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September 2007

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
2nd September	13th Sunday After Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Bob Grattan Margaret Lock	Claire Lewis Bob Grattan
9th September	14th Sunday after Trinity	James Leney Sally Saysell	Alan Saysell Mike Pierce
16th September	15th Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.		The Children
23rd September	16th Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds
2nd September	Harvest Festival Group Service Claire Lewis	Mike Pierce John Nicholas Ann Nicholas	John Nicholas Ann Nicholas

Newchurch the first and 3rd Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m.

INCUMBENT:	The Revd Hugh Trenchard	424984
CURATE	The Revd Nansi Davies	01633 400519
CHURCH WARDENS:	Sally Saysell	641369
	Andrew Baker	641925
	Mrs Kath Whittington – Newchurch	641600
	Mrs Susan Lenthall – Newchurch	626389
PCC SECRETARIES:	Andrew Baker - Shirenewton	641925
PCC TREASURERS:	David Heritage- Newchurch	641549
GIFT AID SECRETARY	Kevin Bounds - Shirenewton	641818
CHURCH MAINTENANCE & SAFETY OFFICER	Enid Heritage - Newchurch	641549
ORGANISTS:	Ruth Savagar	641411
SUNDAY SCHOOL:	John Nicholas	641368
TOWER CAPTAIN:	Karen Millar	650521
MOTHERS UNION:	Ruth Savagar	641411
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:	Kath Whittington	641600
CHURCH FLOWERS:	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
PARISH MAGAZINE:	Mike Penny	650653
200 Club	Auriol Horton	641844
	John Waters	641449
	Maureen Moody	641524
	Bob O'Keefe	641686
	Pauline Dutton	641677

NAMES TO NOTE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL	John Harvey (Chairman)	641279
Clerk to Community Council	Carole Jones	641791
WI:	Sally Saysell	641369
SCOUTS:	Dave Richardson	620356
GUIDES:	Helen Cann	650835
BROWNIES:	Jackie Broughton	641797
BEAVERS:	Becky Lewis	650304
POLICE CONTACT:	P.C. Andrew Mason	01633 838111
REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell	641637
TRAIDCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR		
S'NEWTON & MYNYDD BACH	Beverley Moore	641532
Earlswood	Jayne Kirby	641217
Local History Society	John Clelland	650595

Please send notes, discs or emails for the October magazine to Bob O'Keefe at:
15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by
Thursday 20th September for inclusion in the October magazine. Once again, I
Regret that late contributions cannot be included due to holiday arrangements.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd Sept	Community Council Meeting at the Recreation Hall
6th Sept	Whist Drive at the Recreation Hall— 7.30
9th Sept	Sunday Club restarts at the Chantry
10th Sep	History Society Resource Session from 2o/c the Rec. Hall
12th Sep	Mothers Union 2.30 at The Church
18th Sept	SODs restarts Earlswood & Newchurch Hall 7.30
20th Sept	W. I. meeting 7.15 at the recreation Hall
22–23rd Sept	Church's Festival of Flowers, Dog Show and Parachute Jumps from the tower. See details inside.
25th Sept	Local History Society at the Huntsman Hotel — Subject "Chepstow Castle" - 7.30
27th Sept	Harvest Festival at St Peters Newchurch 7.00 o/c
29th Sept	Comedy-Drama at Itton Hall—See advert page 25
30th Sept	Shirenewton Harvest Festival Lunch –Earlswood Hall
6th Nov.	Robin Reece Jazz Night at Earlswood Hall—See Page 34

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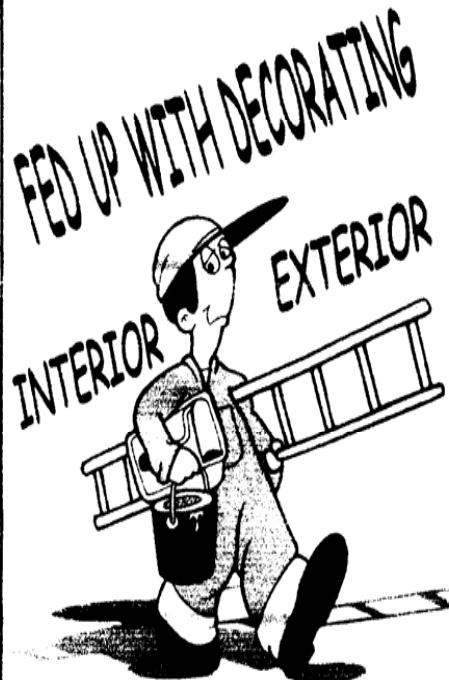
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Dear Friends,

Many of us may believe that summertime has passed us by but I know some of you have enjoyed holidays in the sun and feel invigorated and ready to face whatever our extraordinary climate is likely to throw at us. Whatever the weather our parish life goes on and during the break many events have taken place, notably in Caerwent this years Holiday Club run by the Sunday Club has been a tremendous success with record numbers of children attending and having a wonderful happy time. Thank you to those who worked so hard in organising and running the week. There are plans for many more events this autumn and these will be published in the Community News and Parish Magazine so watch out for them and give them your support.

Since the last letter some of our church members have past on into the care of God and we have given thanks for their lives and witness. We continue to pray and give support to their families. Our Church Visitors have also been busy visiting new arrivals in our parishes calling on the sick and house bound. If you are aware of anyone who needs a visit please let the Churchwardens know their names and addresses and arrangements will be made for a Visitor to call. I am aware that some believe that the clergy should do all the visits but this is not possible especially while the vicar remains on sick leave but even when we are both available our Visitors have been trained and it is their ministry to carry out this work. Those who have volunteered to serve as church officers are carrying out the ministry with the gifts God has given them and behind the scenes much work is done by these faithful servants. My thanks to them for the support given to me especially during these last months.

My thanks also to all of you who so kindly sent cards and flowers to me during my recent hospitalisation and convalescence; it was very warming and encouraging. I shall have to visit the surgeon's knife again in October and as I know you will be praying for me I will make a speedy recovery. There are a number of our members who have undergone surgery or having to undergo medical treatment of various kinds and may they be assured that we remember them in our prayers.

Finally, congratulations to all those young people in our parishes who have gained success in their examinations ,some of whom will be looking forward to a gap year of new experiences or while others are about to enter academic life at college or university. We will be thinking of you and praying for your safe return or continued success as you work towards your chosen career.

As Christians we are called to follow the way that Jesus taught and which we can read in our Bibles. It is important that we continue to grow in our understanding and knowledge of our faith and to help one another through study and discussion. Our Bible study group will begin again and will be announced in our services and I hope many will make a real effort to come along. A warm welcome awaits you.

With love and prayers
Nansi Davies, Curate.

FROM THE REGISTERS

15 July - A service of Baptism for Isabelle Cerys Jones, the daughter of Alexandra Burke and Andrew Jones.

17th August - A funeral service was held for Katie Anne Brace.
Born 22nd March 1996 died 12th August 2007.

Shirenewton Church 200 Club

The results of the June and July draws were:

June

£40 Alistair Bounds
£30 Joy Jones
£20 Julian Cornwell
£10 Annie Woodward

July

Sarah Rees
Barbara Walters
Avril Smith
Aileen Doggett

There is no Draw in August

tunnel, which had been destroyed in the winter gales. I have at long last managed to get the damaged frame sections removed and replaced by stealing bits off the spare tunnel. I'm now putting up the wooden end frames that will carry the doors. All we will need then is a warm, still day! Let me know if you see one on its way. The failure to get this back up has meant that our greenhouse plans have been thrown into disarray. I had planned to grow some tomatoes in the larger greenhouse, with the rest, along with cucumbers, melons and peppers, being planted in the spare beds in the tunnel. Unfortunately the melons, cucumbers and peppers are still in pots on the greenhouse bench and, apart from perhaps the peppers, it is unlikely that we will get anything in a way of a crop this year. The tomatoes remain in the greenhouse but there are three times the numbers of plants that there should be. They have now rooted through the bottom of the pots and into the border, so have no intention of going anywhere! With a bit of sun in recent weeks the plants have actually started to develop nicely, and so far have largely managed to escape the potato blight that has taken its toll of our potatoes. We have five different varieties of tomatoes and we're keeping our fingers crossed that we will get a good crop, or at least enough to make into soups etc. for the winter.

Outside in the raised beds the story has been one and the same as crops have failed to perform, or just given up to disease. The peas and beans suffered from rust disease, the French beans didn't do anything, the carrots and beetroot failed to germinate. I guess by now you are getting the picture? Still not one to be defeated I have purchased fresh seed, for varieties that mature later, such as carrots, greens and varieties of beans. These have been sown in the beds of the tunnel in the hope that I can get the cover on shortly. These should them mature later on, when it looks as though fresh fruit and veg (at least home produced stuff) will be in short supply. Never mind, think positive, next year will be so much better, so don't let the weather grind you down! Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.

joined the many hundreds already asleep on every roadside verge there was and called it a day. I awoke at five-thirty, made it to Tewksbury (another bad move), but when I realised this was surrounded by water and going nowhere fast, decided to make it back to the M50 North, then M5, which by now had re-opened, and eventually made it home at 9.30 a.m.!

The garden has been an equal wash out to that dreaded day. The continuous rain and little sun have meant that almost everything has suffered. In the flowerbeds, the taller varieties of plants have literally been hammered into submission. The under-gardener has fought her way into and cut many down to their base as they have flattened everything else down as they fell. Nothing has flowered as it should be, as we just haven't had adequate sun and warmth to enable them to perform. The one large area, just below the tunnels, hasn't even been weeded this year as the wet, then a loss of interest, finally had us saying why bother! The clematis have enjoyed the lower temperatures and adequate moisture, so there is always something that benefits!

In the fruit garden, we had a good crop on most of the trees. Again the weather has caused problems though as one after the other has succumbed to rot and fungal attack. We picked the first apples the other day. Discoveries are best eaten straight off the tree if possible, but they are far worse this year in that many are rotting within a couple of days of picking, even though there are no apparent signs of damage. The plums are even worse, with probably 80% of them rotten on the tree already. Pears will be next and then the later apple varieties, so we'll keep our fingers crossed. In the soft fruit department we had bumper crops. We did manage to keep on top of the raspberries, picking between the rain, but with the other varieties, including the Jostaberry, a large part of the crop stayed on the plants, as it was nearly always too wet to pick.

The vegetable garden has also suffered badly. Probably the one worst thing that has affected us is the failure to get the cover back on the

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for the next couple of months

Date	Time	Venue
9th Sept	9.45	The Chantry
16th Sept	9.45	Family Service Daniel's Baptism
23rd Sept	9.45	The Chantry
30th Sept	9.45	Harvest Family Service—Church
7th Oct	9.45	The Chantry
14th Oct	9.45	The Chantry
21st October	9.45	The Chantry.

Hope you all had a good summer and didn't get too washed out on your holidays. We're looking forward to seeing you all again soon. Don't forget our "Church in the Village" Open Day on Saturday 22 September - it's time to start training your teddies for their parachute jump!

Shirenewton Sunday Club welcomes all children from 3 years. Do come and join us.

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641 818

The 'Church in the Village' Flower Festival

Every two years we have a Church Open Day. It's a way of keeping the oldest building in Shirenewton open and alive to everyone, whether they attend church services or not.

Churches are probably the most common of our shared historical buildings - Shirenewton Church has been here and open to all for nearly a thousand years. But in these days of secularism as Professor Roy Strong recently wrote in The Times - we are in danger of losing these historic buildings, which are part of our common heritage. He has pointed out that the decline in church attendance has resulted in the growing trend of these buildings being sold off and converted to art galleries, shops or dwellings. Or even worse, of being bulldozed and demolished, lost forever. To halt this loss of our heritage and our ancient buildings, he advocates the ripping out of pews and the space being used for various diverse and imaginative ways in order to keep these historic buildings safe and open.

Now Shirenewton Church isn't that endangered. We have regular Sunday Services, a steady number of weddings and baptisms and a congregation, which although it isn't huge, is enthusiastic and forward-looking. And far from thinking 'demolition', we are literally building for the future. We want our church to be here and to be used for worship for the next thousand years.

So this year's Open Day is a Flower Festival Weekend on Saturday 22nd September from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and on Sunday 23rd, a church service from 9.45 am to about 11.00 am and then the church will remain open until 4.00 pm. The flower arrangements will be created by our many local groups and clubs - Brownie Pack, Historical Society, Sunday Club, WI, MU, Bell Ringers and lots more... perhaps even - our Community Council? The remit is to create a flower arrangement (which can have... accessories) to represent their activities. Should be interesting.

There will also be Refreshments on both days. In addition, on Saturday there will be ploughman's lunches, a local produce table, a sales table, games, music and also, back by popular demand (and weather permitting) 'The Soft Toys Parachute from the Tower' and 'The Local Dogs Talent Show'. And of course, you will be able to see the church extension - it won't be finished - but we're getting there.

So come along to The Church and Village Flower Festival, the Parachuting Teddies and our Local Talented Pooch Show - and see us being diverse. Help us to secure our village heritage as well as our church's future.

Glynis MacDonald

Gardening Corner

Well, what can I say? I had hoped to start this article after our well enjoyed break with words such as "what a fab summer we've had", "didn't we do well"? Instead it's a bit more than "oh dear"! Certainly the year hadn't started well here at Barn Farm and this continued right up to the days that we had the garden open. I suppose the one thing that we can say with this parish is that apart for a few unfortunates whom may suffer from flash flooding, generally we are pretty secure when it comes to water in our houses. My heart goes out to the many thousands who get flooded on a regular basis and even more so to the hundreds of farmers this year. Not only have they had buildings flooded but lost all their income as well for the year. As always it is 'middle Britain' that will feel it the most. The small family run farms that often struggle on an annual basis, staggering from one crisis to the next, who will have been hit hardest. I remember one farmer, in a television interview, saying that it would probably take ten years (and good ones at that no doubt), to recover. I can well believe it. Unfortunately that fateful Friday I was in a meeting in Birmingham all day, leaving at four in the afternoon. I knew it had been raining hard all day, but wasn't prepared for what was in front. After four hours I had travelled just eight miles! With no information as to what was happening and where to go, it was a case of eyes down and look in! Fortunately I did fill up with petrol and bought a sandwich at the motorway services, but I still didn't expect to be spending the night sitting, or rather trying to sleep, on the motorway. I did eventually make it to within one and a half miles of the Strensham services on the M5, but then that was it. I knew things had to be bad when at 1.30 in the morning a couple of fire engines went by on the hard shoulder, all lights and sirens, with one of them towing a boat! The worst thing was the feeling of relief when, at 3.30 in the morning, all the cars in front started their engines and I thought at last. Wrong! The central barrier had been taken down, we were turned around in the road and sent back to wherever we had come. This was bad news as I was tired, disorientated, didn't know what was open what was closed - a recipe for disaster. In the end I shot off at Worcester,



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Proceeds to Earlswood Memorial Hall refurbishment

**SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 6TH AUGUST 2007**

This was a much smaller group than usual given the holidays, but there were several members of the public present to make up the numbers. One councillor has resigned so there is now a vacancy on the Community Council.

POLICE REPORT FROM PC MASON

1. A prowler was reported at about 1.00 am 23/07/06 at the rear of a house in Shirenewton, a few days later there was a break in at a similar time also in Shirenewton. The police suspect both are likely to be an opportunistic burglar trying downstairs doors/windows for easy access into properties.
 2. Other areas of Monmouthshire have had break-ins where cars keys have been taken then a car stolen off the driveway, to date there has not been an incident locally but PC Mason was keen to remind people not to leave cars keys around the front door or hallway overnight.
 3. There were two accidents on the Usk Road in July, both overturned vehicles, one at the picnic site and another just a mile from the Racecourse garage.
 4. Off-road bikes are still using St Pierre Woods and Wentwood, the police request that if you see any bikes on or off trailers that you make a note of any registrations and report them to the police.
 5. A horse has been lost from Earlswood area, may have been stolen – a coloured cob.
 6. PACT meeting held in July was poorly attended but the primary issues raised were:-
 - Traffic speed on the Usk Road, particularly motorbikes,
 - Traffic speed on lanes in Earlswood,
- Difficulties in access to police via call centre.***

PLANNING

Seaview Nursery, Earlswood. Conversion of agricultural building to residential dwelling. Extensive discussions took place amongst the councillors and members of the public present but eventually the Council recommended approval subject to a number of conditions.

The Golf Club appeal for retrospective planning for lampposts has been dismissed but as yet there has been no decision about the hard standing area.

ITEMS OF LOCAL CONCERN

1. Mynyddbach picnic/play area – a community orchard with trees likely to cost between £250 – £400 was discussed but councillors decided they needed to talk to residents nearby about the idea.
- 2 We did not win best kept village or church, but we did win a prize for the Best Kept Village Hall.
3. The allotments issue rolls on and on, Monmouthshire wants to sell the land but the SCC thinks it should be retained as allotments.
4. Litter picking in Earlswood:- The Council are trying to investigate if it's suitable for people serving community service orders to carry out, but successful assessment meeting still to take place.
5. Tump Farm in Earlswood:- The road at the bottom of the lane, is road is constantly covered in debris that washes down the lane, a more permanent solution is required rather than MCC clearing it whenever someone complains about it.

The next meeting will be on Monday 3rd September at 7.30 p.m. at the Recreation Hall.

Alison Broughton

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

Harvest thanksgiving and supper will be held on Thursday 27th September at 7.00 p.m.—All will be very welcome

FROM THE REGISTER

A funeral service and internment in the churchyard was held on the 16th of August for Vivian John Davies.

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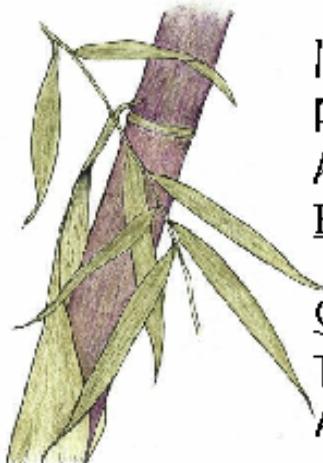
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Come along to the
'Church in the Village' Flower Festival
on
Saturday 22nd September
and
Sunday 23rd September
10.00 - 4.00
(Church Service 9.45 - 11.00)
Refreshments, Local Produce Table
Saturday Ploughmen Lunches
Entrance Fee: £3.00



The Church in the Village' Flower Festival

Are calling on all Adventurous and Brave Soft Toys
Get your owner to make you a Parachute!
Then Leap from the top of the Church Tower!
On Saturday 22nd September at 11.30
and if you survive, again at 2.00

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30TH SEPTEMBER 2007
AT
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Saturday 22nd September 3.00

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Caroline's Cookery Corner

I have some of this simmering on my stove as I write. My son Tom and I have just had a discussion as to whether it really is as good as Branston Pickle! Trust me, it is. My mother made it every year and two of my sisters and I do it now. It is a little expensive but it is well worth it. Also a jar o Branston would not be half as good as a Christmas present.

Peach Chutney

*3lb peaches—chopped
1lb of onions—chopped
1 jar stem ginger—chopped
1 teaspoon mustard seed
1 lb moist light brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon of chilli powder
1 dessert spoon salt
pint white wine vinegar
1 level teaspoon turmeric
1 level teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon mace
oz flaked almonds
The grated rinds of 1 orange and 1 lemon.*

Boil all the ingredients together with the exception of the almonds, simmer until it reaches the right consistency, add the almonds and simmer for a further 5 minutes.

Pot and seal.

Once again our thanks to Caroline Davies

SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES

33 players attended the July Drive and 36 came to the August Drive. We have the prospect of two new players in September (local ones too!). The Hall still receives admiring remarks not least on how clean everything is and we make sure we leave it as we find it. The next two drives are on the 6th Sept. and 4th October respectively at the Recreation Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. promptly.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton 01291 641844

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

COFFEE MORNING

Our Coffee Morning held on 30th June was a great success and in spite of the adverse weather, we made an incredible £1000.

The morning was well supported and the generosity of everyone never ceases to amaze me. My sincere thanks to, everyone who came and brought and bought items, the donations and gifts for the raffle, it all contributed to the making of a profitable and happy social occasion.

A big thank you to all the ladies that managed the stalls etc and to Derek Watson who braved the elements to sell the plants etc. This combined effort made it all worthwhile and it pleases me to know that a lot of people will benefit from the services of Marie Curie Cancer Care and we have been able to assist in this.

My grateful thanks
Thelma Moore

THE CHURCH EXTENSION

Real progress has been made during the last couple of months, in spite of some of the worst summer weather we have seen for a long time.

As can be seen below the stonework on the exterior side wall is nearing completion with the decorative stone of the arched windows completed and the dressed stone laying is complete up to the oak fascia board, that is in position and ready for the gutter to be fixed.



The stone work around the large arched window on the gable end is now at the stage where we are waiting for the decorative the central key stone to be fitted into place. This key stone requires to specifically tailored to suit once the remaining stonework is at the correct height.

With the stone laying approaching the full height, and roofing slates now being delivered, work has now started on the fitting of the roofing slates. The picture on the next page shows the first of the roof slates being fitted.



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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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For our July meeting we visited Dewstow gardens followed by supper at the nearby golf club. For a change this summer we had a dry sunny evening to enjoy the splendours of Dewstow.

Dorothy Brabon has been holding Resources Sessions at the Recreation Hall which have been well attended and will continue throughout 2007.

You can now find out all about us and view this year's programme by logging on to www.shirenewton-history.co.uk.

Our meetings for the coming months are:

Tuesday 25th September- 'Chepstow Castle and its effect on the local landscape' by Rick Turner- 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel.

Monday 10th September- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall.

Tuesday 30th October- 'AGM' followed by a talk on 'Gaerllyd' by Ian McFarlane – 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel.

Monday 18th October- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS OF SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL.

It is with great regret that the Governing body of Shirenewton Primary School has decided that due to the recent persistent vandalism on school grounds that no access to the school grounds is permitted outside school hours unless authorised by the school. We are aware that school children and parents do informally use the school grounds when it is closed but sadly this can no longer be permitted. The reason for this is that the police are now carrying out surveillance of the school to deter/apprehend those causing damage which is now persistent and costly to the school. We have advised the police that no persons are permitted in the school grounds when it is closed so that those apprehended can be dealt with.

Heidi Davis - Chair of Governors

With the completion of the stone work around the window, and the slate roof now being fitted, a very clear impression can be obtained of what the end result will look like.

There is still plenty to be done but work is progressing at a good pace.



If you haven't yet seen the project, make a trip to the Church and view the progress.

Tanfest 07

Saturday July 28th saw the third annual Tanfest held in the Tanhouse Grounds and later in the evening inside. The weather throughout the day was reasonably good and the daytime performers were well received by a cheery (and dry) crowd which built up through the whole event to some 400 + bodies. Things ran smoothly until the rain (of the very heavy variety) arrived about 6.15 resulting in some gremlins in the electrics – these were sorted out fairly quickly and the crowd was undiminished although soaking wet - and in fine form dancing the night away to the Brothers Blue , One Sick Lizard and - finishing the night inside – Druids on Fluids had the house rocking.

Excellent performances were experienced on two stages throughout the day from Ian Luther, The Runaways, Smokeroom , In Case of Emergency , World Music and John McConachie – even Elvis put in an appearance.

This year again The NSPCC was the chosen charity and a record result achieved – total proceeds to charity on the day of almost £2,900 being raised. The organisers – Steve Lacey , Dave Ward , Tim King and Dave Watkins – wish to express their utmost thanks for the enormous effort and generosity of all those involved – particularly the sponsors , bands , performers and volunteers and helpers (including Shirenewton Church's help again this year with shelter arrangements) all of whom gave their time, talent and energy for no other reward than seeing such a satisfying result benefiting such a worthy cause.

Tanfest has now raised nearly £8,000 for NSPCC during it's brief 3 year history

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SHIRENEWTON & MYNYDD BACH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Meeting of 11TH JULY 2007

Police Report from PC Andy Mason:

The most persistent problem is "Reports of nuisance" at the school. Most of the calls to the police have come from staff at the school, but members of the public have also reported their concerns, via NHW.

It's good to see that the community are starting to use the NW network to report this type of incident

At the Police / Council surgery, members of the public have reported concerns regarding highways matters. PC Mason was able to progress the concerns which related to, overhanging hedges, grass verges at junctions and the layout of the road at the bottom of Weyloed Lane.

The PACT Meetings are taking place at the Recreation Hall at 7pm. A panel, consisting of representatives from, the Police, Monmouthshire County Council, Shirenewton Community Council & The One Stop Shop will take comments, observations and concerns from members of the public. A vote will take place to identify the three top issues and they will become the priority for action over the following months. Please take every opportunity to let members of the public know about this and encourage ir attendance.

PC Mason has secured the use of a hand held device to identify speeding vehicles throughout the area. Hopefully when members of the public see this in action it will slow down the traffic, particularly in the built up areas.

A reminder that people wishing to contact the Police (even the local police) should ring 01633 838111. Emergencies or urgent calls should use the 999 number. PC Mason's direct number is 01633 642068, but this should only be used for non reportable calls, eg a chat about meetings.

At the next meeting we will review the current membership and confirm the areas that individuals cover.

NEXT MEETING 26th September, 7.30 The Huntsman.

Note:- There have been a number of daytime burglaries in the Shirenewton Area during the summer period even while occupants were present in their homes. Ensure your homes are secure even in daylight hours.

SHIRENEWTON WI

July is our month for outdoor activities because the weather is fine and there are long warm evenings. How wrong we were!

Ernie and Winnie Jones invited us for our monthly meeting to a garden party in their beautiful garden and they devised quizzes which really exercise our grey cells. Unfortunately it was the Thursday evening before the floods and we were driven indoors right from the start, so we were unable to even attempt the garden based quizzes. However everything else was laid out in the porch, where we scratched our heads over bygone objects and other problems and Ernie gave us a fascinating account of milk, not just cows' milk but that of horses, sheep and pigs. The evening ended with strawberries and cream and a big thank you to Ernie and Winnie.

A week later we had arranged to go to Lindors, St Briavels to visit their tranquil gardens and have a cream tea. The rain was less fierce and we all managed to walk round the gardens in sensible shoes, raincoats and umbrellas. The home-made scones were the best we had tasted and despite the rain it was considered a great success.

Every so often we have an activity which is based on the alphabet so we have done Quad Biking, Archery, Zap Zoning, Darts and Dominoes, Pub Games, Chime Bells and others. Obviously not every one wants to take part and friends of the WI are invited to join us. This time the weather was kind to us when we assembled at the Christchurch Camp Site to try our hand at Orienteering. Bob O'Keefe briefed us on the course and map reading and three groups of three set off round the course noting down the letters on the posts we found. Meanwhile Shan and Phil Hensall, who had set up a tent ensured there was a Barbecue ready on our return. The winning team was Claire and Tom Lewis with Sue Hudson. It was a great day out and we have to thank Shan, Phil and Bob for all their hard work which went into making it so enjoyable.

The August meeting was the annual summer dinner which we held for the second year at the Woodlands Tavern in Llanvair Discoed, where we enjoyed a meal amongst friends.

Our next meeting is at the Recreation Hall, 20 September 7.15 pm when Dee Griffiths will tell us about the History of the Herbert Lewis store. Visitors are always welcome.

Stargazing in September '07

The seven stars of the Plough can be seen in the northern evening sky whilst the "W" of the constellation Cassiopeia lies to the northeast. The constellation Pegasus includes a large square that lies to the south. The Summer Triangle made up of the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair continues to dominate the night sky to the South. Deneb forms the tail of the constellation Cygnus, the Swan which lies pretty much overhead. Its brightest stars form a cross against the background of the Milky Way. The head of the Swan is a beautiful double star called Albireo. Viewed through a small telescope it can be seen to be a striking pair of stars, one coloured blue the other gold.

The brilliant planet Jupiter lies to the southwest after sunset. Reddish Mars rises above the horizon late in the evening in the northeast. It will progressively brighten as it gets closer to Earth. Venus appears as the very bright Morning Star in the south. Saturn follows Venus, rising in the morning, lying to the left and below it.

Traditionally farmers working late into the evening to gather their crops are aided by the light of the Harvest Moon – this year this is the Full Moon of 26th September.

Dave Thomas

S.O.D.S It's Panto Time Again!

For budding thespians, adept artists, amateur chippies and anyone wishing to help in any way shape or form in this year's Panto Extravaganza, please make your self known to
The Management

Tuesday 18th September - Earlswood Hall - 7.30
Glynis 641 818

Itton Village Hall

Saturday 29th September

'A Clucking Good Hen Night'

The MsFit theatre company from Scotland led by Fiona Knowles present their award winning comedy drama - three hen nights in one place on a stormy night – all the brides-to-be are getting on - one is 92!

Previous successes include 'Stick Granny on the Roof Rack' and 'The Good, the Bad and the Botoxed'! Don't miss it!

7.30 pm. Tickets at the door
Adults £6.00, Students £3.50

Disabled facilities, Ample car parking.
Raffle and refreshments



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SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

In July we had our usual very pleasant afternoon at the home of Marcia Hoskins at St. Arvans. Our speaker was Sally Morgan-Owen who spoke of her experience of joining an established MU branch as the mother of four young children. Curiosity got her to the door of the meeting but the support of two like-situated friends carried her over the threshold – the welcome they received ensured their future attendance and Sally now looks after the interests of younger members in the Diocese and promotes the work that the MU does at home and abroad amongst its 3.6 million members worldwide.

In August eight of our members visited Mary Sumner House in London for a guided tour of the MU Headquarters and we were privileged to spend time in the company of the World Wide President (we also passed the time of day with our Chief Executive, Reg. Bailey).

We shared Midday Prayers in the Chapel and met all the Unit Co-ordinators. Our guide was very knowledgeable and showed us all the nooks and crannies. We also met the only paid members of staff – the receptionist, office staff and maintenance workers. There are not very many of them and they are all quite young and cheerful. We came away feeling we were part of a very vibrant organisation.

Also in August we met to celebrate Mary Sumner's Day with midday prayers and a soup lunch. There was a slight hiccup over the venue due to the road-works in the village and we finished up at the home of Patsy Lewis at Cobbler's Pitch (a very pleasant venue). Our visitors were from Pontypool MU and Rosemary Howells told us about the Credit Union that had been set up in the Torfaen Area. It had been inspired by Church members who had seen a need in the community and fortunately the local council had added their support. It is still run by Church members but used by those who have no church connections. It took several years to grow but is now well established.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 12th September at 2.30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Joan Stickland at her Quiet Garden in Coed-y-paen where Chris Carey will lead us in corporate communion. Will members please let me know if they need transport or are unable to attend for any reason.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton
01291 641844

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

I hope you have all had a good summer despite the weather. Guides start again on the 11th September when we will run through what we have planned for the term. On the 18th we are hoping to go on the village walk which had to be postponed last term due to extreme weather. If you do not make it to the 11th September then please ensure you bring a parent with you to sign a consent form on the 18th!

As we have several outside agencies visiting this term the programme may change quite often as we reorganise to suit our visitors availability. To try and keep parents posted I would like to set up an e mail system. The last time I tried this I took the contact details of the Guides themselves and had so many "bounce back" via Hotmail that I gave up! If you have a reliable e mail address that you use regularly I would be grateful if you could pass it on.

Look forward to seeing you on the 11th.

Kestrel	Helen Cann	tel. 01291 650835
Kitten	Amanda Turner	tel. 01291 650763

SHIRENEWTON BROWNIES

Calling all 1st Shirenewton Brownies – we have been asked to help out at the Shirenewton Church Open Day on the weekend of 22nd- 23rd September , so please try to keep some space in your busy schedules for that weekend . More details to follow on Tuesday 11th September , our first meeting back in September . See you there .

Jackie – Guider in Charge – 01291 641797

The Bells, The Bells... The Bells

You may have missed hearing the BELLS on a Sunday morning a couple of times recently. This is because the Shirenewton bell ringers have been on their summer holidays.

The Ten Tower Tour (our annual summer ringing tour) was to Devon for the weekend of the 18th & 19th of August saw 20 of us booked into a campsite. In spite of the wind and rain, tents being blown away we still all had a great tour.

Several of ringers have been learning a method called Plain Bob Minor. When a ringer really knows a method it is usual for them to have a go at ringing a quarter peal of it . Simon and Kate Stanley have rung one each recently and it was to be Claire Eickhoff's turn on Sunday 22nd of July. We had all the band set up including ringers coming from Cardiff but then on the previous day she fell down stairs and ended up with her arm in a sling! Poor Claire. But you know the old saying regarding clouds and silver linings, well this was a case in point, we kept the band and Tom Mitchell, aged 12 years, rang his first quarter peal on that night.

He rang the tenor to a nicely struck quarter of Grandsire Doubles. He rang really well. So big congratulations to him especially as he only realized he was going to attempt it that morning when we were ringing for service.

Pip Penney

On Thursday 4th October at 2.00 o/c a team of visiting ringers will be ringing a peal on Shirenewton's Church bells. They are a good team and will be led by a chap known as the "Rhonda Wizard. The ringing will last for about 2 hours 40 minutes.

THE CHURCH WEB SITE: www.shirenewtonchurch.org

FAIRTRADE NEWS

The new Traidcraft winter catalogue is now available. The range of goods on offer is expanding all the time. Send for a catalogue or borrow one from me or have a look at the website: - www.traidcraftshop.co.uk. Christmas IS coming of course, but I hope we have moved on from the 'I've bought a pack of Christmas cards and a jar of coffee this year, so that's enough!' The range of absurdly cheap clothes on the High Street should make anyone consider what corners are being cut so that we can buy jeans / t-shirts et al for pocket money prices: working conditions, wages, environmental concerns. I have just bought some fairly traded organic shopping bags from People Tree (about £6 each I think). I have written about this company before, trendy clothes and interesting fairly traded gifts: www.peopletree.co.uk. The tag accompanying the bags reads:

Conventional cotton takes up to 2.5% of the planet's cultivated land and consumes nearly 11% of the pesticides used globally. Of this nearly 23% of all insecticides, some of the most toxic of pesticides is used on cotton. Every year tens of thousands of farmers suffer serious damage to their health after contact with these chemicals in the air, the water and the soil. I think we would all hope that reputable firms would check that their producers are not being forced to work in this way! I do not believe their checks are very thorough! What price a cheap pair of jeans!

As ever contact me for a catalogue or more info Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

Well its been a quiet summer website wise. I've been sitting in the sun (in Spain of course - not here) not really worrying the http protocol!

So just to refresh everyone's memory. The Church website is not only a shopping portal which assists the Church in raising funds but also a community resource. For example, the Community Council minutes are posted as they are received from the Community Council. I urge you to read these minutes as they affect you and your community - you can not rely on a summary appearing in the Parish Magazine. If you want to be notified when the community council minutes are added to the site (they are generally one month out of date as apparently, technically, they are not authorised until the following meeting so we can't get them until they have been authorised, ie after the next month's meeting) please sign-up on the community council minutes mailing list which has been added to the site.

The mailing list is an 'opt-in' mailing list (you can opt out at any time) and will be used for the sole purpose of advising you when the latest community council minutes have been posted.

The selection of shops on the shopping portal changes constantly. Shops are forever opting in and then out of the affiliate scheme we use. However, the big ones are still there. Tesco, Screwfix, John Lewis, Dell, etc. So, just a reminder, if you click through to the shops from the Church website and then purchase something the Church gets a 'referral commission'. This commission is typically small but all the small commissions add up and provide, on average, about £350 - £400 per year to church funds.

You will start seeing publicity regarding www.sewales.com. This is a small ads/classified ads website which is targeted at South East Wales (ie Chepstow, Caldicot and Magor and surrounding areas). Its free to advertise low value items and for charities.

Finally, as a personal project which may eventually be linked into the church site, I am developing www.havethechecked.com. This is basically a travel website with lists of all the useful travel sites I use on my travels. It started as a simple way for me to keep a list of sites to check and then I decided that others may be interested. A key difference to the church site is that some of the links are 'affiliate links' (ie the church gets commission) but, unlike the church website, there are also links to sites which do not pay the Church commission.

Happy browsing.

David Cornwell



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

Chepstow Choral Society resumes rehearsals after the summer break on Wednesday September 5th, 7.30pm, Chepstow Leisure Centre . The Society welcomes new singers – please contact Marjorie Duerden (tel. 01291 623310) for information relating to the musical schedule and choir membership.

CCS would also like to thank all everyone who has contributed in any way to their successful 2006/2007 season. The support received is warmly welcomed and highly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing music-lovers in ever-increasing numbers during our forthcoming season.

PROGRAMME FOR 2007/2008 SEASON

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9th 2007:

*CHRISTMAS MUSIC and FAMILY CAROLS
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow. 3.00pm*

SATURDAY MARCH 8th 2008:

PASSIONTIDE CONCERT

Programme to include:

Faure: Requiem

Dvorak: Te Deum

Ralph Vaughan Williams: Benedicite

With CCS Orchestra

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow. 7.30pm

SATURDAY JULY 12th 2008

CARMINA BURANA – FESTIVAL CONCERT

Orff: Carmina Burana

Brahms: Lieberslieder

With two pianos / percussion

Chepstow Leisure Centre, Chepstow. 7.30pm

Visit our website for further details / information – www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk



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