



Shirenewton Parish Magazine

April 2024

Price £1:50



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Shirenewton Church Fete

2pm at The Rec



Please do get involved!

We will need help with set up & take down,
stalls, activities, car-parking, parade and
more...

Seirian and Janet
shirenewtonfete@gmail.com

MINISTRY AREA PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets every Thursday from 7.45pm to 9.00pm. During the colder months we meet at The Cedars, Chapel Lane, Pwllmeyric, NP16 6LE. From 2nd May until 24th October we will be meeting in Churches around the Ministry Area.

Please join us, everyone is welcome and no experience is necessary! Please contact David on 07887 853479 for any prayers that you would like us to include or for any questions that you have.

2nd May St. Arvans
9th May St. Tewdric, Mathern
16th May St. Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton
23rd May St. Andoenus, Mounton
30th May St. Peter, St. Pierre
6th June St. Peter, Newchurch
13th June St. Mary, Penterry
20th June Church of the Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg
27th June St. Christopher, Chepstow
4th July St. Mary's Priory, Chepstow
11th July St. Deiniol, Itton
18th July St. Arvans
25th July St. Arvans
1st August St. Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton
8th August St. Tewdric, Mathern
15th August St. Andoenus, Mounton
22nd August St. Peter, St. Pierre
29th August St. Peter, Newchurch
5th September St. Mary, Penterry
12th September Church of the Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg
19th September St. Christopher, Chepstow
26th September St. Mary's Priory, Chepstow
3rd October St. Deiniol, Itton
10th October St. James, Devauden
17th October St. Arvans
24th October St. Tewdric, Mathern

severnwyema.co.uk

ShAMBLE 12th & 13th October 2024

save the date!

12th October opening night party at The Rec Hall
29th September Community crafting at The Rec Hall

SHirenewton And Mynydd Bach iLLumination Extravaganza
shirenewtonshamble@gmail.com



Eileen O' Dwyer



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SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the monthly meeting held in March 2024.

Church Clock Maintenance

Cllr Martin reported that the clock has been serviced, however Smith of Derby were unable to repair and have not responded to messages. Clerk to chase Smith of Derby for their full report on the clock.

Planning matters: Application Number: **DM/2024/00131**
Reserved Matters Location: Land adjoining Clearview Court
Shirenewton, Monmouthshire NP16 6AQ

Councillors thanked Cllr Martin for his in-depth report, and after an informative discussion, it was resolved to **reject the application**, and request that the application be **referred to the Planning Committee**.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT March 2024

County Councillor L Brown advised:

Performance and Overview Committee 20th of February 2024

The above committee considered the scrutiny of the month 9 budget report and school examination performance for the secondary schools in Monmouthshire for the years 2022- 2023, with Chepstow comprehensive school doing well but like Monmouth having a lower percentage of FSM (free school meals) pupils. The report on attendance figures shows primary schools recovering from pre-pandemic levels but as a whole Secondary school's attendance figures remain below pre-pandemic levels.

The reports can be found in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MIId=5547>

Cabinet Report of the 28th of February 2024

The above committee considers the month 9 budget proposals as well as the final proposals for the budget for 2023/24 following consultation. The additional documents marked 1a covers the consultation response analysis and 1b the final revenue and budget proposals. It can be seen from the main report at item 4 that the budget proposal to cut £835K from the school's budget has been taken out of the proposal as well as the £50K saving on charging for food waste bags which will remain free to assist recycling rates and avoid WG fines for being under target. On the capital side, further investment of £1.65m in our highways and structures with targeted work to improve the condition of our road infrastructure.

It is understood that approx. an extra £631K is expected for Monmouthshire from the additional £25m extra funding from the UK government for local government for Wales as a whole. In addition, the council tax proposal from the Labour administration is to increase council tax by 7.8% rather than the original proposal of 7.5%, which will raise an additional sum of £202K.

Unfortunately, Monmouthshire County Council has little leg room on the financial side as it cannot rely on reserves due to a general pattern of poor settlements for the revenue support grant for Monmouthshire from the Welsh Government with the original provisional settlement being an increase in revenue support grant of only 2.3% compared to an average of 3.1% for all Welsh Local Authorities.

The Cabinet documents can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=144&MIId=5406>

County Council report of the 29th of February 2024

The County Council report covers the final budget proposals for 2023/24 as detailed in the Cabinet report of the 28th of February and implications for the Council tax bands which were approved by the Labour administration. It also covers the MCC Strategic Equality Plan which has to be reported on every 4 years in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty in the Equality Act 2010, together with other reports.

A motion supported by the Conservative group about Farmers in Wales was considered and the worrying impact for them of the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) proposals by the Welsh Government of 10% under tree cover as woodland or individual trees and 10% of each farm managed as habitat. The motion was approved

on the basis of the Labour administration abstaining. The SFS is currently being consulted upon with a closing date of the 7th of March 2024. A link to the consultation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-consultation>
The County Council documents/reports can be found here:
<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=143&Mid=5663&Ver=4>

Cllr Brown also noted that Cllr Dunn had successfully campaigned with the School Budget and his efforts were very much appreciated, all the council agreed and thanked Cllr Dunn.

Councillor Vacancy

The Councillor Vacancy can now be advertised on the council website.

Green Garden Waste Bins

Councillors commented to remind residents that only **Green Garden waste bins** with the **correct stickers** will be collected and residents will need to ensure they have paid for their annual collection prior to the collections restarting in March.

Dates of the next meeting – Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.00pm and can be attended in person at the public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely via Microsoft Teams (a link will be provided on emailing the Clerk).

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

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council E-mail: shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

VILLAGE CURRY NIGHTS

The idea behind the 3rd Thursday Men's Curry Night and the Last Thursday Ladies Curry Night is for the men and women of the village to come along (on their respective evening) to the Sultan, eat some curry maybe have a drink or two and get to meet their fellow villagers.

These nights will happen every month on the 3rd Thursday (Mens) and last Thursday (Ladies). There is no commitment to regular attendance.

In terms of logistics, start time is 7:30pm. The format is a buffet with no allocated seating (we expect people to sit down randomly and chat). There will be a small range of curries which Raj will change every month, so it doesn't get 'samey'. Please pay the £15 buffet fee on arrival (card or cash) and then any drinks you purchase as you purchase them. To get a handle on numbers, every month I'll publish the next date on the village Facebook group and invite people to confirm their attendance. If you don't have Facebook or would prefer to use email, email me via tredegarmspub@gmail.com

These nights have proven to be very popular and you are welcome to come along and see if it works for you.

David Cornwell

DOG POO

We like to think we are responsible dog owners, and we're sure that most other owners in the village are too. However, we find that we are regularly picking up poo from other peoples' dogs whose owners don't seem to be bothered.

This can happen several times a week. We find it hard to understand why people think it is ok not to pick up within the boundary of the village. Typical locations are along the pedestrian path by the school, outside the church, and seemingly anywhere within a few yards of a poo bin! Some of the dogs concerned are evidently large.

Please don't give dog owners a bad name – just pick it up and put it in one of the many bins provided for the purpose within the village.

Pauline and Hugh James.

CALLING ALL 200 CLUB MEMBERS—CHANGES!

200 Club subs for this year are now due. Many people will be due to pay by standing order (thank you!), but for those of you who prefer to pay by cash or cheque ***please contact Aileen Doggett at Church House, Shirenewton, Chepstow, NP16 6RL, 01291 641459, aileendoggett@btinternet.com***, as soon as possible. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to "Shirenewton PCC 200 Club".

If you are new to the area and are wondering what the 200 Club is all about, then read on...

For each £10 subscribed you are allocated a unique number which is entered into the monthly draw. You can sponsor as many membership numbers as you like in your own name, on behalf of family members or even a pet!

This year we have made a change. We have not increased the annual subscription for many years but this year we have found it necessary to reduce the number of prizes from four to three. There will still be 10 draws per year, August and January being the exceptions, and each draw will pay out prizes of £30, £20 and £10. The draws take place on the third Sunday of the month. The three lucky winners will be announced in church and are notified in the Parish Magazine.

Where does the money go? It goes to you as prize winners and towards the upkeep of the church.
Thank you for your support.

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in March:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Mark Valiant | 2. Claire Lewis |
| 3. Robert Miller | 4. Susan Williams |

TUESDAY 7TH MAY 7.30PM
ST MARY'S PRIORY

**A JOYOUS CELEBRATION TO WELCOME AND
LICENSE OUR NEW MINISTRY AREA LEADERS
ZOE AND BARNEY PIMENTEL**



AND ON
FRIDAY 10TH MAY 7PM – 9PM
A WELCOME TO SEVERN WYE PARTY



MATHERN VILLAGE HALL

63 Chepstow | Usk | Pontypool | Cwmbran

Timetable from 1 April 2024

via Chepstow Community Hospital, Shirenewton, Earlswood,
Gaerllwyd, Llangwm, Gwernesney, Coleg Gwent, Croesyceiliog

Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays

	Sch	HOL
Cwmbran Bus Station [Stand H]	0712	0712 1020 1325 1650
Croesyceiliog Edloglan Square	0717	0717 1025 1330 1656
Pontypool Town Hall	0726	0726 1034 1339 1713
Pontypool Park Road	0727	0727 1035 1340 1714
Pontypool opp Town Hall	0728	0728 1036 1341 1715
Little Mill Pont-y-pia	0735	0735 1043 1348 1722
Usk Colleg Gwent Main Road	0743	0743 1051 1356 1730
Usk Twyn Square	0748	0748 1056 1401 1735
Llangwm Bridge Inn Road	0756	0756 1104 1409 1743
Gaerllwyd Cross Roads	0804	0804 1112 1417 1751
Earlswood West End	0808	0808 1116 1421 1755
Mynyddbach Horsemeadow Rise	0818	0818 1126 1431 1805
Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road	----	0825 1133 1438 1812
Chepstow Comprehensive School	0825	0825 1137 1442 1816
Chepstow Bus Station	0830	0830 1137 1442 1816

Saturdays

0712	1020	1325	1650
0717	1025	1330	1656
0726	1034	1339	1713
0727	1035	1340	1714
0728	1036	1341	1715
0735	1043	1348	1722
0743	1051	1356	1730
0748	1056	1401	1735
0756	1104	1409	1743
0804	1112	1417	1751
0808	1116	1421	1755
0818	1126	1431	1805
0825	1133	1438	1812
0829	1137	1442	1816

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Sorry, there is no Sunday service on route 63

63

Cwmbran | Pontypool | Usk | Chepstow

via Croesyceiliog, Coleg Gwent, Gwernesney, Llangwm, Gaerllwyd, Earlswood, Shirenewton, Chepstow Community Hospital

Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays

Saturdays

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Sorry, there is no Sunday service on route 63

	Sch	HOL
Chepstow Comprehensive School	1525	1525
Chepstow Bus Station	0835 1142 1532 1820	0835 1142 1532 1820
Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road	0839 1146 1536 1824	0839 1146 1536 1824
Mynydd-bach Horsemeadow Rise	0846 1153 1543 1831	0846 1153 1543 1831
Earlswood West End	0855 1202 1552 1840	0855 1202 1552 1840
Gaerllwyd Cross Roads	0858 1205 1555 1843	0858 1205 1555 1843
Llangwm Bridge Inn Road	0905 1212 1602 1850	0905 1212 1602 1850
Usk Twyn Square	0913 1220 1610 1858	0913 1220 1610 1858
Usk Coleg Gwent Main Road	0918 1225 1615 1903	0918 1225 1615 1903
Little Mill Pont-y-pia	0926 1233 1623 1911	0926 1233 1623 1911
Pontypool Town Hall	0934 1241 1631 1919	0934 1241 1631 1919
Pontypool Park Road	0935 1242 1632 1920	0935 1242 1632 1920
Pontypool opp Town Hall	0936 1243 1633 1921	0936 1243 1633 1921
Croesyceiliog Edlogan Square	0944 1251 1641 1928	0944 1251 1641 1928
Cwmbran Bus Station	0948 1255 1645 1932	0948 1255 1645 1932

Sch Operates on schooldays only



Café Church

Sunday April 7th at 3:30 in the Church Room
And thereafter on the 1st Sunday of each month

Café Church is perfect for families!

Or indeed anyone who would like to try an informal style of worship.

Café style refreshments and fellowship for adults and children -
meet new friends and neighbours

Children's activities (primary/ pre-school)
Newspapers

Short service featuring:

- Modern worship songs
- Bible story
- All age address
- Prayers for the issues important to you

Come and give it a try!

PARISH MAGAZINE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

It's that time of year again when you are requested to pay your annual subscription for the ten copies of the parish magazine which will then be delivered to your home throughout 2024.

We are pleased that we have managed to keep the annual subscription for 2024 at £14.00 per annum, the same price as last year.

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

Thank you for your continued support of our parish magazine.

Aileen Doggett
aileendoggett@btinternet.com

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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

We held the Society's Annual Dinner at the Rock & Fountain this year, we all enjoyed our dinner, good company, good food and after dinner we had an excellent talk entitled 'The Tapestry of Life' given by Jonathan Jenkins. He has many artistic talents, including tapestry, he explained how his talent are woven into the object he had produced over the years. A very enjoyable evening.

We are looking forward to Keith Dunn's talk, 'Japan & Wales the big Connection'

We meet in the Church Room on the last Tuesday of the month, everyone welcome.

Dates for your diary

2024

30 th April	Mounton House Garden	Helena Garrish
5 th May	Beating the Bounds	
14 th May	An evening guided walk around Beachley	Richard Clammer
25 th June	Roman Houses XXVI & XXVII in Caerwent	Mark Lewis
3 rd July	Visit to Mounton House Garden	Helena Garrish
30 th July	Oliver Cromwell	Prof Hutton



*SHIRENEWTON LOCAL
HISTORY SOCIETY*

*If you're interested in local
history, why not join our
society.*

*We meet once a month at St Thomas a
Becket Church Room*

*We have a small village archive that
members are able to use.*

*We arrange visits to historic houses and
gardens.*

*We are a friendly group and look forward
to meeting you.*

To contact us for more information:

*Secretary@Shirenewton
localhistorysociety.com*

Registered Charity No.1090167



CHEPSTOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 516919

Annual Membership of Chepstow Agricultural Society is now open

Benefits of Membership:

Members, Vice Presidents & Family Members have free entry to Chepstow Show, with access to the Members Enclosure. Additionally Vice Presidents have access to dedicated parking (near the main ring).

In the Members Enclosure you will find lunch, refreshments and drinks & dedicated toilet facilities.

In fine weather you will be able to sit directly alongside the Main Ring.

More details:

membershipsecretarychepstowshow@hotmail.com

come and sing

Choruses from Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man*
accompanied by Orchestra in Residence,
St Woolos Sinfonia

Saturday April 27th 2024

Newport Cathedral, Gwent NP20 4ED

Registration from 9:15am

with a free concert performance at 3:45pm



Adults - £20

Under 18s - £10

Includes music hire and tea/coffee

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Book online at:

www.stwoolossinfonia.com


ST WOOLOS SINFONIA



Newport
Cathedral
Cadeirlan
Casnewydd



FASHION SHOW



Friday 19th April
by HARTS OF MONMOUTH

“SPRING COLOURS”

ST ARVANS MEMORIAL HALL 7.30PM (doors open 7pm)

S

**Tickets £10 to include a glass of wine or a soft drink available
from Jean Papps 01291 628691 or email
diane.parnell@live.com**

In aid of St Arvans Church

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S NEWCHURCH

Diary Dates 2024

28 th April, 9am–12 noon	Car Boot Sale	Church Farm
29 th June, 7pm	Bingo and Buffet	Church Farm
21 st Sept, 7pm	Harvest Supper	Church Farm
7 th Dec, 7pm	Christmas Quiz & Supper	Church Farm
15 th Dec, 4.30pm	Christingle Service	St Peter's Church
24 th Dec, 4.30pm	Christmas Carol Service	St Peter's Church
25 th Dec, 10am	Christmas Day Service	St Peter's Church



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Gardening Corner

At long last, almost two days where the rain was limited to an odd light shower, the sun has been shining (off and on!) and there has been enough wind to dry the ground enough for me to actually get outside and start doing some weeding and pronging over of the soil. That said, it was very much a case of choose the raised flower border or vegetable bed as the extra height makes all the difference when it comes to what starts to dry first. I say me, but in truth this is always a joint effort as the assistant head gardener always works the areas prior, removing all of the old growth and any weeds that are easily pulled out. Generally, this means the weeding gets left to me as they tend to be dandelions, creeping buttercup and the odd dock, as well as nasty ground running stinging nettles, blackberries, raspberries and couch grass. The couch, comes from our 'lawn' being derived from old meadow land, so it is an area of green, with a lot of weeds. Pride in the lawn is not a high priority, as a verdant green sward requires a lot of effort and obviously time and there are way more important things to be doing. Talking of which, cutting the green stuff is high on the agenda for later today. We did manage to cut it roughly about two weeks ago, but the blades were raised, and the grass was still very 'dewy wet' so the mower was continually blocking, and so a very slow job. Not the ideal, but needs must. It did look better afterwards, and meant the first cut wouldn't be achieved by using the big strimmer, which would have been the alternative for today!

I put the mini hot bed on in the greenhouse about four weeks ago and sowed the first flower and vegetable seeds. The flowers were to provide some early cutting material, whilst the vegetables were either the salad crops that need a long season for growing (cucumbers, melons, peppers and tomatoes). I also put a few hardier seeds in as well, such as onions, leeks, sugar snap peas and broad beans. The results of the initial sowing were a bit mixed. Some like the peas, never germinated at all, even though it was fresh seed (you occasionally have this problem if you save your own seed and haven't stored it properly, but rarely with bought seeds). Those that did germinate OK were potted on into individual cells only for at least half of them to be eaten off by something. I wasn't sure whether woodlice or slugs / snails, so I put some powder down for the first. We always thought woodlice only ate rotting wood, but they are becoming a real pest now both in the greenhouses and out in the main garden. Just to be sure, I went down to the greenhouses after dark with a torch to see if I could catch the culprit 'hard at it'. The worst culprit on this occasion, turned out to be tiny slugs and snails. Needless to say, these were

quickly dispatched with the result that further damage was immediately reduced. The level of damage was such that I had to re-sow some of the seeds and start again. Not a good start to the season.

A couple of weeks ago, I took the decision to turn on the large hot bench and begin the main seed sowing. This bench is divided into two sections. The one is covered with horticultural fleece to keep the warmth in, and is the bit that is used for sowing the seeds. The other half is left uncovered and is used for bringing on the more tender crops, as these are potted on, but still need a bit of extra warmth. The whole bench also acts as a heater for the greenhouse, which keeps it frost free. Just as well, as the last two nights have been bordering on a frost. This time of year, we tend to avoid a frost as we are roughly south facing, and on a slope, so the ground warms up quicker and the cold air 'drains' down into the valley, forming a frost in the bottom, rather than in the garden. At the moment, the uncovered part of the bench is full up with the tomatoes, cucumbers, melons and peppers, but they are getting to the size when they will need to be moved onto the ordinary, unheated benches. We need some better weather though before we can do this, as once these are moved, I tend to turn the temperature down on the big bench or ideally, I turn it off all together. It is about 17 feet long, by about 3 feet wide and suffice to say, it makes a noticeable difference to the speed that the electricity meter turns over. Once this is turned off I will restart the small heated frame so that we can continue to sow and germinate 'little and often'. It is a self-contained sealed unit and very easy to use. It is particularly good for rooting cuttings, something that we will be looking to do shortly for some of the flowers that we have over-wintered, such as dahlias and chrysanthemums. At the moment, I'm not sure just how many of these we will have to deal with. Normally I dig the roots of both up in the late Autumn and then store them in garden compost under the greenhouse benches, until we water them in early spring, after which they begin to shoot out, and selected cutting are then used to start new plants for the coming season. However, this year, it was too wet in Autumn to dig them up initially (they can't be too wet or they will rot in storage and then of course I was ill, so they have stayed in the ground outside all winter. It may just

be a case of cutting our losses and ordering a few new rooted cuttings. Once these arrive, they are potted on and grown in the warmth of the greenhouse. This establishes the plants quickly and means that I can then cut the tops off as soon as the plants reach a suitable height. This not only means that the young plants form side shoots that give you a much bushier plant and a lot more flowers over the season, but also gives you another cutting that can be potted on, and after placing in the warm bench, results in a doubling up of your rooted cuttings, so twice the number of plants for your money.

Outside, other jobs that were delayed due to ill health will need to be tackled. This includes the fruit cage, that not only needs the netting pulling over, but also need weeding and the old fruit canes cutting off and this season's fruiting canes tying in. This will need some drier weather though as it is sited in a wetter part of the garden. The hedges also need a trim, but these may have to wait now until the birds have stopped nesting.

Another priority job that needs to be sorted is the bees. Currently we haven't had a warm enough day to open them up for the first time this year. It needs to be at least 15 degrees before you can expose the brood and we haven't had long enough sun and warmth for me to make a start. The longer this takes though, the more problems I'm likely to encounter as the bees are flying on to better days, and they are bringing in pollen, which means the queen has started laying, so this is becoming an urgent task. More of them next time.

Happy gardening until next month, and have a good Easter.

Steve and Felicity Hunt.



To advertise in this magazine contact

Bill Clark: 01291 641783; parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com

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and 10 items in our large boxes*



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Tint
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Rachel
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Shirenewton W.I.

This month, we celebrated the 72nd birthday of Shirenewton W.I. with a delicious Fish & Chip supper at The Huntsman Hotel. Many thanks must go to Phil and the team for accommodating us at short notice.

Following the meal, Ruth and Claire once again tested our “little grey cells” with a general knowledge quiz, with the winning team only missing out on one question ... Do YOU know how long Rip van Winkle slept???

It was good to see so many members, both new and old, celebrating the longevity of the W.I. in our village. Many thanks to all for making this such a successful and enjoyable evening.









Our next meeting is on Thursday 14th April at the Recreation Hall at 7:15pm, when Jo Bolland will be treating us to a “Strictly Evening”, sequins and spray tan are optional! All are welcome, even if you just want to find out what W.I. is all about.

For more information, please contact Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton-Smith on 01291 628838.



Have your say about the future direction and priorities for our Severn Wye Ministry Area

 In October 2022, Monmouth Diocese launched its Vision, with 5 branches:

-  Discipleship: Growing more like Jesus
-  Stewardship: Living as thankful and generous people
-  Environment: Caring for God's Creation
-  Social Justice: Serving together to strengthen our communities
-  Equality and diversity: welcoming all

We will be holding a workshop to discuss how our own strategy here in Severn Wye reflects these themes, and to develop our priorities moving forward. [

The workshop will be led by Archdeacon Stella Bailey* and Archdeacon Ian Rees.

Our new priests Zoe and Barney will be joining us.

All are welcome – it's not just for Council members – everyone can have their say.

St Christopher's Church Bulwark

Saturday 16th March 9.30am – 12.30pm

Tea and coffee will be available. If you would like to have the opportunity to meet and socialise with others from across the Ministry Area after the session, please bring your own lunch !!!!

*(*Stella has been instrumental in securing for us the funding for our new Hub church)*

Nerys's Natty Nosh



Chicken Satay with brown rice and green salad.

Serves 4

Ingredients

500g pack skinless chicken breast fillets
2 preserved gingers in syrup
2 garlic cloves
zest and juice of 1 lime
1 tsp Agave
1 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp mild curry powder
2 tbsp smooth peanut butter

Sauce

165ml can coconut milk/ marinade
cooked rice
and lime wedges, to serve

Method

Place the chicken in a plastic bag and beat gently with a rolling pin.

Blitz the marinade. That is all the ingredients except for the coconut milk.

Place the chicken in a bowl and cover with marinade. Ensure all the chicken is coated.

Leave for several hours to marinade or overnight.

Grill the chicken until cooked through.

Heat the coconut milk in a saucepan with the remaining marinade. Ensure the sauce is cooked all the way through before serving.

Serve with rice, green salad, and a lime wedge.



Raspberry tiramisu

This was made by a friend.

Ingredients

8 sponge fingers soaked in 100 ml black coffee
Mix 500g natural Greek yogurt with sweetener to taste and 1tsp vanilla essence
Punnet of raspberries
Dark chocolate

Method

Divide sponge between four sundae dishes, cover with half yogurt mix then add punnet of raspberries halved, top with remaining yogurt and chill for couple of hours. Grate dark chocolate over just before serving.



Clafoutis served with soya cream and freeze-dried sour cherries.

I wanted to make a very light pudding using fresh fruit I had in the fridge, so I chose to make Clafoutis. The addition of crunchy freeze-dried sour cherries gave the dish another dimension.

It was tasty and so easy. 👍

Serves 4

Ingredients

250g soft fruits; I used strawberries, blueberries, and blackberries

50g ground almonds or wholemeal spelt flour

1 egg beaten in 100ml milk (oat, dairy or soya)

50ml single cream (soya or dairy)

75ml maple syrup



Method

Preheat the oven 180C/160C

Fan/ Gas 4

Place the fruit in a shallow ovenproof dish. If using frozen fruit, defrost first.

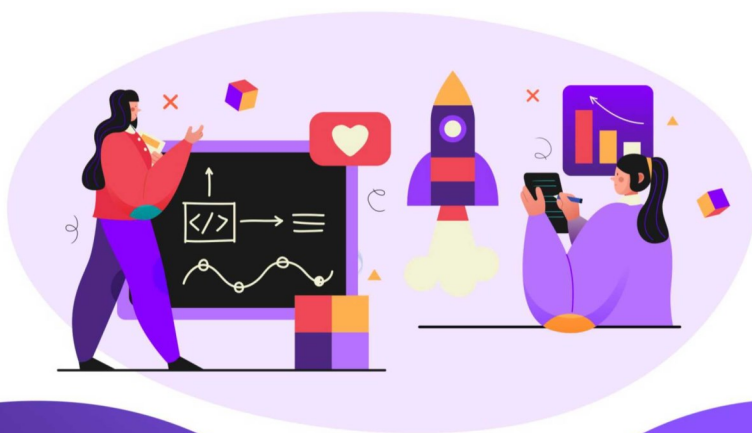
In a blender, whizz the egg, cream, and milk for a few seconds. Add the rest of the ingredients, blitz for a few seconds. Pour the batter over the fruit.

Place the dish on top of an ovenproof tray and bake in the oven for 25/30 minutes or until the batter is set and slightly brown.

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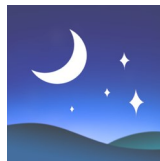


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STARGAZING



The seven stars of the Plough lie pretty much overhead. It is one of the "circumpolar" constellations that are always above our horizon. Its classical name is Ursa Major, the Great Bear. The two stars furthest from the handle point to the North Star. The North Star or Polaris is approximately 400 light years away. This is a distance of approximately 2,000,000,000,000,000 miles! The light we now see from this star left the North Star 400 years ago.

American slaves in the southern States of the USA were taught a song in childhood. The first verse runs:

When the Sun comes back
And the first quail calls
Follow the Drinking Gourd
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom
If you follow the Drinking Gourd

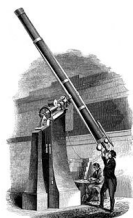
The song gave a time, after the December solstice, when the Sun begins to climb higher into the northern sky and the calls of migratory quail can be heard in the southern United States, and a direction – the Drinking Gourd is the Plough and lies to the North. This gave slaves the vital information which allowed them to escape to the North and to freedom.

In the evening, at the beginning of April, the bright planet Jupiter is low in the west at sunset. The slender crescent New Moon forms a triangle with Jupiter and the bright star Aldebaran on 11th April, and is just above the star group Pleiades.

On clear nights, when the Moon is new and seen as a fine crescent, the rest of the Moon can often be seen as a very dark grey against the black sky. Whilst the bright crescent is directly illuminated by the Sun, the rest of the Moon is in its own shadow. The shadow is dark grey rather than black because of "Earthshine", where light reflected from Earth illuminates the Moon very faintly.

Joke: How does Jupiter hold up his trousers? With an asteroid belt.

NASA has some beautiful images of astronomical objects on the internet at apod.nasa.gov/apod/.



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- Carpenters Arms (on the Usk road)
- Huntsman Hotel (on the Usk road)
- Recreation Hall (Shirenewton village)
- Shirenewton Sultan (The Square, centre of Shirenewton)
- Earlswood Hall (Erlswood)



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



Weather

Current local talk of the weather inevitably bemoans the volume of rain. Last summer it was the lack of rain i.e. drought – farmers' livelihoods, precarious enough in 'normal' times are increasingly negatively impacted by the extremes of the weather, exacerbated or perhaps occasioned by man-made climate change. There remain a few climate change deniers (e.g. Nigella's dad) but absolute denial has diminished only to be often replaced, unfortunately, by the idea that real action to halt rising temperatures is simply too expensive.

Food production is being affected world-wide. In the not too distant future it will simply be too hot and dry to grow crops in many areas that currently produce a significant proportion of the world's food. Massive extraction of water from rivers and subterranean aquifers already means that river estuaries can become brackish as the sea encroaches on what was once highly productive soil e.g. the Mekong delta which produces rice for millions in south-east Asia. The Aral Sea has all but disappeared because of the extraction of water from its feeder rivers for the production of cotton.

West Africa has had its own devastating heatwave.

A study found that the heatwave was supercharged by climate crisis, making it 4C hotter and 10 times more likely. The region is the world's largest exporter of cocoa and farmers said the heat weakened the trees which were already damaged from extreme rainfall in December. Farmers in Ivory Coast said in February that the high temperatures and lack of rain were damaging their crops. In March major cocoa plants there and in Ghana stopped or reduced processing because they could not afford to buy the beans, Reuters reported. The price of cocoa beans has risen to an unprecedented high of more than three times the price in March 2020.

If emissions from burning fossil fuels are not rapidly reduced and global temperatures rise to 2C above pre-industrial levels, such heatwaves will occur every other year, the scientists said. The Paris Agreement (2016) aimed to limit the rise in temperature to 1.5C. As I understand it, we are not currently on course to achieve this. The UN has estimated that the cost of adaption to the climate crisis for developing countries is between \$215 billion and \$387 billion. The global community delivered just \$21billion in 2021.

One of the key requirements for the award of the Fairtrade mark is environmental sustainability. Farmers in the developing world are helped to cope with the catastrophic change in climate occasioned by richer countries in the developed world. As ever, buying FT is a simple way of supporting poor producers. A small contribution to a fairer world.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com
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www.shirenewtonchurch.com

I had an unwelcome and unexpected shock the other day. I booted up my laptop and, instead of the BitLocker screen asking me to type in my pin, there was a BitLocker screen asking me to input my 48-digit recovery key!!! Help.

For those of you unfamiliar with BitLocker, it is a disk encryption tool built into the professional versions of Windows which provides an added level of security. In short, if someone steals your laptop the hard disk is encrypted and, without the pin or recovery key, there is no access to the Windows system or software. The disk can be formatted (wiping out all data) but the key point is that they cannot access your data. Having said that, recently security researchers have shown that it is fairly trivial to hack BitLocker by accessing the 48-digit recovery key which is stored in the PC's Trusted Platform Module (TPM). I imagine that Microsoft are working diligently on a fix to this. A fix may even have been the cause of my issues.

Luckily, I had a strong suspicion where I'd stored the 48-digit recovery key in a text file (in one of my online drives) and was able to use my wife's PC to access the key and open my laptop. If I didn't have that key or couldn't find that key, I'd have lost everything on the laptop – not ideal! It's also worth noting that there is no point storing the key on your laptop as you can't access it!

I had assumed that this was a one-off. The next morning it happened again. And then again. So I spent some time researching the issue and it seems that BitLocker had an issue with my TPM. It seems I wasn't the only one. My suspicion is that this was/is connected to the move to Windows 11 which requires a TPM and potential the fix for the hack discussed above. Anyway, decision taken! A new Windows 11 laptop has been procured and I've removed BitLocker from my current laptop so I don't have to enter the 48 digits every time I boot up. I shall spend a happy Easter moving laptops.

I relate this little story not only to fill the page but also to re-emphasise the need to have back-ups and know where restore keys and similar vital but seldom used information are kept. And the answer should not be: on my hard disk.

Currently, as I sit here typing, we are having a GivEnergy battery installed. The idea is that we charge the battery overnight using cheap rate electricity and then it is used to power the house during the daytime periods of higher rate electricity. I'm told payback is 6-7 years but this obviously decreases every time electricity costs go up. Once it had been up and running for a few months I'll provide some feedback.

There was an interesting Time article (<https://tinyurl.com/mrx6mkyd> - behind a paywall) in which a reporter took a look at all the data Meta (aka Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp) had accumulated on her. She notes, inter alia, that "between December 2021 and December 2023, Meta tracked me an average of 33 times a day from websites and apps that aren't connected to my social media accounts. Even when I wasn't looking at them, they were looking at me." She requested a download of all the data Facebook had on her and received almost 20,000 pages of information which included almost 20,000 interactions over two years with websites and apps that weren't connected to her Meta accounts.

But changes are afoot. Google has announced that Chrome, the most popular internet browser, will phase out all 3rd party cookies over 2024. This is designed to create a more secure and private internet experience. It's worth noting that 3rd party cookies are cookies are set by domains you have visited not that you are visiting. If you are browsing a website it sets so called 1st party cookies which are used to remember your preferences, keep you logged in, etc. 3rd party cookies are used for cross-site tracking and allows advertisers (such as Meta) and analytics platforms to follow your browsing as you move between websites.

It also worth noting that Google will be offering an alternative. In summary, Chrome will still track your online behaviour, but the information shared will be anonymous and grouped into categories instead of being unique to and identified to (via IP address) to you. The effect of these changes on advertisers and Meta's ability to track you is, as yet, unclear as these changes being implemented by Google are in their infancy.

However, the long and short of it is that, if you are not paying, you are the product. Currently there are various ways to minimise the data Meta collects on you which you can find by Googling.

However, to eliminate it completely you need to stop using the products. It's not something I plan to do (stop using the products) but it does explain how you are presented with ads about stuff you thought no-one knew about – Meta knows!

Finally, a brief word on passwords: Not my usual request to keep them strong and unique. So, what is Forest Gump's password?

1Forest1

On that happy note, safe browsing.

David Cornwell

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

Thursday 4 th /11 th /18 th /25 th	Prayer Group
7.30 p.m.	Phone 07887853479 for directions
Sunday 7 th	Café church
3.30 p.m.	St Thomas a Becket Church, Shirenewton
Monday 8 th	Community Council meeting
7.00 p.m.	Recreation Hall
Thursday 18 th	Men's curry lunch
7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Sultan
Friday 19 th	Harts of Monmouth Fashion Show
7.00 p.m. for 7.30	St Arvan's Memorial Hall
Thursday 25 th	Ladies curry night
7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Sultan
Friday 26 th	Call My Bluff wine tasting
7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Church Hall
Saturday 27 th	St Woolos Sinfonia—The Armed Man
from 9.15 a.m.	Newport Cathedral
Tuesday 30 th	History Society, Mounton House Garden—
7.30 p.m.	Helena Garrish

MAY

Thursday 2 nd	Ministry Area Prayer Group
7.45 p.m.	St Arvans
Sunday 5 th	Beating the Bounds
2 p.m.	Starting from St Thomas à Becket church
Tuesday 7 th	Licensing service for Zoe and Barney
7.30 p.m.	St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Thursday 9 th	Ministry Area Prayer Group
7.45 p.m.	St Tewdric, Mathern
Friday 10 th	Welcome to Zoe and Barney Pimentel
7.00 p.m.	Mathern village hall
Tuesday 14 th	An evening guided walk around Beachley
7.45 p.m.	with Richard Clammer—Beachley
Thursday 16 th	Ministry Area Prayer Group
7.45 p.m.	St Thomas a Becket Church, Shirenewton

MAY (continued)

Thursday 16 th 7.30 p.m.	Men's curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Thursday 23 rd 7.45 p.m.	Ministry Area Prayer Group St Andoenus Church, Mounton
Friday 24 th to Sunday 26 th	Devauden Music Festival Devauden
Thursday 30 th 7.30 p.m.	Ladies curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Thursday 30 th 7.45 p.m.	Ministry Area Prayer Group St Peter's Church, St Pierre

JUNE

Thursday 6 th 7.45 p.m.	Ministry Area Prayer Group St Peter's Church, Newchurch
Thursday 13 th 7.45 p.m.	Ministry Area Prayer Group St Mary's Church, Penterry
Saturday 15 th 2.00 p.m.	Church Fete Recreation field
Thursday 20 th 7.30 p.m.	Men's curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Thursday 20 th 7.45 p.m.	Ministry Area Prayer Group Church of the Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg
Tuesday 25 th 7.30 p.m.	History Society—Roman Houses XXVI/XXVII at Caerwent by Mark Lewis—Church Hall
Thursday 27 th 7.30 p.m.	Ladies curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Thursday 27 th 7.45 p.m.	Ministry Area Prayer Group St Christopher's Church, Chepstow

More details for some events may be available at:

severnwyema.co.uk or www.shirenewtonchurch.com

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We have some important news regarding the Amazon Smile program. Unfortunately, Amazon has discontinued this program, which means that we can no longer receive donations through it. However, we have some good news too! You can still continue to support Chepstow and Caldicot Lions by signing up for Easyfundraising. By doing this, you can help us raise funds for our community projects and initiatives, without any extra cost to you.

All you have to do is sign up through our Easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chepstowandcaldicotlions> and shop online as you normally would. The retailers you shop with will then make a donation to us, at no extra cost to you. It's as simple as that!

So, if you want to continue supporting our cause, please consider signing up for Easyfundraising today. Your support means the world to us, and together we can make a real difference in our community. Thank you!

The graphic features a man with a beard and dark hair, smiling as he looks at a smartphone. He is holding a credit card in his other hand. Behind him is a large yellow semi-circle. The background is a light cream color. At the bottom, there is a dark teal banner with the Easyfundraising logo and text.

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Shirenewton Village Youth Market 16th March 2024

Our first Shirenewton Village Youth Market was a great success with stallholders selling a variety of quality hand crafted items. We were treated to beautifully sewn & crocheted items, Easter cards, jewellery, tea, soaps, tote bags, Pom poms etc, together with an Easter Competition – such creativity & talent! The stalls were colourful & inviting – all looked very professional & it made it hard not to buy something from each stall....

We had our fabulous pop-up café with its delicious coffee and cakes to keep us refreshed, a raffle & a craft session as well as our fantastic stalls.

As usual we were well supported by the village & I'm pleased to say that all our stallholders left smiling & asked when the next one was going to be – so a resounding success! We've decided we will be having another Youth Market towards the end of the year....

We made over £130 for LATCH from the café, raffle & donations. Fantastic news!

Many thanks to our organisers, our café team, to all who helped with the crafting session & to everyone who helped us clear away & tidy the hall. Thanks also to all who put up posters & spread the word. Thank you to the Sultan for the extra parking & to all who came along filling the hall with a fabulous atmosphere.

Shirenewton Village Market News

Following the Youth Market, we've had lots of interest about the next Village Market date – we haven't forgotten it, we're meeting soon to organise the next one.... We'll contact existing stallholders & publish details as soon as we have set a date.

OUR FIRST YOUTH MARKET 16th MARCH 2024



LOCAL CONTACTS

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

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Associate Priest	Reverend John Waters	07836 585 250
Ministry Area Leader's Warden	Ros Downes	
Ministry Area People's Warden	David Carne	01454 617 277
Ministry Area Lay Co-Chair	Hilary Hillier	
Ministry Area Treasurer	Kevin Higgs	

Church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton

	revphilipaveray@gmail.com	
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Rector's Church Warden	Sally Saysell	01291 641 369
People's Church Warden	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
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	jmontyvet@hotmail.co.uk	
LCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
LCC Members	Janet Horton	01291 641 783
	James Leney	01291 641 271
	Wendy Montague	01291 329 481
	John Burrows	01291 641 845
Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650 521
	James Leney	01291 641 271
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
Saysell Centre Booking	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641 818
Safeguarding Officer	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
Church Flowers	Maureen Moody	01291 641 524
Parish Magazine Editor	Bill Clark	01291 641 783
200 Club	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459

Ministry Area Council Representative

Wendy Montague 01291 329 481

MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

Shirenewton Community Council

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Catherine Martin (Vice Chair)	01291 329610	cathie.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
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Ian Martin	01291 650014	ian.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
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Andy Williamson 01291 641451 andy.w@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Vacancy

MCC for Shirenewton

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Member of the Senedd

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Neighbourhood CSO Andrew Jones Andrew.jones@gwent.pnn.police.uk

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Church Fete
Earlswood Hope Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726
Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall
Chairman Becca Allen 07889762840 chair@earlnew.com
Treasurer Geoff Todd 07855301806 treasurer@earlnew.com

Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel

Avril Smith 01291 627677
Gaerllwyd Baptist Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA
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Recreation Association Beverly Lyndsay 07798 780971 beverlylindsay@btinternet.com
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SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Published: by The Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Editor: Bill Clark 01291 641783 email: parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com

The cost of the Magazine is £1.50 per issue/10 issues for £14.

Copies are delivered free by local distributors to those who have pre-paid.

Monthly copies are available at the Church.

Previous editions of the magazine are available online on the Church website at www.shirenewtonchurch.info.

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**Many thanks to Terry Waters for his kind permission to use his
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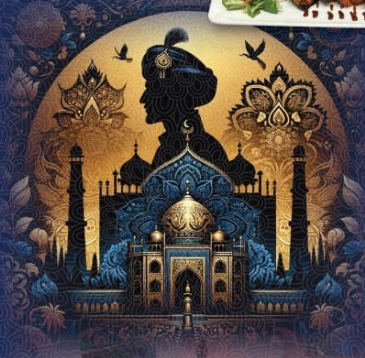
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