



**Shirenewton Parish
Magazine**

March 2023

Price £1:50



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FROM THE REGISTERS

The funeral took place on 2nd February 2023 of Marion Reece (1945 -2023) with the Reverend John Waters officiating.

Calling all 200 Club Members!

200 Club subscriptions for this year are now due in March. Many people have already set up standing orders (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, 07814 451943, 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.

Where does the money go? Two thirds of the money goes to you as prize winners and the other third goes towards the upkeep of the church.

We value your continued support. Many thanks, Aileen.

There was no 200 Club draw in January

CHURCH SERVICES

Please note that all Church services start at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton. Times may vary for Remembrance Sunday and the periods over Easter, Christmas and New Year, but they will be reported in this magazine.

CHURCH SERVICES ON ZOOM

Some services will be available to join via Zoom, if you cannot attend in person. Please contact Gilly Lambert (see contact list) if you would like to be included on the distribution for Zoom service invitations.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC) GRANTS TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

The PCC is delighted to report that Shirenewton Community Council (SCC) approved the following grants at their meeting on Monday 8th August 202:

£500 contribution to the Parish Magazine printing costs

£800 contribution to grass cutting and maintenance of the churchyard and grounds

£80 contribution to the Christmas Event

The PCC is very grateful to the SCC for these grants.

SHIRENEWTON FOOD BANK

Thank you to the many people who leave donations for the Bulwark Food Bank. Donations can be left in the church but sometimes the church is not open and so the donations can be left under my veranda or by my front door or in the plastic box on my bench and then I can take them down to The Food Bank. Now more than ever, things are getting tight and your generosity is hugely appreciated by the people who operate the Food Bank from The Bridge Church in Bulwark. Thanks again,

Glynis MacDonald, The Chantry, 641 818

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FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

So far the New Year has been challenging at the Vicarage.

Sandra was whisked into one of the Bristol hospitals where she was diagnosed with a heart condition and was subjected to an operation as a result. Life at the Vicarage has been somewhat disrupted as a result and I thank you for your understanding and patience in the circumstances.

As we enter into the time of Lent, the church communities of our newly established Area Ministry offer a comprehensive range of seasonal devotions which should enrich those who are serious about journeying upon the Lenten pilgrimage. Full details can be found elsewhere in this magazine and notice given at the individual churches.

At the commencement of this Holy Season the churches of the group will be providing a special service on Ash Wednesday (22nd February). Mathern Church is presenting a themed Holy Eucharist which includes the Imposition of Ashes at 10am.

Lent is a time when we are invited to explore the significance of spirituality and reflect upon the dual biblical claim that *We are but dust and unto dust we shall return* but also the confident assertion that we are *Created in the image of God*. We are both material and spiritual, sacred and profane and commitment during Lent helps us to resolve this apparent dichotomy and bring us closer to God. We look forward to your company.

I must congratulate all those associated with Shirenewton Church for their financial generosity in respect of the number of appeals received over recent months.

In particular, I am mindful of the situation in Ukraine and the recent tragedy afflicting those in Turkey and Syria. Shirenewton Church has responded magnificently and have set an example for many to follow, They have displayed the understanding that whilst 'charity begins at home', the sincere Christian is aware that everyone is their neighbour and that which affects a group geographically distant impinges on us also.

As a result of the formation of the Ministry Area, it would appear that a regular pattern of officiants at the Sunday services is being established, At the time of going to press, and with the support of the Chepstow group, John Waters, Gilly Lambert and myself now find ourselves in the position of knowing where we should be on any given week! With every good wish and blessing.

Advance Notice: Special Services in Holy Week

We are very lucky to have **Bishop Cherry** joining the Severn Wye Ministry Area for services through Holy Week, and also to have some exciting services planned already – look out for more details of all services across the Ministry Area in the April magazine when full details of all activities have been confirmed!

Palm Sunday	2nd April	10:00	Morning Praise	Shirenewton
			Palms and donkeys! Palm Sunday procession from Chepstow Methodist Church to St Mary's Priory and joint service.	St Mary's Priory, Chepstow
Services across the Ministry Area				
Monday	3 rd April	10:00	Compline	Shirenewton
Tuesday	4 th April	19:00	Taize at St Mary's Prior Chepstow	St Mary's Priory, Chepstow
Wednesday	5 th April	19:00	Eucharist	St Arvans
Maundy Thursday	6 th April	19:00	Tenebrae	Mathern
			Agape	St Mary's Priory, Chepstow
Good Friday	7 th April	10:00	Family walk on Gray Hill with Bible readings and hot cross buns from reservoir car park	Shirenewton
			Stations of the cross	St Christopher's Chepstow
			11:00	Stations of the cross
		15:00	Final Hour	St Mary's Priory, Chepstow
Saturday	8 th April	19:00	Easter Vigil	St Arvans
Easter Sunday	9 th April	10:00	Eucharist	Shirenewton
			Services across the Ministry Area	

Services to be attended by the Bishop are **highlighted**, services at Shirenewton are in bold.

The BishopSS is keen to meet and speak to as many members of the Ministry Area as she can, and particularly to anyone who has concerns about the formation of the Ministry Area and will be staying after the services for as long as she is needed.

All the churches of the Ministry Area will come together at the Easter Vigil for the blessing of Pascal Candles.



CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL.

OCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales and Making Music.
Registered Charity no. 1127098

*CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY present its 2023 Spring
Concert, with professional orchestra and soloists*

'MUSIC FIT FOR A KING'

SATURDAY 25th MARCH 2023
7.30pm

ST MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH, CHEPSTOW

Mozart: *Coronation Mass*
Handel: *Zadok the Priest*
plus choral music by J. Haydn, F. Schubert
and G.F. Pergolesi

**CCS Orchestra (leader Elliot Kempton)
and soloists from RWCMD**

Tickets available from Chepstow Bookshop, choir members
or online via Eventbrite: bit.ly/MusicForKing
£15 incl programme, u/18s and students free

For further information, please see our website --
www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk



ChepstowChoral



@ChepstowChoral

SEVERN WYE MINISTRY AREA

Praying Together

JAMES 5:16

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

2ND AND 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
7.30 TO 8.30 PM

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR OUR MINISTRY
AREA AND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**St Christopher's Church,
Bulwark, NP16 5AF**



Shirenewton Community Council

Includes updates from the December and January Community Council Meetings

Planning Applications Considered in December

DM/2022/01070 Wentwood Mill, Buckwell Road To Gaerllwyd Baptist Chapel, Earlswood

Refurbishment and extension to existing cottage and erection of new detached garage and associated extension to residential curtilage.

Recommendation: Objection based on the grounds that the proposed new building is not sympathetic to either the existing cottage or the local landscape, the colour/finish to the walls and the materials and the colour of the roof is unspecified.

Shirenewton Community Council require further clarification, (as requested by Landscape Green Infrastructure Urban Design) and the opportunity to comment further when this clarification is available.

Pre-order Consultation – Path Extinguishment and Creation – Buckwell Farm, Pencaemawr

Recommendation: No Objection

Planning Application Considered in January

DM/2022/01777 Westend Cottage, Shirenewton To Wentwood Mill Road, Earlswood, Shirenewton

First Floor Extension over existing Ground Floor to create two bedrooms.

Recommendation: Unanimous no objection (one abstention).

Shirenewton Play Area and Mynyddbach Green Update

In the January meeting of the Community Council, approval was given to purchase and replace a swing seat on the large swings in the play area and to initiate the repairs required to the picnic bench on Mynyddbach Green.

Excerpts from the County Councillor Reports for December

2022 and January 2023 – due to the delay in publication, some out of date information regarding public consultation and Severn Bridge closures has been removed. The full reports are available in the respective Minutes on the Community Council Website.

County Councillor Brown advised:

County Council on the 1st of December 2022

There were various reports to the County Council including the RLDP report on the preferred strategy which council agreed to go out for consultation, see note below.

The link to the County Council report can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?CIId=143&MIId=5012>

Cabinet Report on the 7th of December 2022

It will be noted that the month 4 revenue report detailed in the November 2022 County Councillor report noted a £8.8m shortfall in the MCC budget. The funding shortfall in month 6 has increased to £9.15 million.

The link to the Cabinet reports can be found here including the revenue report:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?CIId=144&MIId=4983>

Green Waste Collection.

A consultation on the green waste bin collection is/has been undertaken which closes on the 12th of December, with existing users being directly contacted. This consultation mentions, the £23m funding shortfall forecast for next year for MCC. The consultation asks for various options including keeping the collections the same but charging £50 per bin as opposed to £28 per bin. Garden Waste collection was subsidised previously and the £50 per bin is to cover the costs, as collecting garden waste is a discretionary service provided by the County council and not part of its statutory duties.

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/garden-waste/>

Bristol Clean Air Congestion Charge

Charging started on the 28 November 2022 for some vehicles for the Bristol Clean Air Zone, it is possible to check the registration of your vehicle to see if you must pay a charge on the Government website. See Bristol.gov.uk site.

County Councillor Report January 2023

County Councillor Brown advised:

Special meeting of the People Committee on the 3rd of January 2023

The Cabinet member decision to close the Tudor Street centre for adults with learning disabilities in Abergavenny with plans to build affordable housing in place of the centre were called in due to the lack of scrutiny of the decision. This decision has been referred to the full County Council meeting on the 19th January 2023. The reports for this meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CID=304&MId=5636>

Place Committee on the 12th of January 2023

The Place Committee will consider various reports including the local toilet strategy, rural broadband update, and the garden waste collection consultation. The consultation results showed an overwhelming 67% of respondents supporting a continuation of the service at £50 per bin. The Service is expected to be £50 per bin for 20 collections March through to November 2023. The reports for this meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CID=303&MId=5320>

Additional information provided by County Councillor Louise Brown since the January Community Council meeting:

Cabinet on the 18th of January 2023

The Cabinet reports include documents on the forthcoming budget with a public consultation open from the 18th of January and public consultation events in person or online. The proposals include a 5.95% rise in Council tax and a £11.4 million other cuts to meet the unprecedented budget pressures. The details of the proposed cuts can be found at paragraph 3.13 of the following report:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2023/01/20230118-Cabinet-Draft-2023-24-Revenue-Capital-Budget-for-consultation-Covering-report-Final-v2.pdf>

The details of the consultation events and to have your say on an online form can be found at the following link on the budget

2023/24 and the consultation which is open from the 18th of **Jones**
Tel: 01291 650133 **E-mail: shirenewtoncc@gmail.com**
January until noon on the 16th of February 2023:
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2023-2024/>

Dates of next meetings - Monday 6th February 2023 and Monday 6th March 2023 both at 7.00 pm, by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Find more information in a draft copy of 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 Natasha Jones Tel: 01291 650133
E-mail: shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Shirenewton Church Fete

Saturday 10th June 2023
At 2pm at The Rec

Parade from the School at 1.30pm

Please volunteer to help to make it happen and to make it amazing.
We need support with;

- *The planning and preparations*
- *Setting up (Fri and Sat)*
- *Taking down (Sat and Sun)*
- *Clean up*
- *Running or helping on the Stalls*
- *Car parking*
- *Donation of prizes for the Raffle*
- *Sponsorship (financial support)*

A few hours of your time, or whatever support you can offer will be much appreciated

Contact: shirenewtonfete@gmail.com or call Janet on 641783



Shirenewton
Community Council

Shirenewton Community Council

Includes updates from the Community Council Meeting on February 6th 2023

Planning Applications Considered in February

DM/2023/00138 Pant Y Cosyn Farm, Usk Road, Earlswood, Shirenewton

Change of use from barn conversion holiday let to a single dwelling (residential let).

Recommendation: Unanimous no objection (one abstention).

The Council noted that there would be no change to the exterior of the building and that parking arrangements were already in place.

The Council noted the application was 'for change of use for the unit so that it can be occupied as a long-term short hold let to people with a local connection' and asked that this should be made a condition if the application is approved.

Other Items of Interest

Community Council Meetings

The Council is pleased to confirm that the project to make all Community Council meetings hybrid meetings is complete. This means that Councillors and members of the public will be able to attend the meetings either in person at Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely dialing in using Microsoft Teams (video conferencing). The new equipment was tested when the first hybrid Council meeting successfully took place in February. If members of the public would like to attend a Community Council meeting remotely, they can contact the clerk, who will send them a link a few days before the meeting.

Play Area Swing Repair

A new seat has been installed on the large swing set in the play area. This replaces the previous one that was split in several places.

Telephone Box

A note has been placed in the telephone box kindly requesting that residents leave "books only" in the telephone box (not toys or

DVDs) and requesting that any drop-offs be placed tidily. This will help people to view the books more easily and the community to use this small space effectively.

Excerpts from the County Councillor Report for February 2023 – due to the delay in publication, some out of date information regarding public consultation has been removed. The full reports are available in the respective Minutes on the Community Council Website.

County Councillor Brown advised:

Budget 2023/24

Cabinet on the 18th of January 2023

The Cabinet reports include documents on the forthcoming budget with a public consultation open from the 18th of January and public consultation events in person or online. The proposals include a 5.95% rise in Council tax and a £11.4 million other cuts to meet the unprecedented budget pressures. The details of the proposed cuts can be found at paragraph 3.13 of the following report:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2023/01/20230118-Cabinet-Draft-2023-24-Revenue-Capital-Budget-for-consultation-Covering-report-Final-v2.pdf>

The proposals in total bring forward service budget savings of £11.4m. The notable savings proposals are:

Schools funding - £1.45m. This amounts to a reduction in the budget delegated to schools of 2.8% after making full provision for pay and energy increases.

- Gwent Music reduced contribution - £100k. withdraw subsidy from the service. A hardship fund will be maintained to support pupils from low-income families.
- Before School Clubs increased charges - £70k. To increase the charges of before school clubs to £2 for a morning session of child-care.
- Children's services - £1.36m. Re-evaluating current processes and decisions around high-cost placements complemented by a review of family time service development, and a review of structures and service operating costs.
- Adult's services - £2.0m. Re-sizing direct care for some clients and rebalancing in house/external provision. The introduction of a fall's prevention and early intervention service to reduce the

number of people being placed in nursing/residential care from home or hospital.

- Learning disabilities - £300k. Remodelling of learning disability and mental health teams that will involve a decrease in team management hours.
- Public Protection - £103k. Staff restructuring within the Public Protection service.
- Decarbonisation - £714k. Reducing energy consumption across the Council's estate.
- Fleet Maintenance - £160k. Reduction in operating fleet and mileage reduction.
- Passenger Transport Commissioning - £70k. New acceptable routes implemented to reduce transport requirements based on current transport policy.
- Neighbourhood Services - £210k. Reduction of grounds maintenance operations, cessation of the community improvement teams, increased income from external contracts. Service reconfiguration of sweeping functions across the county.
- MonLife - £648k. A range of measures including service redesign and cost savings with the aim of maintaining service delivery within a reduced funding envelop.
- Community Hubs - £150k. Reduce staffing levels at community hubs to reduce costs and keep all hubs open with reduced service levels. A one-year reduction in the budget for library books by 50% or £45k.
- Contact Centre - £112k. To reduce staffing levels in the contact centre by 2.5 FTE.
- People & Governance - £80k. Increase income in Communications and Land Charges.
- Landlord services - £665k. Reduce the corporate building maintenance revenue budget; review the property estate and explore options for further rationalisation; increase income from Solar farm export tariff.
- ICT - £149k. Mobile phone contract savings.
- Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - £126k. Remove budget earmarked for a discretionary business rate relief scheme.
- Fees & Charges - £1.4m. Increased income generation through a range of increases in discretionary fees & charges across the Council's services.

Comment:

Home to School Transport Savings Proposals

Current Policy

As per the Learner Travel Measure and Monmouthshire's Transport Policy free home to school transport is now only provided to pupils who attend their catchment or nearest school and live more than 1.5 miles from their Primary School and more than 2 miles from their Secondary School. These distances relate to the shortest available walking route between home and school, accompanied by an adult if necessary.

Proposed Savings Policy

The above proposals for school transport changes means limiting free home to school transport down to the statutory distances. It would then apply to children who live more than 2 miles from their Primary school and more than 3 miles from their Secondary school. The concessionary travel cost if not eligible would increase from £440 per annum per child to £550 per annum per child for Monmouthshire residents if any space on the school bus is available.

Speed Monitoring

Following complaints from local residents and as part of Neighbourhood policing week in January 2023 Gwent Police Monmouthshire Officers conducted speed monitoring in Caerwent and Shirenewton. Shirenewton average was 17mph in a 20mph zone. Caerwent average was 28mph in a 30mph zone. Please see my twitter account Louise Brown @CLouiseBrown82 for a picture of a police officer in Shirenewton village.

A full schedule of meeting dates for 2023 has now been published on all noticeboards and on the Community Council website, future dates are as follows:

March 6th 2023

April 3rd 2023

May 4th 2023 (Thursday - Bank Holidays on 1st & 8th May)

June 5th 2023

July 3rd 2023

August 1st 2023 (Tuesday)

September 4th 2023

October 2nd 2023

November 6th 2023

December 4th 2023

All meetings start at 7pm and can either be attended in person via a public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely via Microsoft Teams (a link will be provided on emailing the clerk).

Find more information in a draft copy of the minutes on 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 Natasha Jones Tel: 01291 650133
E-mail: shirenewtoncc@gmail.com**

Shirenewton W.I.

We were very fortunate to welcome Su Baldwin as our speaker for February. Su regaled us with the story of her experiences during the Clipper Around the World Yacht Race, sailing as Team Sanya China. The race is the world's longest Ocean adventure, over 40,000 miles, taking almost a year to complete. It is the toughest endurance challenge, as all crew members are amateurs, with over 5,000 people from all over the world and all walks of life having the Race of their Lives!

The Sanya is a 70ft long yacht with a 100ft high mast, the tip of which would often touch the sea during stormy weather! The team took part in the 8 legs and 15 races over 6 continents, with an overall final position of 6th. For most of the race they took middle position and also won 1st, 2nd and 3rd on three of the legs.



The race started at Southend Pier, with all eleven yachts sailing down the English Channel in bad weather and headwinds, then out into the Bay of Biscay leading all the way, until arriving at port in South America having come 2nd on this first leg. The second leg across to Cape Town was challenging, with huge storms sweeping off the yacht, tomato ketchup flying around and the curry leaping off the stove!! Onward to Freemantle sailing close to the iceberg line and then up to Whitsunday. Next to China but Covid struck and the yachts were not allowed into China. Instead, they sailed to Shanghai and raced in the South China Sea to wait it out. However, lockdown occurred and the teams were flown home, where they sat and waited for 2 years. Su re-joined the race in Seattle, sailing onwards through the Panama Canal to Bermuda, New York, Londonderry, over Scotland and back to London.

Sue started off in charge of victualling – catering for 18,000 meals throughout the course of the race. The first leg called for three meals a day for 18 crew members for 36 days, all stored in sealed containers, labelled with the day number. This would then all have to be replenished at the next port. Eventually, Su swapped this job to take on sail repairs, sitting in the sail locker doing most repairs by hand, with a number of sails being rebuilt 4 or 5 times each through the course of the race.

Some of Su's lasting memories of the race were the amazing colours of the oceans, the water phosphorescence at night and the wildlife. Albatross, bottle nosed dolphins and whales were common sites, with storm petrels demonstrating their spectacular gliding skills.

Su was awarded the "Challenge Trophy" as Yachtsperson of the Year, by the Bristol Channel Yachting association, which is presented each year to the Bristol Channel yachtsperson who achieved the greatest sailing accomplishment in that year.

Crew members raised over £1 million, with Su herself raising £3500 for UNICEF. Su's enthusiasm was inspiring and we were all amazed and in awe of her strength and tenacity to have undertaken such a challenge. She says she would do it again in a heartbeat!!

Our next meeting is Shirenewton W.I.'s 71st Birthday Party, on Thursday 9th March at 7.15pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall, with our April meeting hosting a talk on Aromatherapy. If you would like to find out more about Shirenewton W.I. then please contact Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838) or Jane Butterworth on janeb247@gmail.com.



Severn Wye

Holy Week Services

With Bishop Cherry

2nd - 8th April 2023

Palm Sunday

10am - Joint Service with Chepstow Methodists, Starts at Methodist Church with procession through town, finishing with Eucharist in St Mary's Priory

Holy Monday

7pm - Service of Compline at Shirenewton Church

Compline: The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise.

Holy Tuesday

7pm - Taize Service at St Mary's Priory, Chepstow

Taizé (pronounced: tay-zay) is a prayerful form of music known for its simple, yet rich and meditative character. Taizé music often takes the structure of an ostinato (a simple melody that repeats over and over) and is meant to serve as a kind of musical centering prayer.

Holy Wednesday

7pm - Eucharist Service at St Arvan's Church

Holy Eucharist: The Eucharist is at the heart of Christian worship. It is celebrated by Christians around the world as a memorial of the death and resurrection of Jesus, in response to his words at the final meal he shared with his disciples, 'Do this in remembrance of me.' In the Eucharist, God invites us to his table as a foretaste of the heavenly banquet which he has prepared for people of all

Maundy Thursday

7pm - Tenebrae Service at Matherm Church

A tenebrae service typically takes place in a dark room lit by a number of candles. A series of Scripture readings chronicles Jesus's final week, ending with his burial. After each reading a candle is snuffed out, until only the Christ candle remains lit.

Good Friday

11am - Stations of the Cross at St Pierre Church

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually, those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

Holy Saturday

7.30pm - Easter Vigil Service at St Arvans Church

Easter Vigil, also called the Paschal Vigil or the Great Vigil of Easter, is the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus & renewing baptismal vows. It is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day – most commonly in the evening of Holy Saturday or midnight – and is the first celebration of Easter, days traditionally being considered to begin at sunset.

For other services across the Ministry Area please check with the individual churches



Severn Wye

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With Bishop Cherry

2nd - 8th April 2023

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For other services across the Ministry Area please check with the individual churches



The Severn Wye
Ministry Area

Lent Course

**YOU CAN
BE
SERIOUS!**

**Meeting Jesus afresh in John's Gospel
With Study Guide by David Wilbourne**

Join us from Monday 27th February, every week on a Monday,
online or in person at
11am in Shirenewton Church Rooms
Or
7:30pm at The Piercefield Pub, St Arvans

Need More Information? Email chepstowpriory@gmail.com
or text / call Ros Downs on 0792-848-3789

You can be serious!

This year our Lent Groups will be using David Wilbourne's book, "You can be Serious" to study Jesus, as given in the Gospel readings for Lent this year.

There are 5 sessions, and we are meeting on a Monday at 11am in Shirenewton Church Rooms, or at 7:30 in The Piercefield Pub, St Arvans. You can come in person or attend online!

Monday 27th February: Temptation . . .

On checking every word that comes out of the mouth of God

Monday 6th March: Strangers in the night . . .

Nicodemus came to Jesus under cover of darkness: finding God in surprising places

Monday 13th March: The winner takes it all

'You worship what you do not know': upping our game with worship

Monday 20th March: I was blind but now I see: 'A god who can be understood is no god'

Monday 27th March: Them bones, them bones, them dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! contrasting events in John with parables in the other 3 gospels...

The course has a study book, copies of which will be available to purchase at the meetings, or you can download an e-book copy from SPCK publishing.

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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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The first meeting of 2023 started with a talk entitled 'Nelson's State funeral' this was given by Susan Amos. Susan has just written and published a book with the same title, which is an excellent read (available at Chepstow Book Shop). Beautifully illustrated, with painted glass slides painted shortly after the funeral, a really fascinating talk.

Once again this year we are going to join with Caerwent Historic Trust in a dig at Caerwent Church yard, members who are interested are invited to join us.

Our annual Dinner will be held at the Huntsman Hotel in February, with a surprise after dinner speaker, I'll spill the beans in the next Parish Magazine.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday, 28 th March	Henry VII	Prof Ronald Hutton
Tuesday, 25 th April	Chepstow Castle, the Magna Carta. Ireland, America and the Moon!	John Burrows

Our meetings are held at the Church Room, unless otherwise stated, we start at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.



Eileen O' Dwyer

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

Monday 6 th 11.00 a.m.	Lent Course Shirenewton Church room
Monday 6 th 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Community Council Meeting Recreation Hall
Thurs 9 th 7.15 p.m.	WI 71 st Birthday party Recreation Hall
Monday 13 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Saturday 25 th 7.30 p.m.	Music for a King, Chepstow Choral Society St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Monday 27 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Tuesday 28 th 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Local History Society Henry VIII , Shirenewton Church room
Monday 27 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark

April

Monday 3 rd 10.00 a.m.	Compline, Thomas à Becket Church. Shirenewton
Monday 3 rd 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Community Council Meeting Recreation Hall
Friday 7 th 10.00 a.m.	Family walk up Gray Hill Reservoir car park
Sunday 9 th 10.00 a.m.	Eucharist, Thomas à Becket Church. Shirenewton
Monday 10 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Monday 24 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Tuesday 25 th 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Local History Society Chepstow Castle, etc —John Burrows

May

Thursday 4 th 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Community Council Meeting Recreation Hall
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June

Saturday 10 th	Shirenewton Fete
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Nerys's Natty Nosh.

Your choice of Broccoli and stilton soup.

I'm a huge fan of homemade soup. I try and use organic when possible. This time I have made cauliflower cheese soup with air-fried cheese roll, fromage fraiche with fresh basil and mint, dry roasted pine nuts, oregano flowers, nasturtium leaves, and campanula.

Simply transfer cauliflower cheese into a soup by adding chicken/vegetable stock to make a thinner consistency. Blend until you achieve your preferred consistency.

The white colour cauliflower is a very versatile and vitamin-rich vegetable. It is a great source of vitamin C and folate, and a good source of fibre and vitamin K. It is also rich in phytochemicals and antioxidants, two naturally occurring compounds thought to play a role in preventing chronic diseases.

First choice.



Ingredients

- 2 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped.
- 1 stick celery, sliced.
- 1 leek, sliced.
- 1 medium potato, diced.
- 1 knob butter
- 1 low salt or homemade chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 head broccoli, roughly chopped.
- 140g stilton, or other blue cheese, crumbled.

Method

- 1 Heat 2 tbsp rapeseed oil in a large saucepan and then add 1 finely chopped onion. Cook on a medium heat until soft. Add a splash of water if the onion starts to catch.
- 2 Add 1 sliced celery stick, 1 sliced leek, 1 diced medium potato and a knob of butter. Stir until melted, then cover with a lid. Allow to sweat for 5 minutes then remove the lid.
- 3 Make the stock according to instructions and pour into the saucepan. Add any chunky bits of stalk from 1 head of broccoli. Cook for 10-15 minutes until all the vegetables are soft.
- 4 Add the rest of the roughly chopped broccoli and cook for a further 5 minutes.
- 5 Carefully transfer to a blender and blitz until smooth.
- 6 Stir in 140g crumbled stilton, allowing a few lumps to remain. Season with black pepper and serve.

Second Choice



Broccoli and Stilton Soup

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion finely chopped.
- 2 sliced leeks
- 2 medium potatoes, diced.
- 2 carrots, chopped.
- 2 chicken stock to make 1 litre of stock.
- 1 head broccoli chopped
- 140g stilton or other blue cheese, crumbled.

Method

1. Heat 2 tbsp olive oil in a large saucepan. Add 1 finely chopped onion. Cook on a medium heat until soft.
2. Add the carrots, leeks, and potatoes, then cover with a lid. Allow to sweat for 5 minutes then remove the lid.
3. Pour in the chicken or vegetable stock. Cook for 10-15 minutes until all the vegetables are soft.
4. Add the rest of the roughly chopped broccoli and cook for a further 5 minutes.
- 5 Carefully transfer to a blender and blitz until smooth.
- 6 Stir in 140g crumbled stilton, allowing a few lumps to remain. Season with black pepper and serve.

I served mine with a Stilton, broccoli and cheddar crisp and a few home-grown microgreens.

Broccoli is full of detoxification properties, contains enzymes that help break down toxins and is a great source of vitamin C. Its fibre also feeds good bacteria and helps waste leave the body.

Sulforaphane is present. Enjoy!

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

A big, big thank you to everyone who rallied round to support the Coffee Morning and Cake Sale in the Saysell Centre on Sunday 19th February, which, including online donations, at the time of going to press raised an amazing total of:

£809.50

It was a very lively and happy morning in the Saysell Centre, with old friendships being renewed and new ones made. The event received tremendous support from the community, with many people sending donations if they couldn't attend in person and many more turning up.

This event was put together at very short notice, as we felt it was important to act swiftly, no one really took the lead, but many people came together, taking their own initiative to make it a success. There was coffee and tea with cakes and biscuits, a draw for a bottle of champagne, and a huge spread of scrumptious homemade cakes for sale.

The Saysell Centre is always open for free coffee, cake (usually homemade) and fellowship after services on a Sunday and a warm welcome is extended to all whether you come to church or not! Do drop in and join us.

Services in the Severn Wye Ministry Area for March

Services in March are planned as shown below. We hope you will join us here in Shirenewton, but everyone is welcome at any church.

Date: March	Date:	5th	12th	19th	26th
Name of Church	Service Time	Sunday 1	Sunday 2	Sunday 3	Sunday 4
St Mary's Priory, Chepstow	8.00	Service	Service	Eucharist	Eucharist
St Christopher's, Chepstow	11.00	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
St Christopher's, Chepstow	9.30	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
St Peter's, Newchurch	14.30	Eucharist	NO SERVICE	Café Service	NO SERVICE
St Tewdric, Mathern	9.00	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist
St Peter, St Pierre	11.30	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist
St Andeonus, Mounton	10.15	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
St Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton	10.00	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
St Arvan, St Arvan's	10.00	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
St Deiniol, Itton	11.30	NO SERVICE	Eucharist	NO SERVICE	Eucharist
St James, Devauden	9.00	Family Service	NO SERVICE	Eucharist	NO SERVICE
St Mary's, Penterry	11.30	Eucharist	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE
Church of the Holy Cross, Kilgwrwg	11.30	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	Eucharist	NO SERVICE

St David's Day Celebration

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Shirenewton Recreation Association

**Notice of an
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**Monday 20th March 2023
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Gardening Corner

Living in the countryside you soon learn to live with the wildlife around you. Some are a sheer pleasure to see and create memories for many years, and we have certainly experienced our share here at Barn Farm. Dormice, baby badgers frolicking on an early summer's morning, playful weasels, the odd red kite (we still only see the odd one here), the first house martin or cuckoo all spring to mind. Others, are not so welcome. Moles, mice and the occasional rat are inevitable. Despite having Wentwood forest so close, it is only recently that we experienced our first problems with deer. Although we didn't see it, the tell-tale signs of fraying from antlers rubbing up and down, were clear to be seen on several young conifers that we had planted. Fortunately, we hadn't removed the lower branches, so the damage was limited on most, but one quite rare five needled pine did receive a little too much attention and it is touch and go whether it will survive or not. Mice have been damaging our bee hives again, but more of that later. At this time of year we always bring in the odd unwelcome guest with our firewood. The first we know is when we have an over-wintering queen wasp walking across the floor, or crawling up a window. However, this year was a first. You know what it's like – you are sitting working at the computer when something appears to move in your peripheral vision or there is a reflection in a glass's lens! Looking down on the floor, there was something dark moving across the carpet – very slowly. We have occasionally had a bat that has accessed through a partially open window, and that's what immediately sprang to mind. Instead, I was surprised to see a baby toad! I can only imagine that it must have come in with the firewood, so it was a very lucky toad really. It soon found it's way out to the flower garden, where it went on its merry, if a little colder, way.



With the continuing dry weather we have been trying to catch up, or even get ahead in the garden with tidying up, especially weeding. We have been concentrating on the flower borders, with the assistant head gardener cutting down all of the old growth, whilst I come behind weeding and forking over the soil. It is still early in the year, so some of the more tender perennials are being left until the threat of really cold weather has past. One of the key jobs as we go, is to prune the rose bushes. These are now established, so growth is reduced by a half in the case of the bush roses, and for climbers, last years growth is reduced to around two inches. I make sure any dead, crossing or weak branches are removed at the same time. The ideal time is January or February to get this done, but it is better to cut in March if you need to, rather than not prune at all. We have also started pruning our apple and pear trees and these really must be finished in February or at the very latest, the first couple of weeks in March. Any later, and the sap will be rising, which will result in the trees losing a lot of sap.

In the fruit cage, all the ground was weeded and tilled, and the fruit canes, (raspberries and blackberries) and bushes, (blackcurrants and red currants) have been pruned. A little late really, but they won't come to much harm. We will have a rest from the flower borders occasionally, and turn our attention to the raised vegetable beds instead – a change is as good as a rest! As always, they will be weeded and tilled and covered with black ground cover to prevent weed growth. I would cover with compost as well, but what we have at present, hasn't rotted down well enough to use. The heaps are to be seen steaming away on a cold day, so hopefully it won't be long before they are ready. In the tunnels, the onions and garlic are starting to establish as are some early sweet peas that have been planted out. We are still cropping the 'green' vegetables, picking calabrese at least once or twice a week. Yesterday, we had our first purple sprouting which tasted sublime. Amazingly, we are still using our stored apples, both eating and cooking, as well as onions, garlic and shallots. We did have problems with the potatoes starting to shoot in the mild weather, but of late, this has slowed down with the colder nights. Currently, this year's seed potatoes are on a window sill in the garage, chitting (sprouting growth), and I hope to get the first planted under cover at the end of February.

We have started sowing the first crops for this year, with the show onions and early greens in the small seed propagator. Further sweet peas have also been started, as well as peas and broad beans. Next month, things will really start to ramp up in the greenhouse, and fortunately, power has now been restored.

Whilst working up the field the other day, I was concerned with several of the beehives. I noticed that mice had eaten their way into one through the plastic 'bee escape' at the top of the hive. To avoid this happening again, I removed several lids and replaced the plastic parts with metal bee escapes instead. Hopefully that will solve the problem. I also noticed that there were a lot of dead bees behind the mouse guards over the main entrance. I immediately thought the bees had succumbed to the winter and I had lost two, if not three of our hives. On with the suit, I immediately investigated by removing the guards and then clearing away the dead bees, but all appeared well. Whilst I was at it, I placed some fondant icing on the tops of the hives (under the lids), to give the bees some extra food, just in case supplies were starting to dwindle. There have been a lot of bees flying on the sunnier days, so fingers crossed that all is OK. What we don't need now is a cold, wet period, just as they are wanting to get out and about on the spring like days.

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

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'The Emperor's New Clothes.'

How good it was to see the SODS back in action up at Earlswood Hall. And I must say, after their 2 year pandemic gap, it is fantastic to **reveal** that they haven't lost any of their pizzazz. Indeed, if anything, they were better than ever, they were flawless with their singing and dancing, they were sparkling with their energy and enthusiasm, they were fizzing with their verve, vitality and glamour. (It was so good in fact that I am in danger of running out of superlatives.) But for an evening's entertainment, we were **exposed** to all the vital ingredients of a superb panto, we had tailors who had **transparently** bad designs on the money, we had handsome heroes who **uncovered** the baddies' plans, we had youngsters **who could see right through** the villain's schemes, we had a larger than life Dame who also helped **lay bare the plot**, we had a puffed up Emperor who's shenanigans **left little to the imagination** and then, to the audience's complete satisfaction, everything but everything was **finally revealed**.

And I hear that an amazing

£1,414

was raised from the donations for the programme and the refreshments and this will be shared equally between The Stroke Association and St David's Association. Well done SODS!

Betty Buntait, Theatre Critic to West End and Earlswood

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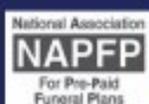
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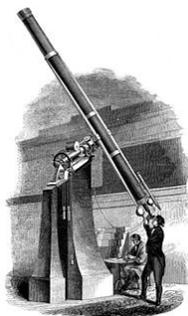
STARGAZING



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

In the evening sky the orange planet Mars lies to the South above the bright star Aldebaran. It is close to the Moon on the 27th February. The bright planets Venus (the brighter of the two) and Jupiter lie in the south-west just above the horizon. They become closely separated towards the end of the month. They form a triangle with the crescent Moon on the 22nd.

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



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FAIRTRADE NEWS February 2023



Some of you may already know the sad news that Traidcraft has ceased trading. This organisation was founded by social entrepreneur Richard Adams in 1979 with a mission to change, in Adams' words 'the entire, unjust, global economic system'. It aimed to prove that trading fairly with small scale producers and artisans around the world could work commercially. Traidcraft imported goods directly from developing countries and sold them to UK customers through church stalls, markets and later, shops and the Traidcraft website. In 1992 Traidcraft co-founded the Fairtrade Foundation which runs the Fairtrade Mark. In a statement Charlotte Timson, CEO of Traidcraft's charity partner Transform Trade, said 'The company forged a path for ethical cross-border trade. Back in 1979 there was no Fairtrade label and there were no ethical coffee shops – now you can walk into any supermarket and buy a host of fairly traded goods. Hundreds of thousands of lives have been changed for the better because of the trail they blazed. It's no exaggeration to say that the fair trade movement as we know it would not exist without Traidcraft.'

This is a huge personal disappointment for me. I have been using/selling Traidcraft goods for 30 years or so and Charlotte Timson's remark about the availability of a 'host of fairly traded goods' rings rather hollow. Tea, coffee, chocolate and bananas – yes. Generally there is little else –no nuts, dried and fresh fruit, spices, rice, coconut products, muesli, jams, honey, curry sauces, cosmetics....not to mention clothes or craft items . . . I could go on (and all too often do!)

On a more positive note I should like to remind you all that Chepstow remains a Fairtrade accredited town (in the world's first FT accredited country!) and to celebrate this year's Fairtrade Fort-night the forum has organised a Town Trail. Questionnaires are available from Toytastik and Coffee#1, with a list of some of the FT suppliers in town. Simply find out what is available! Completed questionnaires will be entered into the Prize Draw to win a Hamper of FT goodies (worth more than £30).

I plan to continue to source, buy and sell FT goods as best I can. The stall in the café in the Methodist Church (opposite M&S) will close but Oxfam will, I hope, continue to sell some FT items. Ethical Superstore is a good place to start.

Meanwhile in this era of especially daunting news do consider supporting FT (and B corps!). Treating producers and the environment with respect has never been more important.

Marion McAdam 641316 msm316@mail.com



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Are you putting your online shopping to good use?

The **Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot** are raising funds for the local community even during these lockdowns. With us all being confined to home for work and play, most of us have had to utilise online shopping, and this is looking set to continue as the new normal.

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