again, all are welcome, and the PCC will ensure numbers are within the allowed maximum and will record names. If you would like to attend his service, please call Bill or Janet on 01291641783 before noon on 24<sup>th</sup> December and let them know. Places will be limited.

On Christmas morning there will be a family-friendly Christmas Praise service in the Church at 10 a.m. As with other services, if you would like to attend, please book with Bill or Janet on 01291641783 before noon on 24<sup>th</sup> December and let them know. Places will be limited.

We understand children under the age of 12 are not counted in the numbers in Church.

#### OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

All planned events are, unfortunately, very much subject to changes in the restrictions imposed to combat the coronavirus-covid19.

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021—Village fete—to be opened by the Bishop. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021 —service to commemorate the renovation works in the Church, led by the Bishop.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021—Bring and Share in the Church Room—Mark Smith from the Antiques Roadshow will talk about the Victoria Cross.

#### LOCAL VOLUNTEER NETWORK

In this continuing pandemic life, please know that there are people in your community who are ready to help you if you need them. The Mynyddbach, Shirenewton and Earlswood (MESh) group is a large group of people, from the three villages, who have volunteered to help people who need assistance within the community at this time. If you need any help getting shopping, medicines, etc or you would enjoy a chat on the phone, please get in touch.

meshcorona@gmail.com

Jeni Harper

#### NHS SERVICES ARE CHANGING

The Grange University Hospital opened on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 in response to winter season pressures and the second wave of Covid-19. It is based in Llanfrechfa, Cwmbran with a 24 hour specialist assessment facility, intensive care facilities, comprehensive diagnostic facilities, inpatient beds for major emergencies and complex surgery, and theatres. It is vitally important that residents understand how they will access NHS services in the future. See also pages 28 and 29.

## Shirenewton Community Council Extracts from the minutes of the October meeting

It was Road Safety Week between 16 and 22 November 2020.



Shirenewton Community Council used this event to kick off the '20 is Plenty' campaign.



The Community Council is working with local residents to make the roads within

residential areas of Shirenewton and Mynyddbach safer, healthier, greener, and better for people's quality of life. We want the speed limits to be reduced to a mandatory 20mph – because 20 is Plenty. Banners and posters are in place, and an online petition will be available soon – if you are concerned about the speed of traffic, please support this campaign and sign the petition.

You can help by being conscious of your speed limit and driving at 20mph through our villages. If you are walking after dusk please consider wearing high visibility clothing.

Remember - 20 is Plenty

#### **Extracts from the minutes of the November meeting**

The following planning applications were considered:

**1.** DM/2020/01414 Thorneycroft Cottage, Earlswood Renovation of stone cottage and development of single storey rear extension to create a one bedroom holiday let.

Councillors considered planning policy H4, which states that outside town and village development boundaries, the provision of permanent serviced or self-catering visitor accommodation will only be permitted if it consists of the re-use and adaptation of existing buildings and the conversion of buildings for such uses complies with the criteria set out in Policy H4.

H4 stipulates that the conversion of buildings that are too small or are inappropriately located to provide appropriate standards of of space and amenity for conversions to permanent residential accommodation

will not be permitted save exceptionally where they are suitable for tourist accommodation. Where conversions to tourism accommodation are allowed then the occupancy of the building will be restricted in perpetuity to short stay tourist accommodation. In addition MCC will withdraw permitted development rights and would not expect to grant permission for any further extension or outbuilding such as a garage.

Councillors considered the impact the holiday let would have on traffic and noise, and the potential for economic benefit to our community, and whether the conversion sets an undesirable precedent given the innumerable derelict stone cottages in our area. It was also considered that the conversion would make the building presentable.

Recommendation: Approval with the following conditions:

- the site shall be occupied as holiday accommodation only,
- the site shall remain as holiday accommodation in perpetuity,
- permitted development rights are withdrawn.

## **2. DM 2020/01395 The Old Rectory, Crick Road, Shirenewton** Install 14 solar panels on the roof of detached garage.

There was no objection to this application.

**3.** DM/2020/014 Gaerllwyd Barn, Newchurch, Earlswood To remove a section of hedgerow to gain access to the south side of the site to form a driveway. To remove approx a 2.5m opening from the centre of the stone wall to gain access to the courtyard from the driveway. To convert the garage area to form part living space. To install solar panels and thermal water storage panels into the roof.

Council felt that the permissions should have been sought under three separate applications, rather than grouped under one.

Council noted that planning consent was given in 2016 for residential conversion of these three derelict barns and the present application provided more detail on the proposed works and addressed some of the conditions in the original consent.

Council further noted the historical importance of this site, that the ground outside the proposed development should not be disturbed as a Neolithic chambered tomb is nearby which is a scheduled historic monument.

This application was approved subject to the recommendations made in the previous Highways report dated 4.1.16, plus specific permission from Highways regarding the use of the verge which is common land and not in the ownership of the applicant.

Council also felt that information given to Mon CC in responses to the 2015 application (DC/2015/00847) made on 9.9.15 and 20.10.15 still applies, as follows;

- the site is a medieval burial ground and the previous owners undertook a geo-survey which showed a large shadow (possibly a temple) under the barn;
- this is also a site of SSSI which restricts the ploughing/digging of the ground;
- the two wide verges on either side of the lane are currently common land and should remain so;
- the access to the property is across the verge, permission for this should be sought from Highways.

The Council felt that there are grounds for concern with this application and it should be given more careful consideration, with a watching brief from an organisation such as the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Society.

#### Monthly police report -

#### **Operations**

We continued to conduct a number Off Road Bike operations in Wentwood during this period, where the local Neighbourhood team from South Monmouthshire and The Rural Crime Team worked together with specials to try and catch people using off road bikes. A number of users were warned and educated.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

A number of Anti-social Behaviour calls have been Covid-19 related and we are warning, educating and issuing fixed penalties where appropriate, as well as off road bikes in the Wentwood Area.

We urge the public to continue to follow Government Guidelines, keep yourselves safe. As always any of the team can be contacted via email or our works phone numbers. Continue to report incidents to us via 101 or contact@gwent.pnn.police.uk

https://gov.wales/coronavirus-firebreak-frequently-asked-questions

#### **Your Voice Update**

As part of Our Your Voice patrols the team have over the last 6 months completed numerous local operations these have included Op Hook, Op Harley, Op Edward, Operations with Rural Crime Team and numerous actions days where the team have worked alongside Special Constables, ASU officers to target individuals for drug offences, driving offences. And also speed monitoring and enforcement checking over 550 vehicles over the last few months. The overall results have been:-41 - Stop searches, 6 - Drug drivers arrested, 3 - Drink drivers, 5 - Breath Tests negative, 3 - Possession of class A&B drugs, 7 - Cannabis warnings, 2 - Vehicles seized, 15 - Traffic Offences.

#### Other items of interest

**Road closure** - Mounton Road closure on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 between 9.00am and 5.00pm for telecommunications works.

**No Cold Callers stickers** – stickers had been received and distributed to residents in Orchard Rise and Tan House Court, spare stickers are in the telephone kiosk for residents to pick up if needed

**Garden waste collections and Recycling –** County Councillor Brown reported -**Garden Waste Collection** 

The printed Cabinet decision for garden waste supported Wheelie Bins at a capacity of 240 litres per bin on a fortnightly basis at a cost of £28 per bin annual collection charge. The current bags are 80 litres so if you had 3 bags a week the annual charge for bags is currently £18 x 3 = £54 a year. To have the same amount of garden waste collected on a fortnightly basis would be 2 wheelie bins at an annual charge of £28 x 2= £56 a year. One wheelie bin a fortnight at an annual cost of £28 would be equivalent to one and a half bags a week, meaning that it would be more than the £18 a year for one bag but on a proportionate basis the current charge for 1.5 bags would be £27 but for the Wheelie bin will be £28. It means that there will be just a marginal change in cost of collection.

https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/g4613/ Decisions%2021st-Oct-2020%2014.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2

continued...

#### Recycling

MCC is gradually changing different areas over Monmouthshire to reusable canvas bags to replace the purple and red plastic bags. No notification for our ward area has yet been received but will happen in the not too distant future.

**Date of next meeting - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00 pm**, by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall, if possible, or by a remote meeting if government coronavirus restrictions still apply.

Find more information in draft copies of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous, approved minutes of meetings can be found on the Council's website <a href="https://www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk">www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk</a>

In these strange times Council members wish all residents a safe and happy Christmas and a healthy, more positive New Year.

Please take care.



#### **Gardening Corner**

Well the weather has turned out to be following the same pattern as last year, staying fairly mild, but extremely wet, which has put paid to any notions of a good old fashioned 'Autumn clean-up'. We had bought a good selection of tulip, daffodil and Dutch iris bulbs, for planting up in the flower borders ready for next year. One bed in particular is the last to undergo a mature clear up and re-planting but this is now going to have to wait until the weather dries up. Ironically, I had intended to completely clear this bed up last spring and but had to stop any thoughts of that because we ended up in the middle of a drought. If I was just clearing the bed, this would not have been such an issue, but there were a number of plants that still survived and I wanted to dig these up and replant, once the bed had been cleared. But they would not have survived in the heat and dry that we were experiencing at the time. So, this was put on hold and now it looks like it will be spring again, before we can get back to it. Fortunately, I had managed to plant over half of the bulbs into pots and other borders that had the room during a couple of dry days last week. The rest will now have to be planted into flower pots so that they can at least start to grow, and then I can hopefully plant them into a border in late winter or very early spring. Past experience tells me that you can't leave it too late, otherwise the bulbs don't get established in the soil before they begin to flower, and then they do not thrive the same. Normally, daffodils should be in the ground before the end of October, but they should be fine in pots, with a spell in the greenhouse to encourage them to catch up. Tulips on the other hand are OK until the end of November, so I may just hang on to these and not pot them up for now, in the hope that the weather improves a bit.

I have already planted the garlic and shallots into pots in order for them to 'get going' and these will be transferred into the veg beds as soon as the weather allows. These both need a cold spell to really get the best out of them, so the pots will be moved outside in the next few days. I noticed that the early garlic variety has already sent shoots up that are at least 3 inches tall.

The seed orders are starting to be delivered now. These get sorted into their various components, such as root crops, salad varieties, greens etc. and put into their separate tins. I'm trying to get organised this year by keeping a record of what beds I planted various crops in last year, so I don't plant them up again with the same this coming season. Most of the raised beds have grown vegetables for some 30 years now, so changing the crops is becoming more important than ever. I mentioned that club

root has established in a number of beds despite all my best efforts to keep this at bay (changing beds, liming the soil at planting time etc.). There are still some 'new' areas where I can grow greens (cabbages, cauliflowers, sprouts etc.), but they are getting fewer in number, so nearly all of the seeds I have bought this year are club root resistant varieties, which have been pretty effective in the past. This year I actually lost one crop of shallots and a few onions in a couple of the beds due to onion rot. so it is extremely important not to grown anything oniony or garlicy on these two beds in order to avoid a repetition. With growing all of the greens under very large cloches covered with very fine insect netting the caterpillar problem has all but been defeated. I also try and grow carrots under the same cloches, in order to avoid root fly completely destroying the crop. But as often happens, beating one pest often opens you up to another and in these cases, it happens to be mice / voles. They obviously know they are protected under the covers and have a field day. Regular readers may remember that we lost one of our best mousers about a year ago and the other two cats are now 18 years old and both have cat dementia, which means they just sit around and expect feeding every five minutes, as they can't remember having been fed. Needless to say, they no longer understand what they are meant to be doing, mouse hunting wise. So in effect they have been pensioned off, which is obviously not a lot of use when it comes to trying to control mouse and vole numbers, not to mention rats and squirrels, which can all cause major problems at different times. To help combat this we have taken ownership of two 'rescued' feral cats, one called Harvey is about 7 months old, whilst the other, is thought to be about 18 months old. His name is meant to be Winston, but on his record book it shows as Harold. The latter doesn't seem to us to be a very 'catty' name, so despite the record, he is now Winston! They have been shut away in a very large cage whilst they get used to being here. We have just moved them into a new shed, with bales of straw to remind them of their old farm home. It is 'interesting' at feeding time as I get hissed and growled at every-time I poke my head into the cage to get their food dishes. Winston tolerates a stroke and an ear rub, whilst still growling, but Harvey is uncatchable! They are enjoying the food though, so hopefully they will stay with us when they get let loose. Thy are currently free inside the shed, and will be let loose outside in another couple of days. Cats can find their way back to their previous home, but hopefully they will decide that the walk back to Natland, on the edge of the Lake District isn't worth the effort! Fingers crossed that they turn out to be the perfect mousers, we certainly need them to be.

continued...

I am a bit concerned about the bees at present. On the sunnier days they are out and about working on the late food sources – mainly ivy blossom, although it's amazing how many flowers there are still in the garden. Unfortunately, the numbers of sunny days are limited so the bees are likely to be using up their food supplies quicker than they can replenish them. We need some really cold dry weather as this will then slow down the bees' metabolism and thus the amount of food they need. This will then be limited to keeping the colony warm, rather than using up needless food flying about the countryside. I will be putting some fondant icing on the hives as soon as I can. At least then, on a mild day, they will have extra food available whilst using very little energy to reach it. Having lost several hives thanks to wasps, I don't want to lose more due to starvation brought on by the inclement weather. Fingers crossed.

Like most people, we are still waiting to see what happens with Covid before making any decisions on what our Christmas will look like. We know our eldest daughter and family will be with us for at least a month, brought on by the fact that they have to vacate their current home 2<sup>nd</sup> week in December. They will be homeless for a month or so whilst their new home in Somerset has essential work done on it to make it habitable and we know who will be helping out on the DIY and child-minding duties. Whatever you might be doing please continue to keep yourselves and your families safe and make the best that you can of Christmas. As always, happy gardening until next time. Steve and Felicity Hunt.



#### **FAIRTRADE NEWS NOVEMBER 2020**

The world is in disarray! I'll spare you my thoughts on Trumpy, Dido, Priti and Boris (with difficulty!), but perhaps a few facts about Jeff B might not go amiss. It has been reported that Mr Bezos is currently worth \$200 BILLION (actually not true as this sum increases, per hour, by amounts unattainable in an average person's lifetime).



An Amazon supervisor says that she spends her working hours in a metal enclosure in front of a screen. A robot fetches the items she specifies – she is expected to deal with 360 items per hour, 3,800 per day. 1 item every 6-7 seconds, and rumour has it that a robot might soon be able to do the supervisor out of her job.

Perhaps of more interest (or more of a surprise to me at least) is that Amazon is branching out — `Luxury Stores (superior goods i.e. very expensive ones available to the selected few) — Amazon Explore : zoom-like virtual tours — cloud computing (for US government and private clients [do you have `items' on Amazon's cloud?]) and of course Amazon Fresh. There are others. Apparently he also has designs on Space. Yes, for the consumer it is very convenient. (So was the scandalously cheap production of commodities such as sugar, cotton etc in centuries past . . ). Perhaps it is supremely ironic that the pandemic which has supposedly brought about a radical change in people's attitude to nature, to community, to the throwaway society has also resulted in a stratospheric expansion of this company.

Well, where does that leave Fairtrade? Where it always was. Paying its workers properly, supporting small-scale producers, improving the standard of living of hard working farmers and artisans, ensuring the sustainability of the environment.

Apparently Mr Bezos takes the climate crisis very seriously – his TV ad certainly implies so. Good. Oxfam has a wide selection of beautiful FT gifts and goodies – and no plastic on C'mas cards or in wrapping paper. Oxfam also sells a range of toiletries and cleaning products as well as general coffee, tea, chocolate, dried fruit, olive oil etc. The shop feels very covid secure (volunteers wear thick jumpers as the door is always open!)

Traidcraft FT products are of course available from me or direct from Traidcraft or Ethical Superstore. As Christmas approaches as ever I urge you to consider the provenance of your purchases!

Marion McAdam 641316 msm316gmail.com

P.S. FT bamboo socks make excellent stocking fillers (if you see what I mean!)



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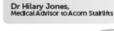
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## h 🖶 SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET COMMITTEE WISHES TO THANK ALL STALLHOLDERS & CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT THIS YEAR. **WE HOPE TO BE BACK NEXT YEAR BIGGER &** BETTER! WISHING YOU ALL A **HEALTHY & HAPPY** CHRISTMAS & BEST WISHES FOR 2021.



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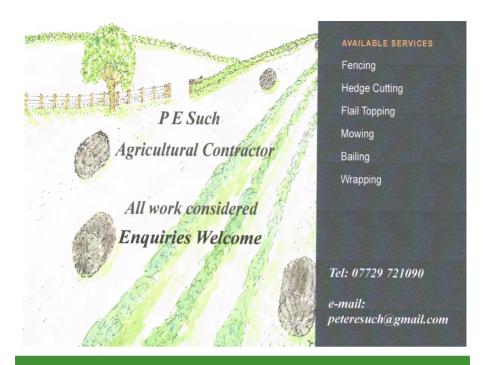
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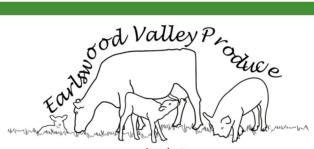
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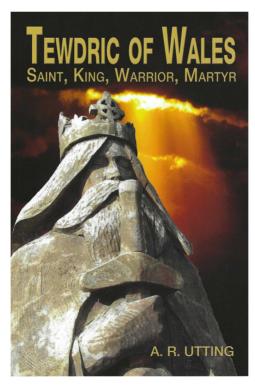
#### SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

#### Registered Charity No. 1090167

We are in the process of planning our 2021 talks for our virtual meetings and you will be able to find these on our website.

If you are still looking for stocking fillers we still have some 'History Walk Packs' available (£3.00). Contact me on 01291 641376.

I have found this snippet from our archive (see opposite) and thought you would be interested. It refers to the alteration done to the church in 1850's.



#### Letter from E.I. Jones, dated 16th April 1852.(D 1128)

Quotes the Norton, architect's report:

"The nave roof which is very ancient is now (so) completely decayed in parts that it must be replaced, nor do I think it desirable to use any of the old materials in its reconstruction. The windows in most cases are very ill restored, with wooden mullions in lieu of the ancient stone ones; these require to be entirely renewed.

He (the architect) then goes on to mention the decayed state of the walls and the necessity for repewing - but from the small size of the church and the removal of the unsightly gallery, which blocks up the west window, he is not able to increase materially the number of sittings without adding to the sacred edifice."

Later in the letter: Shirenewton is I am sorry to say the poorest, and the most overburdened with a pauper population in the Chepstow district - the exposed situation and shallow soil afford no encouragement to wealthy occupiers; the rate payers generally are small tenant occupiers, a class quite unable to bear any heavy expenditure. We have two large landed proprietors residing in the parish but from one of them we have no hope of receiving assistance - I do not think he will offer any serious opposition but he will do nothing to forward the work - the other has very munificently given £100 for the new aisle and £50 for repairs.

#### Letter from William Lawley, of Bryngwyn, dated 20th April 1852.

"The parish of Shirenewton lies upon a continuation of the same wild hills as Devauden Green which was brought so much into notice by the self denying labours of the good old schoolmaster James Davies. The population is generally of the like scattered and very poor who live in cottages built on generally upon the waste and surrounded by a few pockets of unproductive land which have been claimed by their industry from the surrounding common. It is only in the last 13 or 14 years that a parsonage house has been built and the rectors have residence on the spot, and their efforts to improve the people have been greatly impeded by the want of substance and sufficient accommodation in their parish church. I shall very deeply regret if the present attempts should fail for want of sufficient funds. The necessity of very extensive repairs contemporaneously with the important addition of a north aisle will add greatly to the cost."

One other letter comments that no-one has a living memory of any repairs being undertaken to the church. If this includes recollections from long dead parents, then it would take us back about a century, so it is unlikely that anything had been done since about 1750 at least.

The bells were hung in 1757 - so this would suggest that a restoration was carried out then.

## Nerys's Natty Nosh

I made this pork terrine last Christmas to accompany the roast turkey. It's equally good served cold with chutney and pickle as a supper dish. Have a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

#### **Pork Terrine**

Packet of streaky bacon (nitrate free if possible)

#### **Bottom Layer**

6 thin cut pork loin steaks 1 leek, trimmed and chopped Chopped fresh parsley Salt and pepper for seasoning

#### **Middle**

20 dried apricots

#### **Top Layer**

6 thin cut pork loin steaks Fresh chopped sage 2 tbsp Onion marmalade Salt and pepper for seasoning.

- **1** Line a baking tin with the bacon.
- **2** Add all the bottom layer ingredients into the food processor and pulse until well combined. Place on top of the bacon.
- **3** Add the chopped apricots.







- Add all the top layer ingredients into the food processor and pulse until well combined. Place on top of the apricots.
- Wrap the terrine with the bacon.

Cover with foil and bake in a Bain-Marie on a moderate setting in the oven until the meat is thoroughly cooked. (Mine took two hours in the Aga). This is a perfect accompaniment to roast poultry and can be cooked at the same time.



**Freeze** the raw terrine freezes very well but do remember to remove a day in advance before cooking to ensure the meat is thoroughly cooked throughout. **Enjoy!** 





The Cayo beauty & wellness is a home-based salon, located in its own studio space and set in the beautiful countryside of Shirenewton.

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Contact: Samantha Durant Mob: 07598908830 sdurant380@gmail.com



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the\_cayo\_beauty





#### Welcome to Our

#### 'Christmas Praise' Service

in Shirenewton Church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 10 o'clock

With poems, readings and 'Recollections',
And some singing!

Sadly not congregational singing but from a small and selected choir.

And I'm so excited because I've been asked to be a top sop! The down side is I have been asked to sing very quietly.



#### Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in November:

- 1. Clair Johnsey
- 2. Megan Halliday

3. Ian Waite

4. Cynthia Smith



#### Nativity and Christingle A Light in the Darkness

For some inexplicable reason, we can't have our usual Nativity and Christingle Service in the Church this year... So we are going to have to have an unusual Nativity and Christingle.

#### Same date: Christmas Eve Wander up any time between 4 and 5 o'clock

But the difference is you are going to make your own Christingle as you 'Travel to Bethlehem'. And we hope to see as many of you as possible wearing dressing gowns with tea towels on your head, or come as angels or kings.

- See the kings in the Church Room doorway and receive your orange.
- Then travel over to The Chantry to meet the angels and they will give you your Christingle candle.
- Then on to see the shepherds and a lot of sheep sheltering under The Chantry veranda, and let's hope they haven't scoffed all the sweeties.
- Finally, travel on to Bethlehem to see Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus in the church porch. There you can light your Christingle as we welcome Jesus into our world a light in this darkness.

for more details: Jane - 641 525 and Glynis - 641 818



















#### A Drive-Thru Advent Fair!

As we can't gather in the Church Room for our annual Advent Fair this year, Jane and I had yet another innovative idea – a 'Drive-Thru' Advent Fair. Brilliant or wot!

When: Sunday 6 December
Time: 10:30 to 11:30
Where: The Chantry Drive-way

Our Sunday Club needs to raise funds for Dimola and his village in Burkina Faso, West Africa. So, we will be selling mincemeat, mincepies, marmalade, mintjelly, Christmas decorations, and of course, cakes. And no Advent Fair would be the same without a raffle.

Oh and something new for this year... Festive Face Masks - now that's a first!

We hope to see you there albeit fleetingly.

For more details: Glynis 641 818 and Jane 641 525







## What to do if your child has an illness or injury



When The Grange University Hospital opens (scheduled for 17th November 2020), our hospital services for children will change.

Children who require emergency treatment will go to The Grange University Hospital, where Specialist Children's Doctors and Nurses will be centralised. All children's hospital beds and the Children's Emergency Assessment Unit will also be at The Grange University Hospital.

The Royal Gwent Hospital, Nevill Hall Hospital and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr will continue to provide a wide range of routine outpatient appointments for children and certain Elective Day Case Surgeries.

Local Minor Injury Units for children (aged over 1 year) will remain at the Royal Gwent Hospital or Nevill Hall Hospital, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, and Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan. All children aged under 1 year old will need to be seen at The Grange University Hospital.

#### What will be available for children at our main hospitals:

	The Grange University Hospital	Royal Gwent Hospital	Nevill Hall Hospital	Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr	Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan
Inpatient wards	1	Х	Х	Х	х
Child Assessment Unit	1	X	Х	х	X
Minor Injuries	X	1	1	1	1
Children's Emergencies	1	X	X	X	х
Outpatients	X	✓ StWoolos	1	1	1

Maternity Services: Antenatal clinics, Midwifery-led routine births and Postnatal clinics will all take place at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Nevill Hall Hospital, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr and Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan. All Consultant-led births will take place within The Grange University Hospital, with an additional centre for Midwifery-led births.



#### Cut out and keep -

## NHS SERVICES IN GWENT ARE CHANGING

when The Grange University Hospital opens



#### CALL 999 OR GO TO THE GRANGE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

if you have a LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS or SERIOUS INJURY



#### GO TO A MINOR INJURY UNIT

at Nevill Hall, the Royal Gwent, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr or Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Hospitals, if you have a minor injury (Children under 1 year will need to go to The Grange University Hospital).



#### CONTACT YOUR GP

if you have an illness or concern that is not immediately life-threatening.



#### **CALL NHS 111**

if you are unwell, unsure what to do and need help. You can also call 111 for urgent GP care when your own Surgery is closed.



### TREAT AT HOME or CONTACT YOUR PHARMACIST

if you have a minor illness or ailment such as a sore throat, cough, skin irritation or common mild illness.

For more information, visit abuhb.nhs.wales. Keep up to date and ask us questions by following us: 







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#### Huntsman Catering LLP



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requirements.

Carrots, Petite Pois & Broccoli, Cauliflower Cheese. £20p Adult & £15 Child

00

Desserts @ £4.50 each

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Custard

Cheese Cake with Cream Meringue Roulade with Cream

Apple & Blackberry Crumble with Custard

Chocolate Orange Fudge Cake with Cream

Baileys Panecotta with White Chocolate Chip Brownie



Red Cabbage in Port, Orange & Cranberry—£1.50,

11th
December.

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### Take Away Menu

## Wednesday Curry Night £10pp Friday Fish & Chip Night £10pp

#### Sunday Lunch £12pp

#### See our Facebook page or call for full details

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## To advertise in this magazine contact

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#### Shirenewton W.I.



Well it wasn't quite Remembrance Sunday as usual this year, but Shirenewton WI, along with other community groups, were able to lay their wreaths at the village memorial and to pay our respects.

November at Shirenewton WI took the form of an excellent demonstration of how to make Simple Fabric Brooches, by our very own Angela Gray.

Angela talked us through each step and produced some beautiful brooches,

showing us different ways to decorate

and finish each one.

Our next WI meeting is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7:15pm which is our belated AGM followed by a Christmas Quiz. We also hope to have an outdoor



"Mulled Wine & Mince Pie" event on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm, weather

permitting! The challenge is to make our own fabric brooches to wear on the day!
Please contact Jane Butterworth 01291 641704 if you

would like to join us.

#### SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

#### www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Welcome to December. By the time you read this England should be out of lockdown and we will be waiting to see what sort of Christmas we will be able to have!

Last month I left you, no doubt, in eager anticipation of the outcome of my burglar alarm upgrade project. Well I'm pleased to report that the project was a success. The burglar alarm is working and residents of Mynyddbach may have heard me testing it. It has fob key access/arming and I can control it via an app on my phone which also alerts when it is activated! All good. As I mentioned last month the key point is that, if you have an existing wired alarm which is working fine but you'd like to upgrade to take advantage of modern technology, it shouldn't be a massive project and, if anyone tells you it is, they are lying! Moving on to other techie news items this month. The Daily Mail reported that "Security experts extract 75,000 'highly sensitive' files from 100 USB drives sold on eBay that could be used by hackers to blackmail sellers who did not properly wipe the devices". In short, the researchers purchased 100 USB thumb drives from eBay and were able to extract information from them including passwords, bank statements, health records and much more. Only 30% of the drives and been properly wiped.

As many will understand, when you delete something from a PC drive you are not actually deleting it and only removing it from view. Even formatting a drive may not remove the files. For example, a 'quick format' may only wipe the FAT (i.e. the file index) instead of the 'clusters' which contain the actual files and a standard recovery tool will be able to recover those unwiped files. There are plenty of free tools which will help you do a low level format of the drive which will permanently wipe data. Remember: just because the drive appears empty doesn't mean it is!

Of course, the easy way to permanently ensure that a drive is unreadable is to destroy it. About a year ago I had a clean out of a pile of old techie kit that I'd accumulated over the years. The drives I was taking down to the skip had the 'pickaxe' treatment before they went into recycling. Not even GCHQ could have read those drives after my pickaxe had done its business!

While on the subject of privacy, I think most of us know that in owning a mobile phone we've sold our soul to either Google or Apple depending on our ecosystem! Our phones are constantly transmitting information to our ecosystem providers. Google knows more about me than anyone one person and probably even myself. However, there are a couple of privacy

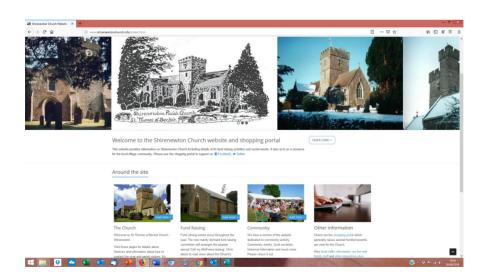
focused phones starting to emerge. The e.foundation is one. It's mission is to 'deGoogle' Android and thus to 'escape from Mobile Surveillance'. The url is 'https://e.foundation or just type e.foundation into your browser. Then there is the Librem 5 from Purism (https://puri.sm). I would stress that I personally don't have one of these phones and therefore cannot make any recommendations – but it is interesting that they are beginning to appear.

Finally, the shirenewtonshop domain will lapse before the end of November and will not be renewed. You can still help the church by accessing Amazon from the link on the church website home page. If you click on that link prior to purchasing via Amazon the church will earn a small commission on the purchase.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and to share a hope that 2021 is better than 2020!Safe browsing

drc Webmaster

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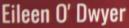


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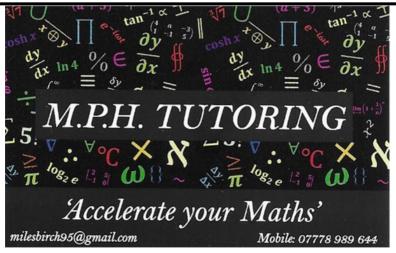
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### **STARGAZING**





Orion the Hunter, many people's favourite constellation lies to the south-east. Four bright stars represent his shoulders and legs whilst a further three form his belt. Orion demonstrates different types of stars. If you look at Orion's belt it is possible to see a well-defined sword hanging from it. In the middle of the sword there is a slightly odd looking star - it seems smudged to the naked eve. This is the Great Orion Nebula, a vast cloud of gas and dust that is lit up by stars within the cloud. The nebula is a stellar nursery – new stars are forming inside it as the dust clumps together. Rigel the star forming the hunter's left foot is the brightest star in the constellation. It is a blue supergiant that will pass its supergiant stage soon (on an astronomical timescale), either collapsing in the case of a supernova or shedding its outer layers and turning into a white dwarf. Betelgeuse, the star at Orion's left shoulder is a massive red supergiant star nearing the end of its life. When it explodes it will even be visible during the day.

The W-shape of Cassiopeia lies to the north-west, whilst the seven stars forming the Plough can be seen in the northeast.

At the beginning of December and in the early evening, the planets Jupiter and Saturn form a close pair to the south-west. Orange-coloured Mars is much higher in the sky to the south throughout December and January. The Moon is below Mars on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and 20<sup>th</sup> January.

21<sup>st</sup> December is the Winter Solstice, our shortest day, often called mid-winter.

Joke: Sirius, the dog star, is moving closer to Earth at a rate of nine miles per second. This means someday we could be in Sirius trouble!

#### **ADVERTORIAL**

### Inheritance tax - Are you making the most of your allowances?

I recently visited a widow who lived just outside Usk. She didn't consider herself to be wealthy, but like many of us had worked hard throughout life to pay off a mortgage. She is now retired and in a comfortable financial position. She has three children and you could probably understand her disbelief to be informed that when she passes away the tax man will receive a higher amount in tax than the share of her estate left to each of her three children! The continued rise in house prices in this area means that these days you don't have to be hugely wealthy to be affected by Inheritance tax (IHT). According to HMRC inheritance tax receipts 2019, a record £5.38 billion was collected in inheritance tax in the 2018/19 tax year and this is set to rise. There are many things you can do to reduce your inheritance tax liability and keep more of your wealth within the family. The current IHT nil-rate threshold is £325,000 for individuals and £650,000 for a married couple or civil partners. Beyond these thresholds, IHT is usually payable at a rate of 40%. In order to help with aforementioned increasing house prices we recently saw the introduction of the main residence nil-rate band, which applies if you want to pass your main residence to a direct descendant, this now provides an additional £175,000 for individuals and £350,000 for a married couple or civil partners. However, it is important to be aware that for larger estates this extra relief is tapered when the estate is over £2m.

There is a range of options to help mitigate your potential inheritance tax bill, but as a starting point, you should consider the following allowances:

Annual gifting allowance – each year you and your spouse can each gift up to £3,000 in total. You can also carry this forward for one year. Furthermore, gifts of up to £250 to any number of people are exempt.

Wedding gifts – Parents can give up to £5,000 to a bride or groom, for grand-parents this reduces to £2,500. Other well-wishers can give up to £1,000 before it becomes liable to IHT.

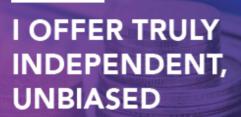
Gifts to registered charities and political parties are exempt

Gifts can also be made out of surplus income, however a number of conditions apply to this allowance and so I would suggest you seek advice in relation to this.

Assets left to your UK based spouse or civil partner are also exempt.

Remember planning pays and there are several routes which can help with such taxes. If you would like to come along to my free inheritance tax seminars just drop me a line. (info@iscawealth.com Isca Wealth Management Limited is an Appointed Representative of Vision Independent Financial Planning Ltd which is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Firm reference number 487395. Please note that the FCA does not regulate inheritance tax advice.





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The benefits to the treatment of tax will depend on your individual circumstances and may be subject to change in the future.

### **LOCAL CONTACTS**

If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Bill Clark Telephone 01291 641783 or email parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com

	a Beeker Simenewesi				
Rector	Revd Julian White	01291 622317			
	<u>Jel.white@btinternet.com</u>				
Parish Priest	Revd Nansi Davies CBE	01633 400 519			
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gilly Lambert	01291 641 175			
Parish Visitor Coordinators	Revd Nansi Davies CBE	01633 400 519			
	Diane Marlow	01291 641 407			
Church Wardens – Rector's	Sally Saysell	01291 641 369			
– People's	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925			
PCC Secretary	Bill Clark	01291 641 783			
PCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175			
PCC Members	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459			
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	Paul Morcombe	01291 641 671			
	Kevin Bounds	01291 641 648			
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Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650 521			
	James Leney	01291 641 271			
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Secretary	Jen Marendaz 01291329422				
Church Warden	Elsbeth Morlan 01291627538				
	Peter Pope	01291624453			

#### MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

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Chair	Philip Butterwo	rth 01291 641704	philip.b@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Keith M Dunn C	DBE 01291 641152	keith.d@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Eleanor Chapman 01291 641421 Elizabeth Wixcey 01291641216		eleanor.c@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
			elizabeth.w@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
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	Emma Nigogosian		emma.n@shirenewtonxx.org.uk
Earlswood Ward	Jayne McKenna	01291 691774	jayne.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Vacancy		
Newchurch West	Tan Martin	01291 650014 ia	n.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk

Newchurch WestIan Martin01291 650014ian.m@shirenewtoncc.org.ukMCC for ShirenewtonLouise Brown07598 97971louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament David Davies 020 7219 8360 daviesd@parliament.uk

#### **Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts**

**Neighbourhood Police Officer** Matt Scree matthew.screen@gwent.pnn.police.uk **Neighbourhood CSO** Andrew.jones@gwent.pnn.police.uk

**Other Local Organisations** 

**Beavers** Julie Hitchcock 01291 650548

**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 627677

Gaerllwyd BaptistMrs E RemnantBrooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SARanger GuidesHelen Cann01291 6628534cannhelen@gmail.comRecreation AssociationBeverly Lyndsay07798 780971 beverlylindsay@btinternet.comRecreation Hall bookingBeryl Saysell01291 641637bsaysell@hotmail.co.uk

St Peters Church Newchurch

Enid Heritage 01291 622708

enidheritage@gmail.com

**Shirenewton Local History Society** 

Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376 brabonnl@hotmail.com

Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)

Neil Fuller 01291 641324

**Caerwent Group Mothers Union** 

Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer Bridget Evans 01291 408125 bridget.caldicot@gmail.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 Toddler Group** Jude Langdon 07981 368213

Paula Rimmer rimmerpaula@mac.com

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# SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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