

Shirenewton Parish

Magazine



March 2024

We welcome Zoe and Barney to the Ministry Area

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

NEW MINISTRY AREA LEADER FOR SEVERN WYE

We are absolutely delighted to report that Bishop Cherry has announced the appointment of **Zoe and Barnabas (Barney) Pimentel** to our Severn Wye Ministry Area. Bishop Cherry said:

'This is an unusual appointment and an exciting one. Zoe and Barney bring different and complimentary gifts, skills and experience to their respective ministries. Together, they will bring fresh vision and energy to the churches of the Ministry Area as they lead the congregations into this next chapter of their life together.'



For legal reasons it is only possible for one person to be named on the licence as Ministry Area leader, and that will be Zoe. However, she is keen to emphasise that she and Barney will be jointly delivering the role of Ministry Area leader as a job share.

She says:

" In Coventry, one of us had to be licensed as Incumbent and the other as Associate minister, but in practice we are joint vicars of the parish with equal responsibility. This equality and partnership

has been a really fruitful way of doing ministry for us for the past 10 years. We would like people to be aware that together Barney and I are the "Ministry Area Leaders" and we hope that we will be treated equally in that regard."

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Zoe and Barney met at training college in Bristol, spending the last 7 as vicars of St. Alban's Church in Coventry. Zoe has been pioneering activities to encourage more people, especially families, into the church, including developing and training the Sunday school team and establishing a children's choir. Barney has been introducing different styles of worship, supporting older people, and has been working with Hope Coventry, hosting a night shelter for the homeless. He also has some (much-needed) expertise in IT !

Zoe and Barney are excited about moving to Monmouth Diocese with their Welsh Springer Spaniel Finwe. They have already met some of our church community at an informal lunch, kindly hosted by David and Catherine Carne. We will all have a chance to welcome them more formally at the licensing Ceremony, which will take place on **Tuesday 7th May at 7.30pm**. This promises to be a wonderful and joyous occasion, and we hope you will all keep the date free. We will publish more details of the venue and welcoming events as soon as we have agreed them.

Also look out for more Ministry Area social and fundraising events in the coming months

FOR THE REGISTERS

The Funeral of Jimmy Reece (1951-2023) took place at the church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton on 31st of January 2024. The service was conducted by the Reverend John Waters.

INTRODUCTION TO

Christian Meditation

"Be still and know that I am God" Ps.46:10

A SIX-WEEK LENT COURSE

There is a choice between an Evening Session or a Daytime Session

Monday Evenings 19 February to 25 March at 7.30 – 8.45 pm
at The Cedars, Chapel Lane, Pwllmeyric, NP16 6LE

or

Tuesday afternoons 20 February to 26 March at 2.45 - 4.00 pm
at St. Thomas Becket Church Room, Shirenewton

This course provides an opportunity for those interested in finding out about Christian Meditation to experience the practice in a small group, to learn about its origins, and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world.

For more information contact

Canon Chris Blanchard - email: frchris2@icloud.com

Tel 07711961237

World Community for Christian Meditation 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



HomeCare

Private Carer/Home help
07795 689791



SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Church Clock Maintenance

Mrs C Martin spoke to Smiths of Derby and related that they had seen the clock 23 years ago. Smiths are happy to visit again. Due to not seeing the clock recently this would entail a fee of £650 + VAT for a survey and service.

Counsellors agreed to go ahead with this on the understanding that if they are unable to repair, they will generate a report with remedy suggestions. Visit to be arranged for this February.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT February 2024

County Councillor L Brown advised:

County Council on the 18th of January 2024

The County Council meeting covered reports on age friendly communities, review of the decision to charge a second home council tax premium, annual council tax reduction scheme, asset management strategy and investment committee review.

There was a motion to council regretting the lack of engagement with local community and business groups in the development of the Local Transport Plan 2024-29. There were also various questions to council. The details of the meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=143&MIId=5412>

Budget 2023/24

There is a budget consultation commencing on the 18th of January and ending on the 16th of February. The details of which can be found at the following link :

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2023-2024/>

The Welsh Government provisional settlement had an average 3.1% increase in Revenue Support grant for Local Authorities in Wales but Monmouthshire County Council only received a provisional settlement of 2.3%.

The following main proposals are being considered by the Labour administration:

- 7.5% increase in council tax.
- £835,000 cut to schools.
- £2 breakfast club charge
- Car Parking charges up 10%
- Garden bin waste fee up 10%
- End to free food waste bags
- Leisure centre opening hours cut
- Outdoor adventure £70K cut.
- Gwent Music Service £39K cut.
- Concessionary school transport cost increase by 10%

The People Scrutiny Committee on the 23rd of January 2024 provides further details in the following link, note that there is also a budget presentation at Appendix 1 of the report.

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2023-2024/>

Please remember to complete the Welsh Government Consultation entitles a fairer council tax by the deadline as Comments and responses must be received by the 6th of February 2024. Any increase in council tax for Monmouthshire residents as a result of these proposals will be on top of the usual annual increases.

This is the link to the Consultation:

<https://www.gov.wales/consultation-fairer-council-tax-phase-2-html>

Dates of the next meeting – Monday 4th March 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

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 February:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Christine Jones | 2. Simon and Caroline Jones |
| 3. Fabian Cornwell | 4. Kerry Baker |

NOW OPEN

LAND ROVERS

OF MONMOUTHSHIRE

SERVICE & SALES CENTRE

The alternative to main dealers for service
Behind the Rock & Fountain on the A48 at Penhow

Looking for a quality used Land Rover?
Speak to Chris Duthie for our latest stock:

(01633) 400041

The Film Studios · Penhow · NP26 3AD

SHIRENEWTON 800 LECTERN FALL

Long, long ago in a society far, far away, when “pandemic” was a word we hardly knew, let alone used, we started discussing the forthcoming 800th anniversary of the founding of our church, which fell in 2020. We also, quite separately, discussed the fall for the lectern which was becoming rather worn.

As well as planning some exciting events, inspired by local resident Angela, of J&B Sewing, I considered designing a quilt. During a visit to Buckfast Abbey in 2019 I noticed the beautiful design of the floor borders and started to think about a design based around that. Having spoken to Angela, I realised that a quilt was not going to be very practical to display and there the idea might have died, had 2020 been just another year.



Buckfast Abbey and its church floor design

Locked down at home, and with most of our plans cancelled, I rediscovered a love of counted cross stitch that had been neglected for many years, and having finished a kit started to look for a project into which I could have more artistic input. Co-incidentally my university roommate is also a keen cross stitcher, and encouraged me to look at some designs, and somehow a vague idea began to form into a plan.

I started work in September 2020 on a design for a lectern fall, working on dark navy linen, in the four liturgical colours, so that the finished article is suitable for use all year round:

White and gold, used in Christmas and Easter

Purple used in Advent and Lent

Green used in 'Ordinary' time – the routine Sundays in between the special seasons

Red used at Palm Sunday and Pentecost

The design uses excerpts from two patterns from Long Dog Samplers (www.logdogsampler.com) by the talented Jools Line, that seemed to have an appropriate celtic influence for a church in Wales, and a border based on that floor in Buckfast Abbey.

Of course, life gradually returned to 'normal' and I had less time to work on my design, but slowly, over the years the plan became reality and finally in February 2024, has been installed in position. Why not pop into Church one day to see it? That's the only way to really appreciate the intricacies of the design!



Front and back straight off the frame



Installed in situ

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 tredegaramspub@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.

Severn Wye Ministry Area Administrator

Background

We are a group of 12 Anglican churches based around Chepstow in South Wales, loving God, serving our communities, and being good neighbours to those around us. We are looking to recruit someone with the gift of administration and with the skills to enable more effective mission and ministry through provision of efficient administration and improved communication with our local community.

There is a strong network of volunteers across the Ministry Area and this role is intended to complement their work. The role will bring consistency and build effective processes using available technology to help the volunteers be more efficient and to release their time to build on their work in the community.

The successful candidate will be responsible for providing general administrative support including managing the service rotas, supporting the clergy in the management of their diaries as required, attending key Ministry Area evening meetings to take minutes and collate action points, managing the MA outward communication and publicity including managing the website and social media pages, keeping records, ensuring that the Diocesan and Charity Commission official requirements are met, assisting with maintaining financial records and acting as a focal point for the MA and fielding enquiries. An enhanced DBS check will be required.

The role will report to the Lay Co-Chair of the Ministry Area Council and will initially be for a period of 12 months, including and subject to a three month probationary period. The contracted hours of work will be 7 hours per week, over 2 or 3 days with a salary of £12 to £14 per hour depending on experience. The role will be home based with travel to the MA buildings and attendance at some evening meetings (approximately one per month).

The job description reflects these duties, and the interview process will ensure there is a good understanding of the objectives and the need to be sympathetic to the culture and mission of the Church and the vision of the Ministry Area.

Applications should be made by sending a CV and covering letter outlining your suitability for the role by email to **hilary.hiller@btinternet.com** by **midday on 29th February**. It is anticipated that interviews will take place in the week beginning 11th March. For a complete job description, and if you have any queries regarding the role before you submit an application, please contact Hilary Hillier on the email address above.



SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE
MARKET PRESENTS.....

OUR FIRST

YOUTH MARKET

SATURDAY MARCH 16th
10.30-12.30 at the Rec Hall

FEATURING CRAFTS FROM OUR TALENTED UNDER 16'S

For more details contact Shirley - ayresandgraces@yahoo.com

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SHIRENEWTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2024 7.30PM
AT THE RECREATIONAL HALL

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO
ATTEND

SUPPORT
YOUR
VILLAGE
HALL.
NEW
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS
ALWAYS
WELCOME.



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Café Church

coming soon to Shirenewton

Save the date - **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!

Café style refreshments and fellowship for adults and children

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

Short service featuring:

- Modern worship songs
- Bible story
- All age address
- Prayers

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

PRAYER GROUP

The prayer group was set up in 2023 and we have so far prayed in 10 of our 12 churches. Thank you for the wonderful support that we have received from each of our congregations and Clergy.

The group meets on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 8.45pm and is open to everyone. There is no expectation on anyone to pray out loud, so please do join us. We are a very friendly group of people and you will probably know some of us already!

Please let me know of any particular events or people that you would like us to pray for. If you cannot attend on a Thursday evening, there is always the opportunity of praying wherever you are.

We close our evening with Compline.

The weather is starting to get colder, so we have moved to the home of David & Catherine Carne. When the weather is warmer, we will continue our weekly programme in Churches around the Ministry Area.

We believe that praying is essential for the health and well-being of our church people and buildings, please join us!

We start again on Thursday 4th January 2024.

The Cedars, Chapel Lane, Pwllmeyric, NP16 6LE
(Please phone for directions.)

David Carne
07887 853479

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

The new year started off with a talk by Guy Hamilton entitled 'James Stephens of Chepstow'. James, born and bred in Chepstow was a Chartist, who was present for their march on Newport and spent most of the rest his life fighting for workers rights. He eventually went to Australia and carried on fighting for the eight hour day. There stands a statue of him in Melbourne to commemorate his success in passing a law to establish legal right for workers in Australia.

We will be holding our Annual Dinner at the Rock & Fountain; our guest speaker will be Jonathan Jenkins who will give a talk entitled 'The Tapestry of Life'.

Dates for your diary

2024

26 th March	Japan & Wales the big Connection	Keith Dunn
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

Good Friday – 28th March 10:00

Walk on Gray Hill

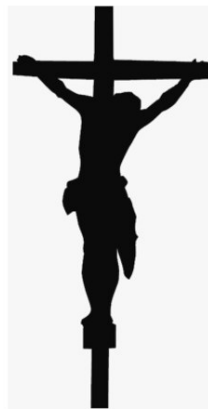
Join us for a family walk in the Spring sunshine (we hope!) with short readings of the Passion.

There will be homemade hot cross buns to enjoy on return to the Wentwood reservoir car park.

What3words: massaged.subject.hopping.

Children and dogs welcome!

Email to register interest to lem.shirenewton@gmail.com and receive updates in case of bad weather and ensure a hot cross bun!



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Gardening Corner

Another month gone. There is little point in complaining about the weather as I think everyone will know just how wet it has been, and complaining sadly won't make it any better. Suffice to say that a lot of climate change 'doubters' are now actually starting to realise just how much climate change is going to impact our planet and also how we may lead our lives. There will no doubt be many who will continue to deny it is happening – a certain politician in America for example, but hopefully he has enough self-created problems of his own to be dealing with at present! But everyone is entitled to their own views. From the perspective of working outside and getting the essential maintenance jobs in the garden done, time has been extremely limited. Fortunately, here at Barn Farm, no matter what the weather, there is always something we can do. The only thing that has ever really stopped us gardening is heavy snow and thus far this year, we haven't had much of that. Long may this continue, but I always remind myself that we have a greater risk of snow at Easter these days, than we do having it at Christmas.

I have said previously, that as our soil is stoney underneath, it can be free draining and parts of the garden are quite free draining. Despite the copious rainfall, there have been a few days in the last month where it has been dry enough to get on some of the flower beds and do some essential maintenance jobs. With the Assistant Head Gardener motoring on in front of me, clearing away a lot of the old plant growth, I followed on behind pruning all of the roses as I came across them, then weeding the ground over as I retreated back off each bed.

Removing old growth is a moot subject, as many gardening writers say that this shouldn't be done at this time of year, as this growth harbours and protects insects and provides food for other fauna. Acknowledging this to be the case we try to undertake a 'halfway-house' approach, in that the most tender plants we try to leave alone altogether, whilst everything else we remove about half of the growth rather than all of it. We do remove all of the old growth from the softer, more leafy plants, such as hostas, and daylilies (*Hemerocallis*), simply because this wet mush harbours way too many slugs and snails, and protects them from any frosty weather that we might have. We do have wildlife pond here, so we do get a good population of frogs and toads (as I write this, we already

have loads of 'spawn' already in the larger of the two ponds. But no matter how many frogs and toads we have, it is never enough to keep the numbers of slugs and snails under control. One outcome of the wetter and milder winter weather, that we simply can't do anything about. So the few days we have managed 'on the soil' has meant that we have been able to prune all of our roses back. This task can still be done in March or even April if needs be, but the later you leave it, the more the roses will be impacted, simply because you will remove more 'active' growth and it will take much longer for the roses to recover and put-up new growth. This will impact the numbers of flowers in the months ahead.

The incessant rain had made our main concrete slab path down the garden very slippery, so the 'Assistant' had asked if I could power wash it to remove the algal growth. One of the very rare sunny days was promised, so I got everything ready and blasted the path. I have to admit that it made things much better – and safer of course. I was enjoying myself so much, that, as the large greenhouse was virtually empty of 'stuff', I decided to give that a blast as well. The glass has become quite green, both inside and out, which was starting to impact the light levels inside. Half an hour later, I was quite impressed with my efforts and you could certainly tell the difference. It made me realise that the two tunnels were also quite bad, again inside and out, so I need to turn my attention to them next. Unfortunately the plastic covers, especially on the smaller tunnel, have been on for several years, so I probably won't be using the pressure washer, just in case the power is too much and it blasts right through the cover. Instead, I have a soft brush, on a pole, that connects to the hosepipe. A much softer means of approach! But a drier day to tackle this job would be nice.

Inside the tunnels and greenhouses, I have been carrying out some essential maintenance whilst the wet weather continues. In the smaller of the two, each end door needed the fine netting replacing as this was starting to rot. This netting allows for a good flow of air though the tunnel, but the mesh is fine enough to prevent any nasty pests, such as cabbage white butterflies, or carrot flies to gain entry. This job was soon completed. From there, I moved into the large tunnel, where the timbers supporting the large top growing bed had all rotted, allowing the

bed to collapse over the path between the top and middle beds. This was a major job, but one that needed doing. New timbers had to be bought, then this had to be treated to try and prevent rotting. Next job was to then dig out all the soil that had collapsed, throwing it back onto the bed. This took several hours to complete, but it looked good when it had been done. This then allowed me to start replacing the support posts that had rotted away, before erecting the treated timbers as a low 'wall' of some ten inches high, creating the raised bed. In all, the job took a day to complete, but we now have a bed that is some 6 feet wide and nearly 24 feet long. I'm hoping that I can find enough manure to then cover it over, ready for planting up again in the coming months. Because this bed runs across the slope and is also alongside the tunnel cover, there is a height restriction on what we can grow. Therefore, most crops tend to be no more than two or three feet tall. Melons and courgettes are ideal as we grow these across the ground, rather than up supports, as are onions, shallots and garlic. The latter also benefit from not being exposed too much to wet weather. I planted the shallot and garlic 'sets' from bulbs/cloves that we had grown last year and which I had selected and stored ready for the purpose. I grow them in individual pots, that are potted up in January and kept in one of the greenhouses whilst they start to grow. They are currently growing on well, and I'll be looking to get them moved to this new tunnel bed in the coming weeks.

I have turned on the small warming tray in the small greenhouse, and the first seeds have now been sown. Some will soon need repotting. Once this is done the main warming bed will also be turned on, and seed sowing will begin in earnest.

The few sunnier, warm days we have had have meant that the bees have started to fly and they are making the most of the early sources of pollen such as the daffodils, hellebores and snowdrops in the garden and the hazel catkins in the field hedgerows. The continuing wet weather will not be doing the bees any favours, so let's hope things improve in the coming weeks. It is still far too cold to start opening the hives up yet I have started doing a little maintenance on our small pond in which we have a number of fancy goldfish. I say a number, but actually conditions clearly suit them, as they have bred profusely over the years.

We have actually decided that drastic action is needed as the pond is not big enough for the numbers that we have. So, if anyone is looking for some fancy goldfish for free then please give us a call on 650604.

Happy gardening until next month, Steve and Felicity Hunt.

Oakfield Veg Boxes

Sown and grown using organic methods in Newchurch

Larges boxes £22 and Medium boxes £17

email leighayland@gmail.com

call on 01291 428604/07889 247361

Read more about us on Facebook

@oakfieldgrowers

*This is a fair share scheme where seasonal produce is shared among subscribers.
We guarantee a minimum of 8 items in the medium boxes (suitable for 2-3)
and 10 items in our large boxes*



Village Mobile Hairdresser

Don't have the time to go to a hairdresser?
Have your hair done in the comfort of your own home!

Cut & Blow-dry
Tint
Highlights
Perms

Call for details;
Rachel
01291 641461
(29 years' experience)



Saturday 23rd March 2024

Severn Wye Ministry Area invite you to join a walk around the Western churches:

St Peter's Newchurch to Shirenewton setting off 9am

Shirenewton to Mounton setting off c 11.30am

Mounton lunch break c 12.30pm setting off c 1.30pm to Mathern

Mathern to St Pierre setting off c 2.30pm

There will be a short pause for prayers at each church.

Total distance is around 9 miles but you are welcome to join us for all or any part of the route (and to bring well behaved dogs on leads).

Bring your own refreshments. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather and terrain.

Toilets available at Shirenewton and St Pierre

**All timings approximate
www.severnwyema.co.uk**









**For more information about the day: Hilary 01291 624924
or 07812 110628**

*This is not an official 'organised event' - we all walk independently, and at our own risk.
We can arrange lifts back from St Pierre to cars left at other points on the route
In case of poor weather, please check the website in case we have to cancel*



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



Spinach contains a wealth of health benefit minerals. Rich in Zinc required to boost the immune system. Spinach is also an anti-inflammatory, a diuretic, and helps to ease constipation and night blindness.

Spinach pesto

Ingredients

- 1 large packet of spinach, washed.
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 150g Parmigiano or Parmesan cheese
- 1 small red pepper
- 200g mixed unsalted nuts.
- Handful fresh basil



Jacket potato with spicy venison supper serves 2

Ingredients

- 300g minced venison
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 onion
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 tablespoon spinach pesto
- 1 tablespoon peri peri sauce (more if you like it hot)
- Coriander to garnish
- 2 jacket potatoes
- Cook the jacket potatoes

Filling

- 1 Fry the onion and garlic until soft.
- 2 Add the venison and continue frying until cooked. Add the remaining ingredients. Place on top of the cooked jacket potatoes. Garnish with coriander. Serve.

Recipe sent in by my friend Sally Speed. Vegetarian
Pancakes stuffed with Spinach and Cheese.



This is a good recipe for a time like this when many of us are trying to shop just once a week. You can cook the spinach when you buy it and pop it into the freezer for use later. I like to make pancakes in advance as well, they freeze beautifully layered with greaseproof and stored in a freezer bag.

Ingredients for two people:

Six savoury pancakes (your usual recipe)

500g fresh spinach

100g Gorgonzola

100g ricotta

50gm or more Parmesan

50gm or more cheddar or any other cheese to hand

A few spring onions finely chopped.

Grated nutmeg

Bechamel sauce

Cook the spinach and drain thoroughly.
Mix with the crumbled cheeses (except the Parmesan).

Make a very thick bechamel sauce and put approx. two table-spoons into the spinach mixture.

Add extra milk to the sauce to give a pouring consistency and set aside.

Season the spinach mixture to taste and add the onions and some grated nutmeg.

Divide the mixture between the six pancakes, roll up and put in a buttered ovenproof dish.

Pour over the remaining bechamel sauce and scatter with Parmesan. Put into a hot oven to heat through and brown on top, approximately 15 to 20 minutes. Serve with a crisp salad for a difference in textures. If there is no salad to hand, vegetables are fine, but preferably something like carrots or baby sweet corn to give a contrast in colour. Enjoy!

Thank you Sally for sharing your delicious recipe with us.

Shirenewton W.I.

Paraphernalia



Bev Davies, by her own admission, is a hoarder and we at Shirenewton W.I. are very glad that she is.

Bev has a fascinating collection of household and clothing items, dating from the 1940s and 1950s, which she shared with us at our February meeting. Her collection began with items from her family home and has been supplemented over the years by purchases from charity shops and auctions.

Her collection is not purely for her own interest. Bev has also taken it into schools and care homes, where it has been used to encourage elderly people to reminisce about their childhood memories. The collection certainly provoked interest and discussion amongst our members, as we swapped stories of our own childhood homes. Several items kept us guessing about their use – in particular the green bean slicer and the glove stretcher. Not for the first time, I was very grateful for the broad age range of our membership. I learn so much from it.



It was a particularly apt evening to be discussing the restoration of our W.I. hand chimes, which were originally donated by Ivy wells. We are also grateful to Auriol Horton for donating the music for the chimes. So, watch this space.

Our next meeting is on 14th March, which is a celebration of Shirenewton W.I.'s 72nd birthday. We will be joining together for a

fish and chip supper and quiz on that evening.

If you are interested in joining Shirenewton W.I. or would like to find out more about our group, then please contact Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838)

Jackie Broughton

THE GLADE TEAROOMS



**Looking for something to do with the
children in the school holidays?**

Free Fun Family Event

Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt with activities
and an Easter gift!

Meet at The Glade Tea Rooms in Wentwood Forest
(located just above the Wentwood Reservoir)
Monday 25th March for a 1.30pm start to the trail
Includes free drinks and snacks for children

Sponsored by The Glade Tea Rooms
and Penycaemawr Methodist Chapel
Like and follow the Penycaemawr Chapel Page
and The Glade Tea Rooms on Facebook


THE BELLS, THE BELLS

February is the month that sees the training day for the Monmouth Branch of The Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers [L&MDACBR].

Shirenewton Tower supports this training day each year. The event was based at St Woolos cathedral, starting with refreshments and introductions. Three Shirenewton Ringers attended as students, four as helpers and one as a Course Tutor. Five courses were provided ranging from one where the students are learning to ring a bell by itself and move on to ringing with others, through to one where students are taking their first steps into learning their first bell ringing "method".

A method is a piece of ringing where bells change positions one place at a time to ring unpeated permutations. It takes most ringers several years to reach this stage in their learning. The method being taught on the Monmouth Branch training day was Plain Bob Doubles. This is commonly the first method learned.

Each group, consisting of students, helpers and tutor travels out to a local tower for a practical ringing session before returning to St Woolos for a "pizza" lunch. Lunch is followed by a second practical ringing session at a different church.

 Ringers at Shirenewton follow the five stages Learning the Ropes scheme provided by the Association of Ringing Teachers [ART]. Two of our ringers have recently received certificates through this scheme. Carol Stoker and Cheri Oliver were awarded their certificates by the Arch Deacon, The Reverend Ian Rees, in church during morning service on 18th February. Seven of the bell ringers attended the service to witness the presentation.

Mike Penney

February 2024

The diagram above left shows the changes for Bob Doubles

The picture opposite shows Carol Stoker and Cheri Oliver receiving their certificates from The Reverend Ian Rees



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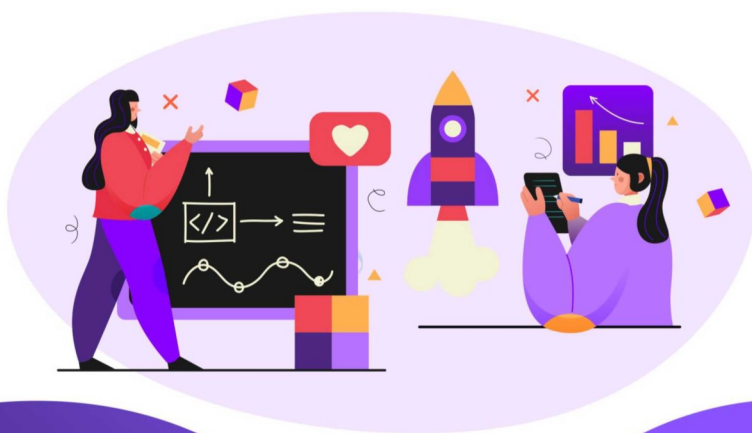
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Lucas Maunder - Bass

Richard Kubiak - Piano

Marjorie Duerden - Harmonium

Saturday 23rd March 2024

7.30pm St Mary's Parish Church, Chepstow

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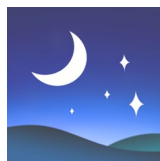


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STARGAZING



In the evening sky the bright planet Jupiter can be seen in the West following the setting sun. It is joined by the fine crescent Moon on the 13th March.

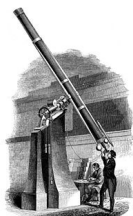
The Moon is at First Quarter on the 16th March and sits approximately half-way between the bright star Betelgeuse in Orion and Capella in the constellation Auriga. At First Quarter half of the surface of the Moon is illuminated by the Sun. The Moon is Full on 24th March, 8 days later.

The name Aldebaran derives from the Arabic meaning "the follower", because it seems to follow the Pleiades, the cluster of stars to its right.

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

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

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



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- 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



The Problem with Seeds

Transform Trade is the name of the charity arm of the now defunct company 'Traidcraft' and it continues its excellent work of supporting marginalized farmers and producers from the global south. It documents the struggles of these workers, suffering from the ravages of the worsening climate crisis and the devastating demands of international corporations, who appear to chase profit at any cost. It goes without saying that seeds are the life blood of our food system – but farmers' rights to exchange, sell and use the seeds they want are not guaranteed.

Smallholder farmers in the Global South know their seeds – they are their livelihood. They know the best varieties that work in their soil and when to bank and save seed for a later date. This is the kind of farming that builds climate resilience and biodiversity. The right for these farmers to choose their own seed is under threat. New laws, heavily lobbied for by big business are being introduced across many countries to limit what smallholders can do with their seeds – in alignment with seed patent laws.

These laws have taken effect in Kenya – meaning that local farmers can no longer share, exchange or sell their own seeds. As a result, many farmers are left with no choice but to buy often costly certified commodity seeds from certified companies. Just 4 corporate giants (Bayer, Corteva, BASF and ChemChina/Syngenta) own 60% of the global seed market. These seeds are often designed to be used with harmful and expensive fertilisers and pesticides.

Transform Trade works with village groups in Jharkhand, India to create community seed banks, which operate like a library – seeds can be borrowed and returned and diverse varieties preserved for future generations.

Community based seed sharing instead of corporate control is often better for the environment, safeguards local knowledge and prevents local farmers from paying overinflated prices to sow their crops. The shockingly high suicide rate of Indian cotton farmers is a direct result of their purchases of special seeds, requiring costly specific fertilisers and insecticides. It is a vicious circle which can drive small scale farmers to be compelled to repeatedly borrow money until they see no way out.

But the UK Government is pressurising countries in the Global South to introduce more restrictive seed laws by putting these

requirements in its free trade deals. Currently the UK has 21 trade agreements that promote these laws. It is vital that farmers' rights are protected and that restrictive seed laws are left out of these deals.

As consumers we have the power to effect change. Do seek out The Fairtrade Foundation and Transform Trade websites, or make purchases from Ethical Superstore. Look out for B corporations – which are committed (and certified!) to ethical trading eg FatFace Rude Health (imo the best almond milk – organic Italian almonds!).

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And, before we know it, it's the March Parish Mag deadline and I've made zero progress on my 'windows 11 options project' as outlined last month.

I was, however, asked the other day by a reader whose memory is far better than mine, what happened to the back-up disk I was trying to rescue. This was outlined in the Feb '23 magazine and, to cut a long story short, my local NAS back-up drive had failed. After much endeavour I concluded that the drive was fine but the electronics were not responding to network access requests. It seems that this could have been the result of a power trip or surge which fried the motherboard, etc. After much time watching YouTube videos and reading blogs, disassembly was the only option. So after half an hour or so of 'fun' I ended up with a disassembled unit complete with hard disk and motherboard, etc. The various suggestions on how to access the data on the drive (which is based on a version of Linux) didn't work for me. So, the final throw of the dice was to purchase an old working My Book Live from eBay, take it to bits, remove the drive it came with and stick mine in there. Then, theoretically, I'd be able to access the data. Did it work? In a word, no!

I make no apologies for re-emphasising the importance of back-up and, not only backing up, but checking the drives are working and you are able to restore from those drives. I back-up on a cycle which includes local NAS drives, Google Drive, OneDrive and another cloud storage system. The idea is that, should any one of these fail, I have the others to fall back on. Make sure you back-up your critical data, photos, etc.

Moving onto the subject of scams, my wife and I have been watching the Scam Interceptors TV show which, as the publicity says, 'hunts down the scammers plaguing our lives'. It's an interesting watch and available on iPlayer.

On the subject of phishing scams, the scammers are getting ever more sophisticated. According to the cybercrime Tarian website (which apparently consists of a team of multi-disciplinary police officers and staff seconded from three of the Welsh forces; South Wales, Gwent, and Dyfed-Powys), because computers are now able to support Cyrillic alphabets, Cyrillic letters can be subtly inserted alongside Latin letters. So legitimate URLs to reputable sites, such as those belonging to banks, etc. can be duplicated with one or two letters changed to Cyrillic. The example they give on their website (<http://tinyurl.com/9azrftnx>) is below:

Spot the Difference?

maybank2u.com is not the same as
maybank2u.com

citibank.com is not the same as
citibank.com

(the first one is correct, the second one
is from hackers)

The "a" in the later url is a cyrillic
alphabet.

An average internet user can easily fall
for this. Be careful for every mail
requiring you to click on a link.

Please Stay Alert

They also highlight the fact that "QR codes are increasingly being used within phishing emails instead of the more traditional URL links. Email recipients will be asked to scan the QR code with their phone – perhaps under the pretence of asking them to 'authenticate themselves', and will then be directed to a malicious site."

So, beware, they are out to get you!

Finally, if you are an EV driver, you'll have noticed a severe drop in range on the colder days. Feeling sympathy then for those Tesla owners in Chicago (as reported in The Register here <http://tinyurl.com/2nj2y4up>) where local media reported public charging stations turning into "car graveyards" because motorists were unable to power their vehicles. Dozens of cars were reportedly abandoned at the Tesla supercharging stations as they refused to accept a charge. This is, apparently, because they had neglected to pre-condition the battery and get it up to the optimal temperature to accept a fast charge. The catch is that preconditioning also drains the battery. Apparently Tesla itself recommends activating climate settings at least 30-45 minutes before departure. I guess we should be thankful we don't get winters like Chicago.

On that happy note, safe browsing.

David Cornwell

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

Sunday 3rd 3 p.m.	Defibrillator fundraiser Recreation Hall
Monday 4 th 7.00 p.m.	Community Council meeting Recreation Hall
Monday 4 th /11 th /18 th /25 th 7.30 p.m.	Christian Meditation The Cedars, Pwllmeyric NP16 6LE
Tuesday 5 th /12 th /19 th /26 th 2.45 p.m.	Christian Meditation The Cedars, Pwllmeyric NP16 6LE
Thursday 7 th /14 th /21 st /28 th 7.30 p.m.	Prayer Group Phone 07887853479 for directions
Thursday 14 th 7.15 p.m.	WI Meeting—celebration of 72 nd birthday Recreation Hall
Saturday 16 th 10.30 a.m.	Youth Market Recreation Hall
Saturday 16 th 09.30 a.m.	Diocesan Workshop St Christopher's Church, Bulwark
Monday 18 th 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Recreation Association AGM Recreation Hall
Saturday 23 rd 09.00 a.m.	Severn Wye Ministry Area walk St Peter's Church, Newchurch
Saturday 23 rd 7.30 p.m.	Chepstow Choral Society Concert St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Sunday 24 th 10.00 a.m.	Blessing of Palms and Holy Eucharist St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton
Sunday 24 th 10.00 a.m.	Blessing of Palms, procession, Sung Eucharist St Arvans Church
Palm Sunday 24 th 10.00 a.m.	Methodist Church to St Mary's Priory Church Procession and joint service
Monday 25 th 1.30 p.m.	Easter Egg Hunt Glade Tearooms, Wentwood Forest
Holy Tuesday 26 th 7.00 p.m.	Tenebrae service (candlelight service) St Andoenus Church, Mounton
Tuesday 26 th 7.30 p.m.	History Society—Japan and Wales by K Dunn Shirenewton Church Room
Holy Wednesday 27 th 7.00 p.m.	Taizé service St Deiniol's Church, Itton
Maundy Thursday 28 th 6.00 p.m.	Mass of the Lord's Supper with feet washing St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow

Maundy Thursday 28 th	Tenebrae service (candlelight service)
7.00 p.m.	St Tewdric's Church, Mathern
Maundy Thursday 28 th	Mass of the Lord's Supper
7.30 p.m.	St Arvans Church
Good Friday 29 th	Walk on Gray Hill
10.00 a.m.	Wentwood Reservoir car park
Good Friday 29 th	Stations of the Cross
10.00 a.m.	St Christopher's Church, Bulwark
Good Friday 29 th	Stations of the Cross
11.00 a.m.	St Pierre Church
Good Friday 29 th	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
3.00 p.m.	St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Good Friday 29 th	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
3.00 p.m.	St Arvans Church
Holy Saturday 30 th	Pause and Remember
1.00 p.m.	St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Holy Saturday 30 th	Easter Vigil service
7.00 p.m.	St Arvans Church
Easter Sunday 31 st	Holy Eucharist
8.00 a.m.	St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Easter Sunday 31 st	Easter Eucharist
9.00 a.m.	St Tewdric's Church, Mathern
Easter Sunday 31 st	Holy Eucharist
9.00 a.m.	St James Church, Devauden
Easter Sunday 31 st	Holy Eucharist
10.00 a.m.	St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton
Easter Sunday 31 st	Sung Eucharist
10.00 a.m.	St Arvens Church
Easter Sunday 31 st	Breakfast, Easter egg hunt, family service
10.00 a.m.	St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Easter Sunday 31 st	Holy Eucharist
10.15 a.m.	St Andoenus Church, Mounon
Easter Sunday 31 st	Holy Eucharist
11.30 a.m.	St Deiniol's Church, Itton
Easter Sunday 31 st	Holy Eucharist
11.30 a.m.	St Pierre Church

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

Friday 19th
7.00 p.m.

Fashion Show—Spring Colours
St Arvan's Memorial Hall

Friday 26th
7.00 p.m.

Call My Bluff Wine Tasting
Shirenewton Church Room

Saturday 27th
from 09.15

Come and Sing—choruses: The Armed Man
Newport Cathedral, St Woolos Sinfonia

Tuesday 30th
7.30 p.m.

History Society—Mounton House Garden
Shirenewton Church Room

May

Tuesday 7th
7.00 p.m.

Licensing Ceremony for Zoe and Barney
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow

Thurs/Fri 23rd/24th
7.00 p.m.

Twelfth Night
Earlswood Memorial Hall

Fri/Mon 24th/27th

Devauden Music Festival

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June

Saturday 15th
2.00 p.m.

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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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CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL.

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

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING PROGRAMME 2024

SATURDAY MARCH 23rd, 2024

G. Rossini –Petite Messe Solennelle with

J Brahms - How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings

JS Bach - Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

G Faure – Cantique de Jean Racine

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

Tickets (£15.00, u/18s, students, FREE) available from Chepstow Bookshop, choir members, contact (01291) 623310, further details from website (see below).

Chepstow Choral Society proudly presents its Annual Spring Concert, featuring soloists from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama (RWCMD) with a wonderful programme of choral music of classical items from the choral repertoire.

CCS warmly welcomes all new singing members. We have no audition policy but reserve the right to place new members where vocally appropriate. Tenors and basses are especially welcome! For details, please see our website (www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk) or phone 01291 623310, and follow us on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) @Chepstow Choral. Thank You –M Duerden (Asst MD.).

We look forward to seeing you at the concert!!!!



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SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE

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