

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

May 2016



Price: £1



*Sketch by Lynne Prosser*

***Happy 90th birthday ma'am***

## **APRIL 200 CLUB**

1. Graham Lambert, £40
2. Dorothy Brabon, £30
3. Pip Penny, £20
4. Nansi Davies, £10
- 5.

"A few members seem to have subscribed twice this year. We have allocated you additional numbers and thank you for your generosity."

With thanks,  
Graham

## **FROM THE PARISH REGISTER**

### **Death**

Anna Theresa Barnes 1939—2016

Funeral Service held at St Thomas á Becket Church Shirenewton 4th April 2016

### **Problems getting around without a car?**

The Grass Routes transport scheme is a responsive flexible bus service that makes trips on request. It operates low floor, fully accessible vehicles with volunteer drivers.

The scheme is operated on a membership basis and is open to all members of the community of any age and can be used for day time journeys for all sorts of purposes, such as shopping, medical appointments and visiting friends and family.

To meet the needs of our community, St Thomas's Church has decided to cover the cost of membership for those in our communities without access to a vehicle.

Grass Routes would particularly like to hear from potential volunteer drivers too.

Organised by St Thomas a Beckett Church

## FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

Following the observation of Lent, the hectic activity surrounding Easter, four Vestry meetings involving change of parish officers – in addition to a period of ill health and the regular (often unexpected) duties of parish life – I yearn for something of a break. Well, the opportunity has arisen but not in the manner I anticipated.

The windows of my late mother's house in west Wales have decided, of their own accord, to fall out and leave the rest of the house open to the ravages of our climate. So, I am obliged to nip away for a few days and partake of earnest meetings with an assortment of tradesmen which will, doubtless, result in considerable expenditure.

All of which, I know, is of little concern to you. But I am feeling sorry for myself and so I will inflict this on you.

And so to some matters of (hopefully) a degree of interest to parishioners.

By tradition the grouped parish, ever optimistic, moves into proposed seasonal activities. Up in Shirenewton events have been planned with military precision whilst down here in Mathern, Mounton and St. Pierre there is already a frenzied struggle to secure dates before other organizations do likewise and unearth suitable venues. Anything scheduled to take place outdoors runs, as always, the real risk of inclement weather. Anyway, read all about the enticing events in this and coming editions of the magazine. And have an umbrella at the ready.

Now onto more serious matters.

The Anglican Bishops in Wales have recently issued their discussion document on *Gay and Lesbian Christians*. This, as previously mentioned in our weekly notices, is available in our parish churches. Reproduced is what I believe to be points of interest:

*'One of the most contentious issues for Christians in our day has been the question of how the Church responds to those attracted to the same gender who seek the blessing of the Church upon the committed partnerships they form.'*

*Over the last eighteen months, we have conducted a wide consultation in Governing Body and with the dioceses to explore whether the faithful of the Church in Wales felt it would be appropriate to acknowledge same sex unions in Church, by offering a Blessing, or even permitting the marriage of same sex couples in Church. Given that the civil law of the realm has now been changed to permit marriage of same sex couples, many see this as a natural next step.*

*The results of the consultation have been very varied: in some dioceses there was a strong voice for the status quo, in others a majority who wanted to see change. In the subsequent debate in the Governing Body, it became clear that although a majority of members supported change, there was certainly no consensus....*

*The Primates condemned homophobic prejudice and violence and affirmed their commitment again to offer pastoral care and loving service irrespective of sexual orientation....They recognised that the Christian Church, including Anglicans, have often acted in a way towards people on the basis of their sexual orientation that has caused deep hurt. They expressed their profound sorrow and affirmed again that God's love for every human being is the same, regardless of their sexuality, and that the Church should never by its actions give any other impression.*

*Since 2005, the Bench of Bishops has acknowledged that there are a range of views with respect to homosexuality, which have to be recognized as "honest and legitimate differences" within the diversity of opinion in the Church in Wales.*

*The issues around human sexuality that are being debated in the Church will not go away, and the pain and tensions experienced in the debate are not over. We do believe however that we are called to live in love and charity with one another, whatever our experience or convictions on this issue, and we call upon all followers of Jesus Christ to respond with grace and as much accommodation as possible to all our brothers and sisters in Christ, including those who are gay or lesbian.'*

There is much to consider in this document and I commend to you the study of it. Please feel free to make your position known.

With every good wish and blessing,



# Harmony

Newbury, Berkshire

HARMONY – THE WORLD IN SONG was held in St Thomas à Becket Church on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. An enjoyable evening was had by all with nibbles and wine in the Saysell Rooms afterwards.



## **SUNDAY PAPERS AVAILABLE IN THE VILLAGE!**



From Sunday 3rd April for a trial period of 4 months, Sunday newspapers will be available by pre-order.

Papers will need to be collected from the Saysell Centre (also known as the Church Room) between 10am and noon.

Coffee and cake will be available between 11am and noon.

Please sign up now!

Please email [shirenewtonpapers@gmail.com](mailto:shirenewtonpapers@gmail.com)

or call Janet Horton on 641783

If you have already contacted us, we will be in touch prior to 3rd April to check which paper's you want and run through the arrangements

Organised by St Thomas a Beckett Church

## **ALLOTMENTS NOW AVAILABLE**

**IN**

**SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE**



**INTERESTED IN GROWING YOUR OWN**

**FLOWERS OR VEGETABLES AND YOUR GARDEN IS NOT**

**LARGE ENOUGH?**

**ALLOTMENTS ARE COMING TO SHIRENEWTON**

**CONTACT MARK ON 641005**

# **SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE**

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Recreation Ground**

**The countdown begins !**

**A fun day out for all the family including:**

Alpacas	Local HistoryLocal History
Beefburger & HotDogs	No. Sweets in a Jar
Beer Tent	Pimms Stall
Book Stall	Raffle cake
Bottle Stall	Skittles
Bouncy Castle	Welly Wanging
Cake Stall	Welsh cakes
Candy Floss	White Elephant Stall
Ice Cream	WI Teas
Coconut Shy	Raffle & Church
Face Painting	Fairtrade
Flower/Plant Stall	LandRover
Golf: Chip into a tyre	Guess the Salmon Weight

***Miss this and there is not another one for a whole year***



**Fundraising Luncheon**  
**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
**1.00pm in the Saysell Rooms**  
**Shirenewton**

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

**Limit of 50 places available**

Book early:

Caroline Davies 01291 641331 or Joanne Tomlins 01291 641005

### MacMillan Menu

#### Canapés

#### Starters

Homemade country pate with cucumber pickle and quince jelly

Or

Chilled curried melon soup (v)

Both served with homemade bread

#### Mains Course - Buffet

Baked Ham with Cumberland sauce

Fillets of salmon

Turkey, melon, celery and apple salad with curried mayonnaise

Marinated kipper fillets

Tomato, wild garlic and basil tart (v)

#### Salads

Fruity Spring slaw (v)

New Potato with gravlax (v)

Brown rice with fruit, vegetables, soy dressing (v)

Courgettes with turmeric dressing (v)

Tomato Mellon & Cucumber

#### Desserts - Cheese Board - Petits Fours

Wine and soft drinks included

Menu may be subject to slight change

If you have any special dietary needs, please contact Caroline

The background of the poster is a vibrant, abstract painting. On the left side, there is a detailed, dark-colored horse's head, possibly a Shire horse, looking towards the right. The rest of the background is a colorful, textured wash of yellow, orange, and white, with black musical notes and stems scattered across it, suggesting a musical theme. The title 'Shirefest 2016' is written in a large, bold, black font with a thick white outline, positioned in the upper right quadrant.

# Shirefest 2016

**Sat 4th June 2016**

**2pm - 11:45pm**

**Huntsman Hotel  
Shirenewton**

**Adults £10**

**16 & under FREE**

**All proceeds to charity.**

**Bands to be  
announced!**

**Free parking or  
late-night buses available.**

**For more info visit:-  
[www.shirefest.org](http://www.shirefest.org)**

## SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

[www.shirenewtonchurch.com](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.com)

Reports in the technical press suggest that 'Exploit kit writers' (i.e. nasty people who want to hijack your PC/data/etc.) are targeting Adobe Flash. NTT Group report that all of the top 10 vulnerabilities targeted by exploit kits during 2015 were related to Adobe Flash. The same report noted that the number of publicized Flash vulnerabilities jumped by four-fold over 2014 levels.

At broadly the same time, Computer Weekly was reporting that 'Crypto ransomware has been found lurking in adverts served on popular websites including the BBC, the New York Times, MSN and AOL'. I'm not sure, speaking personally, that AOL could be classified as a 'popular' website but, I'm sure you get the message. Note the vulnerability is not the websites themselves but the adverts contained therein. The hackers target the advertising network and, when compromised, include the nasty stuff in the ads themselves. Apparently the compromised ads are known as 'malvertising' – you learn something new every day.

However, the key point is that the exploit kits targets, you've guessed it, Adobe Flash – in addition to other browser plug-ins.

What does all this mean?

Firstly, it means 'keep Flash up-to-date'. It should be on auto update. However, don't click 'Yes' on those annoying messages which ask you if want to update Flash as 'most common lure used in malvertisements in 2015 to date has been fake Flash updates'. Yes folks, those nasty people pretend that their nasty software is a Flash update process and, just when you think you are doing the correct thing, before you know it your machine is compromised! Bad news!

My advice is to disable Flash in your default browser. You won't get to see a few ads – not that much of a loss. My default browser is Chrome and Flash is disabled. There are still, increasingly rare, web-based applications which require Flash. If you are going to use one of these and are sure it's safe, simply use a different browser.

So you may think: I know I'll get an ad blocker. That will solve the problem. Wrong.

It's been reported by Oriel (a London based advert technology company) that 'ad blockers' don't just block ads they can actually prevent the website working correctly. The example given was that the most popular ad blockers prevented the research team from using online check-in at BA.com and RyanAir.com. They also found that ad blockers prevent them from order tracking and watching promotional videos on some sites. Less than ideal.

This is apparently because 'ad blockers often tend to be "blunt instruments" which indiscriminately delete harmless bits of code that are not related to advertising'. Just disable Flash – it's easier! Google how to do this. It's simple.

On another note I've update the forthcoming events pop-up on the home page so you can now plan your social year around our forthcoming fund raising events. I knew you'd be excited.

Safe browsing— David Cornwell [webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com](mailto:webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com)

## **SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Extracts from the minutes of the April meeting

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

### **Planning applications considered**

1. DC/2016/00160 Land at Gaerllwyd Farm, Earlswood

Retention of lean-to and a storage container.

Council noted that the proposal is unobtrusive and does not affect neighbouring properties. Recommendation: Approval with a condition that the steel container be painted green.

As there are several steel shipping containers in the community, the Clerk was requested to contact Planning to enquire whether as a general principle they are encouraged by Mon CC and are subject to planning permission

2. DC/2014/01185 Land adjacent to Clearview Court, Shirenewton

Reserved matters application for 7 dwellings and associated works on land adjoining Clearview Court granted outline permission under application DC/2009/01061, including details to discharge condition 1 (Reserved Matters) and condition 4 (Boundary Treatments).

Council noted that the splay of the site entrance onto the highway had been improved; that the boundary hedge had been removed; and that the property at the top of the site with no garage now had three parking spaces.

Recommendation: Approval.

### **Items of local concern –**

Grant applications from the 2016/17 budget - Organisations within the community are reminded to submit a grant application form for the £1,200 available from the Council from the 2016/17 budget (please contact the Clerk for a form). Closing date 30 June 2016. All applications will be considered at the July meeting of the Council.

Vandalism – Council was informed of vandalism of the playgroup area on the recreation field which led to approximately £200 of damage, this was followed by further damage two weeks later. People and cars were picked up on CCTV and the police are scrutinising the CCTV footage.

Mynyddbach noticeboard – a replacement noticeboard is now in place.

Vehicle Activated Signage – it has been reported to Mon CC that the 20 mph sign at Crick Road is not operational and the one at the school is on 24 hours a day - they will be checked out.

Grow Wild Seed Kits 2016 – 4 kits received. Grow Wild is the UK's biggest-ever wild flower campaign, bringing people together to transform local spaces with native, pollinator-friendly wild flowers and plants. Supported by the [Big Lottery Fund](#), Grow Wild is the national outreach initiative of the [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#). Kits to be given to the school, playgroup, SAMFAL and church.

## **Best Kept Village Competition 2016**

It's not long now to the month of the Competition. Judging will take place between 1st – 30th June and marks are given for the appearance and condition of the village, village hall and playing field, war memorial, churchyard, bus shelters and surroundings. The condition of hedges, fences, walls and grass verges is also taken into account, as well as the tidiness of flower and vegetable gardens, outhouses and sheds. Bonus marks are given for the general appearance of the village, noting the absence of litter and refuse dumps. BUT, marks are deducted for any unsightly areas.

Last year Shirenewton won Best Kept Village, Best Kept War Memorial, Best Kept Village Hall and was joint winner of Best Kept Churchyard, with the Tredegar Arms being Highly Commended. Can we do as well again this year? Of course we can. It will mean everyone in the village helping, not only with their own gardens, plant pots and hanging baskets, but also by being aware of their surroundings and taking care of the public parts of the village - the entrances to the village, weeding and clearing verges and footpaths and picking up litter near your home.

Planting of flower troughs will take place in mid-May and if you are able to donate plants, they will be very welcome. If you can help with planting or would like to sponsor a trough, please let me know, offers will be gratefully received. The Tredegar Arms has kindly offered to sponsor the trough in the middle of the village.

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

Dates of next meetings - Annual Meeting Monday 9 May 2016 at 7.30pm followed by the ordinary meeting at 8.00 pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.  
June meeting to be held on Monday 6 June 2016.

Find more information in the draft copy of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous minutes of meetings can be found on the Council's website [www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk](http://www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk)

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

## EASTER IN SHIRENEWTON

At the start of Holy Week we celebrated Palm Sunday with a Morning Praise service. The Sunday Club joined the congregation to consider what it must have been like on that jubilant day, by drawing some parallels with events that we could all relate to which had people out in the streets waving and cheering. We recreated, in our small way, the experience, with some enthusiastic shouts of "Hosanna!" and waving of palms; it was wonderful to hear the church full of joyful cries, though some of our younger Sunday Club members found it quite intimidating too. It certainly gave us a tiny idea of what it might have been like, and it wasn't quite as staid as we might have imagined!

On Maundy Thursday a few of us shared in the service of Tenebrae at Mathern. During the service, as the passion story was revealed the altar was stripped and the lights gradually extinguished, leaving complete darkness and the stark undressed church. It was a very beautiful and moving experience.

We were blessed with a beautiful, bright Spring morning on Good Friday; the perfect setting for our walk up Gray Hill. Starting from the reservoir car park, with gathering prayers we walked up the hill, pausing to get our breath back, give thanks for the glorious weather and views and to listen to the unfolding story of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion, concluding with final prayers at the standing stones. We then returned to the car park to picnic on hot cross buns and enjoy a little fellowship to start our Easter.



**Open Gardens in Shirenewton and Mynyddbach.  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 11:00 – 5:00**



Come and visit a fine selection of local gardens  
in and around Shirenewton and Mynydd bach.  
See what the world looks like from someone else's back garden!  
Tickets and a Guide available from The Chantry.  
TICKETS: £7:00, cons £5:00, under 16s free  
**The money raised will go towards the upkeep of our lovely  
village church.**

**Plus...**



**Afternoon Tea and cake  
(and a glass of wine)**



**in aid of Christian Aid, 4:00 – 6:00  
at The Chantry.**

**With music from Mandocordia**



# Weekly Newsletter

[www.shirennewton.monmouthshire.sch.uk](http://www.shirennewton.monmouthshire.sch.uk)

**NUT FREE SCHOOL**

## CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to Mr & Mrs Dennehy on the safe arrival of Joseph James Dennehy on Saturday evening, weighing in at 6lbs 11oz. Mother and baby are doing really well and hopefully will be visiting us soon!

## Y4 TRIP TO HILSTON PARK

*"We arrived at 9am, met all the instructors who explained what activities we would be doing. They were: crate stacking, problem solving & archery. We were in 3 groups. Group A with Tom, group B with Rick & group C with Richard. We all had a brilliant time, even with all the rain. Every group supported each other & encouraged everyone to 'have a go'. We used lots of different skills, e.g. team building, thinking skills, maths skills, communication skills. It was one of the best trips ever. We were really sad to leave. We are all writing letters to the instructors for our Big Write on Friday to tell them how much we enjoyed our visit. We will also be blogging about our day & share some of the photos taken in the day."*

By Year 4

## FRUIT KEBAB DAY

The Healthy Schools committee have been planning the 'Fruit Kebab' day in their recent meetings:

*"We timetabled all the classes to make their fruit kebabs with help from the Healthy Schools children. The fruit was purchased from some of the money raised from the sale of our recipe books.*

*12 different types of fruit, e.g. Melon, pineapple, strawberries, plums, raspberries, bananas, apples, were available. Each child selected 6 different fruits to put on their kebab stick. They then sat down, ate and discussed which was their favourite fruit, did they try anything new, thought of some WOW words to describe the activity. All the children had a fabulous time & enjoyed themselves. We are in the process of blogging & producing iPad evidence to share with us all. Thank you to everyone for supporting our fun activity, especially Mrs Buchan and those who helped prepare & set up the hall for us."*

By Healthy Schools Committee



## DANCING STARS

Isabelle, Maya and Emelia, all took their primary modern ISTD dance examination just before the Easter break with the Caroline Graham Dance School. All three students attained the highest grade possible ... distinction. This is a fantastic achievement and we are all immensely proud.



## WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Huge thank you to Emma Taylor, Monmouthshire's Healthy Schools Co-ordinator, for delivering the 'Sex and Relationships Education' workshop for parents on Wednesday. We had a really good turn out and excellent feedback from parents about the session.

## POLITE PAYMENT REMINDER

Please can the following payments be made to Mrs Saysell (if you haven't done so already!):

Y1 music project: £30 (payable to Shirenewton Primary)

Y5 swimming: £12 (6 weeks transport from 11/4/16 to 23/5/16) - payable to Shirenewton Primary

Dinner money for the summer term: £132 - cheques made payable to 'Shirenewton Primary School' (Y6 attending the Chepstow Transition fortnight will need to deduct 9 days)

## E-CORNER TIPS!

***Working together to ensure our children learn and socialise in a digitally safe environment ...***

Gaming ... is fun but can be all consuming! I am often shocked to hear children talking about games they have played or seen being played that have 12+, 16+ and even 18+ ratings! Gaming consoles have safety settings to help control age related games and the amount of time spent online. Pay attention to the PEGI (age) ratings and what they mean. For more information, check out:

[www.pegi.info/en/index](http://www.pegi.info/en/index) and [www.commonssensemedia.org](http://www.commonssensemedia.org)

## SUMMER CALENDAR

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

New additions in red to help you spot them!

**Fri 22nd Apr** PTA Family Quiz Night

**Mon 2nd May** - May Day

**Tue 3rd May to Tue 10th May** - National Testing Week (Do not take holidays during this week!)

**Thu 5th May** - FP Enrichment pm

**Fri 6th May** - Reception & Y6 class photos

**Thu 12th May** - FP Enrichment pm

**Thu 12th May** - PTA disco

**Thu 19th May** - FP Enrichment pm

**Sat 21st May** - Choir performing at Devauden festival 12.30pm

**Thu 26th May** - FP Enrichment pm

**Mon 30th May to Fri 3rd June** - Half Term

**Mondays** - Y6 are going swimming this half term

**Wed 8th June** - School Council visit to Senedd

**Wed 15th June** - New Reception Parents meeting 6pm **Fri 17th Jun** - Sports Day (KS2 am; FP pm)

**Wed 22nd Jun** - Reserve Sports Day

**Fri 24th Jun** - KS2 Enrichment Day

**Sat 25th Jun** - PTA Summer Fayre 2-4pm

**Mon 27th Jun** - Transition Fortnight Starts

**Tue 28th Jun** - New Reception visit & lunch

**Wed 29th Jun** - Reserve, Reserve Sports Day!

**Thur 30th Jun** - New Reception visit & lunch

**Fri 1st Jul** - Reports to go home

**Mon 4th Jul** - INSET (Self Evaluation)

**Tue 12th Jul** - Pupil Committee Elections

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

**Fri 15th Jul** - PTA Hog Roast

**Tue 19th Jul** - Y2

Graduation 9.30am

**Wed 20th Jul** - Y6

Leavers Assembly 9.30am

**Thu 21st Jul** - First day of Summer Holiday

## AUTUMN TERM

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

## PTA NEWS

### **PTA FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT.**

The Quiz is at the school on Friday 22nd April 6pm, with freshly cooked fish and chips and a fully licensed bar.

All money raised will go towards buying books for the school.

Please come and support the school, enter your quiz team (4 adults and as many children as you want) using the slip at the bottom of the flyer sent out this week. Please return the slip and quiz entry / fish & chip money by Friday 15th April. Friends and family of Shirenewton are all welcome to join us for a wonderful evening, raising money to help enrich our children's education.

### **SUMMER FETE – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June – at the School.**

There will be stalls, activities, competitions, bouncy castle, raffle, bbq, bar & more. Please get the date in your diary!

### **HOG ROAST – 15<sup>th</sup> July at the school.**

This is a chance for parents, children, friends & teachers to relax & enjoy an outdoor hog roast (provided by The Huntsman pub.)

### **EVENT CALENDAR:**

PTA MEETING

**18<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm, at School.**

PTA FAMILY QUIZ

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> April 6pm at School

NIGHT

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June at School.

SUMMER FETE

15<sup>th</sup> July at the School.

### **COMMS ROUTES:**

[shirenewtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:shirenewtonpta@gmail.com)

facebook/shirenewtonpta

twitter/shirenewtonpta

Or catch us in the school yard.

### **Wye Valley Railway Society**

will be running miniature trains at Tintern Old Station throughout the summer on the following dates:

Sunday 24th April, Monday 2nd May, Saturday 28th May, Sunday 29th May, Monday 30th May, Sunday 26th June, Sunday 31st July, Saturday 27th August, Sunday 28th August, Monday 29th August, Sunday 25th September. They are looking forward to seeing you there...

## STARGAZING

The seven stars of the Plough lie overhead in mid-evening. Its classical name is Ursa Major, the Great Bear. In mythology, Callisto, attendant to the goddess Juno was considered more beautiful than her mistress. To protect her from her jealous mistress, Jupiter turned Callisto into a bear. Unfortunately Callisto's son tried to kill the bear whilst he was out hunting, so Jupiter placed the bear in the sky.



The two stars furthest from the handle of the Plough are called the Pointers. Tracing a connecting line from the Pointers leads to Polaris, the North Star. Polaris is called the North Star because it is the closest easily visible star to the point in the sky about which the star patterns rotate. This point changes very gradually with time. In fact, over thousands of years, other stars have been the North Star.

The stars appear fixed with respect to each other, but over long periods of time the star patterns change. The pattern of stars we call the Plough looked very different many years ago, and will look very different in the distant future.

In the evening sky, the bright planet Jupiter is to the South below the constellation of Leo, the Lion. The gibbous Moon is close to Jupiter on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Looking at Jupiter with binoculars should allow a good view of Jupiter's four largest moons: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto – they form a line with the planet. In 1610 the Italian Galileo used a telescope for the first time and discovered the moons of Jupiter. The four moons have been called the Galilean Moons ever since.

Later in the evening, Mars and Saturn are rising above the south-eastern horizon, with slightly orange-coloured Mars to the right. They are joined by the Full Moon on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

How does the man in the moon cut his hair? Eclipse it!

Help at home

## **Lougher Home Care Ltd**

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**We can help with the things you find difficult.**

We are a local company with mature local carers

Contact Sadie or Hywel Lougher

Tel 01633 88 11 77

Email [sadie@lougherhomecare.co.uk](mailto:sadie@lougherhomecare.co.uk)

Web site [www.daycarewales.com](http://www.daycarewales.com)

Members- Care Forum Wales #

UKHCA (United Kingdom Home Care Association) #

Regulated by and registered with #

CSSIW (Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales) #

Approved by and working with Monmouthshire County Council

\*\*\*\*\*

## **CARERS WANTED**

***Contact Sadie or Hywel Lougher#***

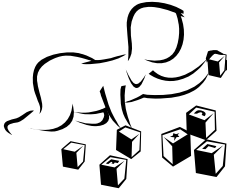
## Shirenewton W.I April '16



The flower arranging session was a resounding success due mainly to the clear instructions given by Barbara Walters, whose patience must, at times, have been sorely tested; it was such a good turnout Barbara needed to be quick on her feet to deal with all the requests to share her knowledge. It was surprisingly therapeutic, arranging the flowers and greenery, being engrossed in a restful activity, it was very rewarding. The end result was an extremely colourful display of very individual floral gifts. Barbara had the onerous task of choosing the best. Rowena Gay created the winning floral gift.



## SHIRENEWTON TODDLER GROUP

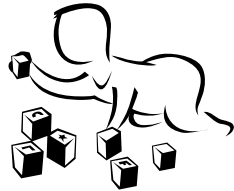


Meet every Thursday  
(Term Time Only)

at The Recreation Hall Shirenewton 1.30 to 3.00 pm

Age range 0 to pre-school

A nice cupper, chat, toys, crafts,



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## Trigger Point Pilates™ Instructor

Applying Myofascia principals to alleviate chronic pain conditions and restructure the body - *Lydia Campbell*



### Do you suffer from movement restrictions, muscle tightness, chronic or nagging pain?

- A class that releases you like no other workout
- Pilates exercises combined with self-myofascial release
- Undoing muscular restrictions and tension.
  - Do you enjoy training hard but suffer from repeated injuries?
  - Helping to alleviate chronic pain and restructure the body

**For more information and details of classes....**



#### Penny Jones

[www.pennyjonesfitness.co.uk](http://www.pennyjonesfitness.co.uk)

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## GARDENING CORNER

At the moment we are still eating our own potatoes, onions, shallots curly kale and garlic. This is unusual, not because we haven't eaten as much as usual, but more because the weather has been such that the vegetables haven't deteriorated to any degree. We have also started on this year's crops with the first of the purple sprouting and cut and come again salad leaves in the big tunnel.

As the weather is up and down, we have to adjust what we do in the garden in response. Wet and cold weather means we are inside the various garden structures whilst sunny and warm we are outside making the most of the most of it whilst it lasts. In the tunnel, the fruit trees have been flowering away and fortunately it was warm enough for there to be some bumble bees about, doing what they do best, which of course is pollinating flowers. The apricots appear to have set well, whilst the nectarines are a bit further behind. The petals are just falling off, so we will know soon whether the fruit has set or not. They were smothered in flowers, so if everyone has set we will have a problem, as there will be too many for the tree to sustain to any great size, so we may have to thin the fruit out later on. Currently all four trees are covered in horticultural fleece as we are suffering a few cold nights with frost, which will kill off the small fruit-lets. This is just what we don't want as the pears are also coming into flower outside and the frosts will kill the blossom, so the omens are not good for a good fruit year at the moment. Also in the tunnel I have planted the early broccoli, and these are now getting established. The strawberry bed is also now growing strongly and the first flowers are now showing. A job for this weekend will be to ensure all the weeds are removed, put the soaker hose in place and then spread the straw among the plants. Hopefully this will set them up for a good crop sometime in June. One other job I want to do is to put some 'grease-bands' around the fruit trees trunks as last year a number of the fruits were damaged by woodlice and other creepy crawlies. The grease will stop them climbing up – in theory! Whilst it has been wet outside, the tunnel has also come in handy whilst I treat some sawn timber with wood preservative ready for finishing off the new paths and raised beds in the vegetable garden.

In the small greenhouse the hot bench has been turned on for some time and most of this year's seeds have been sown. All that remains is the really tender stuff that will be planted outside. These are mainly bean crops which don't like a sniff of any frost to curl up and die. I usually sow these about 1<sup>st</sup> May, as they should in theory then be ready for planting by the end of the month, when frost risk should have passed. Many of the other seedlings have been pricked out into the next sized pots or trays, and these are growing away in the larger of the two greenhouses. Most of the tomatoes have also been replanted into larger pots and are currently looking good.

I'm currently clearing the beds out in the tunnel and greenhouse ready for replacing the soil. The old soil will be spread across the raised vegetable beds and will be replaced by a mixture of manure and soil from up in our top field. This should help the crops to grow without too many problems.

In the vegetable area I have now managed to clear nearly all of the raised vegetable beds as weather permits. I have now replaced all of the timbers on the smaller beds and added a further four. The intention is to use the extra beds for growing flowers and also to allow a better rotation of crops with one or two per year being rested. Any spare soil is being placed on a spare piece of ground, which will then be rotovated, raked and then sown with a wild flower meadow mix. Hopefully this will be a valuable source of nectar for the bees later in the season. Alongside this area is a further piece of ground that has now been planted with a new crop of raspberries. I had intended to plant these in what was our old fruit cage, but this had been overgrown with brambles and ash trees for some time, and when I went to dig the soil it was almost impossible to get the spade into the ground, so plan B was required! Most of the ground has been cleared and sprayed with herbicide, but it will need a little more attention and then will have to be left for a couple more years before I can do anything with it. By then I may have decided to do something else with the ground! I have one other area that has a few ornamental trees on. I have some Japanese acers ready in pots and these will be planted out shortly. There are quite a few spring bulbs and shade loving plants in this area and I have decided to extend this into a spring and shade area, which will hopefully look after itself from the maintenance perspective, or will at least require less attention.

The deputy Head Gardener has been busy in the flower garden cutting down all last years' growth. As soon as the beds dry up a bit, I'll follow on and dig over between the plants and weed as I go. Several areas are still full of daffodils, despite some of the varieties having started exceptionally early in the year. We have never had so many daffodils in flower on St David's day.

Since opening up the bees last month I haven't been able to check on how they are doing as the weather has never been good enough when I had the time. As the spring has been colder than normal I was starting to get a bit concerned that the increasing numbers of bees would be running out of food supplies, resulting in starvation and loss of the colony. Certainly the numbers of bees flying on the better days seem to be down, which is never a good sign. The opportunity arose this week, so I dived in to see what was going on. Five of the hives showed that the queen was laying well, with plenty of brood at various stages of development, from newly laid eggs to actual hatching stage. A couple were light on food, so I replaced empty fondant icing bags that had been given to them several weeks ago, and replaced with more fondant and also some pollen substitute 'patties'. Hopefully this will keep them moving forward whilst this cold spell continues. The sixth hive has always been the biggest over the last couple of years and unfortunately this was showing signs of a failing queen. I couldn't actually see her whilst I was looking through the brood, and there didn't seem to be any really young eggs or larvae, so I'm wondering whether she has actually died, giving the bees no time to replace her. This spells the end of the colony if this is the case, so I've put a note in my book to check this hive next week and to do this before any of the others. If it looks like she has died, I'll seek out a frame with newly laid eggs from one of the other hives. Hopefully the bees will realise that the queen is no longer there and will develop one or more of the new eggs into 'queen cells', which will hopefully produce a new queen, and save the colony. It has worked before, so we can only keep the fingers crossed. If not I'll unite the failing colony with one of the other weaker colonies.

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



## ***Nerys's Natty Nosh***

This is a very simple dish using fresh ready prepared ingredients from local food shops. It can be served as a main meal or halved to make a starter. Prawns, lobster, shrimps or crabmeat can be used in replacement of the crayfish. If preferred a balsamic vinaigrette dressing could be served as an alternative

to the sweet chilli dipping sauce.

## ***Avocado, crayfish salad with Pesto and Sweet Chilli Sauce serves 1s***

### **Ingredients**

- 4 oz. Crayfish
- 1 ripe avocado
- 1 tablespoon ready prepared pesto
- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise

### **Garnish**

- Chopped red pepper
- Coriander, chopped
- Drizzle of sweet chilli dipping sauce

### **Method.**

- 1 Peel the avocado skin and discard the stone. Slice evenly, and place on a serving plate.
- 2 Mix the pesto and mayonnaise and add half the crayfish to the dressing. Coat the crayfish. Place the mixture in the middle of the plate.
- 3 Dress the plate with the remaining crayfish and garnish, and drizzle with the chilli dipping sauce.



The leaves of coriander are antibacterial and anti-inflammatory. It is also highly regarded as a healing herb. Coriander has been shown to lower "bad cholesterol" and increase "good cholesterol". It's a good source of nutrients, including potassium and calcium. It contains high levels of lutein, which help protect our eyes and eyesight. Enjoy!



## Potatoes

Potatoes are versatile and a very popular vegetable. They are the cheapest source of vitamin c, a nutrient that is vital for keeping the immune system healthy. New-potatoes are richer in antioxidants and vitamins than older ones. Most of the fibre, which aids digestion and lowers cholesterol is found in the skin. Potatoes contain vitamin B6, which helps to make the immunity boosting amino acids that are vital for good health.

## *Lemon Roast Chicken Potato Wedges Serves 6*

### Ingredients:

- 6 boneless chicken breasts, with skins
- 1 small red onion, cut into 8 wedges
- 500g fluffy potatoes e.g. King Edward, scrubbed and cut into wedges
- 1 large lemon
- 6 cloves garlic
- 2 tsp clear honey
- 1½ tbsp. olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 tsp fresh thyme
- 6 sprigs fresh rosemary

### Method:

- 1 Using a non-stick frying pan, dry fry the chicken breasts, skin side down for 2-3 minutes until browned. Place in a large roasting tin with the onion and potato wedges.
- 2 Remove the zest from the lemon and cut in half. Cut one half into wedges and add to the pan with 4 whole cloves of garlic.
- 3 Squeeze the juice from the other half of lemon and mix with the zest, honey, oil and remaining crushed garlic. Pour over the chicken, season well and add the herbs.
- 4 Bake in a medium temperature for 1 hour or until the potato wedges are tender and the chicken is cooked throughout. Serve immediately from the roasting tin. Enjoy!



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### ***CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY IN SUMMER ...***

It hardly seems possible that CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY is now commencing its third and final part of the season! After two highly successful concerts (Christmas 2015, and the pre-Easter Passiontide Concert in March), the Society is now looking forward to its "Summer Festival Concert" at the end of June. This concert will truly be a "Summer Festival Celebration" – 2016 being a Chepstow Festival year – and, as always, the Choral Society will feature prominently with their usual contribution, offering a major concert which will include lots of musical "festive goodies" for all tastes ....

As well as being the Society's Festival contribution, this concert will signal a farewell to Marjorie as accompanist/pianist for the Society – but she is ***NOT*** leaving the Society, ***nor*** giving up playing the piano (watch this space!), merely retiring from a job she has done for 16 of her 25-year membership – to rejoin the singing ranks of CCS again for a few more years!

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## LOCAL CONTACTS

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

### Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

<b>Rector</b>	Revd. Julian White	01291 622317 <a href="mailto:jel.white@btinternet.com">jel.white@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Parish Priest</b>	Revd. Nansi Davies	01633 400519
<b>Lay Eucharistic Minister</b>	Gill Lambert	01291 641175
<b>Parish Visitor Co-ordinators</b>	Revd. Nansi Davies	01633 400519
	Diane Marlow	01291 641407
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Sally Saysell	01291 641369
	Andrew Baker	01291 641925
<b>PCC Secretaries</b>	Bill Clark	01291 641783
<b>PCC Treasurers</b>	Kevin Bounds	01291 641818
<b>PCC Members</b>	Mark Broughton	01291 641797
	Charles Eickhoff	01291 641716
	Janet Horton	01291 641783
	Dr James Leney	01291 641271
	Jane Smith-Haddon	01291 641525
	Frances Gray	01291 622465
<b>Gift Aid Secretary</b>	Ruth Savagar	01291 641411
<b>Organists</b>	Karen Millar	01291 650521
	Ruth Savagar	01291 641411
<b>Sunday Club</b>	Kerry Baker	01291 641925
<b>Tower Captain</b>	Mike Penney	01291 650653
<b>Church Hall Booking</b>	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Dr. Kerry Baker	01291 641925
<b>Church Flowers</b>	Maureen Moody	01291 641524
<b>Parish Magazine Editor</b>	Terry Walters	01291 641338
<b>200 Club</b>	Graham Lambert	01291 641175

### Church of St Tewdrics's Mathern

<b>Secretary and Church Warden</b>	Monnica Williams	<a href="mailto:monnica.williams@virgin.net">monnica.williams@virgin.net</a>
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### MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

<b>Clerk to Community Council</b>	Hilary Counsell	01291 421307 <a href="mailto:shirenewtoncc@gmail.com">shirenewtoncc@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Shirenewton Ward:</b>	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
	Marlo Lenza	01291 641333
	Richard Kopp	01291 641581
	Beverley Moore	01291 641532
<b>Mynyddbach Ward</b>	Lynne Prosser	01291 641666
	Ian Moore	01291 650766
<b>Newchurch West</b>	Ian Martin	01291 650014
<b>Earlswood Ward</b>	Paul Harris Chair	01291 650871
	Ken Morton	01291 650268
<b>MCC for Shirenewton</b>	Graham Down	01291 621846 <a href="mailto:grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk">grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Member of Parliament</b>	David Davies	020 7219 8360 <a href="mailto:daviesd@parliament.uk">daviesd@parliament.uk</a>



## **Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts**

<b>Comm. Police Officer</b>	Louise Thorpe	01633 642068 louise.thorpe@gwent.pnn.police.uk
<b>Shirenewton &amp; Mynyddbach</b>	Beverley Moore	01291 641532

<b>Earlswood</b>	Sue Leat	01291 641207
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## **Other Local Organisations**

<b>Beavers</b>	Julie Hitchcock	01291 650548
<b>Brownies</b>	Bev. Leaf	01291 641680
	Jaci Crocombe	01291 641681
<b>Church Fete</b>	Seirian Edmonds	07980 757802 andyandseze@aol.com
<b>Earlswood Hope</b>	Mrs Sylvia Jeremiah, Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726	
<b>Earlswood &amp; Newchurch West Memorial Hall</b>	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818 glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com
<b>Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel</b>	Avril Smith	01291 650733
<b>Gaerllwyd Baptist</b>	Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA	
<b>Girl Guides</b>	Helen Cann	01291 650835 cannhelen@gmail.com
<b>Recreation Association</b>	Gordon Hughes	01291 641356 gordon.hughes3@tesco.net
<b>Recreation Hall booking</b>	Beryl Saysell	01291 641637
<b>St Peters Church Newchurch</b>	Enid Heritage	01291 622708
<b>Shirenewton Local History Society</b>	Dorothy Brabon	01291 641376 brabonnl@hotmail.com
<b>Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)</b>	Alison Broughton: alison.broughton10@gmail.com.	
<b>Shirenewton &amp; Mynyddbach Initiative for Local Enterprise (SMILE)</b>	Charles Eickhoff	01291 641716 eickhoff@shirenewton.org
<b>Caerwent Group Mothers Union</b>	Rosemary Carey	01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk
<b>Treasurer</b>	Auriol Horton	01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com
<b>Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)</b>	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818 glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com
<b>Shirenewton Play Group</b>	Beverly Lindsay	Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com
<b>Shirenewton Primary School</b>	Mrs Jill Mitchell, Associate Head Teacher 01291 641774 email jillianmitchell@monmouthshire.gov.uk Jayne Edwards 01291 641774 jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk	
<b>Shirenewton Tennis Association</b>	P Brabon	01291 641376 brabonnl@hotmail.com
<b>Shirenewton Toddler Group</b>	Jude Langdon	07981 368213
	Paula Rimmer	rimmerpaula@mac.com
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<b>Womens Institute (WI)</b>	Carole Jones (President)	01292 641791
	Jane Butterworth (Secretary)	01291 641704.

## Bring and Share evening

An enjoyable evening was had by people attending the Bring and Share evening in the Saysell Rooms on Friday 15th April.



Alison Broughton spoke about the history of SAMFAL , the grants and hard work carried out by past and present members to get the Nature Reserve to where it is today.

Alison reminded us of the original objectives i.e. to preserve the flora and fauna of this unique site, provide a green wedge between the villages of Shirenewton and Mynyddbach to prevent development taking place on the land and to provide the local school with a resource for education. Although there are no official footpaths through the site, local people are always welcome to use the site for dog walking and the like.

Terry Walters provided a short audio/visual slide show about the site and it's flora and fauna.

Jane Smith-Haddon spoke about the "Field Gang" and its work in maintaining hedges, fences and the odd fallen tree. "Balsam Bashing" was another annual activity and keeping an eye open for other evasive species.

SAMFAL have recently gone through the process of updating it's image, with the new logo, web site and facebook pages  
[www.SAMFAL.org](http://www.SAMFAL.org), Facebook SAMFAL

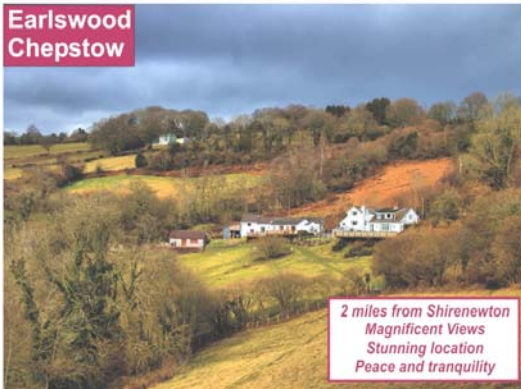
### St Thomas á Beckett Church, Shirenewton Readers & Side Persons May—June

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
01 May 2016	Rogation Sunday	Mark Broughton Margaret Lock	Mark Broughton Margaret Lock
08 May 2016	Sunday after Ascension Day	Bob Grattan Glynis McDonald	Bob Grattan Claire Lewis
15 May 2016	Pentecost - Baptism Service	James Leney Cynthia Smith	James Leney Cynthia Smith
22 May 2016	First Sunday after Pentecost	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon
29 May 2016	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Andrew Baker Kevin Bounds	Claire Lewis Kevin Bounds
05 June 2016	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Bob Grattan Ruth Savagar	Bob Grattan Graham Lambert
12 June 2016	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	James Leney Pat White	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
19 June 2016	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon
26 June 2016	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton

### DIARY DATES

May	Event	Location
9th 7.30pm	Shirenewton Community Council	Recreation Hall
12th 7.15pm	Shirenewton Women's Institute	Recreation Hall
14th 11—5.00	Open Gardens	Shirenewton
19th 10-12am	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall
28th 1.00pm	Macmillan fund raising lunch	Saysell Rooms
June	Event	Location
4th 2.00pm	Shirefest	Huntsman Hotel
11th 2.00pm	Shirenewton fete	Recreation Ground

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## **SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL INFORMATION**

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

Editor: Terry Walters 01291 641338 email: [terencewalters@hotmail.com](mailto:terencewalters@hotmail.com)

The cost of the Magazine is £1 per issue/10 issues for £10. Copies are delivered free by local distributors to those who have pre-paid. Monthly copies are available at the Church.

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

**Deadline for June 2016 issue is 9:00am 23rd May 2016**

**Deadline for the Wider Parish Magazine is 30th April**