

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

November 2016



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Everything is against me!

I know there are many people who believe that the whole world is against them, and they feel that as well as the world being against them, every human being is also against them also. They feel isolated and alone in a busy and bustling world.

Many spend their lives trying to be something they aren't just trying to fit in with society. They are a chameleon of life, blending with their surroundings, and this can be undertaken for a few reasons.

One reason, I've bended with my surroundings therefore you can't see me, I'm not really here, pass me by I'm not important or of any interest to you.

Another reason could be, I've blended in, therefore I am acceptable to the group and I am part of, whether I like the fit or not, I have changed my colours so that I fit in and I am left alone, I am part of the crowd.

They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps, hoping to take my life. Psalm 56.6

I believe the above Psalm reflects exactly how a person in this state of mind feels. Everything and everyone in life is a conspiracy against them. Although they try to fit in, or they try hard not to be seen, they feel alone and vulnerable in this busy world that demands so much from each and every one of us. They feel they are always watched and judged by everybody, including family and friends. They may feel that people are talking about them behind their backs, and are conspiring against them, trying to trip them up. Some who suffer mental illness may even feel that the conspiracy could endanger their life.

If we have dealings with a person who is in this state of mind how do you think we should act? Should we become chameleon's ourselves and hope they do not see we are uncomfortable in their presence? Should we tell them to grow up and get on with life? Or should we stand out from the conspiracy crowd and offer them help in whatever way we can? I am not saying we should all take a course in counselling, or psychotherapy, but as I have said before we have two ears and one mouth, therefore we should listen twice as much as we speak. We should let these people know that they are in a safe place and can share without being judged. But we must ensure we have boundaries set to safeguard both us and them.

Being part of a crowd isn't all it's cracked up to be. I once lived near a couple who worshipped in another area, and they thought I might like to be part of their congregation. They loaned me a video, (that shows how long ago this took place), and asked me to watch it and let them know my thoughts. I looked at the video with an open mind, and found that I have to turn it off. When I spoke to them later, I explained that although this type of worship group may be for them, it is not for me, because the leader used crowd communion to build those attending into a frenzy. I said that I was of the belief that if the leader had told those attending to go out and do this or that in the name of the Lord, the crowd/congregation would have done what was requested without thought.

As Christian's we have the Trinity to rely on, as well as our book, The Holy Bible and all the teachings that come from that. We also have the power of prayer and healing. I then thought of a passage in Acts 3:40, *Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders.* How would a person react if I did stretch out my hand to heal them? Would I believe that this act of faith would indeed work? Or should I become a chameleon myself, trying to make my faith fit with society

today, so that I am acceptable and politically correct? Is it a copout to decide to pray for those in need quietly without sharing the signs and wonders?

I have had the privilege to lead worship in a church that not only accepted stretching out of the hand to heal, but it was expected as part of the service. But by the same token I have been to places where this sort of thing is not accepted, it's not the done thing.

What about you? Do you believe everyone out there, those in authority and public sector workers are all against you? They are not you know, there are many organisations and people within all sectors only too willing to help.

Rick Hayes

FROM THE SHIRENEWTON REGISTERS

**Funeral held on Friday 30th September 2016 of
Stuart Wharton 1927—2016**

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Sunday 13th November 2016
Gather at Shirenewton War
Memorial at 10:50am
for the Act of Remembrance.
The service will then continue in
Shirenewton Church



200 CLUB

The recent winners are:

CORRECTION

September

1. Nansi Davies
2. Lynn McFarlane
3. Sue Leat
4. Martin Doble (*correction
this should have read
Martin Bodle*)

RESULT!



The Church Sound Equipment has now been found and has been returned to the airing cupboard.
Thank you!!! Glynis

Shirenewton Church

ADVENT FAIR and COFFEE MORNING!



Come along for Coffee, Cake and a lovely selection of Homemade Christmas Goodies in the Church Room with our young Sunday Clubbers running some of the stalls.

Sunday 4th December, 11.00 - 12.00
The money raised will go to
'Medecins sans Frontieres'



Carols Around the Village Christmas Tree.

Friday 16th December @ 6.30 for about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour
in the Tredegar Arms Carpark.

The Collection go to support
'Medecines sans Frontieres'

Bring a torch. And some gloves.
And a warm hat And loud voices.

If it's raining we will decamp into Shirenewton Church

Shirenewton Church

Christmas Praise Service



Come along to Shirenewton Church for a light service of Christmas Praise where we will tell the Christmas Story through poems, readings and our favourite Carols.

Sunday 18th December at 10.00.
Coffee and cake afterwards in the Church Room.



'Carols and Christingles' Shirenewton Church.

4.00 on Christmas Eve

**Everyone is welcome to this lovely warm
family-friendly service**

**Refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies will be served
afterwards in the Church Room.**

Collection to Children's Society.

And if anyone would like to join in, be a shepherd, an angel or a king or even a villager, Shirenewton Sunday Club would be delighted to see you. Just come along to Sunday Club at the Shirenewton Church Room on a Sunday at 10.00.

You would be more than welcome For more details, ring
Lyn Morcombe (Sunday Club leader) 641 671

HARVEST FESTIVAL AT SHIRENEWTON

The Church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton, was full of fruit and



vegetables for the Harvest Service on Sunday 2nd October, but there was still room for the large congregation as well. Jane and Glynis kept all the children interested and involved with an innovative and family-friendly format involving lots of singing, poems and readings; and the adults were occasionally allowed to join in. At the end of the service all the fruit and veg was loaded into cars and taken up to Earlswood Hall for the Harvest Lunch, whilst the congregation enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee, cakes and good fellowship in the Saysell Centre.

Meanwhile in Earlswood Hall, Jane Eickhoff, Kha Koon Cornwell and Caroline Davis, ably assisted by a team



of volunteers from the village, had been cooking, cutting, chopping and preparing a range of dishes to suit every taste and appetite. So by the time the throng came pouring through the doors the food was ready, the bar was manned (by Charles Eickhoff and Bob Millar) and the raffle tickets were ready to go on sale courtesy of Jane Smith-Somers and Noelyn Prout. Gilly Lambert said Grace, and then everyone tucked into a fine feast with very little ceremony; it was noticed that some had second helpings of the first course before going on to the second course, and some had thirds; and others had second helpings of both courses



(and quite possibly thirds); but there was plenty for everyone. The feast was followed by the auction, expertly conducted by Dave Cornwell, who quickly got the knack of putting the price up after every bid, and it all went very well. Home-made breads and jams and chutneys were bundled in with home-grown pumpkins and carrots and beans to make up lots which were quickly bid for until there was nothing left.



It was a great occasion involving lots of people from Shirenewton, Mynyddbach, Earlswood and other local places, and many brought friends and family from further afield, so it had that special mix of a family gathering with friends and extended family. £800 was raised at the lunch through the sale of lunch tickets, raffle tickets and the auction, and a further £72.50

was raised from the church collection, so the Treasurer has sent a cheque for £872.50 to UNICEF for their Syria Children Appeal. Many thanks to all the very many people involved in preparing food, setting out the hall, selling drink and raffle tickets and providing raffle prizes.

Bible Sunday



On Sunday, October 23rd, Shirenewton, along with Christian communities throughout the UK, celebrated Bible Sunday.

In the address, written by former Bishop of Oxford John Pritchard, we were chided in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilisations to pieces, turn the world upside down, and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it's nothing more than a piece of literature!" It is, in the words of the Coronation Service, "the most valuable thing that this world affords", but only if we open it and engage with the content.

To encourage us to dust off our bibles, we shared some of our favourite passages with one another and we would like to share them too with you!

It was quite a struggle to decide which passages to pick because there are so many that we love.

Some of the reasons that were given for choosing these passages were:

- It was written in the front of my bible by my sister when she gave it to me
- I learned it by heart when I was young in Bible Study Classes
- It was on my parents' wall and one of the first things I read to myself
- It looks forward and acknowledges the past in a highly effective and moving statement of God's purpose
- This is powerful rhetoric, concise, reflective and good to articulate
- There is great reassurance in this message, and it has been set to wonderful music
- It was the reading at our wedding, and reminds us of that day

Now see if you can identify which of these passages we chose they might relate to:

Genesis 1:3

Luke 14:23

Psalm 23

John 1:1-10

Psalm 73:23-24

John 3:16

Psalm 121

John 3:34

Proverbs 3:6

1 Corinthians 10:23

Isaiah 43:1

1 Corinthians 11:11-13

We don't have room to quote all these much loved highlights in full here, but why not dig out your own bible and delve into it to explore our selections?

Do you agree with our choices? What would you choose?

You can find the text of the address in full and much more on the Bible Society website. Look for Bible Sunday 2016.

EVENING WORSHIP

// SUNDAY'S AT 6:00 PM

OUR NEW EVENING SERVICE AT THE SAYSELL CENTRE, ST. THOMAS á BECKET

You are warmly invited to share with us in a regular time of informal worship, prayer and teaching.

Please join us in the Saysell Centre on the first Sunday of each month starting on **Sunday 6th November from 6.00pm until 6.45pm.**

This will be a time to relax, sing today's worship songs, a time for prayer, a time to meet – a time to connect with God in a fresh way.

If you want to know more please contact Paul Morcombe, Church Warden, on 01291 641671.



THE BELLS, THE BELLS

October 2016

The Shirenewton ringers have traditionally arranged two tours each year to visit different parts of the country and ring the bells in that area. One tour takes place in the summer and the other in the winter, named accordingly. Touring around is a common activity for ringers and the majority of towers welcome visitors.

Our mission this year for our Summer Tour was to visit Hampshire in the area around the town of Alton. Before deciding the towers to be visited and the order they should occur a suitable campsite was sought, initially without any success as they either seemed to be themed for bush craft and the like or for caravans and motorhomes exclusively. Simultaneously seeking a suitable pub for the Saturday lunch stop the Fox & Goose at Greywell was identified which also offered free camping provided the pub was utilised to some extent. The only catch was that



the washing facilities were admitted to be somewhat primitive, but in our experiences over the years this seems the norm for most British campsites. So the tour was rejigged to start and finish at Greywell with the lunch stop now at The Greyfriar at Chawton immediately opposite Jane Austen's birthplace. The date for the tour was set over the weekend of 2/3rd September.

Seventeen of Shirenewton's ringers (Mike and Pip Penney, Charles and Chris Eickhoff, Christine, Simon and Maddie Stanley, Glynis MacDonald, Bob Millar, Sam Bolingbroke, Sam Kellaway, Jane and James Leney, Ritchie and Eleanor Tout and Simon and Pip Flockhart travelled from Wales by car and arrived on the Friday afternoon. Tents were erected and a communal gazebo set up. Ringing was arranged that evening at nearby Newnham [5 bells], Upton Grey [6 bells] and Greywell [3 bells]. This was followed by a fish and chip supper back at the Fox & Goose.

Saturday dawned bright and after a light breakfast we headed out to Herriard [6 bells]. We next visited Ellisfield [5 bells] where we were joined by John Montagu, then onto Dummer [5 bells], Preston Candover [6 bells] and then Bentworth [6 bells]. Lunch was at Chawton after which we rang the bells. Then into Alton to ring at All Saints] followed by Binsted, Froyle (where we were joined by Kate Stanley and her future husband Russel) and finally Bentley - all the afternoon rings were of 6 bells.

Back at Greywell the evening proved damp with some early drizzle but this cleared and the traditional BBQ was enjoyed by all. This was not the end of the tour however. On Sunday some ringers returned to Upton Grey to assist with the service ringing and the other ringers also rang for service at the very impressive church at Odiham, followed by further service ringing at South Warnborough. We then all met up again at the Fox & Goose for a late breakfast/brunch before packing up and returning to Wales. In the evening we were all guests of Jane and Charles Eickhoff for the post-tour celebration.

Another truly memorable Summer Tour.

On Friday 4th November commencing about 4.30 pm there is to be an attempt at a peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor at Shirenewton to commemorate 100 years to the day the death of Private Frederick Stevens in the Great War. Frederick Stevens was a resident of and ringer at Shirenewton. The peal will be rung half-muffled as is the tradition.

The picture shows the ringers at Bentley at the end of the Saturday Tour in Hampshire.

M.D.Penney

BRING AND SHARE EVENING

TALK ON CHEPSTOW BRIDGE

On Saturday 22nd October John Burrows gave us the most fascinating and interesting talk in the Saysell Centre about the construction of the Old Wye Bridge in Chepstow, as part of the regular 'Bring and Share' events in the Saysell Centre. These evenings are community events where we can all get together to share good food and good company whilst listening to an interesting talk on a fascinating subject, and Saturday night was no exception.

John started his talk by putting this iron arch road bridge in historical context by comparisons with bridges of a similar age, similar design, similar construction and similar purpose, pointing out that it has not only been the world's largest bridge in its category, but is now the only one built before 1830 that is still standing. He



explained to his enraptured audience that the designer and builder, John Urpeth Rastrick, was better known for his railways and engines than bridges – he built the first railway in North America – and also had commissions in South America. Rastrick won the competition to build the bridge to a design submitted by John Rennie, the world's most famous engineer at that time who re-built London Bridge. But as soon as he received his commission to build Chepstow Bridge, Rastrick changed the design and built the supremely elegant five arch bridge we see today.

Rastrick knew about the huge tidal range of the Wye – at 48 feet the greatest in the world – and the importance of keeping the River Wye open to shipping heading for the port at Monmouth. He had studied other iron bridges and was well acquainted with the work of another famous engineer, Thomas Telford. In particular, Rastrick took the idea of one of Telford's single span iron bridges and appears to have replicated it five times to achieve his design for Chepstow Bridge – the first five span iron arch bridge in the world.

The bridge has never received the recognition it deserves because of a number of factors that incidentally impacted on it. It failed to make the lead story in the local press when it was opened on 24th July 1816 because The Duke of Wellington, recently victorious over Napoleon at Waterloo, visited Monmouth at the same time of the official opening and the Iron Duke dominated all the headlines; Rastrick was not considered to be a bridge engineer; it is commonly referred to as the Old Wye Bridge rather than Chepstow Bridge; and in general the huge tidal changes on the Wye are not well known.

The bridge was opened on 24th July 1816, and 200 years later to the day John Burrows organised a commemorative event which followed the original programme in every detail. The original parade through Chepstow (down the newly renovated Bridge Street) was led by the senior engineer John Rastrick; and in 2016 it was led by Sir John Arnold, President of the Institute of Civil Engineers and the recent High Sheriff of Gwent, Andrew Tuggey. In 1816 the senior engineer was followed by the magistrates who were the legal owners of the bridge; in 2016 the chairs of Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire County Councils led a group of local magistrates in the parade; and of course there were representatives from the community councils, and the police, and school children, and a river bank fair – if you missed it, I am assured it will be repeated on 24th July 2116.

We are very grateful to John for his talk and for answering questions afterwards; and also to all those who brought such delicious food for us all to share.

There will be another Bring and Share event soon – keep an eye out in the pages of this magazine!



SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Well the good news is that the Church shopping portal (www.shirenewtonshop.com) is back up and functional. It's not fully populated but I'm adding a few stores each week and it will soon be back to its full glory. I'm taking the opportunity to cut out a number of the less interesting shops with the aim to go for quality rather than quantity. I've completely changed the approach and, rather than a script, it's back to a plain HTML website based on the same template as the main Church site. So it looks a lot better and, I think, is easier to use.

All shops are on every pages in the left hand margin listed alphabetically or, at least, the categories (i.e. A – Z) are alphabetical. Within each category it's fairly random. You can search using the browsers 'find' feature to locate a specific store. If you don't know how to use the browser's find feature then there is a helpful guide under the search function. Look for the magnifying glass symbol.

The even better news is that year to date the shopping portal has generated £681 for the Church. That's already more than the whole of last year. For those of you unfamiliar with the concept. The Shopping portal features a number of well known and or high street stores. By clicking through to the stores from the website (www.shirenewtonshop.com) the store website registers that you've been referred by the portal and the portal earns a commission if you spend money.

The largest earned by far is the travel section which is fairly extensive with click throughs to Expedia, Opodo, Hotels.com, Booking.com, The Trainline, hotels, airlines, travel portals, car hire, airport parking, et al. Other leading providers include Amazon, Countrywide, Screwfix, Argos, etc.

So please use it. Every little helps!

Moving onto another subject. Privacy. I've been meaning to alert people to the Windows 10 privacy issues for a while. TechRepublc goes as far as to say 'Windows 10 violates your privacy by default! The key point is that, by default, Microsoft collects various personal and private information about your use of the computer. As TechRepublic notes 'much of users' personal data is synced with Microsoft's servers'. Turning off and disabling a number of settings can resolve this. Here are two links (including the aforementioned TechRepublic article) which explain the issue and what to do: <http://tinyurl.com/okvkmzq> ; <http://tinyurl.com/q37y435> .

I know nothing about Macs and privacy but, to keep the balance, here's a link on Macs privacy: <http://tinyurl.com/jj6coml>

Next month I'm planning to look at the privacy issues around mobile phones. Until then

Safe browsing
David Cornwell
webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com



ShireWinterFest

Acoustic Music Festival

**Saturday 3rd December 2016
7pm - 12am**

Huntsman Hotel, Shirenewton

BANDS:

**Rob Pennington
New Voyage
Far Out Mate
Big Sky**

TICKETS:

**£10 - includes
The Hunstman Hog Roast.
Available at the
Huntsman Shirenewton
(01291 641521)**

www.shirefest.org

In support of: Shirefest 2017 Charity Fund Raising Music Festival

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the October meeting

There are still two vacant positions for the co-option of Community Councillors for the ward of Shirenewton – **if you are interested in applying for one of these vacancies, please contact the Clerk** (details below).

Planning applications considered

1. DC/2014/01185 Reserved matters application for 7 dwellings and associated works on land adjoining Clearview, Shirenewton
Granted outline permission under application DC/2009/01061, including details to discharge condition 1 (Reserved Matters) and condition 4 (Boundary Treatments). Council made no comment on the discharge of conditions
2. DC/2016/01104 'Oslo' Mynyddbach Discharge of condition 12 (drainage) from previous application DC/2015/00431 in regards to foul and surface drainage.
Council made no comment on the discharge of conditions
3. Council discussed further information received from S Pritchard, Footpaths Officer, Mon CC on the proposed path order at 119 - Ridge House Stables and was minded not to approve the proposal in view of the following points:
The RoW for both routes (119 and 120) is used to move race horses to and from the stables, to a horse exercising ring, and the holding ring for the gallops at the entrance to the drive. This is likely to cause nuisance to the public using RoW 119 therefore is an offence under the Highways Act 1980. Animals likely to cause a nuisance should not be kept in a field with a RoW (there has been an objection from a neighbour), this is again an offence under the Highways Act 1980.

Council questioned whether there was a change of use made in around 2002, from agricultural to equestrian racing stables, and if so, were the RoW's taken into consideration? These issues should have been resolved at that time. (The Mon CC Planning website does not hold applications that old). The existing RoW 119 could be diverted around the obstructing building if fenced both sides with membrane laid and the footpath stoned. This would overcome the objection from the Ramblers Association.

Council also pointed out that the gallops at this location cross RoW 110 at two points and pose a threat to public safety. Was this considered when/if planning consent was given? Clerk to respond to S Pritchard.

Police Report

During the month there had been one report of an abandoned vehicle in Wentwood and two of off-road biking in Wentwood which had been brought to the attention of the Natural Resources Wales Community Support Officer who is

monitoring these incidents. PCSO Jones raised awareness of several burglaries in local villages and asked residents to be vigilant. There had been no calls to Brookacre during the month.

Other items of interest

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 13 November 2016. Community Council Chair to lay a wreath.

Dates of next meetings – Monday 7th November and Monday 5th December, both at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Members of the public may attend and address the Council for the first 15 minutes of each meeting.

Find more information in the draft copy of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous minutes of meetings can be found on the Council's website www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council -

Mrs Hilary Counsell

Tel: 01291 421307

E-mail: Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

Saturday 14th January 2017 at 8.00 p.m.

There will be another village trip to the Theatre Royal, Bath on Saturday 17th January 2017 to see The Play That Goes Wrong. A brief synopsis of the plot reveals that the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society are putting on a murder mystery, but as the title suggests, everything that can go wrong...does! As the accident prone thesp's battle on against all the odds to reach their final curtain call, hilarious results ensue! This is a Mischief Theatre production.

It is hoped to secure tickets at £27.50 a head, depending on what seats are available when the booking is made, and transport will cost between £20 and £30 a head depending on numbers. The coach will leave The Square, Shirenewton at 6.30 p.m. and return to the same place at about 11.30 p.m.

Please could you let Bill Clark (01291 641783 or wiliamjhclark@btinternet.com) know by Wednesday 30th November if you would like to come, because the theatre will need paying shortly after that. He will then send out another email asking for payment and giving details of how to pay. This trip is conveniently positioned between the excesses of Christmas/New Year at the start of January, and the Shirenewton panto at the end of January – what better way to fill this tedious gap in your social calendar.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our society has had a busy summer, the last meeting of our year was in July and we had a talk given by Dr David Thomas on his research into a local family emigrating to America and making a great success of their new life in the States, the talk was entitled 'A House called Chepstow – an American Connection' .

Members of our society were involved in the National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny at the end of July in the Lle Hanes (The History Place), everyone agreed that this event was a great success returning to the county after over one hundred years. Well done Monmouthshire!

Our new year starts with a packed programme of talks & visits, with I hope something of interest for everyone. September started with a talk given by John Burrows entitled 'Severn Tides' , this was well received by our members. He gave us details of the amazing phenomena of the second highest tidal flow in the world passing our door step, well Chepstow, twice a day, is really something to think about.

We are still researching the men who died in 1st W.W. that appear on the village war memorial. If you are related to these men or know of anyone who is, please let us know.

Also we have been asked for information from a descendant of *Ann Rosser*, Ann was one of the founders of Earlswood Valley Chapel (which is the oldest Methodist chapel in Wales), if anyone has any information on her I would be pleased to hear from you.

Dates for your diary:

Monday, 7 th November	Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall, 2.00 pm-5.00 pm
Tuesday, 29 th November	Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel Talk given by Prof Ray Howell entitled 'New Approaches to the Iron Age in Wales'.

Everyone welcome at the above events

Further information and contact details on our web-site:
www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

FAIRTRADE NEWS

In 2015 the member states of the UN came together to agree goals and a plan of action to end poverty by 2030. The 'Leave No One Behind' concept is transformational, to ensure that no person - regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status - is denied universal human rights and basic economic opportunities. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals cover issues such as poverty, inequality, gender equality, health, education and climate change. The Fairtrade company I work with - Traidcraft will focus on the goals most closely related to its mission :

NO POVERTY - To eradicate extreme poverty for all people and reduce poverty by half.

ZERO HUNGER - To end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture

GENDER EQUALITY - To achieve gender equality and empower women and girls

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH - To promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION - To ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

This year Traidcraft and its partners supported 558,900 people - running 18 projects in 11 countries, helping poor producers and artisans grow businesses and find markets, fighting poverty with bees, textiles, forest fruits, coffee, horticulture, cotton, tea, jute and handicrafts.

It does seem hard to marry these goals with the huge international corporations who dominate world trade. As ever I urge you to consider the provenance of all your purchases. Websites such as Ethical Superstore offer a large range of products - or of course there is always Traidcraft!

Christmas - consider your purchases!!
Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

STARGAZING

The slightly orange-coloured planet Mars is in the early evening sky to the South. On the 6th the Crescent Moon lies just above Mars. Towards the end of November, very bright Venus can be seen to the right of Mars.

The planet Jupiter is now in the morning sky to the East, where it is above the bright star Spica. It is very close to the Crescent Moon on the 25th.



The seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening. It is also known as the Great Bear or Ursa Major. Ursa Major was one of the constellations listed by the 2nd century AD Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy. The constellation of Ursa Major has been seen as a bear by many civilizations. In Greek mythology, Zeus, the king of the gods, falls in love with a young woman named Callisto. Hera, Zeus' jealous wife, transforms the beautiful Callisto into a bear and places her in the heavens.

The cross of Cygnus is high in the western sky. The "W" of Cassiopeia lies nearly overhead in the Milky Way.

The Milky Way is a faint band of light visible on clear dark nights. It is the combined light of an enormous number of stars that make up our galaxy. There are approximately 200 billion galaxies in the Universe. Each galaxy contains very approximately 200 billion stars. So that's very approximately a mind-boggling 40,000,000,000,000,000 stars in the Universe.

DIAMOND WEDDING

Margaret Joan and Donald John Buttress



Margaret lived at 4 Council Houses, Usk Road and is a first cousin of Tony, Gordon and Ivan Hughes. They were all extremely close as children and spent an awful lot of time together at gran Hughes' The Batwell Farm and at the Mynders Farm. They are all still, very much in contact with each other.

Margaret Joan Hughes and Donald John Buttress were married at St Thomas A Becket Church on 13.10.1956 by Reverend Basil Williams. They began courting in 1952 after 'making eyes' at each other, 2 days a week in the Newport BHS restaurant. Margaret was in the final year of Technical College and Donald was an apprentice builder on day release.

The morning of the wedding, younger brother, Colin Hughes had the job of clearing the weeds from the paving stones in the church grounds. The reception, for over 80 guests, was held in the ballroom of the Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow. Immediately after the reception, guests made their way to the

railway station to wave the happy couple off on their honeymoon to Bournemouth. A cousin paid the train driver £5 to continuously sound the train horn.

Many of the guests then made their way to the family home in Shirenewton to indulge in a few drinks that had been stored in the coal house.

Every year, Margaret gives a lady called Sally, who lives on Usk Road, 12 self addressed envelopes in order for her to receive a monthly copy of the Parish Magazine.





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GARDENING CORNER

At last we are getting a couple of colder nights and hopefully things will start to settle down a bit. I started to shut the bees down a few weeks ago. If you read the advice, this should all be done before October arrives as you shouldn't open the hives up in this month. However the weather has been unseasonably warm and so delaying didn't seem to be much of a problem. So I treated the hives with a new treatment on the market for the varoa mite, and when this was done I removed the queen excluders and put on the mouse guards to prevent the little critters setting up home in a nice warm hive over the winter months. Four of the hives couldn't be treated with the new medicine, as they were a bit weak (numbers of bees wise). I have since treated these with an older medicine which I could fortunately use as it was still warm enough for it to work. Each hive is now surrounded by a wrap of rabbit netting to protect the wooden sides from the attentions of green woodpeckers. I had problems with these pretty birds a couple of years ago as the ground was frozen hard and they were obviously looking for an alternative food supply that was easier to obtain. Not all birds will do this and apparently it is a learnt habit. I'm hoping that the wire will ensure enough generations go by that they haven't learnt from their parents, but of course there is no telling if they are attacking other hives nearby, so although the wire makes it more of a challenge to open a hive up, I think the extra effort is worthwhile.

Applying the treatment to the last four hives allowed me to check the status of the weakest hives. All the advice is that you should unite weaker hives before winter sets in, but I've never had a lot of success with this, so prefer to leave them to take a chance. The only other task I need to do then is to put an insulation 'pad' over the top cover inside the hive, just to give them a little more protection from the winter weather (assuming we get any of course). Whilst opening the hives up I did notice that the stronger hives seem to have an awful lot of bees still. This is a bad sign in my books as the more bees there are this time of year, then the more hungry mouths to feed over winter, which will stretch available food supplies. Hence why some cold weather would have been welcome sooner as this would stop the queen laying so many eggs, and so keep numbers of bees down to a more sensible level.

Bulbs for planting in the garden arrived a couple of weeks ago. I'd ordered several hundred daffodils along with a few more alliums (ornamental onions) and some English and Dutch iris. I've managed to get most of these in the ground, so hopefully some early colour in the spring. I've planted more daffodils each year, but we seem to lose many of them through rotting off or eelworm damage, so new bulbs are necessary to keep the early colour going - not to mention an early source of food for the bees. The garlic also arrived and I managed to get the bulbs planted the next day. I have a few more asparagus on order as I have several gaps in the two beds. I've had notification that these are on the way so hopefully I will get these in the ground immediately they arrive. The asparagus 'ferns' will need cutting down and the beds thoroughly weeded so hopefully I can do all these jobs at the same time.

I cut off the climbing bean plants a couple of weeks ago and the leaves have all shrivelled now. I want the pods to dry off a bit more if possible, because these beans are for drying for soups and casseroles. They are better to dry 'on the

vine', but it is a balance to get it right. Leave it too long and the rains will come and the beans will then likely rot. The forecast for the next few days is dry, so hopefully this will give me a window to get them in and stored for final drying.

The late purple sprouting broccoli plants are growing on strongly. I thought I had left the sowing of these too late, but they have caught up, and more importantly appear to have missed the worst of the caterpillars, which have been very bad this year. I have plans for insect barriers next year so hopefully this will prove a success. We grow green Romano cauliflowers each year as these have the finest flavour going. Fortunately we did manage to pick twice and freeze quite a few, but the caterpillars ruined an otherwise very valuable crop.

We are still picking our own tomatoes, which is most unusual for this time of year. We had picked loads of the large cooking variety for soups and passata sauce – to the point we had little room left in the freezer. A close friend had lost all of their outside tomatoes to blight, which meant the lady of the household couldn't make any chutney. A phone call for assistance resulted in the last 15lbs of green tomatoes being picked and heading for Raglan! This was a bonus for us as it meant we could clear the plants out of the way earlier than usual. Currently the space has been taken up with a pile of timber that I'm treating with wood preservative – handy having a place in the dry!

The raised beds in the vegetable area are the next area to receive attention. Some still have crops such as leeks and Brussel sprouts, so these won't be cleared until spring, but the rest will be weeded and manured and left over winter. I have some manure that has been 'accidently' mixed with topsoil. I have used this to very good effect to replace 'sick' soil in the greenhouses where we have grown the same crop for many years. Outside we have club root in many of the raised beds which limits what we can grow in those affected to crops other than the brassica family. I'm tempted to dig the infected soil out and replace with the new mix, but this is a lot of work and I'm not sure my back will be up to it! Maybe I'll just try a couple to begin with and see how we get on. One bed had a crop of sunflowers grown especially for the flower arranger in the house. I've left these for the time being as the birds were going to town clearing the seeds from the old flower heads. They have pretty well finished now, so I can set too and clear this bed as well.

In between all this I've been busy building a play area for the grandchildren. This has a Wendy house, climbing frame, a slide and several swings. The song about the gas man coming to call springs to mind however, as the assistant head gardener pointed out that the compost heaps were too close. We couldn't have smelly cabbages rotting down 10 feet from the play area so I now have to dismantle these and build them elsewhere! Oh and the adults will need a seating area to sup tea and to keep an eye on proceedings – perhaps a BBQ area would be nice too for those balmy summer evenings?! I'm beginning to wish I'd just bought the kids a bucket and spade!

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

Nerys's Natty Nosh



As nuts are high in calories they should be eaten in moderation. The fat found in nuts, is of the good variety and can help reduce bad cholesterol and lower the risk of heart disease and stroke. As well as their heart benefits, nuts are also a great source of protein and are packed with fibre, antioxidants, fatty acids and vitamins and minerals. It is worth noting that peanuts are actually legumes and have different nutritional properties from tree nuts, but there are many other good options to pick from including Brazil nuts, cashews, walnuts, pecans and pistachios.

An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but if you want to live longer, a handful of nuts may be a better bet, researchers reported.

The biggest study yet into whether nuts can add years to your life shows that people who ate nuts every day were 20 percent less likely to die from heart disease, cancer or any other cause over 30 years than people who didn't eat them.

Hazelnuts are high in healthy fatty acids, they contain high levels of antioxidant vitamin E, which helps to protect the body from harmful pollutants. Hazelnuts are also rich in iron and calcium and they are a good source of protein.

Gluten & dairy free Chocolate and Hazelnut cake



Ingredients



200g dairy free chocolate, roughly chopped
300g blanched hazelnuts
150g dark muscovado sugar
150g coconut sugar or Agave sugar
6 eggs, separated



For the ganache

200g dairy free chocolate
1 carton of soya cream
Soft fruits to garnish (optional)

Method

- 1 Preheat the oven to 170°C (150°C fan) Gas 3.
- 2 Prepare 9-inch loose-bottomed cake tin, greased and lined with baking paper.
- 3 Slowly melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of simmering water.
- 4 Chop the hazelnuts in a food processor, then add the muscovado and Agave sugar and blitz again to a fine sand. Add in the egg yolks and one white, mix; this will be a stiff batter. When well incorporated, beat in the melted chocolate and set to one side.
- 5 Put the remaining 5 egg whites into a clean bowl and whisk them until they are at a medium peak. Spoon a quarter of the egg white on to the batter and beat in to incorporate, then gently fold in the remaining egg whites. Pour the batter into the prepared tin and bake for 45–50 minutes. A skewer inserted in the centre should come out reasonably clean, but the best indication of whether it's done is a smooth top with perhaps a few cracks, and a subtle springiness to the cake when gently prodded.
- 6 Remove the cake from the oven and allow to cool completely in the tin.

To make the ganache, place the chocolate and cream in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water. Stir continuously until the cream and chocolate are combined. When the cake has cooled, remove it from the tin and place it on a cake stand or plate. Spread the ganache generously over the entire surface Enjoy!

Tips This cake is absolutely delicious. Best served the following day. I have decorated my cake with dipped chocolate strawberries. As an alternative to hazelnuts almonds can be used.

20th October 2016

ENRICHMENT SESSIONS

Enrichment sessions are always extremely popular with pupils and give them the opportunity to practice existing talents or have a go at developing new skills. Yesterday was the last enrichment afternoon for the autumn term for Foundation Phase pupils - they have enjoyed participating in Safe Cycling, Master Chef, Mad Scientists, Orienteering, Music Band, Serious Sewing and Glorious Gardeners this term.

Last Friday Junior pupils had their first enrichment day of the year, which included Scouting Experience, Culture Vultures, Outdoor Creations, Arts & Crafts, Roving Reporters, Musical Madness and Sports Stars. Huge thank you to the staff in both departments and parent helpers for all their hard work in making these sessions such fun!

HARVEST ASSEMBLY

Reception and Year 3 pupils treated parents and grandparents to a wonderful Harvest Assembly on Wednesday. The children had worked extremely hard learning their songs and narration and Reception looked adorable in their pumpkin costumes! Thank you to EVERYONE who brought in food donations for the Chepstow Foodbank ... it is good to know local people will benefit from your generosity. Thank you to Rev Waters for joining us and sharing the Christian message and the School Council and PTA for providing refreshments.



VILLAGE TEA PARTY

Year 5 and Year 6 held an extremely successful village tea party yesterday, a fabulous way to end the term, celebrating and sharing their learning experiences. They planned the whole event, sending invitations, budgeting for and buying the refreshments, making the cakes and preparing their learning about the village of Shirenewton to share with their guests. This pioneering project has made their numeracy and literacy lessons so much more meaningful and irresistible! Here are a few of the emails I have received thanking them for their hard work ...



"Can you please give our thanks to all the pupils and staff who were involved with today's event. I know all the members of S.L.H.S. who attended really had an enjoyable time. Please send congratulations to the chefs who produced all the scrumptious cakes." By Shirenewton Local History Society

"I just wanted to pass on how well the children did for the tea party this morning. It was very obvious that they had worked extremely hard and it was a pleasure to attend. So a huge thank you to all the children who took part. Well done." By PTA Chair

FIRST SCHOOL DAYS

A photographer from The Argus attended school yesterday to take a photograph of the Reception class for their newspaper; they tell us it is due to be published on 2nd November.

SPORTING FINALS

Following the recent Chepstow Cluster sporting competitions we are delighted to announce our school cross country and football teams have all made it through to the Monmouthshire finals on the following dates:

Y3/4 Football Team were runners-up and Y5/6 Football Team were winners - both teams will compete in the finals on **Friday 10th February** at **Caldicot Leisure Centre 10am until 2pm**. Children need to bring a packed lunch and warm/waterproof clothes with them on the day and parents are welcome to come and watch.

Five pupils from each of the following teams will be going forward to the Monmouthshire Cross Country final - Y3/4 girls; Y3/4 boys; Y5/6 girls; Y5/6 boys - 20 pupils, in total. The final will be held on **Friday 13th January** at **Caldicot Castle 10am until mid-day**. Again, parents are more than welcome to attend and support the children at this event. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

THANK YOU

Although Mrs Galloway (Y6 job share teacher) was only with us for a short time, she made a MASSIVE contribution to school life; Year 6 pupils and all staff will miss her greatly. We wish her every success in her new full time teaching post in her local school which her own children attend and thank her for her commitment and hard work over the last 7 weeks. We welcome back Mrs Graham who will become Mrs Eickhoff's new job share partner after half term.

Golden Ticket Winners

Lucky winners last week were:

Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Oscar, Sophia & Emi	George, Dexter & William	Zak, Emilia & Alexander	Albert, Mia & Thomas	Enfys, Emily & Harry	Bobby, Carys, George & Isabella	Immy, Brooke & Anna

Continued on page 24

PTA NEWS

- 1) A huge thank you to all those who have volunteered to help out at the school disco on the 10th November, we couldn't run them without your assistance and are very grateful.
- 2) The Shaw Trust bags have now been sent home for you to fill with good quality old clothes, sheets, shoes, toys, bric-a-brac... Please bring them AFTER school or on the EVENING of THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER , or, on the MORNING of FRIDAY 4th NOVEMBERNot before as storage space is very limited! They will be collected from school before lunch on the 4th. Extra Shaw Trust bags can be collected from the school foyer/office.
- 3) The children have designed their own Christmas cards for you to order if you wish! Hopefully they came home yesterday but if not they'll be in the class going home tray and you will receive them first day back!
- 4) Save the date ... Christmas Fayre booked for Saturday 10th December 12-2pm. Plenty of stalls with a special appearance from a special guest!

AUTUMN CALENDAR

**More information & reminders will be 'schooped' nearer the time
(School ID = 10134)**

New additions are added in red to help you spot them!

Mon 24th Oct to Fri 28th Oct - Half Term

Mon 31st Oct INSET (Maths)

Wed 2nd Nov Reception photo in The Argus

Thu 3rd Nov Open Morning for parents (Welsh)

Fri 4th Nov Shaw Trust collection

Thu 10th Nov PTA Disco

Fri 18th Nov Children in Need day (non-uniform, wear something 'spotty' instead for a £1 donation)

Mon 21st Nov Governors' Meeting

Fri 25th Nov Flu Immunisation

Fri 2nd Dec KS2 Dress Rehearsal

Mon 5th Dec KS2 Christmas Play 6pm

Tue 6th Dec KS2 Christmas Play 9.30am (being videoed - no pre-school children)

Tue 6th Dec FP Dress Rehearsal pm

Wed 7th Dec FP Christmas Play 2pm (being videoed - no pre-school children)

Thu 8th Dec FP Christmas Play 9.30am

Fri 9th Dec Pantomime Day (Christmas Carol) in school

Sat 10th Dec PTA Christmas Fayre 12-2pm

Mon 12th Dec Carol Concert at Shirenewton Church 6pm

Wed 14th Dec Christmas Dinner

Fri 16th Dec Last Day of Autumn Term

Mon 19th Dec Mon 2nd Jan - Christmas Hols

Tue 3rd Jan - Back to School



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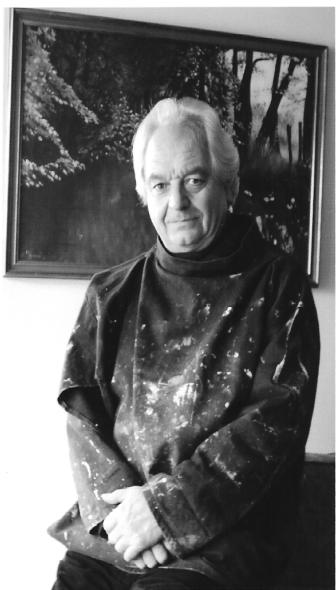
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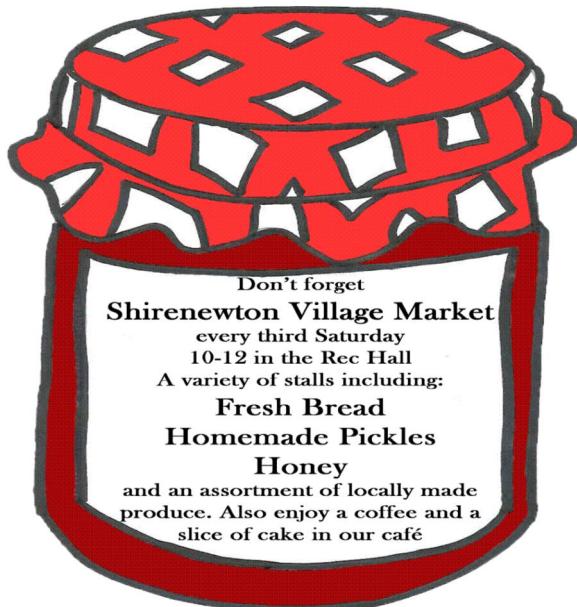
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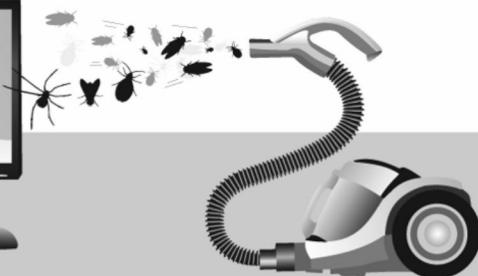
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People's Warden

Paul Morcombe 01291 641671

PCC Secretaries

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PCC Treasurers

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Dr James Leney 01291 641271

Jane Smith-Haddon 01291 641525

Frances Gray 01291 622465

Gift Aid Secretary

Ruth Savagar 01291 641411

Organists

Karen Millar 01291 650521

Ruth Savagar 01291 641411

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Kerry Baker 01291 641925

Tower Captain

Mike Penney 01291 650653

Church Hall Booking

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818

Safeguarding Officer

Dr. Kerry Baker 01291 641925

Church Flowers

Maureen Moody 01291 641524

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200 Club

Graham Lambert 01291 641175

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Secretary and Church Warden

Monnica Williams monnica.williams@virgin.net

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shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

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Mario Lenza 01291 641333

Richard Kopp 01291 641581

Beverley Moore 01291 641532

Mynyddbach Ward

Lynne Prosser 01291 641666

Ian Moore 01291 650766

Newchurch West

Ian Martin 01291 650014

Earlswood Ward

Paul Harris Chair 01291 650871

MCC for Shirenewton

Ken Morton 01291 650268

Graham Down 01291 621846

grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

David Davies 020 7219 8360

daviesd@parliament.uk

Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts

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	louise.thorpe@gwent.pnn.police.uk	
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore	01291 641532
Earlswood	Sue Leat	01291 641207
Other Local Organisations		
Beavers	Julie Hitchcock	01291 650548
Brownies	Bev. Leaf	01291 641680
	Jaci Crocombe	01291 641681
Church Fete	Mark Tomlins	marktomlins@me.com
Earlswood Hope	Mrs Sylvia Jeremiah, Mr Raymond Jeremiah	01291 641726
Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall		
	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818
	glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com	
Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel		
	Avril Smith	01291 650733
Gaerllwyd Baptist	Mrs E Remnant	Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA
Girl Guides	Helen Cann	01291 650835 cannhelen@gmail.com
Recreation Association	Gordon Hughes	01291 641356 gordon.hughes3@tesco.net
Recreation Hall booking	Beryl Saysell	01291 641637
St Peters Church Newchurch		
	Enid Heritage	01291 622708
Shirenewton Local History Society		
	Dorothy Brabon	01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com
Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)		
	Neil Fuller	01291 641324
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Initiative for Local Enterprise (SMILE)		
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Caerwent Group Mothers Union		
	Rosemary Carey	01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk
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Shirenewton Play Group	Beverly Lindsay	Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com
Shirenewton Primary School		
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Shirenewton Tennis Association		
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Shirenewton Toddler Group	Jude Langdon	07981 368213
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Fairtrade/Traidcraft Womens Institute (WI)	Marion McAdam	01291 641316
	Carole Jones (President)	01292 641791
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DIARY DATES

Nov	Event	Location
2nd 10.00am	Requiem Eucharist	St. Tewdric's Church, Mathern
7th 7.30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
7th 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
13th 10:50	Remembrance Service	Shirenewton War Memorial then afterwards in Shirenewton Church
29th	Shirenewton Local History Society	Huntsman Hotel
Dec	Event	Location
3rd 7:00pm	ShireWinterFest	Huntsman Hotel
4th 11:00am	Advert Fair & Coffee morning	Saysell Rooms
5th 7:00pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
16th 6:30pm	Carols round the Christmas Tree	Tredegar Arms Car Park
18th 10:00am	Christmas Praise Service	Shirenewton Church
23rd 4:00pm	Carols & Christingles	Shirenewton Church

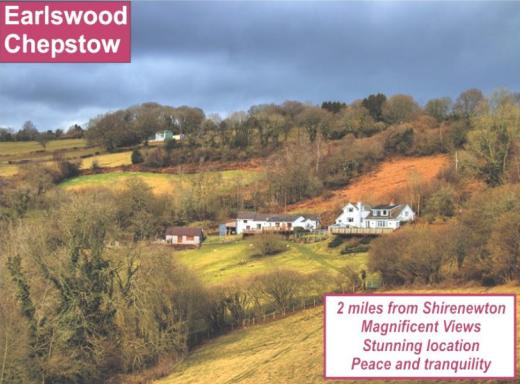
Readers and Sides Persons

November to December 2016

St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
6th November	3rd Sunday before Advent	Bob Grattan Pat White	Bob Grattan Graham Lambert
13th November	Remembrance Sunday	Mark Broughton Cynthia Smith	Mark Broughton Cynthia Smith
20th November	Christ The King	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
27th November	First Sunday of Advent	Kevin Bounds Ruth Savagar	Kevin Bounds Graham Lambert
4th December	Second Sunday of Advent	Bob Grattan Bill Clarke	Bob Grattan Bill Clarke
11th December	Third Sunday of Advent	Mark Broughton Frances Gray	Mark Broughton Clare Lewis
18th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sally Saysell Margaret Lock	Margaret Lock Graham Lambert
24th December	Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m Holy Eucharist	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
25th December	Christmas Day 10.00 a.m. Family Service	t.b.a.	t.b.a.

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SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

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