



Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

February 2019

Price £1:50

## FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

This is the time of year when we tend to remember. We recall both the good and difficult times of the past twelve months. This business of remembering should provide a healthy balance of acknowledging where we came from, what helped shape us, and an awareness that the future lies before us with significant potential.

It seems appropriate, therefore, to pause and give genuine thanks to those who have assisted us in this respect.

I have recently re-read an article from the December copy of this magazine by Claire Oldfield about the *Marthern Village Exhibition*. In it she draws our attention to the incredible efforts of Mary Pitt in preserving so much of our social history spanning the last century and longer.

Our community, like most others, continues to change and adapt. Unless we have someone who makes note of this, and records it with clarity and intelligence, we could indeed find ourselves considering that the past 'is another country'. Thank goodness we have Mary Pitt and her dedication. Sandra and I also looked at the *Village Exhibition* in the hall. It was presented to the highest standards with photographs and memorabilia appealing to newcomers (a mere 20 years) like myself or genuine locals who were delighted to find a picture or an account of themselves of 50 odd years ago. Thanks to Mary's skill and time we were left in no doubt as to the organic nature of our community and, not infrequently, where we 'fitted in'.

I would have no hesitation in claiming that the vast amount of material which Mary has gathered (a mere 10% of her collection) is priceless. Like Claire, I have no hesitation in asking that Mary's efforts receive formal recognition from the community. I understand that there is talk to the effect that Mary will not, in future, undertake the considerable work involved in staging such an exhibition. I sincerely hope this is not true, or – at the least – willing hands can be found to help her with this magnificent undertaking.

There are fairly obvious parallels to the recording of local history and the influence of the local church on its development. We should treasure those who spend a vast amount of time engaged in research, sifting contradictory evidence, 'filling in the gaps' in an informed way and a multitude of other factors on our behalf. In so doing they reinforce the value of the past and what has shaped where we are likely to go in the future.

Mary Pitt has achieved this for Mathern; Chris Dale has opened up a perspective in respect of Mounton; Derek Embrey and Tony Utting have shone a light into the history of St. Pierre with the production of a superbly researched leaflet and Shirenewton, I understand, has a wealth of information to hand.

I trust that it goes without saying that without the participation of people at 'grass roots' level such history would be seriously impoverished. Such exhibitions, PCC Minutes, club archive material, local council reports, among other recordings, gives us a picture of who was involved and what they achieved.

What was true 100, 150 years, or longer ago, still remains valid. Every group within this village (including the church) requires new faces to take over from time-served ones and from those who have ploughed a lonely furrow. The alternative is decline and closure. Are you willing to step up to the plate? Are you of the mind to say: 'I have taken from what my community offers now is the time to give something back?'

With every blessing and good wish for the New Year.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DECEMBER WINNERS OF THE 200 CLUB:**

1. Angharad Thomas
2. Simon Stanley
3. Tony Broadribb
4. Jodie Johnsey

Thanks for your support.

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **FUNERAL**

Barbara Maureen Wharton 1931 — 2018  
11th January 2019

Louise Marie Highfield (Ostler) 16th April 1965 — 3rd November 2018  
Thursday 29th November 2018

Myra Elizabeth Scrivens 1945 — 2018  
Wednesday 28th November 2018

## **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

The Shirenewton Bible Study Group is a friendly group who meet on one evening a month in the home of one of our very hospitable members to study the bible.

We focus to the readings from the lectionary for the Sunday preceding our meeting, so you can come along at any time, you won't have missed anything! Although many benefit from attending regularly, there is no obligation to do so and many members come when they can.

Meetings in 2019 are scheduled for the following dates:

Thursday 3rd January	Thursday 27th June
Thursday 31st January	Thursday 1st August
Thursday 28th February	Thursday 29th August
Thursday 28th March	Thursday 26th September
Thursday 25th April	Thursday 31st October
Thursday 30th May	Wednesday 27th November

If you would like to join the group or to be kept informed of the location of meetings, please ask to be added to our distribution group by contacting me via [lem.shirenewton@gmail.com](mailto:lem.shirenewton@gmail.com) or calling 01291 641175.

## FUND RAISING FOR GOOD CAUSES – 2018 OUTCOMES

What fantastically generous people you are! 2018 was a challenging year in many ways, and yet we managed to raise £1,900 to support good causes. On behalf of the church I want to say a big THANK YOU to the many people who have supported the church in raising money for:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Harvest Festival Lunch	Housing Justice	475
Harvest Festival Lunch	Cancer Research	475
Flower Festival – commemorating the 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1	Help for Heroes	102
Advent Fayre	Compassion UK	322
Carols around the Christmas Tree	Medecins Sans Frontieres	226
Christingle	Children's Society	291
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£1,891</b>

This is a tremendous outcome, and thank you so much to all those who organised, contributed, turned-up, donated their time and talents, and spent their money at these events – it's much appreciated.

Graham Lambert  
Treasurer  
St Thomas a Becket Church

## COFFEE MORNING

The Chantry! Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February! Between 10:30 and 12:30. To raise money for UNICEF.  
Glynis 641 818. Glynis,macdonald@btinternet.com

# **CHEPSTOW CHURCHES TOGETHER**

## **Thursday Chepstow Community Lunches** **at the Methodist Church Hall**

- \* **Do you have some spare time on a Thursday morning during term time?**
- \* **We are looking for volunteers to help prepare and/or serve a three course meal to our regular retired guests who appreciate home cooked food and some company.**

You would be working in a small friendly team with a team leader, and rostered once a month during term time.

The first team prepares the food between 9.00 -11.30 am

The second team serves and cleans up between

11.30 –2.00pm

**If you are interested, please  
telephone Lynda Ker (625711)  
Pauline Davies (625896)  
for further information.**



# SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Extracts from the minutes of the December 2018 and January 2019 meetings.

The Chair announced the sad passing of Councillor Beverley Moore on Christmas Day 2018, following a long illness bravely borne. Council members stood for a one minute silence at the start of the January meeting to reflect on her valuable contribution to Council meetings, her considered observations and sound advice, with the preservation of the quality of life in Shirenewton wards always her priority.

At the January meeting Mrs. Jayne McKenna was co-opted into the vacant position of Councillor for the Mynyddbach ward and welcomed onto the Council.

### Planning application considered – December

#### **1. Statutory Pre-application consultation – Land adjacent to Clearview, Shirenewton From LRM Planning, 22 Cathedral Road, Cardiff.**

The following response to this consultation for the development of 11 dwellings and associated works at Clearview was submitted on 26.11.18.

1. The Community Council is concerned about the proposed sewerage connection to the public system. The system serving the village is known to overflow at Mounton and Mathern. It should be verified with Dwr Cymru that the public system has design capacity for the proposed 11 additional dwellings.
2. Whilst the Council appreciates that the proposed soakaways are intended to return grey water into the ground it is concerned that nevertheless there will be an adverse impact on the water table particularly in regard to the medieval holy well known locally as The Spout. What research has been carried out?
3. There is inadequate parking provision for visitors to the affordable housing and an additional communal parking area at least should be provided.
4. The Design Statement appears to suggest there is a bus link to Caerwent which is not correct. It should also be noted that the bus service has been counted in both directions – there are only 3 buses from and to Chepstow every working day each way, and one less on Saturdays.
5. The Transport Statement appears to underestimate the number of vehicle journeys given that families have at least two cars as a result of the sparsity of public transport and the need to travel outside the village through lack of shopping medical and schooling facilities.

It was further noted at the meeting that Mr C O'Connor, Area Planning Manager, Mon CC had advised in answer to a question on encroachment into the field, that as long as the building line is not over the boundary, the garden may be. This point to be raised again when the Mon CC planning application is received.

## **January applications**

### **Statutory pre-application consultation – development of 200 houses at Bayfields, Chepstow – response made on 28/12/18.**

That there was only one access road into the development so the daily impact of potentially 300+ vehicles leaving and returning via the B4235 would create considerable further congestion at the junction of this road and the A466 St Lawrence Road. It would be better for access to the development to be via Woolpitch Wood so traffic could then access St Lawrence Road via Barnets Wood or better still via the traffic lights at the St Lawrence Park junction.

Council also expressed concern regarding the potential impact this development may have on places for our local village children at the Shirenewton Primary School.

### **2. DM/2018/01413 Barns adjacent to Little Grondra Farm**

Conversion of redundant barns to dwelling including new access.

In view of the applicant's amendments the Council had no further comments to raise.

### **3. DM/01981/ Rhewl Farm, Shirenewton**

Conversion of existing redundant farm buildings to four dwellings.

Council noted that this application was within the Mathern Community Council area, but was concerned at the high density development of four redundant farm buildings at this site. There are currently proposals to build 11 houses adjacent to Clearview, plus at least two new dwellings at Little Grondra Farm, all of which will use as access this very narrow country lane which has no passing places. There is already an overloaded sewage system between Shirenewton, Mounton and Mathern causing regular overflows at Mounton/Mathern.

Council was further concerned about the over subscription of pupils to Shirenewton Primary School

## **Other items of interest**

**January Police Report - 16/12/18** – Report of a quantity of Amazon packages (some with contents still in) found in a rubbish bin in the car park of the T.A pub. Enquiries are ongoing to establish how they came to be there.

21/12/18 – Report of a lorry skidding into the ditch and blocking the road on Batwell Lane, Shirenewton. A crane had to be used to free the vehicle so the road was closed for a short while.

21/12/18 – Report of a large mature fir tree damaged in forestry belonging to NRW near Pen-y-cae-mawr. The tree was felled in an unsafe manner with a chainsaw. Reported to NRW.

There were also several reports over the Christmas and new-year period of off road bikes and quads using the forestry in Wentwood.

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7*

## **Council precept for 2019/2020**

Council considered the 2019/20 budget and draft precept and made note of the following points:

1. Noted that the Clerk's salary and on-costs would increase by 2.4% during 2019/20 as advised by NALC in revised Pay Scales 2018.
2. That no current Councillors wished to take up Councillor remuneration in 2019/20 and had signed forms to confirm they were opting out. However as there were currently two vacancies on the Council £300 was included in the precept.
3. Purchase of a projector and screen (£1,300) was deleted from the precept.
4. Allowance of £5,000 for renewal of play equipment was also deleted from the precept and will be taken out of budget reserves.

This reduced the precept from a potential £28,050 to £21,750 and Council resolved to take any shortfall from reserves. Council further resolved to request a precept from Mon CC for 2019/20 of £21,750 being 3% increase on the 2018/19 precept.

**Dates of future meetings** –Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton. **(Please note change of time of meetings)**. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak with the Council for the first 15 minutes of each meeting.

**Find more information in draft copies of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous, approved 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**



*Shirenewton Panto See Page 14*



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## **PARISH MAGAZINE**

Bob O'Keefe has decided to step down as co-ordinator for the distribution of the Parish Magazine. The P.C.C. would like to extend their grateful thanks to Bob who has worked tirelessly over the last seventeen years to ensure that the magazine reaches its wide range of readers in all corners of the parish and beyond.

The subscription for the Parish Magazine is due in February 2019. Please pay the person who delivers your magazine directly. Regrettably, we have had to make a small increase in the price of the magazine. The cost will now be £12.00 per annum for those who receive ten copies per year.

Individual copies will now cost £1.50.

I am now taking over the role of magazine co-ordinator. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any problems or queries regarding the delivery of, or payment for, your magazine.

Aileen Doggett

01291 641459

aileendoggett@btinternet.com

## **SHIRENEWTON CHURCH**

Thank you to everyone who contributed one way or another to the Christmas Season in Shirenewton Church. I thought I'd let you know that even in these troubled times the village done good!

The Advent Fair raised £287 to Compassion UK, the charity that the Sunday Club supports.

Then the Carols Around the Village Christmas Tree raised £231 To Medicin Sans Frontieres

And finally, the ever popular Christingle Service on Christmas Eve raised £291 for the Children's Society. Pretty good eh! Thank you to everyone!

## **EARLSWOOD VILLAGE HALL AGM**

All are welcome to the Earlswood Hall Committee AGM on Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> April 7:30 in the Earlswood and Newchurch Memorial Hall.

## FAIRTRADE NEWS



Traidcraft is still in business, selling almost all its food items though fewer craft items, as far as I know. Traidcraft is trying to source other FT items through companies importing them into the UK and of course Fair Traders like me are trying to source FT items elsewhere as well. The idea of the Traidcraft suppliers losing their outlet is incredibly upsetting and depressing. Many of these groups have supplied Traidcraft for years. Obtaining FT status is complex, time consuming and costs a considerable amount of money. Producers and suppliers have to fulfil very demanding FT criteria : e.g. their treatment of workers (pay, representation, training, health and safety etc) and environmental sustainability. And, of course, these arrangements have to be regularly evaluated.

Chepstow is a FT town – this should be more evident now with various signs (car parks etc) and stickers on individual shop fronts – but our arrangements have also to be regularly evaluated and updated for us to continue to have FT status. Chepstow Fairtrade Forum meets every 2 months. We are a small group who try to encourage the use of FT and to raise awareness of all its benefits. We would be delighted to have some new members, with some new ideas! I am writing this in the middle of Brexit – everything else seems to have faded into non-existence in this all-prevailing atmosphere of vitriol, muddle and chaos. It is easy to despair! However, for many years, long before the Brexit farrago I have agitated against despair! There is so much we, as individuals can do to make the world a better place: ‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.’ Margaret Mead You can still buy many FT goods from Traidcraft, or from me of course. Ethical Superstore is also a possibility.

Marion McAdam 641 316 [msm316@gmail.com](mailto:msm316@gmail.com)

Contact me or our chair Tanya White 01291 623169

[tanya\\_white58@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tanya_white58@hotmail.co.uk) if you would be interested to find out more about Chepstow Fairtrade Forum.

## CHESS COMPETITION



Congratulations to our Chess Team who recently came third in the inter Schools Chess Tournament in Cardiff City Stadium. The concentration needed was intense at this high profile event but not one of the Shirenewton team faltered. Huge well done to Frankie, Ben, Dylan H, Aemilia, George S, Peter, William D, Antony and Gordon.

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES



We had an action packed few weeks before Christmas with performances of 'Bethlehem The Musical' by Junior classes and 'The Little Red Robin' by Foundation Phase classes. We also held several events in local village churches including a KS2 Carol Concert and a FP Christingle service in Shirenewton Church and Y2 performed their narration and songs in Itton Church.

## BAE SYSTEMS



BAE Systems provided an informative and thrilling interactive presentation to pupils in upper KS2 classes about maths all around us. The pupils learned how maths, science and engineering can lead to exciting careers for girls as well as boys. They used mental maths to calculate how to balance HMS Elizabeth (the Navy's newest aircraft carrier) deciding where to place all the fighter jets and helicopters on deck and they used maths to help demonstrate a card trick. Some brave volunteers experienced the force exerted by a turbine engine. It was hair-raising, thought provoking and very inspiring for all!

## NEW SONG FOR CHRISTMAS

Year 6 pupils enjoyed working with Upbeat Music, writing their own lyrics, composing their own music and recording a CD of a new Christmas song. Bendigedig blant!

The children also enjoyed a series of Christmas art and craft mornings, Christmas dinner, a whole school trip to see the Dick Whittington pantomime at The Savoy Theatre in Monmouth and even a visit from the big red man himself to the Foundation Phase classes!

It was a very profitable time too with classes raising £780 from the sale of photographs, programmes and raffle tickets at the concerts and the PTA raising a record amount of over £2000 at our Christmas Fayre.

## DELVE & DISCOVER DAYS

Foundation Phases classes have had two recent 'Delve & Discover' days to introduce and inspire their topic learning ... a 'Winter Wonderland' one before Christmas and a 'Space & rocket' one last week ...



# Spring Clean

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## **Shirenewton Babies and Toddler Group**

**Thursdays 1.30 – 3p.m. (term time only)  
Shirenewton Recreation Hall**



**Great toys, good company – everyone welcome  
(please bring your Carers too!)  
Contact Jackie Broughton (01291 641797)  
for further**

## SHIRENEWTON PANTO (S.O.D.S.)

### “BEAUTY AND THE BEAST”

Oh what a night! Or in this case, three nights. Yes, another amazing production from SODS! It was brilliant! And if you want `community' then our annual panto provides! Local people coming together, young or old, beauty or beast, to put on a show! And what a panto! Thanks to the gentle guiding hand of Director Tony Broadribb, another masterpiece of theatre was to be found up in Earlswood Hall.



And just look around the hall to see the pictures of a full 20 years of community contribution, a contribution that does the hall proud. And this year the charities supported by SODS are 'Blood Bikes Wales', chosen by Simon Taylor who is training to be a biker and UNICEF chosen by Sue Baldwin who is sailing round the world on a clipper to raise money for UNICEF. And so far, we have raised over £900 from the refreshments and the programmes to be shared equally between these two charities! Thank you so much everyone for your support.

And if you fancy being involved in the SODS panto any way shape or form, let me know: [glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com) Oh, and is that a little bit of toothpaste on your chin?

Glynis MacDonald – aka Ms Chav.





## ANOTHER NEW YEAR!

Hello to you all. I hope you are all well.

We're now in February 2019 and many of us made New Year resolutions, like going to the gym, walking, eating more healthy foods.

Broadcasters produce programmes that reflect on all that has happened in the previous year, but to what end? Is it to enable us to learn from the past? I think not; humanity never seems to learn from previous mistakes. We usually say, 'I know, but it will be different this time.' And sometimes it can be different, because improvements have been made based on lessons learned. And sometimes we just do the same thing again, hoping that this time it will work.

Each New Year many people make New Year Resolutions, which in a way can be setting a goal for the New Year and throughout the 365 days. Statistics show that many of us join a gym with the goal of getting fitter, then life takes hold again after a few weeks and we no longer go to the gym because we don't have the time or energy. But the gym loves us as we continue to pay our subscription for a few months after, just in case we manage to get back on track.

People often ask me what resolutions I have made for the New Year, and my answer for many years has been, my resolution is NOT to make a resolution. I will set a goal, and aim at the goal, setting milestones to try and ensure that I stay on track.

I do this because I found when I was younger, I would set a New Year resolution, and by the third week of January think, well that's the new Year over, so I'll stop.

This year, even though it is already February, why not set your sights on something that can be achieved; reflect and build a plan on how to complete the task within your desired timeline and then work towards that. Those who write within religious circles say that the task, goal or resolution must come from God, so for those who have a faith, prayer is always a valuable way of assessing whether the venture is something that will help bring the person closer to their God.

If we look at the Bible there are quite a few mentions of Goals:

*Philippians 3:14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. NIV*

*Luke 13:32 He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.'"*

*2 Corinthians 8:14 At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality.*

Goals are mentioned eight times in the New Testament, mostly in Paul's letters to various churches.

My goal this term is to continue with my Theology for Life course and learn all I can and by the Will of God produce more assignments that will be passed by the markers.

Another goal of mine has been with me every day for the past few years, that being to spend time with God each day. I now fulfil this by taking Morning Office at home. I also spend some part of each day in quiet meditation, thanking the Lord for what has happened in my life and putting my trust in God to lead me ever forward, so that I may touch the hearts of others.

Remember if you set a goal, ask God whether it is a goal that He would wish you to take. Make sure you are happy and willing to see the goal through to completion. Never set a goal for goal's sake, just because it feels right at the time. Setting goals that mean something both to us and our Father in Heaven, enables us to come closer to understanding our purpose here on earth, currently. We are never too old to set goals. So, what are you waiting for? Set yours today and see where it may lead.



## SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com  
www.shirenewtonshop.com

Welcome to 2019! Another fun year begins. So much to tell you. Where to begin?

Let's start with a genuine scam call I received just before Christmas (you'll have to imagine the accent):



Me: Hello

Scammer: This is the Microsoft Support Centre

Me: Oh, you are from Microsoft. Thank you so much for calling. How can I help?

Scammer: Your computer has a problem. Are you near it?

There then followed a bit of my standard banter seeking to clarify which computer and how they knew, etc. I finally I lost patience.

Me: So, tell me, what does it feel like to scam people for a living? Do you sleep at night?

Scammer: Who is the scammer?

Me: You are. You are trying to scam me. Do you think I'm stupid?

Scammer: I'm not trying to scam you. Donald Trump is trying to scam you.

And with that he hung up!! I assure you that is genuine :-)

Moving to email scams and phishing (pronounced 'fishing'). The owner of the 'Have I Been Pwned' website, Troy Hunt, recently announced that he found 772.9 million unique email address together with over 22 million unique password on a popular hacker forum. He validated these as his own personal data (i.e. old email/password combos) were in the data. Based on this he's estimated that the data comes from 2008-2015. I've previously recommended that you visit his website (<https://haveibeenpwned.com>) and check out your email address.

If your email address has been pwned don't panic. There is no need to change the email address. The first thing to do is change your password. Make it complex. Remember the advice I gave about making up a phrase or saying you can remember. The example I gave was: TheRoadToChepstowistheB4325\* This is a strong password as it is long, has caps, letters and numbers and punctuation. You then change the password for different accounts with a subtly altered phrase. Or, better still, use a password manager such as Roboform or Lastpass and generate a new completely random password for every new account.

If your email address has been pwned you should expect more spam and phishing emails. Just be aware of these. I NEVER click on a link in an email – I always go to the website directly and I never open online greeting cards, whether they be Christmas, Birthday, Engagement announcements or whatever. Also be mindful of the many scams around re pensions, bank accounts and security. A recent article on business cybercrime noted that that 95% of cybersecurity incidents are from human error. These include clicking on links which install ransomware or being tricked into giving away security details over the phone. Assume that they are out to get you – because they are!

Finally, a brief word on Alexa Echo, the Amazon 'digital assistant'. I for one, will never have one of these in my household. Why you ask? Well, I really don't fancy having something potentially recording what I say in the privacy of my house. I

point you to a story on The Register, my favourite techie news source (<https://tinyurl.com/yb4ecpq5>). A German man requested the information Amazon had on him citing the new GDPR laws and was somewhat confused when Amazon sent him 1,700 recordings of him using Alexa Echo – confused because he doesn't own an Echo and the recordings weren't of him! At least, these recordings were actual Alexa requests the unknown owner and his girlfriend had made. There are other reports that Alexa recorded a private conversation and sent it to a random contact. Apparently in the couple's conversation Alexa thought it heard it's 'wake up' word (default 'Alexa') and then understood something they were saying as 'send a message' and then, when asked for confirmation, someone in the conversation apparently said 'yes'. The point is such devices are always listening to your conversation and may record what you say if it interprets something in the conversation as a command.

[www.shirenewtonshop.com](http://www.shirenewtonshop.com) made £402 for the church last year. The amount of money made has been steadily falling as people start using 'do not track' systems, the shops in question pay less due to tighter margins and I no longer put copious amounts of business travel through the portal. Still I guess £400 is not bad as it's something for nothing. But remember, every little helps so please direct your shopping via [www.shirenewtonshop.com](http://www.shirenewtonshop.com).

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## STARGAZING IN FEBRUARY 2019

The constellation of Orion the Hunter lies directly to the South. Four bright stars represent his shoulders and legs whilst a further three form his belt. Above Orion and to the right is a very bright orange star called Aldebaran. It's the brightest star in the constellation Taurus, the Bull and marks its eye. In classical times, the Greeks saw the constellation as Zeus disguised as a bull. Taurus is a member of the Zodiac, the twelve constellations which the Moon and planets travel through in a year. Looking further upwards and to the right you will see a small cluster of stars. These are called the Pleiades. With the naked eye, people can usually see six or seven stars in Pleiades. However, some people with better eyesight can see more. The cluster contains more than 200 young stars born some 50 million years ago, which means they are only one hundredth of the age of the Sun, our local star. Aldebaran means "the follower" in Arabic, as it rises above the horizon after the Pleiades.



In the evening sky the planet Mars can be seen in the West – it is slightly orange in colour. The crescent Moon is near Mars on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

In the early morning the brilliant planet Venus is in the South-East. It is joined by the Moon on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

NASA has some beautiful images relating to astronomy on the internet at <https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>.



# SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET

EVERY THIRD SATURDAY OF THE  
MONTH FROM 10.30 -12.30

AT THE REC HALL.

*YOUR MONTHLY ONE STOP SHOP FOR  
LOCALLY GROWN, PRODUCED AND  
HANDCRAFTED ITEMS.*

*ENJOY COFFEE AND CAKE IN THE  
CAFÉ.*

*JOIN US TO SHOP AND SOCIALISE!*



A decorative border of red circles surrounds the text.

**SHIRENEWTON  
VILLAGE MARKET  
DATES FOR 2019  
OPENING HOURS  
10.30 – 12.30**

**16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

**16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

**20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**

**18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

**15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019**

**20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019**

**AUGUST 2019 – NO MARKET**

**15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

**16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019 –**

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**

**YOUR MONTHLY ONE STOP SHOP FOR  
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HANDCRAFTED ITEMS.**

## GARDENING CORNER

Happy New Year to everyone and we hope you all had a good Christmas and didn't succumb to any of the numerous bugs doing the rounds! We had the usual family invasion, with four grandchildren under the age of four – and their parents of course. We are never really sure which element is the most disruptive, the little ones or their parents, but this year was quite clear, thanks to the numerous attempts by the BBC to deliver worthwhile viewing. I lost count of the numbers of cuddles we had with the little ones whilst watching the various adventures of Stick man, Zog, the Gruffalo and best of all the witch and her entourage in 'Room on the Broom'. All of which led to numerous requests for us to read the books as well! The memories of all five of us shouting (the story teller and the listeners), "and whoosh, they were gone" will live on for the rest of the year! So with them all gone until next time, we were left to pick up the pieces and get on with life. Although there was little to be done outside with the weather remaining unsettled. A spell of drier weather at the start of January meant that things could go on apace, but more of that later.

In the interim I was left to dwell on last year and get things ready for this by getting on with browsing the various seed catalogues and getting orders placed. This was duly completed and the various seed orders starting arriving. Despite the weather last year (cold and wet to start and then very hot and dry), most crops did remarkably well. We are still eating carrots, parsnips, leeks and celeriac fresh from the garden, and plenty of potatoes, onions and shallots stored in the garage. With the various ready meals in the freezers (cauliflower cheese, broccoli gratin passata sauces and soups), we remain virtually self-sufficient in the vegetable department. We had one noticeable failure this year and that was the Brussel sprouts. We did manage a few with Christmas dinner, but generally they have been tiny, although still very sweet. By the time the outer leaves have been removed they look a little like large peas, but hey that's life. They have never failed us before, so guess it was bound to happen eventually – the law of averages.

Talking of the law of averages I regard myself as an observant driver (don't we all!) and I often see things that others miss – not always connected directly to driving I might add! For example, twice now whilst driving to Chepstow, at the same spot on the road, I have watched a frantic little weasel dice with death as it has shot across the road in front of the car. The first time it was unhindered, but the second time it was much slower, as it was dragging its dinner along with it (either a mouse or a vole – come on, none of us are that observant!). I'm not an enthusiastic mathematician (I failed the 'O' Level three times!), but I started musing over what the likely odds might be of seeing the same (potentially) weasel crossing the road, at exactly the same place (the odds will be slightly reduced now no doubt as like many creatures, weasels will use the same routes). Given that I only travel that road at most say three times a week and always at different times you would think the chances of seeing a weasel were pretty long (so the odds will be lengthening again). Are there any enthusiastic mathematicians out there that could let me know?! The law of averages had already dictated that the Brussel sprouts were bound to fail – eventually - and the fact that I couldn't easily reach them with the hosepipe, probably meant that the odds had shortened considerably and so a mental note was placed to ensure that all edible crops were in future planted near the water supply. Gosh it really must have been a very slow Christmas after the kids had left!

So with a bit of better weather on the horizon, this time of year is actually great for getting on outside. With the soil initially being too wet, most efforts were put into tidying up and sorting out jobs that I've been meaning to do for ages, but never quite got around to. The hedges had been cut late summer, but these had regrown a little and were looking a bit untidy. So these, along with a few odd bits of topiary, were the first to get some attention. There is still time to cut hedges, but you really need to be finished before the birds start nesting in early March, especially if you are doing more than just a light trim. Just choose your time if cutting conifers as you can easily 'burn' the foliage if you cut them in frosty weather. There is also time to prune any apple and pear trees that you may have up until the end of March. So with all of the hedges trimmed tidy, the soil was still a little too wet to start weeding and tilling in earnest. One job I had wanted to get done for some weeks was digging up the numerous dahlia tubers and gladioli corms. The dahlias can survive in the soil over winter if the weather isn't too bad, or if you cover them with straw or anything else that will keep the frost off, but I always prefer to lift them and dry them off in the greenhouse. They can then be divided and replanted in fresh soil when the time is right. I find that they do so much better if lifted annually. Similarly with gladioli, they grow by producing a new corm on top of the old each year, the new corm going on to produce the next years flower spike. Because of this, year on year they grow nearer to the soil surface, become less stable, and the flower spikes get smaller, so it pays dividends to dig these up, dry and store them, until April / May when they can be replanted into fresh ground. So with these jobs done and everything stored away in the greenhouses, I could pick and choose other jobs that needed sorting out. With the soil getting gradually drier it was time to turn the attention towards the flower beds and the raised vegetable beds. There is quite a movement these days towards a 'no dig' policy. You simply remove the weeds and cover the beds with manure where this is needed and leave nature to get on with things. The key advantages of this method is that by not turning over the soil, you don't unearth more weed seeds, you don't disturb the worms and other important soil bugs and beasties and of course you save a lot of hard work! So I see the advantages, but when I'm removing the weeds I still tend to lightly fork the soil over, so a bit of a halfway house. I then add manure on beds that will grow green crops but not any of the root crops. I forgot this last year, and although the manure I used was very old, I ended up with a crop of carrots, most of which had forked into at least three 'legs' and some as many as five or six! Most of which had to be thrown away. I have made this mistake before so should know better! So currently, whenever I can, it is a case of weeding and forking in the hope that I can get ahead of things outside before the weather turns too bad. It has been remarkable mild so far this year (on average), and I've noted the honey bees out flying and enjoying the few wallflower, snowdrop and hellebore flowers whenever they can. That said, it sounds like the weather is set to get colder as I write this, so need to make the most of things. All of the tunnels and greenhouses need weeding and a good sorting out, but I'm waiting for the weather to turn wet (or snowy) before I do anything with these, as these inside jobs come in very handy then.

With no fishing and no beekeeping to take up any free time I might have (chance would be a fine thing!), I have started to do a few 'tidy up' jobs around the place. I have a whole list of these, many of which have been hanging on for a number of years (but I daren't say how many). The drive alongside the house has a long border that was once planted with daffodils and other bulbs and seeded down with grass. Over the years the soil level in the border has sunk (it was ground that

*Continued on page 24*

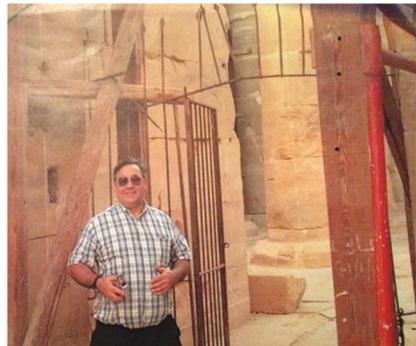
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had been infilled), the daffodils have got less and dandelions replaced the grass. Determined to do something about it, I sprayed the dandelions off at the end of last year, planted a lot of new daffodils and had started to tip loads of soil in an effort to raise the level back up to where it should be. I'd noticed that some of the bulbs were starting to show through so I needed to get on with things. The drier weather meant that I could complete filling the borders with soil, which was then compacted down and raked over to get it reasonably level. I then ordered 50 square metres of turf and laid this down over the top. It isn't the best of time to lay turf, as this really needs to be done whilst the soil temperature is still relatively warm, but I decided that we hadn't had that much cold weather and so had to just go for it. It is looking good at the moment, but with colder weather forecast, we will have to wait and see how things go. In the thirty odd years we have lived here, the edge of the drive has been used as a dumping ground for all of the various building materials needed – one tonne bags of sand, bricks – you get the picture. Anything remaining had been moved and for the first time since being here the driveway is neat and tidy. The grass is looking good, climbing roses and wisteria have been planted along the boundary fence and expectations are building for the border to look great in the spring. Fingers crossed that any freezing weather doesn't lift the turf and the moles don't move into the nice fresh soil – I just know something will go wrong before long!  
Happy gardening until next month. *Steve and Felicity Hunt.*

## **SHIRENEWTON WI**

### **SAVING THE OLDEST PYRAMID IN EGYPT**

Our 2019 calendar got off to a fantastic start when Peter James gave us a most informative and entertaining talk on his restoration work on the Egyptian Pyramids. Peter's Engineering company, Cintec International, based in Newport, has been involved in the restoration of the Red and the Bent Pyramids and of the oldest Pyramid in Egypt, the Step Pyramid at Saqqara. Cintec uses a system of stainless steel anchors covered in a fabric sock and 'airbag' technology to strengthen and restore many historical buildings, including the Pyramids. Peter's talk was illustrated by spectacular photography showing both the technical repair work and the beauty of these ancient buildings. If you would like to find out more about his work, Peter has appeared in the National Geographic Programme on 'Saving Egypt's Oldest Pyramid' and Channel 4's 'Decoding the Great Pyramid'.



Our next W I meeting is to be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.15pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall when Shirley Ayres will be running a 'Seated Zumba' session. We always welcome new members, so if you would like to know more about joining the WI, please contact Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838) or Jane Butterworth (01291 641704).  
Jackie Broughton

## THE BELLS

We had a busy Christmas period with ringing for Christmas Eve, midnight mass and Christmas morning. The following week we rang on New Year's Eve. Before midnight the bells were half-muffled to indicate mourning of the passing of the year and after midnight on open bells - the muffles having been removed – to celebrate the new year.

Once all the festivities were over we were quickly onto our annual Shirenewton Winter Ringing Tour held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The initial plan had been to visit towers in the Brecon area but this proved not to be possible on the day chosen because of a ringing event in Brecon itself. So a second plan was hatched at short notice to visit towers on the north east of Bristol and its hinterland. In the morning 19 of us set off bright and early to start the tour at the pleasant 5 bells of Holy Trinity, Horfield. From here we travelled to the imposing steeple of Holy Trinity, Stapleton with 6 bells and thence to the 6 bells of St James the Great, Abson and St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch. We had booked lunch at the very fine pub in Hinton – The Bull. Orders had been taken during the morning and on our arrival we were led to our reserved table which seated all 20 of us (Pip having met us here having had another engagement in the morning). Following an excellent lunch and some liquid refreshment we headed across the M4 and the top of Dyrham Park and descend down to the very nice 6 bells at St Peter at Wapley and thence to the hefty 6 at St James the Great, Westerleigh (tenor 20.5 cwt) where the locals were deservingly entertained to a course of Cambridge. The final ring of the day was the 8 bells at St Saviour, Coalpit Heath.

A tour debriefing was held that evening at chez Bob Millar over a fabulous supper and preliminary plans made for the annual Shirenewton Summer Tour in June, which will be a weekend visit to Northamptonshire – a county with the highest density of churches with bells in the UK. Anyone curious about the bells in any particular church they know in any part of the UK should visit <https://dove.cccb.org.uk/home.php>. and use the search facility.

Mike Penney (Tower Captain).



**'We are going to Strictly'** announced the wife one morning.

Unbeknown to me she had been applying to be part of the live audience for a couple of years and she just received the email offering her two tickets for the recording of the Strictly Christmas Special on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The instructions were very clear. Not everyone offered a ticket got in. Some tickets had limited visibility and the BBC wouldn't pay any expenses and it was all at your own risk. You had to turn up from 9:00am for validation and then at around 3:00pm for the recording. We could expect to be finished at around 10:00pm. The dress code was 'Glam and Christmas'.

After Sunday night in a local hotel, we turned up at Elstree at 8:30am to be validated. Luckily it was a dry day as we joined a queue of 300 other people outside the gate on Maxwell Road all waiting for validation. Apparently the first couple had been camping out since 11:00pm the previous night and several others had been there since 4:00am!

There was a good atmosphere in the queue and rumours were that the studio audience was about 600 people so everyone around us was excited as it looked like we'd get in. At 9:00am ish the queue started to move slowly. By this time there were around 50 people behind us. At the front of the queue by the gate, a BBC 'Studio Audience Team Member' was handing out numbered green stickers. By 10:30am we were validated with sticker numbers 300 and 301. This meant that we had 'reserved our place in the studio'. Much excitement! We were told to return at 3:00pm and that there was no point in coming back any earlier as the sticker numbers (300 & 301) determined our seating and being early would just mean more queuing outside the gate. We were also told that: (i) phones were strictly (!) forbidden and you had to check them in along with your coats, etc.; (ii) that there was no food in the venue and therefore we were advised to have a large lunch.

So, after a brief trip to St. Albans cathedral and a suitably large lunch, we turned up at 3:00pm to join another queue of about 100 people all waiting to get in. The couple of ladies in front of us had turned up to be validated at about 1:00pm and got the numbers of 440 & 441. It turned out that we had been misinformed earlier and that the cut off for members of the public was 450 people – they had squeaked in!

At about 3:30pm we started filing in feeling slight superior to those who obviously hadn't read the small print and were turning up unvalidated and being offered standby places. We'd opted to leave phones and coats in the car to ensure a quick getaway but those who were checking them in did so and then we went through security.

We were corralled in a large marquee which had an expensive bar, limited seating, a BBC shop selling Strictly merchandise and a photo booth. Given the fact we were going to be standing around anyway we thought we may as well join the queue for the photo booth which snaked up and down the tent. We were just getting to the front of the photo booth queue when the announcement was made that the first 30 people should prepare to enter the studio. This was around 5:30pm – yes, we'd been in the photo booth queue for over 1.5 hours!

Photo completed, our numbers (in batches of 50) were called and, at around 6:00pm, we made our way into the studio. We were seated in the upper gallery right over the judges. To our right on the same level was the Clauditorium where the post dance interviews take place. There was a general buzz around the place with the audience compère doing his best to keep us amused and jolly.

Slowly some of the dancers and the stars started appearing. Gorka Marquez came across from the Clauditorium canvassing for votes and shaking hands. The others were milling around. The seats on the ground floor across from us, where the family, friends and celebrities sit, started to fill up. Whilst this was happening, our friendly compère kept us amused by getting us in the audience to practice our cheers, boos, applause, etc. He also told us that we were extremely lucky. This year they had 3.7 million applications for tickets.

So, assuming that 3.7 million is for all the Strictly shows and that each successful application gets a pair of tickets, there are 225 successful applications per show, 14 shows (including the Christmas special) meaning 3,150 successful applications, giving a success rate of one in 1,175 applications. Better odds than the lottery! Finally, it was announced that we'd be recording the end of the show first! Everyone took their places down on the floor, the music started and after a few twirls and so on, Tess and Claudia looked straight in the camera and said 'Happy Christmas Everyone' and it was all over. Except it wasn't and there were a couple of more takes! In-between takes the makeup and hair people rush back onto the set and ensure that everyone looks perfectly coiffured. Makeup is touched up and hair brushed and reset. Everyone moves back into position and the fun starts again.

We then moved onto the recording of The Kingdom Choir (yes, the choir which sang at the royal wedding). This was to be spliced in towards the end of the show but was recorded before the dancing started. We were advised that we should 'ohhhh and ahhhh' when the accompanying dancers performed lifts and spins, etc. The choir filed out, took their positions, as did the dancers and they started. Half way through the first chorus they were stopped. There had been a costume malfunction and they needed to restart. Que the makeup and hair people. Finally, they started again and this time we got a full take. There was a lot of discussion in the production team and they decided to go for another take - this time without the audience ohhhing and ahhhhing - I suspect we'd been a bit too enthusiastic. There was then a show dance or similar which involved the judges and fake snow falling from the rafters. Interestingly, there was nothing technically advanced about this snow - there was a chap up there chucking it down! In between takes the production crew rushed out to tidy up the scene and clear away evidence of the earlier take and, of course, the hair and makeup were busy.



Finally the action started with the celebrities and their partners doing their dance. These were, thankfully for the integrity of the show, recorded in one take. The dancers danced, finished, went over to Tess, listened to the judges feedback, ran up the stairs to Claudia's grotto, were interviewed and then the scores were given. This was all exactly how it appears on the telly. However, there were fairly lengthy gaps between each dance as the props were changed around. There were some re-takes of the Claudia interviews. Anton's was especially memorable as his answers were considered a bit risqué. I was fascinated to see which one they would use - the answer was none of them!

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Jake and Luba's dance involved a bit of 'magic'. What you saw is the dance started with Jake in full frog costume. There was then a flash and he lost part of the custom and turned into a 'handsome' prince. This was accomplished by pausing the dancing after the flash, Jake was then re-costumed and the dance then picked up from the appropriate point. It was fascinating to see how it looked broadcast. We'd all been given voting papers and, after the last dance was over, we voted (we both voted for Janette and Aston – the eventual winners). These were collected by the production crew. Then there was a fairly long interval as the votes were counted and whilst we were given refreshments - a Freddo Frog chocolate bar and a small carton of orange juice!

Finally it was time to record the winner and present the glitter ball trophy (again a single take) and it was all over. We filed out of the studio, past the queues of people collecting their phones and coats and were back in our car heading for Wales car by 10:00pm.

Some thoughts:

The Christmas special recording is apparently similar to the post Saturday live show 'Sunday evening' recording in that there is the opportunity for re-takes but there are aspects, such as the announcement of the bottom two couples and the dance off, which, for the integrity of the show, are recorded in one take.

The studio itself is like a large hanger and all very temporary. The Strictly set is surrounded by a full length curtain with little lights sewn in which is the starry the background you see on the telly.

The back stage area is complete chaos with equipment strewn everywhere. The space above the set is full of gantries with lights – quite impressive. The glam doesn't extend to the seating or the furniture and fittings which aren't on camera and I suspect that the glam which is on camera is quite superficial. The BBC certainly wasn't wasting money unnecessarily.

You'll never see the people on the balcony participating in a standing ovation. There are strict instructions that we are not allowed to stand with staff monitoring compliance. We were told that our standing ovation was clapping with our hands above our head!

Everything is a lot smaller than it looks on TV – especially Janette!

Those who waited overnight were rewarded with the best seats right on the edge of the dance floor.

The Strictly celebs in the audience all disappear between takes into the green room – I assume for 'refreshments'.

Our seats were fairly decent and we saw most of the dancing but it's a very different experience from watching it on TV and we were slightly detached looking down on the action.

Clearly a pre-recorded show will be a very different experience from a live show but it was a very good experience. I wouldn't do it again but am glad we had the opportunity to participate in a bit of Strictly magic.

David Cornwell



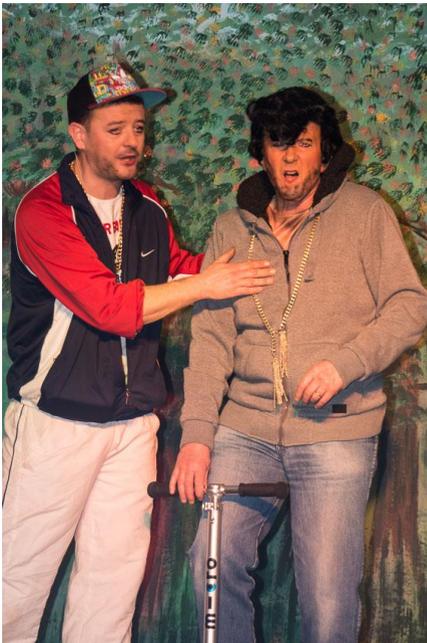
## SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1090167

December was a busy month for our members, a visit to Portskewett Church started the festive season. We were given a talk by the churchwarden, the church has a long history dating back over 800 years and has stood up well to the ravages of time, the fabric of the building has changed very little over the years. We finished this visit with mince pies and mulled wine. The evening did not end there we came back to Shirenewton and the Tredegar Arms to have our Christmas Supper.

We met at Llanfair Discoed at **7.30 am** on the 27<sup>th</sup> December to climb Grey Hill to see the sun rise on the Winter Solstice, 19 members and one dog. Alas, once again we were unable to see the sunrise because of low cloud but the thought of breakfast at the Tredegar Arms kept us going.

### Dates for your Diary:

- Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> February      Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall  
Between 2.00 pm & 4.00 pm
- Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February      The Society's Annual Dinner at the  
Huntsman Hotel, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm  
After Dinner talk given by Peter James  
Who will tell us all about his latest book  
'Repairing the Pyramids'.



## Nerys's Natty Nosh

### *Baz's Pancake Breakfast*

#### Ingredients

- 135g/4¾ oz plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tbsp caster sugar
- 1 30ml/4½ oz milk
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 2 tbsp melted butter or olive oil, plus extra for cooking

#### Method

- 1 Sift the flour, baking powder and sugar into a large bowl.
- 2 In a separate bowl whisk the milk and eggs, then mix the cooled butter.
- 3 Pour the liquid into the flour mixture and beat until a smooth batter is formed.
- 4 In a non-stick frying pan, melt a knob of butter. Add a ladle or two of batter and cook until the top of the pancake begins to bubble, then turn over. Both sides should be golden brown.
- 5 Repeat until all the batter has been used.
- 6 Serve with butter and maple syrup or with bacon and maple syrup as Baz has done. **Enjoy!**

Baz did say as he enjoys pancakes so much, he did double the recipe.

Thank you Bahart Nagrani for sharing your recipe.



# *Chocolate, Coconut and Cardamom Fridge Mousse Cake*

Serves 4-6



## **Ingredients**

200g dark chocolate  
5 cardamom pods, seeds ground to a powder using a pestle and mortar  
60g double cream  
100g natural yogurt  
80g coconut cream  
25ml strong black coffee, cooled  
25ml maple syrup  
75g amaretti biscuits broken into bite sized pieces (or other biscuits)  
50g glace cherries, halved

## **Method**

- 1** Line a 450g loaf tin with cling film or baking parchment.
- 2** Melt the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water, stirring occasionally till smooth. Stir in cardamom. Allow to cool for 2 minutes.
- 3** Mix yogurt, coconut cream, coffee and maple syrup till smooth.
- 4** Whip the cream to soft peaks, then fold in the yogurt, coconut cream, coffee and maple syrup. Stir in the biscuits and cherries, don't worry if it seizes a bit.
- 5** Fold through the chocolate until well incorporated. Pour into loaf tin, cover and chill in the fridge for at least 3 hours. Cut into slices and serve.

## **Enjoy!**

Thank you, Gillian Lambert, for sharing this recipe with us.



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Readers and Sides Persons St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton		February 2019	
February	Sunday Service	Readers	Side Persons
3rds February	Presentation of Christ In the Temple	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
10th February	Fourth Sunday before Lent	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon
17th February	Third Sunday before Lent	James Leaney Glynis MacDonald	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
24th February	Second Sunday before Lent	Chris Sturke Margaret Sturke	Chris Sturke Margaret Sturke

## LOCAL DIARY DATES

February	Event	Location
2nd 10:30am	Coffee Morning	Chantry
4th 7:00pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
11th 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
16th 10:30am	Village Market	Recreation Hall
19th 7:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society Annual Dinner	Huntsman Hotel
March	Event	Location
4th 7:00pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
16th 10:30am	Village Market	Recreation Hall
April	Event	Location
3rd 7:30pm	Earlwood Hall AGM	Earlwood Hall

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

### Church of St Tewdrics's Mathern

**Secretary and Church Warden** Monnica Williams [monnica.williams@virgin.net](mailto:monnica.williams@virgin.net)

### MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

<b>Community Council Clerk</b>	Hilary Counsell	01291 421307	<a href="mailto:shirenewtoncc@gmail.com">shirenewtoncc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Shirenewton Ward:</b>	Bryn Price	01291 641217	<a href="mailto:brynprice@gmail.com">brynprice@gmail.com</a>
	Michelle Davies	01291 641583	<a href="mailto:michelledavies100@yahoo.co.uk">michelledavies100@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Chair</b>	Ben Allen	01291 641150	<a href="mailto:ben@greenpool.org.uk">ben@greenpool.org.uk</a>
	Vacancy		
	Philip Butterworth	01291 641704	<a href="mailto:philip.butterworth2@gmail.com">philip.butterworth2@gmail.com</a>
	Dr James Grose	01291 641690	<a href="mailto:j.grose@hotmail.com">j.grose@hotmail.com</a>
	Mrs Jane Smith-Haddon	01291 641525	<a href="mailto:dolly.shirenewton@gmail.com">dolly.shirenewton@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mynyddbach Ward</b>	Louise Brown	07598979719	<a href="mailto:louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk">louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a>
	Jayne McKenna	01291 691774	<a href="mailto:jaynemckenna@hotmail.co.uk">jaynemckenna@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Newchurch West</b>	Ian Martin	01291 650014	<a href="mailto:longmeadow@outlook.com">longmeadow@outlook.com</a>
<b>Earlswood Ward</b>	Ken Morton	01291 650268	<a href="mailto:ken.morton@hotmail.com">ken.morton@hotmail.com</a>
	Bryn Price	01291 641217	<a href="mailto:brynpricecc@gmail.com">brynpricecc@gmail.com</a>
<b>MCC for Shirenewton</b>	Louise Brown	07598 97971	<a href="mailto:louisebrownbrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk">louisebrownbrown@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**

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

Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA

### **Ranger Guides**

Helen Cann 01291 6628534 cannhelen@gmail.com

### **Recreation Association**

Gordon Hughes 01291 641356 gordon.hughes3@tesco.net

### **Recreation Hall booking**

Beryl Saysell 01291 641637

### **St Peters Church Newchurch**

Enid Heritage 01291 622708  
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

### **Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Initiative for Local Enterprise (SMILE)**

Charles Eickhoff 01291 641716 eickhoff@shirenewton.org

### **Caerwent Group Mothers Union**

**Treasurer** Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk  
Auriol Horton 01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com

### **Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)**

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818  
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

### **Shirenewton Play Group**

Beverly Lindsay Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com

### **Shirenewton Primary School**

Mrs Jill Mitchell, Associate Head Teacher 01291 641774  
email jillianmitchell@monmouthshire.gov.uk  
Jayne Edwards 01291 641774  
jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk

### **Shirenewton Tennis Association**

P Brabon 01291 641376 brabonnl@hotmail.com

### **Shirenewton Toddler Group**

Jude Langdon 07981 368213  
Paula Rimmer rimmerpaula@mac.com

### **Fairtrade/Traidcraft**

Marion McAdam 01291 641316

### **Womens Institute (WI)**

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