

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

March 2020



Price £1:50

FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

We live – to state the obvious – in a hectic world. There is, in fact, a tendency to assume that unless one is 'busy' in doing something (or should I say "anything") we are lazy or certainly not pulling our weight.

Business is often regarded as our membership card to acceptance in modern society. I am suspicious of this assertion in the way that 'business' is often perceived.

On the contrary, human history has long valued the ability and importance of contemplation, silence and meditation. Such an assertion sits uneasily with the present tendency of regarding such behaviour as 'dead-time' or sheer indolence. For centuries hermits, religious orders, saints and individuals who appreciate the gift of stillness have added depth to reality in a life threatened by frenetic and shallow activity.

I found it uplifting, in what has been an otherwise demanding few months, to be reminded of 'the still small voice of calm' in the midst – would you believe it! – of the hustle and bustle surrounding daily life in one of our major hospitals. In the waiting area of one of the eye departments I read the following notice:

'Please keep this area quiet and clear for visions.'

Yes, perhaps the intention had been expressed clumsily or there was a printing error somewhere, but I felt that the notice, as it stood, provided much on which to ponder.

In addition to seeking a time and place conducive to calmness for those worried for their health, it gave us all an opportunity to reflect upon the claimed importance of finding peace within our own lives. It appeared to me to underline what Jesus said: *My peace I give to you, my peace I leave with you. Not as the world gives do I give unto you...* In other words, there is more to calmness than that which the world can offer.

Like many of the mystics, like Jesus in the wilderness, we can find a private time in our personal lives for solitude and privacy. Ronald Blythe writes with

authority and simplicity about this and points out that we are incorrect in assuming that privacy (i.e. being alone) is something to fear and to be avoided. To the Christian this means being alone except for the presence of God. Yes, there must be a degree of trepidation of standing face-to-face with someone who knows you better than yourself, where there is nowhere to hide and no opportunity to conceal or blur various issues but, ultimately, we shall understand even as we are understood (to borrow a phrase from Saint Paul).

And what is all this about visions! These days we tend to ascribe suchlike to the effects of hallucinatory drugs and yet to lump these all together does a great disservice to the visionaries, dreamers and thinkers down the ages. Considerable parts of the Bible record, *The Gospel of St. John*, *Revelation* for example, are the visionary writings of time-honoured people of the faith who have nurtured many down the ages with their poetic understanding.

I might have chanced upon a mundane appearing poster in the midst of a hive of activity with little apparent connection, but it made me pause and think. Perhaps a copy of it should be displayed at the door of our church. It certainly speaks with more insight than most, if not everything, I say.

With every good wish and blessing.

Julian White
(Rector)

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.

THE BELLS

A quiet time of the year. Lots of ringers off on winter breaks and lots involved with the pantomime, but still we managed to ring for services and practices. What did happen is that our new muffles turned up which had been on order for a few months and are bespoke to the bells. Muffles are used on the bells at times of mourning and the times we usually use them is on Remembrance Sunday and just before midnight on December 31st – mourning the passing of the old year.

The muffles are bell clapper on bell strikes an (normal sound) through 360 degrees and a muffled when it swings perception of an note and can be ic. This effect is muffled” – allowed by a muffled only time the muffled” is at the monarch so this been heard for Our new muffles, bespoke so exact clapper balls and



provided which meant scrabbling around the belfry with torches and electronic callipers to collect this information. The muffles are quickly attachable/detachable using Velcro strips and to protect these from gathering fluff during storage a neat storage bag is provided embroidered with a picture of the church. The attached photograph shows this bag and muffles for bells 1 & 2. The other 4 muffles are still in the bag.

attached to the one side so the open note as it swings grees one way mooted note back. This gives a echo of the bell quite atmospher-called “half-open note fol-fled note. The bells are “fully-death of the effect has not many decades. as stated, are dimensions of the shafts had to be

Anyone interested in learning to ring should either contact me using the contact details provided at the back of the Parish Magazine or just come along on a Friday evening when we practice 19.30 – 21.00. You might find it more fascinating and more complex than you can imagine.

Mike Penney (Tower Captain).

Shirenewton Community Council

Extracts from the minutes of the February meeting

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:

1. To consider further information on the diversion of Footpath 34.

Councillors took into consideration an e-mail received on 14.1.20 from a local resident, also further information from Mr S Pritchard, Footpaths Officer at Mon CC. Mr Pritchard had asked whether this Council would agree to maintain a new section of fence when the diversion took place. Clerk to check why this could not be included in Mon CC's diversion order, also to check Public Liability insurance

Councillors felt it appropriate to remind residents that the Community Council is consulted on such applications and is able to make recommendations, but it is Monmouthshire County Council that makes the final decisions.

2. DM/2019/01495 The Tan House Inn, Shirenewton. Amended plans.

Council noted that the notification letter still 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 the pub is within the conservation area, 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 for 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,
- there now appears to be no access to the properties from the parking area,
- Council felt strongly that all hedges on site should be retained.

3. DM/2019/02003 Little Grondra Farm, Shirenewton to Rhewl Farm

Change of use of part field into residential curtilage to enable vehicular access to new garage. New timber stable, new timber double garage and new decking.

Council objected to this application pending further clarification of the extent of the residential curtilage.

**** Correction - DM/2019/02000 The Grondra, Shirenewton**
The above planning application considered at last month's meeting was incorrectly addressed and related to Little Grondra Farm – the Clerk apologises for the error.

Other items of interest

Monthly Police Report

Council was advised of the appointment of a new neighbourhood sergeant at Chepstow which is PS 1437 Damien Waite, his contact email

Damien.waite@gwent.pnn.police.uk

Clerk to invite him to a future Council meeting.

6/1/2020- Report of damage to an ancient burial mound sometime over the Christmas period at a site on land adjacent to Bwthyn Cadwen on the Usk to Buckwell road. The damage was caused by 4x4 vehicles driving over it churning up the land.

22/1/2020 – Report of a vacant, derelict property broken into on Chapel road in Earlswood. The owner is not sure when this happened as they rarely go there. Entry was gained by forcing a door and smashing a window. Nothing seems to have been taken.

26/1/2020 – Report of an outbuilding broken into overnight at a farm just off the Usk road near Newchurch. A quantity of tools were taken from inside, A car was also taken from the property. The residents were unaware until the morning. No access was gained to the main house.

26/1/2020 – Report of off road bikes in Wentwood Forest.

28/1/2020 – Report of a vehicle skidding on ice and damaging a hedge at a property on Earlswood road. No injuries to the driver and details were given at the scene.

There were no calls to Brookacre during this time.

Dog waste bin – Council agreed to provide an additional waste bin on the green at Mynyddbach.

Dates of future meetings –Monday 2nd March and Monday 6 April 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

Take a look at our new and improved website

www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk

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

Shirenewton W.I. Life as a Military Doctor in Nigeria

Andrew Baker came to our February meeting and gave us a fascinating account of his 5 month posting as an army military doctor in North East Nigeria in 2018. Andrew has worked as a military doctor since 1991, working in 19 countries and in 5 different operational war zones. In 2018 he volunteered to join a unit of British troops working with Nigerian and American troops to locate the Nigerian school girls kidnapped by Boko Haram. It sounded a very tense situation as the area is unpoliced and Boko Haram a very real threat. During his time in Nigeria Andrew led medical training with the Nigerian soldiers. This also involved improvising to supplement the Nigerian soldiers' meagre medical supplies. Andrew encouraged local women's community groups to get involved in producing medical supplies. Jenny was a willing volunteer to demonstrate a tourniquet made from cloth and a stick.

Jackie Broughton

Our March meeting is on Thursday 13th March at Shirenewton Recreation Hall at 7.15 when we shall be celebrating our birthday party with a shared meal and games. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Diane Ashton



ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

In 2020 and every five years afterwards the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is required by the Church in Wales to start a new Electoral Roll. All members on the roll need to re-apply or their names will be removed. The PCC is keen to increase the numbers of parishioners on the Electoral Roll and also the number of people on the PCC. The advantages of being on the electoral roll include:

The right to stand for election to, and vote for, members of the PCC

The right to be eligible to be a Churchwarden and vote for the People's Warden

The right to vote at the Church Annual Vestry Meeting

The right to vote for representatives on the Area Deanery Conference and the Diocesan Conference

The ability to influence the way the Church is run and how services are arranged.

If you wish to apply to be included on the 2020 Electoral Roll, or re-apply to be included on the 2020 Roll, you need to be over 16 years of age, and a member of a religious body that is in communion with the Church in Wales, and you need to be either resident in the Parish or habitually attend services in the Parish. Any questions can be answered by the Secretary to the PCC (see contacts page in the magazine), and he will be delighted to provide you with a short application form which needs to be returned by 15th March 2020.

In the light of the data protection regulations the Church in Wales has decided that the Electoral Roll should no longer be displayed publicly in church. Instead, a list of names (not addresses) appearing on the Roll will be made available for inspection on request by any Member of the Church in Wales by contacting the Secretary to the PCC. A member of the Church in Wales is defined by the constitution as:

Any office holder in the Church in Wales

Any cleric and deaconess in receipt of a pension from the Representative Body

Any person whose name is entered on the electoral roll of a Parish

Any member of the Governing Body and the Representative Body and any committees of them

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

ST THOMAS A BECKET SERVICE AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL – SUNDAY 5th JULY 2020

The Archbishop of Canterbury will be holding a service in Canterbury Cathedral on Sunday 5th July for all churches named after St Thomas à Becket to commemorate 850 years since the death of the saint in Canterbury Cathedral at the hands of four knights. Shirenewton has been allocated ten places for the service. If you would like to take one of these ten places, please inform either the Reverend Julian White on 622317 or Bill Clark on 641783 by 20th March.

BREAK IN AND THEFT AT SHIRENEWTON SCHOOL

Unfortunately, during half term this week some thieves climbed over the school fences, got onto the school roof and stole a substantial amount of lead resulting in extensive leaks and water damage in classrooms. The School has asked that if anyone hears or sees suspicious activity on the school site, please call the police. Many thanks.

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in February:

1. David Thomas 2. James Leney 3. Cheryl Lloyd 4. Alex Baker

ST WOOLOS SINFONIA SHIRENEWTON 800 ANNIVERSARY CONCERT WITH PHILIPPE SCHARTZ

"Is anyone here called Dennis?" Christoph asked, as he explained that the St Woolos Sinfonia line-up had been radically changed by the challenges of driving through flooded, wind-swept lanes to rehearsals in St Thomas a Becket Church. But Philippe Schartz made it through along with an audience of over 90 from all over the area and nobody was going to let a small storm spoil their evening. Christoph led the players in spirited and technically challenging programme which supported Philippe Schartz playing Telemann's Sonata for Trumpet and Strings in D Major, and Alan Havhanness' Prayer for St Gregory for solo trumpet and strings. Christoph also led the St Woolos Sinfonia in Mozart's Divertimento for string orchestra in D Major, Peter Warlock's Capriol Suite (including the Sword Dance), and a trio of Elgar's works – Chanson de Matin Op 15 No. 2, Salut d'Amour Op 12, and Chanson de Nuit Op 15 No.1. The music was beautiful, the audience loved it, and nobody gave the rain a second thought. Afterwards the Church Room was packed as the audience joined the musicians for an amazing spread of food and unlimited wine. Many thanks to James Leney for organising the concert and to all those who so kindly provided food and drink to entertain everybody afterwards.

Calling all 200 Club Members!

200 Club subs for this year are now due. Many people have already paid by standing order (thank you!), but for those of you who prefer to pay by cash or cheque ***please contact Aileen Doggett at Church House, Shirenewton, Chepstow, NP16 6RL, 01291 641459, aileendoggett@btinternet.com, as soon as possible.*** If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to "Shirenewton PCC 200 Club". If you're new to the area and are wondering what the 200 Club is all about, then read on...

For each £10 subscribed you are allocated a unique number which is entered into the monthly draw. You can sponsor as many membership numbers as you like in your own name, on behalf of family members or even a pet! There are 10 draws per year, August and January being the exceptions, and each draw pays out prizes of £40, £30, £20 and £10. The draws take place on the third Sunday of the month. The four lucky winners are announced in church and are notified in the Parish Magazine.



SpringFest

@ The Huntsman Hotel

Shirenewton, Chepstow, NP16 6BU

01291-641521, TheHuntsmanHotel@Icloud.Com

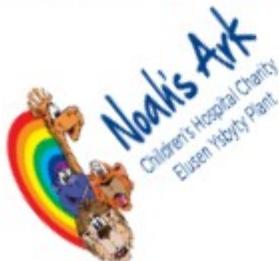
Saturday 18th April 2020

8.00pm till Midnight

Acoustic Music Evening

£8pp including Buffet

In Aid of "Shirefest" Supported Charities



Artists

*Contraband
& Other Artist*

... and a date for your diaries

Shirefest charity music festival will be on 20th June 2020

FAIRTRADE NEWS 2020



Well, Fairtrade Fortnight (Feb 24th – March 6th) has come around again. I shall be doing the Oxfam shop window highlighting the wide range of FT products now available + a bit of info about FT's many benefits to producers and the environment. As I've done on a couple of occasions before I shall be speaking to pupils at Shirenewton Primary . FT is a current school topic and I hope to back-up the work the staff are doing with pupils. The Mayor of Chepstow will also be present to award prizes to pupils (and the school) in the FT poster competition launched by Chepstow Fairtrade Forum. On March 4th there will be a Pop-Up café with FT Ugandan coffee grower Jenipher Wettaka Sambazi at the Chepstow Methodist Church Hall 2.30-4. (FT cake available for a donation!)

Frankly when I talk to pupils in schools I am also trying to address the adults! After all, they (you!) are the ones who will (or won't) buy Fairtrade products. Children generally 'get' the fact that the banana farmer's share of the price of a 20p banana – ½ p is unfair, grossly unfair. Similarly with tee-shirts, tea, cotton, rice, gold, pineapples, chocolate etc etc .They understand that farmers and producers often live in intolerable circumstances, unable to fulfil their families' basic needs. But there is little they can do about it. Adults largely choose not to do a great deal about it, (shades of Greta here I think!) - 'It's very complicated – you'll understand when you are grown up' (i.e. you'll stop being naïve – and (sotto voce): 'anyway we deserve to buy cheap stuff').

So, as ever, I urge you to think about the effects your purchases could have on producers and the environment in the developing world. FT is an easy and convenient way to change the world for the better. Simples!

Marion McAdam 641316 msm316@gmail. Com

See also The Fairtrade Foundation, Traidcraft, Ethical Superstore, Oxfam.

BRING AND SHARE

The next Bring and Share evening in the Saysell Centre will be on Friday 13th March 2020 when Jenny Bonner will talk about her Two and a Half Years on South Georgia.

Future topics for Bring and Share evenings include:

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 Bring and Share evenings will pause over the summer months and start again in October. So the next date will be:

Friday 9th October 2020—Mark Smith, the arms and militaria expert from the Antiques Roadshow who specialises in military medals will give a talk entitled "For Valour: The History of the Victoria Cross" with reference to Capt Ian Liddell VC of Shirenewton.

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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CHEPSTOW'S SIX LISTED MONUMENTS AND WILLIAM MARSHALL

I looked at Chepstow in a different light this morning, after John Burrows' fascinating and enlightening talk at the Bring & Share Supper held in the Saysell Centre on February 21st. Suddenly, I noticed and appreciated our unique and historic town and how privileged we are to live here!

John spoke about the six Grade 1 listed monuments in Chepstow, highlighting how unusual it is to find so many clustered together in such a small place, and not only six Grade 1 listed buildings but that two of them are bridges! He gave a little of the history and explained the significance of: The Severn Bridge, Chepstow Bridge, The Town Arch, The Port Wall, St Mary's Priory Church and Chepstow Castle. The wonderful sweep of heritage spans 900 years, from 1067 when the Castle and Priory were founded by William FitzOsbern to 1966 when the Severn Bridge was completed.

In the second part of his talk, John shared his enthusiasm for William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke and the force behind the expansion of Chepstow Castle to its present footprint. William was a champion knight who won fame and fortune (literally) in tournaments across Europe, so much so that he was able to marry Isabel de Clare, the heiress who brought him Chepstow Castle. William brokered peace in the dispute between King John and his barons and became an architect of the charter known as Magna Carta and even rose to be Regent for the 9 year old Henry III upon John's death. It's amazing to think that we can follow in his footsteps, through the gatehouse for the castle which he had built and used himself.

My favourite fact, from an evening packed with fascinating information, was that the likely origin of William's father-in-law's cognomen of "Strongbow", now so ubiquitous, is probably a corruption of Striguil, which was Chepstow's name in the twelfth century.

As always, the congenial, community evening featured warm company and an extensive buffet of delicious fare brought, and warmly shared, by the attendees. Look out for the next planned events in this series of Bring and Share suppers and come and join us!



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MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd & Making Music, and is a Registered Charity (no. 112798)

www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY 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

Coffee Morning at Valley Chapel Earlswood

March 14th at 10 o'clock until 1 p.m.

with Raffle, Cakes and Bric à Brac

Come and enjoy a tea or Coffee & A CAKE

funds for the Chapel

EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on Thursday 2nd April
at the hall starting at 7pm.

Even if you are not a current committee member please feel
free to come along.

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!

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our January meeting was held at the Recreational Hall, our speaker for the evening was Peter James who gave us a talk entitled 'Repairing the Pyramids'.

Peter showed us a film that was made of the process and his involvement in the restoration. He explained how they evaluated the state of the pyramid before starting the major repair work and then how they went about securing the structure. We then had a question and answer session. A very interesting evening was had by all. We also welcomed four new members to our society.

Our Annual Dinner was held at the Huntsman Hotel, as usual a hearty and delicious meal was served, followed by our guest after dinner speaker, Prof. David Collard, who talked on the topic of '*Edgar Russell Wallace*'.

A member of our society, A. R Utting, has recently written and published a book entitled 'Tewdric of Wales'. It details the life and times of St. Tewdric who was once a Welsh Saint, King, Warrior and Marthyr and is very much part of our local history in this area. He lived, fought and died in this locality and is buried in Mathern Church. As you can imagine this title gives plenty of scope for research and this book looks at all aspects of Tewdric's life, religious, political and military. Asking many interesting questions regarding Celtic and Norman history and answers them when every possible.

This is a good read for anyone interested in history especially one who has an interest in local history. The book is available from Chepstow Book Shop, (R.R.P. £11.95).

Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 9th March

Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Tuesday, 31st March

Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel, 7.30.p.m
Speaker: Dr Mark Lewis,
Topic of talk: 'Treasurers'

Two Soups?



Carrot and Ginger

Soup Serves 2

Ingredients

1 tablespoon oil
8 large carrots chopped
2 onions peeled and chopped
2 garlic cloves chopped
1 tablespoon fresh raw ginger
1½ pint chicken stock
4 oz Wensleydale
Ginger cheese, chopped
Fresh coriander and a little extra ginger
cheese to garnish

Method

1 In a saucepan gently fry the chopped onion and garlic until soft.
2 Add the carrots and chopped ginger, place the lid on the saucepan and allow the vegetables to sweat gently for a few minutes.
3 Add the hot chicken stock and simmer for about twenty minutes or until the carrots are soft. Cool slightly.
4 Using a ladle place the soup and cheese into a liquidiser and blend until smooth.
5 Place back in the saucepan and reheat until a desired temperature is reached. Season to taste.
6 Garnish with chopped coriander and chopped cheese. **Enjoy!**



Curried Cauliflower Soup

Ingredients

1 tablespoon oil
½ teaspoon mustard seeds
2 onions chopped
2 garlic cloves
1 carrot chopped
1 large cauliflower chopped
1 teaspoon Garam Masala
½ teaspoon turmeric
½ teaspoon ground ginger
Sprinkling of pepper
2 pints chicken or vegetable stock
Chopped fresh coriander



Method

- 1** In a saucepan gently fry the chopped onions and garlic.
- 2** Add the mustard seeds and spices.
- 3** Add the chopped carrot and chopped cauliflower.
- 4** Place the lid on the saucepan and allow the vegetables to sweat gently for a few minutes to draw out the flavour.
- 5** Add the hot chicken stock and simmer until the cauliflower is soft, about thirty minutes. Cool slightly.
- 6** Using a ladle place the soup and coriander into a liquidiser and blend until smooth.
- 7** Place back in the saucepan and reheat. Add the pepper and season to taste.

Enjoy!

SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET NEWS

Our February Market went off well despite the stormy weather! Thank you all for turning up & supporting us. I was surprised to have a few sales on my jewellery stall, but as usual not in profit as I spent out on marmalade, chutney, bread, Glamorgan sausage rolls, veg, fair trade chocolate & the most adorable crochet lama! I could have spent more but had to leave something for the customers to buy!!! Just a few snaps from the day....



Next market 21st March – hope to see you there!
Shirley Ayres



SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET

DATES FOR 2020: -

18TH JANUARY 2020

15TH FEBRUARY 2020

21ST MARCH 2020

18TH APRIL 2020

16TH MAY 2020

20TH JUNE 2020

18TH JULY 2020

AUGUST – NO MARKET

19TH SEPTEMBER 2020

17TH OCTOBER 2020

21ST NOVEMBER 2020

19TH DECEMBER 2020

(10.30 -12.30 AT THE REC HALL)

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SATURDAY OF THE MONTH. SHOP LOCALLY FOR SOME
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Contact Jackie Broughton (01291 641797)

UKELELE CONCERT IN AID OF RNLI

Ukulele Concert performed by Big Bad Wolf, led by Elaine Matthews. Concert is at 12.00pm on Friday 6th March at Chepstow Rugby Club. Music and short talk about the history of the ukulele followed by a Welsh-themed buffet. Tickets £12, including the cost of the buffet lunch available from Keith Arnold (01291 641755) or on the door. All welcome and all proceeds go to the RNLI.



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STRICTLY SHIRENEWTON

DANCE NIGHT AT EARLSWOOD HALL FEATURING
AWESOME LIVE MUSIC FROM MONMOUTH BIG BAND.

Competition dances open to all: Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, and Freestyle.

Fantastic Demo dances

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email Janet on Shirenewton800@gmail.com or telephone 01291 641783

For further information, please contact jazzykazmusic@gmail.com



Our Strictly Shirenewton event is for everyone who enjoys a night of razzamatazz. Featuring live dance music from Monmouth Big Band throughout, our roomy dance floor will see pro-standard demos (Ballroom, Lindy-hop and a highly unusual Burlesque); exciting competition dancing; and dancing in many styles for everyone (and we really mean everyone – Dad-dancers of the world, come and strut your stuff!).

THE COMPETITION DANCES

Entry to each competition dance is included in the general entry, and each couple may enter as many styles as they wish. Places may be pre-booked (please contact jazzykazmusic@gmail.com) or registered on the night. Each competition will be in two phases, with the judging panel selecting a shortlist of four couples to dance again so that both judges and audience may vote for their favourite couple.

Viennese Waltz - to 'Favourite Things' (Rodgers and Hammerstein)
Foxtrot - to 'Makin' Whoopie' (Donaldson and Kahn)
Freestyle - to 'Soul Bossa Nova' (Quincy Jones)

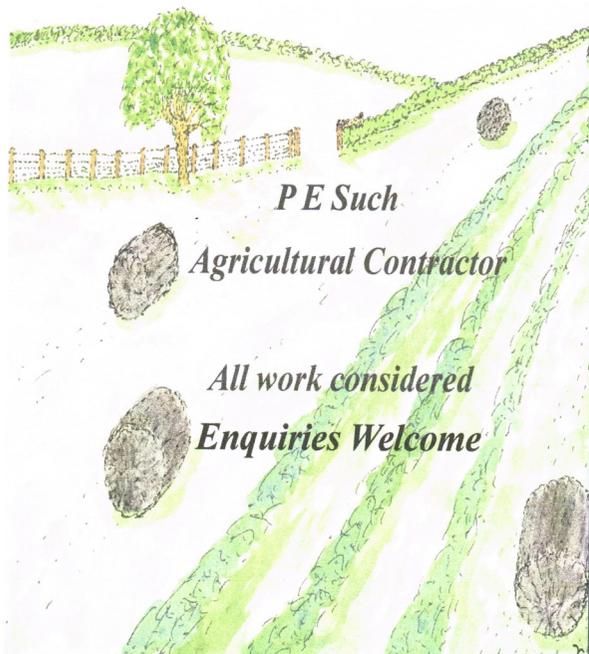
All tracks will be available to listen to (and practice with) on Monmouth Big Band's sound cloud, from around the beginning of March. (www.monmouthbigband.org.uk).

**YOUR COMPERE FOR THE EVENING IS THE ONE AND ONLY MR JOHN
MONTAGUE.**

**MONMOUTH BIG BAND IS LED BY MR GARETH ROBERTS, AND YOUR
VOCALIST WILL BE MISS JENNIFER MILLAR.**

Our hostesses will be on hand throughout the evening, to tempt you with fizz (initially), ply you with finger-buffet food (around half time) and to facilitate the audience judging. Pay bar available throughout.

This event is part of the 'Shirenewton 800' series of celebrations, commemorating 800 years of our church in our village. 'Shirenewton 800' is a non-profit-making organisation. Any proceeds from this event will be donated to Paradance (who promote inclusive dance and sport throughout the UK).



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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.

To our Dear and Well-beloved Editor,

Once again we find it needful to raise our weary sainted, and regal energies from their rest in order to castigate the lack of respect afforded us in these very pages, yea, and others too, throughout these Parishes. Our bane and pestilence is, as all too customary, that evil Saxon interloper within our erstwhile realm, one Antonius, von und zu Utting am der Ammersee in some foreign far-off place who presumes ever freely to pronounce upon the affairs of this our realm. In malice and wickedness has he written yet another book about us.

Not only does he insult us but he maligns the majesty and might of Imperial Rome, implying that our realm was better-off without it, even before our own long and assiduous rule and protection, dearly enough bought. We still, forsooth, endure a head-ache, to which this trivial scribbler adds mercilessly by dwelling upon the circumstance of its infliction. Further, he allies with archaeologists and researchers to suggest that true Britons and incursive Saxons did live in harmony and social accord anterior to the epoch of Gildas Sapiens and Dewi Sant. How could such society uphold and warrant itself, we demand of due knowledge? Then he claims that Jesuit seminarians in yet another foreign place did mightily esteem us and set upon a public stage an opera to our glory! How dare he venture such plebeian calumny! We ever made our public appearances entirely at our own good pleasure.

We appeal, therefore, to all true and loyal parishioners grouped around our place of martyrdom, to unite in acquainting themselves with these tawdry horrors limned in 'Tewdric of Wales', placed before a properly respectful and quaking populace by – saith this varlet – the Choir Press of Gloucester. Zounds! Does he not refer to **GLEVUM**? Shame upon this upstart intruder! Once sensible of his temeritus libel, they will, we are most sure, return to their true loyalty and obedience to our enlightened rule, and set fierce fires to these scripts which are to be found foisted upon the Bookshop in Y Strigwl (there displayed for retail at £11.95) or obtained from distant Googlitian merchants of Waterstonian and Amazonian provenance. The magic of most virtue for their obtaining is said to be: ISBN 978-1-78963-096-1... to be chaunted backwards before meals and three times frowards ere retiring for the night.

In order that we ourselves may try this book which, dear subjects, may yet be obtained at a due reduction, by specie of the realm subtly offered to church funds or to the libeller himself, we revert to the decadent speech of your present time and add "I simply can't wait .. becozz .. it certainly is .. absolutely .. iconic."

Fare ye all well! TEWDRICUS SANCTUS REXQUE.

Shirenewton Church Website
www.shirenewtonchurch.com
www.shirenewtonshop.com

As I explained in my last Parish mag entry (the November edition – I’ve missed a couple of deadlines due to travel and forgetfulness), we are scaling back the shopping portal with a view to having it completely closed down by the end of this year. As a prelude I’ve drastically reduced the number of shops on the site and we are down to just 4 affiliate programs. All of these programs have balances > £10 (typically with payment thresholds of £20 or £25). What this means in simple English is that the remaining shops on the site are distributed between 4 income groups. Each of these income groups has an existing balance (i.e. owed to the church) of more than £10. Once the group’s balance reaches the payment threshold we get our cash. Once we have our cash I will close down that particular group and the number of shops on the portal will decrease until all groups have reached their payment threshold, we’ve received the cash and there are no shops left!

The portal did slightly better than anticipated in 2019 with an income (i.e. cash received by the church) of £150. This is down from £402 in 2018 and £650 in 2017! I think we can see the trend!

In other news

Having warned of the privacy dangers of having a smart speaker, I find that I’ve put down a deposit for one. What has changed? Great question! The answer is that I’ve discovered an open source alternative which doesn’t send your data out of your network if you set the correct options! Happy days. Not privacy issues there. The device is the Mycroft II (Mycroft – Open Source Voice Assistant- <https://mycroft.ai>) and I’ve put down a whole \$1 to reserve my Mycroft II device which, thanks to the general shutdown of Chinese factories, I suspect will be delayed from the ‘early 2020’ shipping date! I’ll keep you informed of progress.

On another note in terms of smart technology, I’ve ordered a couple of different types of wireless switched plugs to have a play with. These devices sit between a standard 13amp socket and a standard 13amp plug and allow you to switch the device on and off via an app. So, for example, if you were about to return home you could turn on the kettle and have boiling water on your arrival home. These plugs are compatible with standard smart speakers so could be voice controlled. Again, I’ll let you know how I get on!

On another subject, my home broadband started misbehaving just after Openreach had replaced a line in Mynyddbach by the school. The speeds were down and the upload was faster than the download. My broadband provider is BT. On the whole I was quite impressed with their response. They immediately

shipped me a mini-hub (which provides a 4G mobile based connection) and (because my mobile is with BT and linked to the home BB account) gave me unlimited mobile data while they sorted out the problem. Unfortunately sorting out the problem took several weeks and multiple visits as it transpired that the reason for the problem was because the Openreach engineers had transposed two wires in the line replacement – quite a difficult thing to spot it would seem.

So, if anyone else in Mynyddbach has been having internet issues since the line replacement (~December?) it could well be the same issue. One way to check is to run a BB speed test (I tend to use <https://www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk>) and if your upload speed is faster than your download speed your wires have been transposed!

Penultimately, Malwarebytes (a product I've frequently recommended) recently published its State of Malware Report for 2020 which suggests that, for the first time, Macs outpaced Windows PCs in the number of threats detected per 'endpoint'. They put this down to the fact that "Macs became more attractive targets to cybercriminals". The good news is that most of the threats detected were adware and other such unwanted programs and therefore the Mac threats are not as dangerous as some of those affecting Windows machines. However, the key point is that running a Mac is not a good reason for complacency.

Finally, The Sunday Times on 29th December 2019 had an article by Decca Aitkenhead explaining how she, an intelligent journalist who won awards and thought she'd be able to spot a scam at 100 paces, fell victim to a classic 'bank transfer (APP) scam' whereby a very plausible gentleman claiming to be from Lloyds Bank security managed to convince her to transfer all her cash to a 'safe' account which was, of course, anything but safe and in control of the fraudsters. A key to the fraud was that they had spoofed the number they were calling from to match that of Lloyds phone bank so any check on the 'calling from' number checked out! You can read the whole story here: <https://tinyurl.com/u4fqnvnd> if you have a Times account.

The key point is that these fraudsters are very proficient at what they do. If anyone calls you put the phone down and, ideally using another phone line or a mobile, call your bank directly using the number on their website. Be careful.

Safe browsing

drc

Webmaster

THE WILD PLACE



Reception class and Years 1, 2 & 3 enjoyed a trip to The Wild Place in Bristol with a balance between educational workshops and free time to study a range of animals. They returned to school excited and inspired and have helped their teachers plan the next steps in their learning.

LAVE NET FISHING

Years 4, 5 & 6 had an exciting delve and discover into their new "Ocean Commotion" topic when they spent the morning engaged in a hands-on visit to the Black Rock Lave Net Heritage Fishery.



JAMBORI



Criw Gymraeg and the school choir attended their first ever Jambori at Pontypool Leisure Centre where they had a fun morning singing and dancing to a range of songs ... yn Gymraeg!

STEM PROJECT



Last half term saw the launch of a new cluster project in collaboration with Ocean Conservation Trust - to design a robot that rids the ocean of plastic pollution. In addition to this cluster competition, all the children in Years 4 - 6 will complete a similar project and the Pupil Leadership Team are organising a Science Fayre in the Summer term so KS2 can share their designs with parents.

LLANGRANNOG



Year 6 had an action-packed residential visit to the Urdd Centre in Llangrannog where they enjoyed skiing, tobogganing, go-karting, quad bikes, high ropes, low ropes, zip wire, night trekking, marshmallow toasting, horse riding, trampolining, jump bag, swimming, archery, circus skills, disco, bingo, Welsh country dancing and a coastal walk to the beach!

DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY

Key stage 2 classes and staff have had training learning about dementia and have enabled us to become a Dementia Friendly School.

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1st FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH



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Patty Davies



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STARGAZING



The brilliant planet Venus can be seen to the West in the evening sky. The Moon forms a triangle with the red star Aldebaran and the star cluster Pleiades on St David's Day. On the 28th March the Crescent Moon is close to Venus.

The planets Jupiter, Saturn and Mars form quite a tight group in the early morning in the South-East. However it is early(!) and they are close to the horizon. Jupiter is the brightest of the three, Saturn appears slightly yellow and Mars is orange in colour. They are joined by the Crescent Moon on 18th March.

Much the brightest star in the sky, Sirius can be seen to the South, below and to the left of the constellation Orion. The name "Sirius" is derived from the Greek word meaning scorching. For the ancient Egyptians the appearance of Sirius coincided with the annual flooding of the Nile Valley, vital to growing their crops. This event was of such importance to them that it marked the beginning of their year.

The pair of stars high above Sirius and Orion is part of the constellation Gemini, the Twins, and they are called Castor and Pollux. In mythology Castor and Pollux were the twin sons of the Queen of Sparta. Castor was mortal, but Pollux was not – his father was none other than Jupiter, who had paid a clandestine visit to the Queen. When Castor was killed in battle, Pollux pleaded to be allowed to share his immortality with his brother; this was granted, and both boys were placed in the heavens. Gemini is crossed by the Milky Way – the dense belt of stars that make up our own galaxy.

The Vernal Equinox occurs on 20th March, when day and night are equal, with exactly 12 hours between sunrise and sunset. This is a useful day for getting your bearings right as the sun rises due east and sets due west wherever you may be.

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(House half way between Blethyn Close and the School in Mynyddbach)
Earlswood Hall (Earlswood)
Shirenewton School

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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 1 st March	Gilly and Graham Lambert
Sunday 8 th March	Lynne Morcombe and Kerry Baker
Sunday 15 th March	Jane Smith-Haddon and Glynis Macdonald
Sunday 22 nd March	Wendy and John Montague
Sunday 29 th March	Margaret and Chris Sturke
Sunday 5 th April	Cheryl and David Lloyd
Sunday 12 th April	Claire Lewis and Diane Marlowe
Sunday 19 th April	Ruth Savagar and Aileen Doggett
Sunday 26 th April	Janet Horton and Bill Clark
Sunday 3 rd May	Jackie and Mark Broughton
Sunday 10 th May	Jane and James Leney
Sunday 17 th May	Gilly and Graham Lambert

LOCAL DIARY DATES

MARCH 2020	Event	Location
Fri 6 th noon	RNLI Ukulele concert	Chepstow Rugby Club
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 7.30 pm	Monmouth Big Band and Strictly Shirenewton – S800	Earlswood Hall
MAY 2020	Event	Location
Sat 16 th May	Village Market	Recreation Hall
tbc tbc	Something Sultry concert – S800	Saysell Centre/Church Room
JUNE 2020	Event	Location
Sat 13 th June	Village Fete	Recreation Field
Sunday 14 th June	Visit of Bishop Cherry Vann	Church of St Thomas à Becket
Sat 20 th June	Village Market	Recreation Hall
JULY 2020 & BEYOND	Event	Location
Sat 18 th July	Village Market	Recreation Hall
Sat 19 th Sep	Village Market	Recreation Hall
Sat 17 th Oct	Village Market	Recreation Hall
Sat 21 Nov	Village Market	Recreation Hall
Sat 19 Dec	Village Market	Recreation Hall
Events marked S800 are part of the Shirenewton 800 Celebrations		

LOCAL CONTACTS

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

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
PCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
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
200 Club	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459

Church of St Tewdrics’s Mathern

Secretary	Jen Marendaz	01291329422
Church Warden	Elsbeth Morlan Peter Pope	01291627538 01291624453

MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

Community Council Clerk	Hilary Counsell	01291 421307	clerk@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Shirenewton Ward:	Dr James Grose	01291 641690	james.g@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Chair	Philip Butterworth	01291 641704	philip.b@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Mrs Jane Smith-Haddon	01291 641525	jane.s@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Vacancy		
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Mynyddbach Ward	Louise Brown	07598979719	louise.b@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Jayne McKenna	01291 691774	jayne.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Earlswood Ward	Ken Morton	01291 650268	ken.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Bryn Price	01291 641217	bryn.fopstonfarm@btinternet.com
Newchurch West	Ian Martin	01291 650014	ian.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk

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 bsaysell@hotmail.co.uk
St Peters Church Newchurch
Enid Heritage 01291 622708
enidheritage@gmail.com

Shirenewton Local History Society

Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376 brabonnl@hotmail.com

Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)

Neil Fuller 01291 641324

Caerwent Group Mothers Union

Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk
Treasurer Bridget Evans 01291 408125 bridget.caldicot@gmail.com

Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Shirenewton Play Group

Beverly Lindsay Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com

Shirenewton Primary School

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

Shirenewton Toddler Group

Jude Langdon 07981 368213
Paula Rimmer rimmerpaula@mac.com

Shirenewton Tennis Association

P Brabon 01291 641376 brabonnl@hotmail.com

Fairtrade/Traidcraft

Marion McAdam 01291 641316

Womens Institute (WI)

Diane Ashton Smith (President) 01291 628838
Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.



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