

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

February 2020



Price £1:20

FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

As we stand at the beginning of a new year, it is a time for both reflection and anticipation. During the past twelve months we have paid a sad farewell to two Priests who have been instrumental in the life of our grouped parish. Revd. Don Wood had made a significant contribution to the Mathern, Mounton and St. Pierre section of the parish whilst Revd. Rick Hayes, who was taken from us suddenly in the autumn, was a familiar sight and welcome presence in all four parish churches.

We anticipate that in 2020 we shall experience the leadership of Bishop Cherry Vann as from February and, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, there appears to be the proposal to link us with Chepstow Parish.

We very much look forward to working with Bishop Cherry and are indebted to her for so generously agreeing to open Shirenewton Fete on Saturday, June 15th and to rededicate the church the following day at 10.00am. Please note that this will be a Combined Parish Service and that no additional services will be offered this day to accommodate your appreciated support of Shirenewton Church on this, their special occasion.

We, the members of Shirenewton Church, have also received an invitation from Canterbury Cathedral to join them for a special service to honour the saint, Thomas a Becket on Sunday, 5th July at 15.15. Numbers are strictly limited to ten guests invited to represent our church and those interested should contact me by 20th March to secure a place.

It is good to remind ourselves, at this point, of the fluidity that can exist between things secular and things sacred. The Church – of which Bishop Cherry is one of the senior members – must always realise that it is an organisation (to use a dumsy word) with a profound interest in both camps and to resist retreating into some type of 'Holy Club' which exists outside a wider and vibrant membership. The decision, after all, to celebrate over 800 years of our church with the rededication, is as much a secular achievement as it is a religious one.

In like manner, and as we slide into another year, I welcome the opportunity to thank both Revd. Nansi Davies and Gillian Lambert for their unstinting

commitment to our church. Both have enriched our spiritual pilgrimage along the way. Churchwardens, Sally Saysell and Andrew Baker, are also worthy of our appreciation for the way in which they attend to the daily administration of St. Thomas a Becket to the highest standard.

Sandra and I – accompanied by a delegation from Mathern – enjoyed a most convivial evening recently within the parish boundary of Shirenewton. It was a time for humour, ribaldry and the opportunity to hiss and boo a motley collection of assorted villains – just like a regular Parochial Church Council gathering in fact! I, of course, refer to the staging of the annual pantomime at Earlswood Hall which was a pleasure to attend. All who were involved in the undertaking – and in particular I applaud the efforts of Glynis Macdonald – are to be warmly congratulated on a superb production which involved a large all-age audience. The cast, musicians, children treading the boards and all who were engrossed ‘back-stage’ deserve the highest praise.

A date for your diary: As part of the Shirenewton 800 events, there will be a special concert in the church by St Woolos Sinfonia – the professional standard orchestra in the city of Newport. Featured guest will be Philippe Scharz, Principal Trumpet of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Please see details elsewhere in this magazine.

With every blessing and good wish,

Julian White
(Rector)

CHURCH CLEANING

The PCC would like to thank all those who gave so generously towards the deep cleaning of the Church when the builders finally left in December. To be fair to the builders (DA Cook), they cleaned up remarkably well when they left and the Church was in a pretty good state, but the deep clean by a professional cleaning company, who also sealed and polished the floor, gave the Church an extra lift for Christmas.



Shirenewton 800 events

Dates for your diaries – save the date

15th February 2020 at 19.30 – **Concert** in the church by St Woolos Sinfonia with special guest Philippe Scharz, Principal Trumpet of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales; £10 a ticket including a glass of wine—see advert later in the magazine.

18th April 2020 – **Strictly Shirenewton!** At Earlswood Hall. With Monmouth Big Band. Get your dancing shoes on and come and sparkle!

“

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

ANONYMOUS

Shirenewton Community Council

Extracts from the minutes of the December and January meetings

Vacancies on the Community Council

There are two co-opted vacancies for members to represent the Shirenewton ward.

If you are interested in supporting the community and would like to join the Council, then please contact the Clerk (details below)

Planning applications considered in December:

1. DM/2019/01495 The Tan House Inn, Shirenewton

Construction of 2 number dwellings together with formation of car parking for ex public house.

Council noted that the notification letter described the Tan House as an 'ex public house', which is incorrect as there has been no change of use.

Council was concerned about the development of the site as part of the grounds are within the conservation area, the pub is an historic part of the village and should be retained as a village amenity. Members would prefer to consider the future plans for the whole site, rather than piecemeal applications.

The main reasons Council recommended refusal of this application were:

- the proposed four bedroomed houses are potentially not affordable to local people,
- access to the properties is through the pub car park, no private access,
- Mon CC's policy is to provide one parking space up to a maximum of 3 bedrooms per new build, therefore each house should have 3 spaces, not 2 as proposed,
- no fauna surveys have been provided.
-

Proposed diversion of Footpath 34 – Following a meeting on 23.11.19, the Chair reported that the Recreation Association had no further objection to the proposed diversion of the footpath, providing that the design, implementa-

ion and maintenance terms and conditions were strictly adhered to. The Community Council recognised the need to protect the field's surface if equipment needed to be placed on the field for the construction of the new steps and removal of the old steps, and recommended the following conditions:-

- 1) That no equipment be placed on the field until the field has dried out,
- 2) That the field must be protected by matting at the location of the work and also along the traversal line across the field from the access point to the location of the work.
- 3) Plus the previous condition that that at no time should the footpath be blocked by vehicles that prevent public access.

The Council further suggested to the Footpaths Officer at Mon CC that a handrail be installed on the Church House side of the footpath from the boundary to the bottom of the steps as a safety measure for walkers and to deter them from accessing the top of the bank and causing a privacy issue.

Applications considered in January 2020

1. DM/2019/02000 The Grondra, Shirenewton

Adjustment of windows, re-location of bat box, amended glazing to conservatory extension.

Council noted this application for non-material amendments in order to

a) comply with building regulations and the bat licence and,

b) bring the kitchen windows in line with approved floor levels, simplify the glazing to the extension and to increase light to inner room.

Council's recommendation was for approval.

2. DM/2019/01940 Land South of Bluebell Lane Cottage, Earlswood Road.

Extension to barn and creation of an equine menage. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian.

Council noted that the existing barn is an agricultural building rectangular in shape and measuring some 14x6m. The proposal is to enlarge this to the front and side, almost doubling the size to some 9.6x23m. There is no

suggestion in the application of a commercial use – the proposal will not provide employment. There are no proposals for waste disposal nor is any protected wildlife either plant or animal said to be affected.

Members considered that the following conditions should apply:-

- a) Lighting should not be prominent and should be time limited at night;
- b) detailed information be provided on the storage and disposal of equine waste;
- c) production of an ecological report regarding the pond on site containing newts, and the presence of tawny owls. Council recommended approval subject to conditions.

3. DM/2019/ 01880 Mo I Rana, Weyloed Lane, Mynyddbach

Proposed first floor extension and front car parking alterations.

Council noted that the property is of a modern 2 storey 4/5 bedroom design with a long sloping roof on both sides of the central ridge which runs down and over the single garage to the left and over the lounge and 2 ground floor bedrooms to the right. It is situated along Weyloed Lane overlooking the B road. The roofline is to be raised so that there is a first floor above the single storey which currently comprises a lounge and 2 bedrooms. The existing ridge height is to increase by approximately 0.5-1m (no measurements provided).

This council would recommend the following conditions:-

- a) that the previous condition regarding the provision of a bat roost building still apply,
- b) also that no lighting or lighting fixtures shall be attached to or be positioned in the curtilage so as to illuminate the western curtilage of the building.

The recommendation was for approval subject to conditions.

4. DM/2019/01480 Change of use of land to accommodate two park homes and up to 4 touring caravans. (at Crick)

Council noted the objection on road safety issues made on 9.12.19.

Other items of interest

MoD joint meeting with Shirenewton and Caerwent CC's on 20.11.19.

Major Mahoney reported on the following:

- 2700 troops trained in 2019 at Caerwent Training Area and the Rogiet range.
- Moving into Army 2020, two training courses to merge and MoD will be relying heavily on using the Caerwent Training Area in the future.
- Major exercises will take place on 9th February and 9th March 2020.
- Car rallies will take place on 1 Feb, 29 Mar, 28 June, 23 August, 27 Sept 2020. Notices of rallies not being received by CC's from the Car Club - Peter to chase.
- The Wormtech site is improving every quarter, Environmental Health is monitoring, there is no risk to the environment.
- P Davies, MoD confirmed that the railway line has been sold within the last 4 months and the sale is currently with solicitors.
- Following a request from the SCC Clerk, P Davies to arrange 'No MoD vehicles' signage at Crick and the Usk Road accesses to Shirenewton village.

Consideration of Precept 2020/21

1. Council allocated £300 for Councillor remuneration requests as there are currently two vacancies on the Council.
2. The quote from Mon CC of £1,334.80 for grounds maintenance for the 2020 season (16 cuts of the recreation field) was accepted.
3. Council considered and accepted the quote from Mr J Saysell of £1,300 (plus vat where appropriate) for provision of additional railings at the funeral path and repair of the squeeze belly gates at the war memorial.
4. Council considered the annual review of the Clerk's salary from 1st April 2020 and resolved to increase the Clerk's salary from 1st April 2020 by one incremental point.
5. Following the above budgetary decisions and consideration of the three year financial plan Council resolved to request a precept from Mon CC of £29,455.00 for 2020/2021. Council recognised this was an increase on last year's request but it aligned with 2019/20 expenditure and allowed for continued refurbishment of the play area and maintenance of Council assets.

Visit of Police Inspector Hassell to December meeting –

Inspector Hassell attended the Council meeting on 2nd December and advised that he is trying to formalise a standard police report to all councils that feeds back more detailed information on crimes and action taken on local priorities.

Crime - He reported on crime levels in the Shirenewton area as:
From April 2019 - 56 crimes, 16 reports of antisocial behaviour.
Last year 53 crimes, 8 reports of antisocial behaviour. He advised that crime volumes had been similar for the last five years and consisted of mainly thefts from sheds/garages and burglaries and that they generally happened at night.

Traffic matters – he advised that complaints about motorcycles on the B4235 spike around Easter and that the police have a tactical operation system that is triggered by the number of complaints from the community. Inspector Hassell explained his previous experience on the education of drivers by linking with schools around Chepstow on safety issues, seatbelt campaigns, maintenance of tyres, posters etc, encouraging speed to be kept down.

There followed a question and answer session which included the members of the public.

It was noted that local safety and education campaigns were good but did not address tourist traffic which needs visibility and deterrents to spread a wider message.

Inspector Hassell advised that Community Support Officers are restricted in powers and that unmarked police cars with cameras can be used, but do not see a marked reduction in incidents. He advised that several strategies can be used, some day to day and some dynamic regarding speed enforcement. He further advised that as Mon CC will become responsible for parking issues there needs to be a joint approach between the police and Mon CC.

He encouraged the use of social media to report incidents and residents to complete the 'Your Voice' survey in January 2020.

January 2020 police report

04/12/19 – Earlswood – Male arrested at property for cruelty to an animal – Male has since been sentenced to 17 weeks in prison.

23/12/19 – Earlswood – Damage to house linked with above incident – No further action.

There have been several reports during this period for off road bikes in the Wentwood and Earlswood areas. There were no reports for Brookacre during this time. Councillors were pleased to note the additional feedback on reported incidents.

Mobile Post Office – the wifi signal at the recreation hall has been strengthened, but the post office is unable to visit to check that it meets their requirements until the new year, as this is such a busy period for them.

Take a look at our new and improved website
www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk

Dates of future meetings –Monday 3rd February and Monday 2nd March at 7.00pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak with the Council for the first 15 minutes of the 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

**Contact the Clerk to the Community Council -
Mrs Hilary Counsell Tel: 01291 421307
E-mail: Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com**



VISIT BY THE BISHOP OF MONMOUTH TO SHIRENEWTON – 13th/14th JUNE

The new Bishop of Monmouth, the Right Reverend, Cherry Vann, will be visiting Shirenewton on Saturday 13th June and Sunday 14th June 2020.

The PCC invited her to open the village fete on Saturday 13th June and re-dedicate the Church on Sunday 14th June (following the work carried out in the Church) during the usual 10 a.m. morning service, and she has graciously agreed to both requests.

Everyone in the Mathern Group of Parishes is cordially invited to come to the 10 a.m. service on Sunday 14th June to meet our new Bishop; and to chat with her over tea, coffee and cake in the Church Room afterwards.

FROM THE REGISTERS

The funeral of Graham Michael Martin (1947-2019) took place in St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton on Thursday 5th December 2019 prior to cremation at Langstone Vale Crematorium.

PARISH MAGAZINE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's that time of year again when you are requested to pay your annual subscription for the ten copies of the parish magazine which will then be delivered to your home throughout 2020.

We are pleased that we have managed to keep the annual subscription for 2020 at £12.00 per annum, the same price as last year.

A payment slip with advice about who and how to pay, together with an envelope addressed to the person who delivers your magazine, is included in each of your copies this month.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish magazine.

Aileen Doggett
aileendoggett@btinternet.com
01291 641459

"SHIRENEWTON 800" ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

- **Saturday, 15th February 2020**
- **7:30 PM**
- **St Thomas a Becket Church Shirenewton**

Members of the **St Woolos Sinfonia** will perform a special concert to celebrate the 800th foundation anniversary of Shirenewton, together with the acclaimed trumpeter **Philippe Schartz**, one of the most exciting trumpeters of today and Principal Trumpet of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, they will perform music by Elgar, Telemann, Hovhanness and Mozart.

Tickets (£10, including a glass of wine, under 18 free) on-line at <https://www.stwoolossinfonia.com/events/shirenewton-800-anniversary-concert>, or from Glynis MacDonald 641818, or, if still available, on the door.



Recognise this person...?

... it's Shirenewton's very own Philippe Schartz!

If you're in the vicinity of the church in the early morning you may well hear Philippe practising.

***DON'T MISS THIS CONCERT,
IT'S GONNA BE FAB!***

BRING AND SHARE

The next Bring and Share evening in the Saysell Centre will be on Friday 21st February 2020 when John Burrows will talk about Chepstow's six Grade One listed structures with special emphasis on the Castle and our Grand Knight William Marshall.

Future topics for Bring and Share evenings include:

Friday 13th March 2020 – Jenny Bonner will talk about her Two and a Half Years on South Georgia

Friday 17th April – Mary Watkins will talk about her experiences in Rwanda developing rugby whilst working at a teacher training college, supporting women's cooperatives, helping young women set up in business, founding a nursery school and supporting former students, and training Rwandan volunteers and teachers.

The usual format is that we all gather in the Saysell Centre (Church Hall) by 7.30 on a Friday evening and we all bring some food and drink to share. We all fill a plate with food and settle down and the speaker talks for about 40 minutes and takes questions, and then we finish our food and discussions usually continue for a while.

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PARKING OUTSIDE THE CHURCH DURING SERVICES

Please could all those who park outside the Church, particularly during services, be careful not to block the entrances to lanes and houses in the vicinity, which can be very inconvenient to residents.



Update on repair works at the Church



THE CHURCH PROJECT

If you came along to any of the very well attended services or special events over the Christmas period, you will have seen that most of the building work at the church has now been completed.

We have taken the crumbling render off the interior of the west wall and have exposed some rather magnificent stonework. Lighting and heating have been improved, along with the installation of a new electrical supply. Repairs have been made to the stained-glass windows and parts of the roof. It is a very big space to heat and poorly insulated, so we are still experimenting with the optimum settings to try and make it more comfortable but still affordable.

The stonework of the west wall will need a long time to dry out, and in the future more of the render will need to be removed from other walls, but for now we are confident that the work that has been done to the worst affected areas will help to reduce the level of damp.

The next phase of the current project is underway; this is about telling the story of Shirenewton, using the wonderful research and archives of the Shirenewton History Society so that residents and visitors get a better understanding of our history and heritage. Expect to see some professionally created displays and stories which we hope will be completed by June when the newly appointed Bishop of Monmouth, Cherry Vann, will be in the village to open the Fete and to rededicate the church at our Sunday service on 14th June. As you will have seen elsewhere in the magazine, everyone is warmly invited to come along and meet the new Bishop and to take part in this celebration of continuity. The church has been here for at least 800 years – this project has been about giving it the best possible chance of serving our community for the next 800 years.

Charles Eickhoff and Janet Horton
Charles Eickhoff eickhoff@btopenworld.com
or Janet Horton 01291641783.



2020

One of the world's most valuable commodities is **sugar**. 80% of the world's sugar is produced from cane which is a tall bamboo-like grass – 20ft – grown in tropical countries. Millions of small-scale farmers and plantation workers in developing countries spend their lives growing and harvesting this crop, relentless hard and dangerous work. Some countries are financially very dependent on the export of sugar – it represents 70% of Cuba's exports and 40% of Belize's. Exporting sugar is difficult for many African, Caribbean and Pacific countries as markets in the EU and US are protected in favour of their own sugar beet and cane plantations.



Only 1% of the world's sugar is Fairtrade, but this represents massive benefits for the 54,960 farmers in 19 countries whose sugar has the Fairtrade designation. As with most fairly traded products farmers receive a guaranteed minimum price which insulates them from the worst price fluctuations on the international trading markets (which can totally destroy producers' livelihoods). If the trade price is higher FT of course will pay the higher price. In addition FT producers receive a FT premium which they can spend as they decide. In some communities half will be given to improve the personal circumstances of the farmers – a decent roof for their houses, cash to buy school uniforms and medicines, more efficient tools etc. The other half of the premium might be used to improve infrastructure – roads, a clinic, school equipment etc

The Manduvira Co-op 70kms north east of Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, received FT accreditation in 1999. In 2011 the foundation stone was laid of what was to be the world's first producer-owned FT organic sugar mill. Manduvira and its mill are perfect examples of development through Fairtrade, enabling farmers to take greater control of the value chain, add more value to their final product and ensure that benefits remain in the local community where they belong. As well as processing more cane sugar the mill will employ around 200 people and provide jobs for many children of the farmers who had left the area in search of work.

Improved social cohesion, environmental safeguarding, improved product quality, and disadvantaged farmers beginning to improve their lives – what's not to like? As ever I urge you to consider the provenance of all the purchases you make. Buying beet sugar supports farmers closer to home, but if you choose to buy cane sugar do consider Fairtrade, and if like me FT is of genuine significance to you, do cajole/persuade (or perhaps harangue!) manufacturers to use FT sugar in their products. As usual among the supermarkets the Co-op lead the way in supporting FT sugar. Remember

Only 1% of the world's sugar is Fairtrade!

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com



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MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

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www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY IN 2020 ---

CCS are now rehearsing for their **SATURDAY APRIL 4th concert** which marks a breakthrough change for the Society as a whole.

We will be performing **Will Todd's Mass in Blue** - the first time this work has been performed in Chepstow, The work is an exciting mix of jazz and the traditional Mass liturgy. Composed in 2003, it is increasingly being programmed by choral societies, as we all realise that we cannot "stand still"! We now have to look at what the 21st (and late 20th!) centuries are producing in choral music, as well as continuing with the great music produced in previous centuries!

We shall be also performing a truly delightful set of five songs set to words by William Blake –**Bob Chilcott's Jazz Songs of Innocence** (2011) for female voices, and the third item on this programme is an absolutely beautiful 11-minute setting of the Mass - **William Lloyd Webber's Missa Princeps Pacis** (1963)

The instrumental ensemble for this exciting programme will consist of a Jazz Trio, and Jazz Soprano from the RWCMD, along with piano performed by the Society's accompanist Richard Kubiak

This WILL be a programme for all. Our choir, used to performing conventional choral classics, are rising to this challenge with real vigour and plenty of enjoyment! Please come and support them!

SATURDAY APRIL 4th, St Mary's Priory Church, 7.30pm Tickets will be available from Chepstow Bookshop, £12, students and u/18s free – for further information, contact 623310, or our website.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – WHY NOT GIVE US A TRY ?
Tel. 623310, Marjorie, for info concerning singing membership,
or view our website (www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk)

This is a good time to be a member of CCS! – we are YOUR local choral society – but can only exist with YOUR support!
Thank you. On behalf of CCS - Marjorie Duerden

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 4th January 2020. This year we arranged to visit towers to the south of Bristol. In the morning 18 of us met up at the first tower of the day at St Margaret, Queen Charlton. This proved to be a pleasant ring of 6 bells which had been restored in 1997 – the very same year as Shirenewton and by the same company of bell hangers. There was another link to Shirenewton which is that (for long and complex reasons of intrigue) the bell wheel visible on the north wall at the base of the tower in St Thomas a Becket is actually from Queen Charlton. After this we headed to heavier but again very pleasant 6 bells at Blessed Virgin Mary, Compton Dando .Then travelling through the lanes we came to the truly magnificent 4 stage tower at All Saints, Publow. The 6 bells were the heaviest of the day with the tenor bell at 21.1 cwt just shy of 4 times the weight of the tenor bell at Shirenewton. The morning was rounded off at another very pleasant 6 bells at Holy Trinity, High Littleton.



We had booked lunch at The Hunter's Rest, Clutton Hill. Orders had be taken during the morning and on our arrival we were led to our reserved tables Following an excellent lunch and some liquid refreshment we headed just down the road to the 6 bells at St Augustine of Hippo at Clutton From there we travelled to the interesting village of Stanton Drew with its ancient standing stones and the church of St Mary the Virgin with its 6 bells. We were made most welcome here and were requested to have a group photo taken to appear in their parish magazine (the photo attached). The final ring of the day was at the 6 bells at St Michel, Dundry This was the second imposing 4 stage tower of the day and commands a panoramic view of Bristol. Dundry tower was an important navigational landmark in medieval times with the building of it financed by the Merchant Venturers of Bristol.

A tour debriefing was held that evening at chez Chris and Melissa Jones over a fabulous supper. Anyone curious about the bells in any particular church they know in any part of the UK and the English speaking world should visit <https://dove.cccbr.org.uk/home.php>. and use the search facility.

Mike Penney (Tower Captain).

The St Deiniol Lectures

followed by open discussion

Tuesday March 10, 7pm

**Rev Catherine Haynes, team vicar of the
Monmouth Group of Parishes, on:
"Who or What is God?"**

Tuesday May 12, 7pm

**Professor John Clarke, author and Professor
of the History of Ideas, on:
"Mysticism: its Relevance Today"**

Tuesday July 7, 7pm

**Rev Philip Averay, vicar of St Mary's and St Christopher's,
Chepstow, on:**

**"The Church in the Community"
all at Itton Village Hall, NP15 4BT
Itton Road, Chepstow (B4293)
All are welcome!**



Nerys's Natty Nosh

Stuffed Grilled Chicken with Lentil Casserole

Serves 2

Ingredients

- 2 chicken breasts
- 2 slices of cheese
- 4 slices of Prosciutto ham

Lentil casserole

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion chopped
- 1 small red pepper deseeded and chopped
- 1 tin of lentils
- 1 garlic clove, chopped
- Tin of tomatoes
- ½ teaspoon each of Paprika, ground coriander, turmeric and ginger
- 1 teaspoon agave
- 1 tablespoon port
- Salt and pepper to taste



Lentil Casserole

Method

- 1 In a large frying pan add the olive oil and gently fry the onions, peppers, garlic until soft.
- 2 Add the lentils, chopped tomatoes, spices and all the other ingredients. Simmer gently for 15 minutes and cover with a lid. Season to taste.

Stuffed Chicken



Method.

- 1 Slice the chicken breast in half and place the sliced cheese in the middle. Fold the chicken over the cheese.
- 2 Wrap the Prosciutto ham around the bacon.
- 3 Heat a "George Foreman" type grill. Place the chicken and cook with the lid down for about 4-5 minutes. The cheese will melt, and the ham will be brown. Ensure the chicken is thoroughly cooked. You can test that the chicken is cooked by using a temperature probe or by inserting a knife into the centre and feeling the heat on the knife.
- 4 Share the lentil casserole between two serving bowls and put the stuffed chicken on top.
- 5 Garnish with the chopped coriander.

Enjoy!





A BIG

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SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET

**DATES FOR
WINTER/SPRING 2020: -**

15TH FEBRUARY 2020

21ST MARCH 2020

18TH APRIL 2020

16TH MAY 2020

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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)

Review of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'

What a wonderful evening's entertainment! Once again SODS have pulled it off. It was a brilliant pantomime and I congratulate the cast and crew on a stunning production. All the characters were there, the wicked wizard, the handsome hero, the galumtious Princess, the winsome Dame and the beautiful Fairy. I was there on the first night and I was struck by the pace and panache of the cast, the slickness of the slapstick, the punchiness of the band, the strength of the singers, the fine footwork from the dancers, and of course all those old jokes that kept coming, thick and fast. The Minions (Young Actors) were simply amazing, keeping Wodger the Wizard on his toes in more ways than one. And indeed, it has to be said, that the strength of SODS lies in the youthfulness of the company demonstrated by the energy which they all put into this panto. True, there was a 'Panto that Went Wrong' moment when the huge UV beanstalk clumsily toppled over before it had reached the skies. Would Jack need his chopper now? But the backstage crew came to the rescue and could be seen working hard to get that beanstalk back upright and ready for Jack and the entire inhabitants of Windy Bottom including Buttermilk the cow to climb up and rescue the Princess. The scary gigantic giant was very 'Fee, Fi, Fo, Fummish' but as ever, the hero saves his girl and everyone lives happily ever after in true panto style. I'm already looking forward to next year. Well done everyone – and somebody get that Director a large glass of red wine.

Betty Buntait Theatre Critic for 'Am Dram Matters'

There are photos of the performances of Jack and the Beanstalk on the next two pages

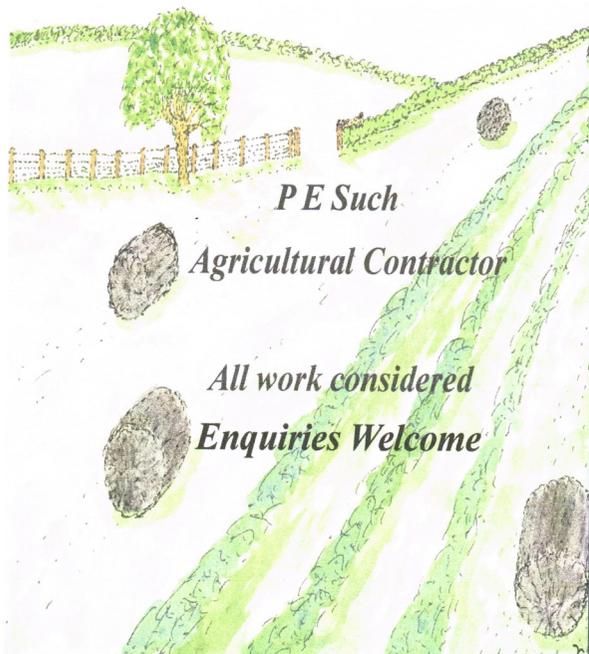
EVENTS AT THE HUNTSMAN HOTEL

"Springfest" music night at The Huntsman Hotel Saturday 18th April 7:30 pm till 12 pm in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospital.. A "Shirefest Production" — £8pp Huntsman refreshments included.

"Shirefest" Saturday 15th June, annual charity music festival. 3:30 pm till 12 pm







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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 2020 are scheduled for the following dates:

Thursday 27th February
Thursday 30th April
Thursday 25th June

Thursday 26th March
Thursday 28th May

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 or calling 01291 641175.

SHIRENEWTON W.I.

'Art is never finished, only abandoned' Leonardo Da Vinci



Our 2020 meetings programme got off to an artistic start with a most informative and entertaining talk by Les Ashton Smith on the life and works of Leonardo Da Vinci. It was suggested that I write this report in Leonardo's style of mirror writing, but sadly I share none of Leonardo's talent!

Les is a Da Vinci admirer and enthusiast, who last year achieved his ambition of seeing all of Leonardo's known paintings. He told us about the artist's background, works and artistic techniques. Leonardo's perfectionist approach resulted in his immensely detailed paintings and drawings. He was not only an incredible artist but also an inventor, engineer and accomplished musician. A true genius.

We did feel sorry for one ex- owner of Leonardo's painting, 'Savior of the World', who sold the painting in 1958 for \$45. Following the painting's restoration and two other owners, the same painting was sold in 2017 for \$450.3 million, making it the most expensive painting ever sold at public auction.

Our February meeting is on Thursday 13th February at Shirenewton Recreation Hall at 7.15 when Andrew Baker will be talking about his work as an army doctor. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838) or Jane Butterworth (01291 641704) for further details.



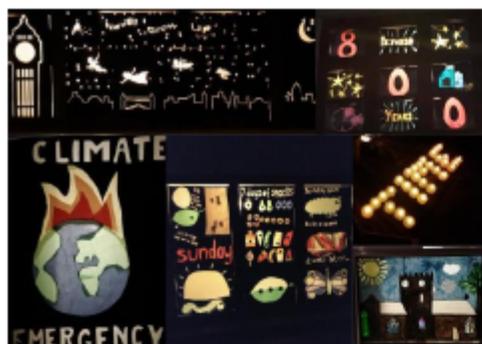
Shirenewton and Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza 2019, you were amazing! Inspired by this year's theme of 'Time' (to mark the 800th anniversary of our village church) over forty individuals, families and local community groups decorated windows around the village.

We held two community crafting sessions in the village hall which an incredible fifty people came along to, to share ideas, craft materials, inspiration and cake. Better still, we estimate about two hundred people 'shambled' around the village over the two nights, taking in the spectacle



This year we were extremely grateful once again to Shirenewton Community Council who gave a grant to SHAMBLE to cover the costs of printing maps and flyers, and also to the Welsh Church Fund whose grant enabled us to buy high-vis vests to keep people safe and visible around the village during the two evenings

Other important **thank yous** need to go to Emma, Emma and Kerry for helping deliver leaflets around the village, to Phil at The Huntsman for donating cakes for Saturday evening, to Shirenewton Church for letting us store craft materials in the Saysell Centre, to Tina, Tomos, Anna, Sorcha and Bethan for serving refreshments, and to the Recreation Association for letting us use (and decorate!) the hall. Many hands really do make light work and we're grateful to absolutely everyone who was able to help out in whatever way. What a wonderful community we live in.



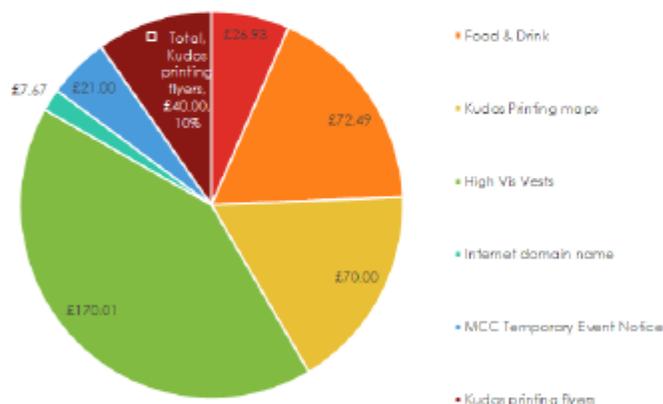
If you'd like to be reminded of some of the fabulous creations, or to see if there were any that you may have missed, you can follow us on Instagram at:

[Instagram.com/shirenewton_shamble](https://www.instagram.com/shirenewton_shamble)

You can be the first to hear about next year's event by following us on Twitter or on the Shirenewton, Mynydd Bach and Earslwood Community page on Facebook

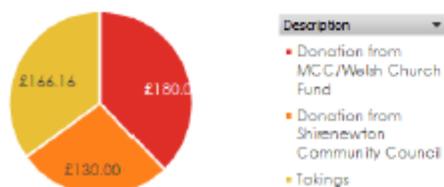
We also thought it people might be interested in all our incomings and outgoing, so here's some more information on that:

Breakdown of Expenditure (£)



The bit of money left in the pot will roll over to next year's SHAMBLE to pay for things like craft materials and the licenses that we need to run the event.

Breakdown of Income (£)



Summary of Income & Expenditure



So that's a wrap for 2019 and we'd like to conclude with a massive THANK YOU to absolutely everyone who took part. From SHAMBLE HQ (Hazel, Paula, Jude and honorary member George) – see you in 2020!

Gardening Corner

Happy New Year to everyone. We hope that you had a good Christmas and that you haven't broken too many of your New Year resolutions as yet – plenty of time for that in the months to come. Ours was certainly different but strangely enjoyable! For the first time in some 40 odd years we actually spent Christmas Day on our own, as our respective children and grandchildren all decided to stay at home and have their own Christmas's. It had to happen eventually, but what to do? In the end we did what we did when first married, although we did a black Labrador dog to accompany us this time. We chose to have a walk along the beach, which was rewarded with just about the only glorious sunny day we have had since the last time I drafted this page. It was lovely as the sun beat down from a cloudless sky. We were out early, but it wasn't long before we were joined by more and more people, with new puppies, bikes, scooters, electric cars etc. This was Weston after all, so a lovely flat promenade, free of cars for everyone to enjoy their walk. It was a far cry from the beach we used to walk along in West Wales when we were first married. This was at Pembrey, near Llanelli. There however we did have the added advantage of being able to access the beach through Forestry Commission (as it was then) woodland, and we would walk for four or five miles without seeing another soul. Then back to dinner which was enjoyed in a leisurely way over two hours, sheer bliss!

After a couple of days off it was back to work around the garden, but with dry weather a forgotten pleasure, it was a case of choosing jobs that could be done between the rain. There were plenty of indoor jobs to get through, so all of the greenhouses and tunnels have now been sorted out with not a weed in sight and all of the beds duly dug. With it still being wet the indoor jobs continued. One job I had been desperate to sort out, but had been putting off for some time was cleaning up a multitude of old frames that had been taken off hives that had either died out over the year, or where the wax was too old and needed replacing. This tends to be a slow, laborious job that ends up with you being stuck together with bee glue (propolis), remnants of honey and anything else that happens to be about! I now wear 'outdoor' shoes, and disposable gloves to help with the task, as I had been given clear instructions not to walk indoors with anything stuck to me. I understand why because I have spent hours in the past trying to scrape the said glue, honey etc off the kitchen floor

(among other things) hence why I'm banned to doing this job in my work room in the garage. After two and a half days all were cleaned, everything was sterilized to prevent disease spread and stored away in the garage roof ready for the spring / summer activity. I'd been bored to tears for the duration, but well chuffed as the assistant head gardener handed the cleaned equipment up to me in the garage roof. Whilst I was cleaning everything, I kept falling over some old sawn wood that we had 'rescued' from my dear old mother's loft. At 95. I didn't think that she was likely to do anything with it, so thought it best that it was liberated, but it was now in the way. So, two woodpecker boxes and a new post box later I am at least walking more freely around the work room, but will have to think what else I can design to use the rest of the wood – a few bug hotels perhaps. Some of the wood was very good quality and I had made (although I say so myself), a very nice box, with a lid, carrying handles etc. for one of our Son in law's birthday. He wanted a nice box to store his two season's worth of Huddersfield Town football programmes in (the time they spent in the Premier league). Anyone who supports 'The Town' need our sympathy (including a certain member of the Shirenewton community – sorry Mark!) so I provided him with the best box I could manufacture. He was well chuffed – and a bit more of the wood used up!

With the rain still falling down outside I was struggling to know what to do next! We have been here at Barn Farm for over thirty years. When we first started on the garden, we had some native hedges, but we planted a number of new ones to help break the area up and to provide some much-needed shelter. A nice beech hedge was established and I trained the growth into arches over each path that ran through it (3 in total). The thirty years are taking their toll, and I'm slowing down and finding it harder to keep the hedges trimmed. The solution was to make all of the hedges that much lower. This would mean that they could be cut from the ground, without having to climb steps or climb a ladder to reach – all much more dangerous tasks the older you get. So off we started. The tops of the arches disappeared first along followed by the tops of three of the boundary hedges. The assistant head gardener got a bit of a shock when she came home from work one day, but the new look is growing on her (if you'll excuse the pun) and it is amazing how much light this work has let into the garden. It will need a bonfire lighting to shift all of the cut material but that's for a drier day, with not so much wind.

Remarkably there have been the odd few days when it hasn't rained and I have been able to get on with work in the vegetable garden and cut flower garden. The joy of having raised vegetable beds and relatively free draining soil is that you can work when other can't. I managed to weed quite a few of the raised beds and turn the soil a little bit, and then cover the beds with weed suppressant material. Hopefully this will save me having to do anything to them again before I start to replant again in the spring. I did have one very close encounter however. As usual the nearest robin came to see me once I started working, but on one occasion it almost got its timing wrong. Just as I was bending over to pick some weeds up, the robin decided to dart in for a juicy morsel. It flew between my legs and hit my hat off as I bent over. The robin looked at me as if the encounter was all my fault, but soon dusted itself off and sat on the edge of the bed waiting for the next free meal! With everything else going on, I hadn't had the opportunity to lift the gladioli bulbs nor the dahlia tubers. Fortunately, the weather hasn't been that cold yet, so they should be OK. I prefer to lift them and store them for the winter. Gladioli corms set a new one each year, on top of the old. They will survive a winter so long as it isn't cold, but it does mean that the new growth is that much higher in the ground and less stable, so once the flower spike grows, they often just fall over. Digging them up means you can remove the old growth, and then replant the new corm deep again to ensure stability. With dahlia's they soon get congested and so lifting and drying allows you to divide them up and increase the number, whilst also removing any rotting or damaged parts of the tuber. They are much more sensitive to cold weather and it is very easy to lose them if you leave them in the ground, especially if you don't cover them over with something for more protection. I managed to dig our main flowering varieties up, but still have dark leaved 'Bishop's daughters') to dig out. These were grown from seed several years ago, and are great for the mixed flower border. They have single flowers of different colours, but the bees love them. A couple of dry days and perhaps I'll get them up as well.

All of the seed orders have arrived now so time to start planning. As last year I have put some garlic and shallots in pots to start them on growing. There is no sign of them yet, but it won't be long.

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

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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The society had a busy December, Archive Meeting, early in the month. A visit to St Mary's Church Rogiet with a talk on the history of the church, given by the church warden, to start the Christmas festivities off we had mince pies and mulled wine. We later retired to the Tredegar Arms to have our Christmas supper, a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Late December saw 16 members and one dog (mustn't forget the dog) meet in Llanfair Discoed to climb Grey Hill to see the sun rise on the Winter solstice. Once again we had to admit defeat as it was a very misty morning with no sun in sight! Having worked up an appetite we headed back down to the Tredegar Arms for breakfast. There is always next year!

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday, 30th January Meeting at the Recreational Hall, a film & talk Entitled '**Repairing the Pyramids**'
Talk given by **Peter James**, Not to be missed!
Everyone welcome

Monday, 10th February Archive Meeting at the Recreational hall at 2.00pm

Tuesday, 18th February Annual Dinner at the Huntsman Hotel 7.00 for 7.30pm. Guest after dinner speaker, **Prof David Collard** who will talk on ***Edgar Russell Wallace.***



DELVE & DISCOVER DAY

Pupils in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 were amazed when they came into school to find their classrooms had been transformed overnight into Santa's workshop, a Winter Wonderland, Nativity Stable and Santa's Grotto respectively. They enjoyed a video message from Father Christmas and then spent the day immersed in fun activities in each of the classrooms and helped their teachers plan some teaching and learning activities for the rest of the term linked to the skills they need to learn next!



PARK RUN



Dialch to our fantastic parent helpers & Year 6 sports ambassadors and prefects who spoke to us about the Junior Park Run that will be in Rogiet from March 2020. The children dressed up, played instruments and enjoyed a warm up session.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

We have had an action packed end of term with a Carol Concerts, Christingle Services and Christmas Plays ... Foundation Phase classes performed "The Bossy Christmas Fairy" and the Junior classes performed a "Bah Humbug" play! Da iawn blant!



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to everyone who found time to come and support our Christmas Fayre and helped us take £1850. This takes the total raised so far this year to a massive £4228! It was a truly superb event and whilst it would be impossible to list every individual person who helped make it such a success a special thank you must go to Mr & Mrs Brice for the stunningly beautiful Santa's Grotto and to all members of the PTA, especially Sarah D, Sarah T, Leah & Bren for their exceptionally hard work over the course of the year making every fund raising event so enjoyable and profitable.



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Shirenewton Church around Christmas Time

On Sunday 1st December, the church held its annual **Advent Fair** and there were home-made pickles, jams, jellies, mincemeat and cakes for sale and the Fair raised £447 for CompassionaidUK

Then a week later it was **Carols Around the Village Christmas Tree** which had to be held in the church because of the shabby weather and understandably Chepstow Town Band don't like playing in the rain and getting their tubas wet but it was lovely in the candle-lit church and £172 was raised for Medicines sans Frontiers.

And on Christmas Eve the church was packed to the rafters for the **Christingle Service**. It was a lovely occasion and Jane and I were delighted to welcome back our older Sunday Club members who are all out at work now but who return every year to take part in our Christingle. The collection came to £385 for The Children's Society.

Jane and I want to thank everyone for their generosity and support. Thanks also to Tony and Nerys for the Christmas Tree and also to the chaps who struggled manfully to put it up. Thanks also to SCC for the lovely new Christmas Tree lights. Glynis





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Helicopters flying over Shirenewton—photo by John Burrows



...and more Jack and the Beanstalk photos



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STARGAZING

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



The brilliant planet Venus lies to the south-west in the early evening sky. It is close to the fine crescent Moon on 27th February.

NASA has some beautiful images relating to astronomy on the internet at apod.nasa.gov/apod/.



Photo by John Burrows

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| Date | Sunday Service | Readers | Sidespersons |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 nd February | Presentation of Christ in the Temple | John Montague Ruth Savagar | Claire Lewis |
| 9 th February | Third Sunday before Lent | Cynthia Smith Frances Grey | Cynthia Smith |
| 16 th February | Second Sunday before Lent | Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon | Mark Broughton |
| 23 rd February | Sunday Next before Lent | Aileen Doggett Andrew Baker | Aileen Doggett |
| 1 st March | First Sunday of Lent | Mark Broughton Ruth Savagar | Mark Broughton |
| 8 th March | Second Sunday of Lent | James Leney Aileen Doggett | Aileen Doggett |
| 15 th March | Third Sunday of Lent | John Montague Paul Morcombe | Claire Lewis |
| 22 nd March | Fourth Sunday of Lent | | Chris Sturke Margaret Sturke |
| 29 th March | Fifth Sunday of Lent | Group Service | at St Pierre |



CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 2 nd February | Cynthia Smith and Frances Grey |
| Sunday 9 th February | Kerry and Andrew Baker |
| Sunday 16 th February | Jackie and Mark Broughton |
| Sunday 23 rd February | Jane and James Leney |
| Sunday 1 st March | Gilly and Graham Lambert |
| Sunday 8 th March | Lynne Morcombe and Kerry Baker |

LOCAL DIARY DATES

| FEBRUARY 2020 | Event | Location |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Mon 10 th 2.p.m. | Shirenewton Local History Society archive meeting | Recreation Hall |
| Sat 15 th 1030-1230 | Village Market | Recreation Hall |
| Sat 15 th 7.30 pm | St Woolos Players – S800 | St Thomas à Becket Church |
| Tues 18 th 7.30 p.m. | Shirenewton Local History Society Annual Dinner | The Huntsman Hotel |
| Fri 21 st 7.30 pm | Bring and Share – John Burrows (see article) | Saysell Centre/Church Room |
| MARCH 2020 | Event | Location |
| Fri 13 th 7.30 pm | Bring and Share – Jenny Bonner | Saysell Centre/Church Room |
| Sat 21 st 1030-1230 | Village Market | Recreation Hall |
| APRIL | Event | Location |
| Fri 17 th 7.30 pm | Bring and Share – Mary Watkins "Rugby in Rwanda" | Saysell Centre/Church Room |
| Sat 18 th 1030-1230 | Village Market | Recreation Hall |
| Sat 18 th tbc | Monmouth Big Band and Strictly Shirenewton – S800 | Earlswood Hall |
| MAY 2020 | Event | Location |
| tbc tbc | Something Sultry concert – S800 | Saysell Centre/Church Room |
| Events marked S800 are part of the Shirenewton 800 Celebrations | | |

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LOCAL CONTACTS

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Bill Clark
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Church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rector | Revd Julian White Jel.white@btinternet.com | 01291 622317 |
| Parish Priest | Revd Nansi Davies CBE | 01633 400 519 |
| Lay Eucharistic Minister | Gilly Lambert | 01291 641 175 |
| Parish Visitor Coordinators | Revd Nansi Davies CBE Diane Marlow | 01633 400 519 01291 641 407 |
| Church Wardens – Rector’s – People’s | Sally Saysell Andrew Baker | 01291 641 369 01291 641 925 |
| PCC Secretary | Bill Clark | 01291 641 783 |
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| PCC Members | Aileen Doggett Janet Horton James Leney Jane Smith-Haddon Frances Gray Paul Morcombe Kevin Bounds | 01291 641 459 01291 641 783 01291 641 271 01291 641 525 01291 622 465 01291 641 671 01291 641 648 |
| Gift Aid Secretary | Ruth Savagar | 01291 641 411 |
| Organists | Karen Millar Ruth Savagar James Leney | 01291 650 521 01291 641 411 01291 641 271 |
| Sunday Club | Lynn Morcombe | 01291 641 671 |
| Tower Captain | Mike Penney | 01291 650 653 |
| Saysell Centre Booking | Glynis MacDonald | 01291 641 818 |
| Safeguarding Officer | Andrew Baker | 01291 641 925 |
| Church Flowers | Maureen Moody | 01291 641 524 |
| Parish Magazine Editor | Bill Clark | 01291 641 783 |
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Church of St Tewdrics’s Mathern

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|
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| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--|
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