

Shirenewton Parish Magazine



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November 2024

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The Coventry Cross of Nails

By Revd Zoe Pimentel

As we edge into November, we enter the season of Remembrance—a time to ensure that the fallen soldiers from wars past and present are never forgotten.

If you've attended a Sunday service that I've led, you may have noticed the rather large metal cross I wear around my neck. It's something I wear at every church service, and it holds deep personal significance for me. This is no ordinary cross—it is the Coventry Cross of Nails, and its history and symbolism are profound, and it is at this time of year in particular that its meaning hits home to me.

For those of you unfamiliar with the story behind this extraordinary cross, it is my pleasure to share it with you.

A Symbol Born From Destruction

The Coventry Cross of Nails has its history in World War II. During the war, the city of Coventry endured heavy bombing, and on one fateful night, the 14th-century cathedral was destroyed. In the aftermath, as the dust and smoke began to settle, a priest discovered three large nails among the ruins—fallen from the cathedral's burned roof. These nails were bound together to form the shape of a cross.

In the face of such destruction, the Dean of the cathedral, Provost Richard Howard, took a remarkable step. Behind the altar, on the smoke-blackened wall of the sanctuary, he had inscribed the words: *"Father Forgive."* Not *"Father forgive them,"* but simply *"Father forgive."*



Zoe in front of Coventry Cathedral's famous baptistry window by John Piper

Provost Howard recognized the potential for evil within every human heart, regardless of nationality. He believed that rather than placing blame on others, we should first look inward, seeking God's forgiveness for ourselves, as well as seeking it for others. His hope was that if more people adopted this approach, much of the harm in the world could be prevented.

A Global Symbol of Reconciliation

From this humble act, the Coventry Cross of Nails emerged as a profound symbol of reconciliation and peace, one that has inspired people worldwide. After the war, crosses of nails were presented to the cathedrals of Kiel, Dresden, and Berlin—cities similarly devastated by Allied bombing, as an act of peace and reconciliation. Today, there are nearly 300 churches and communities across the world that have been entrusted with a Coventry Cross of Nails, recognizing their commitment to this important work for peace.



The clergy of Coventry Cathedral, even in the darkest days of the war, refused to allow the destruction to breed division or hatred. Instead, they remained steadfastly devoted to the gospel message of reconciliation, as demonstrated by Jesus Christ on the cross.

A Personal Gift

The Coventry Cross of Nails is not something you can purchase. Each cross is gifted by the cathedral to individuals or communities chosen for their dedication to reconciliation. This is why the cross I wear is so precious to me.



Zoe being presented with the Coventry Cross of Nails at her cathedral Licensing service

In August 2018, I had the honour of being employed part-time by Coventry Cathedral as their Lead Chaplain Missioner. My main task was to bring more people through the cathedral's doors, helping them to appreciate and learn from the sacred space, while also working to bring more children and families to visit and explore. It was during this time that I was gifted the cross, a symbol of the cathedral's mission and my own commitment, as a cathedral representative, to the message of peace.

As we reflect during this season of Remembrance, may we each be inspired by the story of the Coventry Cross of Nails. Let us seek reconciliation in our own lives, and look to the example of Christ, who calls us to heal the wounds of division, bringing hope and peace to a world that sorely needs it.

Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall

Sunday 10th November 2024
10.30 am

Come and join us pay our respects to all those who
fell in battle.

Short service followed by light refreshments
All welcome



Eileen O' Dwyer

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63 Chepstow | Usk | Pontypool | Cwmbran

Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays

	Sch	HOL
Cwmbran Bus Station [Stand H]	0712	0712
Croesyceiliog Edloglan Square	0717	0717
Pontypool Town Hall	0725	0725
Pontypool Park Road	0726	0726
Pontypool opp Town Hall	0727	0727
Little Mill Pont-y-pia	0734	0734
Usk Coleg Gwent Main Road	0741	0741
Usk Twyn Square	0747	0747
Llangwm Bridge Inn Road	0755	0755
Earlswood West End	0803	0803
Shirenewton Road Junction	0813	0813
Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road	---	0820
Chepstow Comprehensive School	0820	0820
Chepstow Bus Station	0825	0824
	1200	1200
	1205	1205
	1213	1213
	1214	1214
	1215	1215
	1222	1222
	1229	1229
	1235	1235
	1242	1242
	1243	1243
	1251	1251
	1258	1258
	1301	1301
	1308	1308
	1312	1312
	1315	1315
	1519	1519
	1811	1811

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays Sorry, there is no Sunday service on route 63

Timetable from 1 September 2024

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

Saturdays

0712	0922	1200	---	1700
0717	0927	1205	---	1705
0725	0935	1213	1420	1713
0726	0936	1214	1421	1714
0727	0937	1215	1422	1715
0734	0944	1222	1429	1722
0741	0951	1229	1436	1730
0747	0957	1235	1442	1736
0755	1005	1243	1450	1744
0803	1013	1251	1458	1752
0813	1023	1301	1508	1800
0820	1030	1308	1515	1807
---	---	---	---	---
0824	1034	1312	1519	1811

These timetables are updated for 1 September 2024 and show changes to assist college students

Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays

	0805	1040	1320	Sch	HOL
Chepstow Bus Station	---	---	---	1525	1526 1820
Chepstow Comprehensive School	---	---	---	1530	---
Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road	0809	1044	1324	---	1530 1824
Shirenewton Road Junction	0817	1051	1331	1537	1537 1831
Earlswood West End	0825	1059	1339	1545	1545 1839
Llangwm Bridge Inn Road	0834	1108	1348	1554	1554 1848
Usk Twyn Square	0843	1117	1357	1603	1603 1857
Usk Coleg Gwent Main Road	0848	1122	1402	1609	1609 1901
Little Mill Bridge	0855	1129	1409	1616	1616 1908
Pontypool Town Hall	0903	1138	1418	1625	1625 1916
Pontypool Park Road	0904	1139	1421	1626	1626 1917
Pontypool opp Town Hall	0905	1140	---	1627	1627 1918
Croesycellio Edloglan Square	0913	1147	---	1635	1635 1925
Cwmbran Bus Station	0917	1151	---	1639	1639 1929

Sch Operates on schooldays only**Hol** Operates school holidays only

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Sorry, there is no Sunday service on route 63

Saturdays

0805	1040	1320	1526	1820
---	---	---	---	---
0809	1044	1324	1530	1824
0817	1051	1331	1537	1831
0825	1059	1339	1545	1839
0834	1108	1348	1554	1848
0843	1117	1357	1603	1857
0848	1122	1402	1609	1901
0855	1129	1409	1616	1908
0903	1138	1418	1625	1916
0904	1139	1421	1626	1917
0905	1140	---	1627	1918
0913	1147	---	1635	1925
0917	1151	---	1639	1929



SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 7th October 2024.

Planning applications considered

DM/2024/01098 – First Floor Extension – Grove View, Bully Hole Road, Earlswood

Grove View is a small 1 ½ storey bungalow of (relatively) modern design comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, and 2 bedrooms (one downstairs and one in the loft) located just off the Bulley Hole Bottom road below the Usk B road.

The application is for a substantial enlargement of the loft to provide 3 bedrooms, bathroom and en suite which requires front and rear dormers to the right-hand side of the bungalow and reconstructing the left hand end as a gable front and back, the roof line of which appears to be slightly higher than the current roof ridge. The footprint appears to be unchanged (no depth or length measurements are given) but the total floor area is stated as currently 85 sqm increasing by 77sqm to 162 sqm.

Councillors may wish to recall that the criteria of MCC Planning Policy H6 is that an extension to any rural dwelling has to be modest, respect or enhance the appearance of the existing building and be subordinate to the existing building, 'modest' being normally interpreted as an increase in the overall volume of 30% over the size of the existing dwelling. A larger volume will not normally be allowed unless it can be clearly shown either that there will be no harmful intrusive impact in the landscape through the increased size of the dwelling or that there is an enhancement in the appearance of the existing dwelling, subject, in any event, to the increase in volume being no more than 50%.

MCC's Landscape Officer considers the proposed extension is relatively modest and will enhance the appearance the existing dwelling as the existing dwelling is not of a traditional nature in terms of

being a rural cottage.

The building will have rendered walls and slate roof (no colours specified) with grey UPVC windows, doors, fascia and rainwater goods. The application specifies new tree planting, hedgerow planting to the northern boundary, reinstatement of parking and lawns and new patio areas.

The council unanimously voted for no objection but SCC requests conditions as to muting of the colour finishes to blend in with the landscape.

DM/2024/00921 - Little Bushes Farm, Earlswood, Shirenewton, Updated Plan in response to SCC comments on conversion of existing storage outbuilding to create gym / home office ancillary to existing dwelling

Councillors will recall the recent application for conversion of a storage barn to residential use as a gym and office. SCC objected for want of detail on measurements, materials and colour finishes.

An updated plan has been submitted, essentially the same as before but with limited additional information. The natural stone walls are to remain, with vertical timber cladding on the front but still no colour has been specified. The roof is to consist of corrugated roof sheets in brown, but the two Velux windows are still missing. Windows and doors are uPVC/ aluminium with anthracite frames, and rainwater goods in black uPVC. Building width and length measurements have been added as 7.385 x 10.88 sqm (just over our estimate).

SCC unanimously voted to object to this application as the updated drawing does not specify the location of the Velux windows nor the colour finish of the timber cladding but considers that these could be covered by a condition that the colour finish of the cladding be muted. As previously, SCC would also request conditions as to restrict the barn to use with the bungalow as a single-family unit and to remove the general consent for extensions improvements and additional outbuildings without further planning consent.

DM/2024/01146 Modification of condition no. 10 (replace parking arrangement drawing) of consent DM/2022/00263 Rhewl Cottage, Rhewl Farm, Shirenewton

The property lies on the road from Shirenewton passed Rhewl Farm and consists of a detached house and separate garage block. The 2022 consent related to an application for the extension and change of use of existing garage into dog day care facility, along with the change of use of field to dog walking paddock.

Consent was granted subject to conditions including:

8 The dog day care element of the proposal hereby approved is limited to a maximum of 6 dogs at a time. Reason: In the interests of Highway Safety and Residential Amenity

9 The use hereby approved shall not operate outside of 8am - 6pm daily. Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

10 Prior to beneficial use of the use hereby approved, the parking and turning provision as shown on approved plan 1535-7 must be provided and maintained in perpetuity

That plan showed 8 parking spaces, allowing 2 for the house and 6 for the business.

MCC's Highway Authority had commented on the original application that it is satisfied that the application site is limited to a maximum of 6 dogs per day therefore the proposed car parking and turning layout proposed is sufficient for both domestic and business elements of the site and therefore is unlikely to impact on the adjacent public highway.

The applicant seeks to amend the approved design to create a more balanced and sympathetic layout for the parking and driveway arrangement, considering both the residential and business use of the property.

The applicant's Design Statement asserts as follows :

The current approved design, which includes 8 parking spaces in a utilitarian configuration, has a commercial feel that detracts from the rural character of the property and its surroundings. The residential dwelling itself only requires 3 parking spaces. The dog care facility, which accommodates a maximum of 6 dogs at any one time, operates under a carefully managed drop-off schedule, ensuring that clients arrive at staggered times to prevent multiple dogs arriving simultaneously. This drop off process typically takes only a few minutes per client, meaning that any vehicles are parked for short periods. If two clients arrive at the same time, the business is flexible enough to accommodate them parking in tandem, 2 which is not an issue due to the familiarity between the family-run business and its regular clients. The proposed design now includes 3 parking spaces for the residential dwelling and 2 designated spaces for clients, with a 6m x 6m turning area that can be used as emergency parking in rare cases. This layout maintains the rural character of the property while still effectively servicing the dog care business.

The council unanimously voted for no objection

Play park Area: A report that rear gate is in poor state. This is a safety issue as the Gate is used by trades. Clerk to measure and seek various quotes for plastic, wood and metal.

Wreaths and memorial path – Clerk to order wreaths and book memorial path clean and clear ready for Remembrance Sunday

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Louise Brown reported:

Home to school transport- Special People Committee on the 19th of September and Cabinet on the 25th of September 2024

This was called in due to concerns about the consultation being over the Summer and discussed at the Special People Committee meeting on the 19th of September and referred to Cabinet. However, Cabinet on the 25th of September reconfirmed the main changes so that Primary school transport which would change to the statutory limits from 1.5 miles to 2 miles and Secondary from 2 miles to 3 miles distance from the school. This will impact the school years 25/26. However, the Council still need to assess the available walking route.

The link to the meetings can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=304&MId=6176>

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=144&MId=6048>

County Council on the 19th of September 2024

The County Council on the 19th of September considered various reports on the Governance and Annual Monitoring report, self-assessment and people in care, together with various questions. The link to the meeting can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=143&MId=5741>

Place Committee on the 10th of October 2024-RLDP Deposit Stage

The agenda for this meeting covers the RLDP deposit stage of the plan. It covers both the strategic sites and other sites in rural areas including villages. The strategic sites include the change in relation to the previous proposals of 145 houses at Bayfield Chepstow and instead places this housing at the Mounton Road site next to the High Beech roundabout. This Mounton Road site is also expected to include a hotel and residential care home. There are also proposed significant house building at Caldicot East/ North

Portskewett, all of which will further exacerbate the traffic congestion issues.

There is a site being proposed for 26 houses in Shirenewton for Land West of Red Landes which is on the Earlswood Road past the village boundary on the opposite side of the road to the recreation hall.

The 6-week public consultation on the deposit stage of the RLDP proposals is expected to follow the County Council meeting on the 24th of October to cover the period from the 4th of November to the 16th of December.

The link to the meeting and documents can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=303&MIId=5827>

Multi-agency meetings

The multiagency meeting on the accident prone B4235 with the Police, Go Safe, highways and the County councillor and community councillor have been postponed until the end of October 2024 due to the Inspector being unavailable for the original meeting of the 1st of October.

We understand that there have been further accidents including one between the Carpenters Arms and Pandy Mill and one near the Huntsman junction.

We are waiting for a date from Welsh Water for the next multi-agency meeting with Welsh Water, EH and County Councillor and community councillors.

Cllrs agreed the date of the next meeting as Monday 4th November 2024 at 7:00pm by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely

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 Mobile: 07410 580961

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S NEWCHURCH

Diary Dates 2024

15th Dec, 4.30pm Christingle Service St Peter's Church

24th Dec, 4.30pm Christmas Carol Service St Peter's Church

25th Dec, 10am Christmas Day Service St Peter's Church

“

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

ANONYMOUS

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in October:

1. Owen, the golden retriever
2. Tom and Lizzie Lewis
3. Megan Barr



CHRISTMAS Craft Market

Saturday 30th November
Earlswood & Newchurch West Hall

10.30 ~ 2.30

Free Entry - Plenty of parking (NP16 6AW)

Start your Christmas shopping early, come and see
our craft stalls.

Children can write & post their letters to Santa in our
North Pole Post Box (free)

Have a chat over a cup of Tea, coffee or hot chocolate
and a piece of cake.

To book a stall Phone 07889 762840

SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET NEWS....

**OUR LAST MARKET WAS A GREAT SUCCESS
RAISING £96.10 FOR LATCH. THANK YOU!**

**MANY THANKS TO ALL STALLHOLDERS, HELPERS &
TO THE VILLAGE FOR YOUR SUPPORT. A SPECIAL,
THANK YOU TO JENI & DAVID WHO RAN THE CAFÉ
FOR US THIS TIME – MUCH APPRECAITED BY ALL
HUNGRY & THIRSTY STALLHOLDERS & SHOPPERS!**



SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE CHRISTMAS MARKETS



**WE HAVE TWO MARKET DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!
A YOUTH CHRISTMAS MARKET ON FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER
5.30PM -7.30PM. (OPEN TO UNDER 16'S)**

**OUR NORMAL CHRISTMAS MARKET SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
USUAL TIME 10.30AM-12.30PM.**

**WE WILL NEED SOME HELP ESPECIALLY AT THE YOUTH MARKET
WITH THE POP-UP CAFE - PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU'RE
AVAILABLE & WILLING! VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME –
WE HAVE A SMALL TEAM & APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE.**

**Thank you.
Shirley**

ayresandgraces@yahoo.com



Wreath making workshop

A Severn Wye Ministry Area fundraiser

Saturday 30th Nov

Join us for some festive fun!

10:30am-12:30pm

@ Catherine Carne's home in Pwllmeyric

£30 including all materials, tea, coffee and cake

Places limited!! For details and to book please
contact Catherine: 07496 790456



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

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A fun, friendly and **free** alternative to Halloween -
no scares and no gore

ON

SUNDAY 3RD NOV
3:30-4:30PM

Join us for....

- Design your own pumpkin carving
- Biscuit icing
- Quiz and games
- Free glowsticks and mini disco
- Prizes for best superhero, princess and animal costume!

AT SHIRENEWTON CHURCH HALL

Contact Revd Zoe for more info: 07754 306229



Introducing

saints chepstow

A new Anglican church at St.Christopher's, Bulwark



Led by Revds **Zoe & Barney Pimentel**, and Children & Families Pioneer **Clare Edwards**, the new church will have an informal style with an emphasis on reaching those under 40.

During the week Saints will be running activities aimed at children and families – a “Lego Church”, a children’s community choir, and a toddler group, with Sunday evenings set aside for more Spiritual input and time together over a meal.

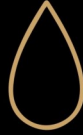
If you are interested in learning more, or would like to volunteer, please get in touch!

saintschepstow@cinw.org.uk



Inclusion and equality are some of our core values as a leadership team. Our aim is for Saints to be LGBTQI+ affirming and to achieve the Autism Friendly award by the National Autistic Society.





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SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23rd

10.30 – 12.30

AT THE REC HALL

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SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE

CHRISTMAS YOUTH MARKET

FRIDAY 22nd NOVEMBER
5.30-7.30pm AT THE REC HALL

FEATURING CRAFTS FROM OUR TALENTED UNDER 16'S

For more details contact Shirley - ayresandgraces@yahoo.com

NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY AREA

Our new Hub church will soon be up and running ! This exciting initiative, funded by the Representative Body for 5 years, will see a new worshipping community based in St Christopher's, with a full time Leader and a Children and Families worker. While people of all ages will be welcome, the focus will be to encourage younger people (basically, anyone under the age of 40) to join our church community, as this is the demographic which is sadly underrepresented in all our churches at the moment.

Zoe and Barney Pimentel will be sharing the role of Hub Leader, alongside their existing Ministry Area Leader responsibilities. Claire Edwards is the other member of the team. A wonderful commissioning service was held in Tredegar on Thursday 26th September, led by Bishop Cherry. Archdeacon Stella Bailey preached an inspiring sermon about Faith and Hope. We Hope for growth in our church, but in order to achieve that, we must have Faith and perseverance to work to achieve our vision, sometimes against opposition or apathy.

Cynthia Matthews has been appointed as the Ministry Area Safeguarding Officer. She and Zoe are developing a register of those who require or have received DBS checks and training. Module A training can be done online, and Module B training is normally face to face. If you are on the MAC, or hold a position in your church which brings you into contact with children or vulnerable adults, please contact Cynthia to check what training you require. It's not onerous (about 40 minutes for Module A and 2 hours for Module B). A very interesting and useful Module B course was held in Shirenewton recently and further sessions are being arranged. Safeguarding is not just about protecting the vulnerable while they are in church – it is also about recognising those in our church community who may be suffering physical, psychological, financial or other abuse or neglect wherever it is occurring. Our Provincial Safeguarding Officer is Colin Taylor and anyone who suspects abuse should contact him in the first instance for advice, via the Diocesan website.

Barney and Zoe are keen to involve and train lay people to assist with leading worship, leading prayers, and carrying out pastoral ministry. The Church in Wales now formally recognises and commissions people to these important roles. Barney and Zoe are running a course for Worship leaders, and pastoral ministry training is also available. Please contact them if you are interested and want to find out more.

From left: Barney Pimentel, Adrian Davila (Leader of the Tredegar Hub), Bishop Cherry and Claire Edwards. (Zoe was unfortunately ill and unable to attend the service).



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Tots and toddlers

Thursday 10 - 11:30
(term time only)

St Christophers Church
Pembroke Road, Bulwark

For pre school children, babies and their carers.
Join us every Thursday from 10 - 11:30 , during term time
for play, crafts, songs, friendship, refreshments, and fun!

Starting January 9th 2025!

Contact: saintschepstow@cinw.org.uk for more info.



SEVERN WYE MINISTRY AREA

BIRTHDAY PARTY SOCIALS!

At **3:30pm** on the following Sundays:

8th September

10th November

12th January



**Free cream tea in one of our homes;
come along to the party closest to
your birthday!**

**Hosted by
David & Catherine Carne
and
Revds Zoe & Barney Pimentel**

**For venue information and to RSVP, please contact Revd Zoe:
severn.wye.MAL@gmail.com / 07754 306229**

There are just a few spaces left



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In a festive mood?

Then come see the ladies (and gentlemen)
of the Farndale team mount another assault
on the classics with their stage version of
"A Christmas Carol".

Have a 'Dickens' of a time...

**Cabaret-style seating - please
bring your own drinks & nibbles!**

Portskewett Church Hall

Saturday 23rd November 2024
@ 7:30pm
Scan QR tag to buy tickets
(booking fee applies)



Portskewett

St. Arvans Memorial Hall

Saturday 30th November 2024
@ 7:30pm
Scan QR tag to buy tickets
(booking fee applies)



St. Arvans

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our 2024/2025 year started off with a talk given by Naylor Firth entitled 'Namibia, Sandiland.' Naylor being a geologist this was the perfect destination. As usual, a very interesting and well presented talk.

Our Archive sessions have started once again, with enquiries and visits from people looking for family connections with our village. Four Americans from Wisconsin arrived looking for their ancestors, we discovered they were related to two well known local families, we were able to put them in touch with living relatives. These are drop in sessions open to everyone, please come along I'm sure you will find something of interest. Our next Archive sessions will be on Wednesday, 13th November, 2.00 p.m.—4.00 p.m.

An example of one of the treasures in the Archive is the Order of Service for the unveiling of the War Memorial tablet—see opposite.

Dates for your diary

Date 2024

Wed 13th Nov

Tues 26th Nov

Tues 10th Dec

Wed 11th Dec

Fri 27th Dec

Speaker

Keith Tayton

Naylor Firth

Title

Archive meeting, 2.00 pm

T.B.D.

Itton Church, followed by
Supper

Archive meeting, 2.00 pm

Winter Solstice walk, Grey
Hill

Meet at 7.30 a.m. in the
car park of the Woodland
Tavern

Followed at 9.00 a.m. by a community breakfast in the Church Hall for pre-booked reservations only—details to follow.

ORDER OF SERVICE
FOR
UNVEILING OF
WAR MEMORIAL TABLET
1939—1945

CHURCH OF THOMAS À BECKET
SHIRENEWTON

22nd SEPTEMBER, 1946

Nerys's Natty Nosh

Seafood. We all know the benefits of eating Salmon, but if you're after something different which contains the health benefits of omega 3 why not choose: -Manila clams, Yellowtail, Sea Bass, Bluefin Tuna, Anchovies, Caviar, Cockles. Oysters, Fish roe, Grey Mullet, Hake, Halibut, John Dory, Mackerel, Trout, Red Mullet, Salmon, sardines, Spiny lobster and Swordfish.



I had a delivery of beautiful courgettes and red peppers from @Riverford so decided to make this dish.



Courgette spaghetti with seared tuna

steak and spicy red pepper sauce. 😊

I made the sauce by frying garlic, ginger, spring onion, in chili oil. Then added soya sauce and a teaspoon of sherry. The tuna steak I seared very quickly on both sides with a little chili oil.



Asian salmon Serves 2 DELICIOUS.



Ingredients

2 salmon fillets

1 tbsp oil

25cm fresh ginger

1 tsp lemongrass paste.

2 garlic cloves

1 tsp lime juice

1 red chilli

250ml coconut milk

4 spring onions

1 tbsp soya sauce

Coriander

Serve with rice noodles.

Method

Sauté the chopped spring onions and diced red chilli in a frying pan until soft.

Place the rice noodles in a bowl, add a little salt and cover with boiling water. Leave for 5 minutes

In a mini food processor or magic bullet blitz the garlic, ginger, lime juice, lemongrass and coconut milk. Then add to the frying pan. Allow to come to the boil. Taste and add the soya sauce. Add the salmon, flesh down in the sauce.

Turn the heat down, cover with a lid and simmer gently for 4 minutes.

Take the salmon out. Allow the sauce to continue cooking for a minute or so. Taste and add more soya sauce if needed.

Drain the noodles and place on the warmed plate.

Add the salmon then the hot sauce.

Garnish with coriander and chopped raw chillies.



Teriyaki salmon and prawns

with stir fry vegetables, pea shoots, ginger, soya sauce and garlic dressing, viola and dill leaves.

For the Teriyaki salmon and prawns, you will need: -

Ingredients:

- 500g salmon fillets
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup sherry or mirin
- 2 tablespoons sake (optional)
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon ginger, grated

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Method

1. In a bowl, mix soy sauce, mirin, sake (or sherry) honey, minced garlic, and grated ginger to make the teriyaki sauce.
2. Place salmon fillets and prawns in a shallow dish and pour half of the teriyaki sauce over them. Marinate for at least 30 minutes.
3. Heat vegetable oil in a pan over medium-high heat. Remove salmon from the marinade and sear in the hot pan for 2-3 minutes on each side, or until golden brown.
4. Pour the remaining teriyaki sauce and prawns into the pan and simmer until the sauce thickens and coats the salmon.



Gorgeous chunky air fried chips served with poached salmon which took 2 minutes in the microwave, tin of mushy peas @harryramsdn and homemade tartar sauce. Which is basically chopped up capers, mayonnaise and a splash of lemon juice. Have a good day.



An evening of traditional Christmas music

**By
Lena and Ceri Duetists**



**With special guest star
Mal Pope**



**St Peter's Church, St Pierre
Wednesday 11th December 2024
7pm**

Tickets £10 to include a glass of wine or soft drink

From

**Merran Higgins
01291 689646**

Lena and Ceri

And on the door

ShAMBLES 2024

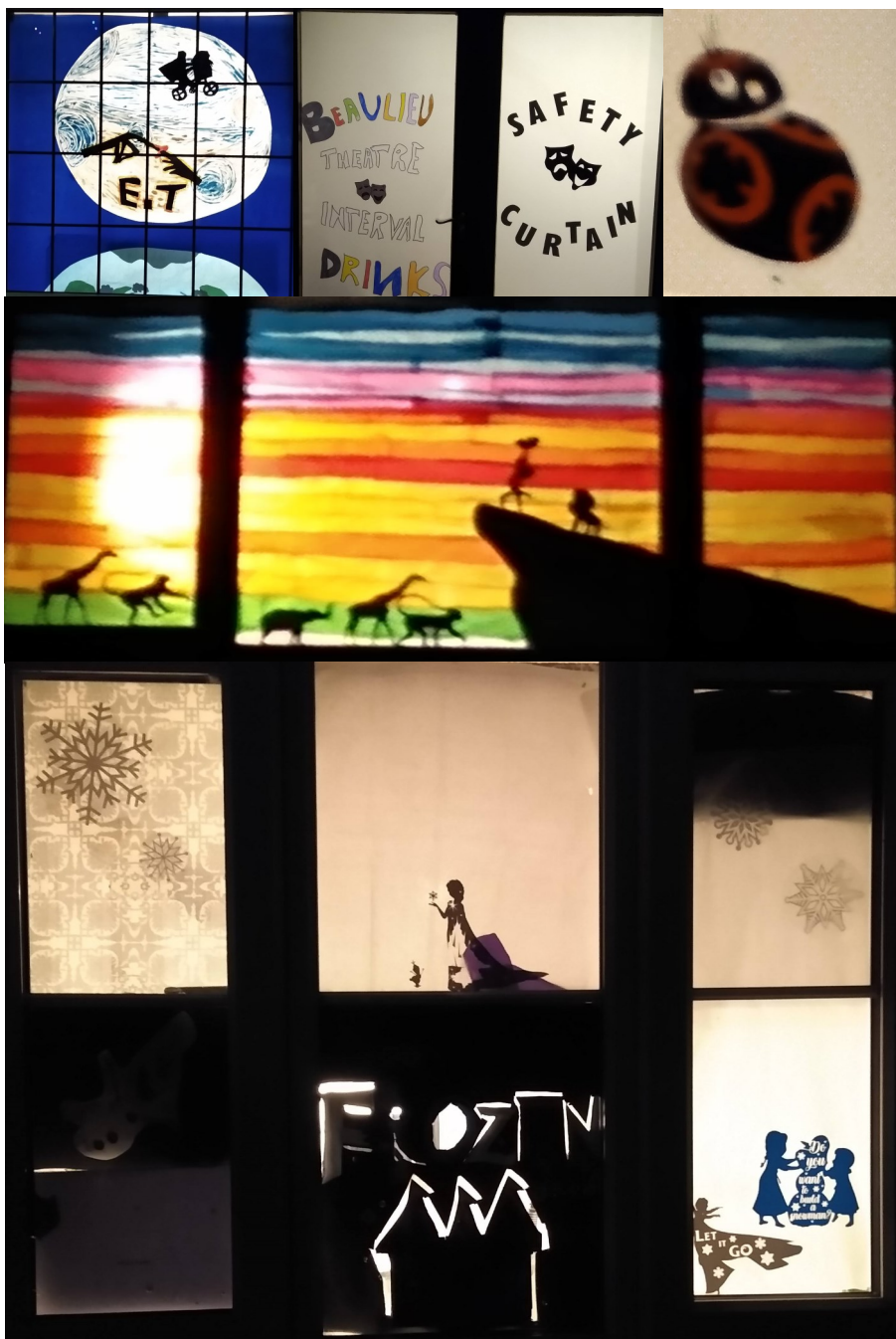
Hello ShAMBLE friends! We hope that you all enjoyed this year's event as much as we did. So many creative and beautiful windows out there to enjoy, thank you so much for getting involved! Shamble relies on volunteers to organise and run the event, and most of the organisers have been doing this since Shamble began seven years ago.

To enable Shamble to continue into the future, we need new volunteers, as several of the existing team need to step down. If you love Shamble and want to see it continue, please do get in touch. Without more support we will have to 'rest' Shamble for 2025.

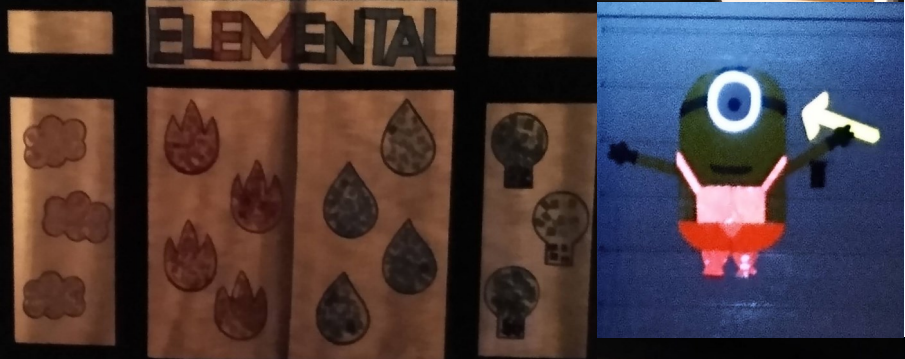
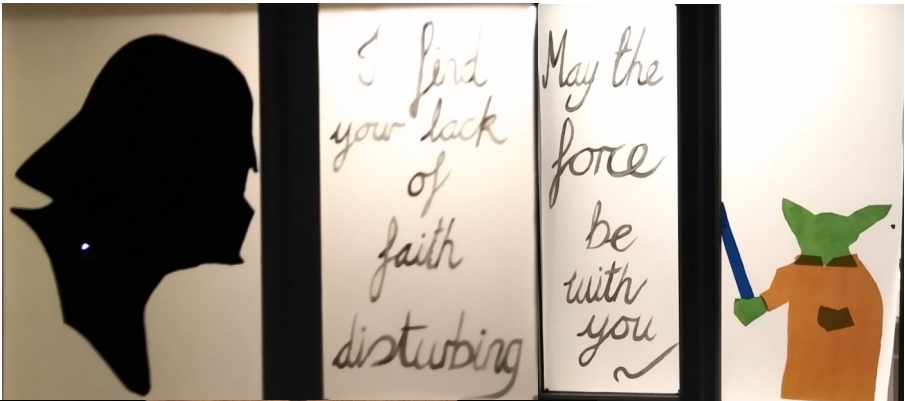
shirenewtonshamble@gmail.com

Please see the photos of this year's ShAMBLES on the front cover, this page and on pages 36 to 41.

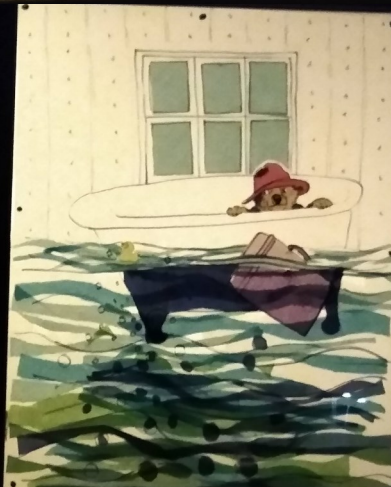
















Some time ago when I was consumed by a particular worry I decided that I needed to partition my thoughts and put my anxiety inside a metaphorical barrier. I could 'visit' my worry, but not let it envelope me. Recently I've reinstated this idea, this time with my three abiding obsessive worries : Gaza, the US election, the climate. When I do consider them, the appalling outcome is that none has any acceptable positive conclusion. Of course the advice is to concentrate on solving problems where one can.

Which brings me to chocolate, more specifically Fairtrade chocolate. I read recently that you've almost definitely eaten chocolate produced with child labour. 4 in 10 cocoa-growing households in Ivory Coast use child labour, 6 in 10 in Ghana. Ridiculously low levels of return on the production of cocoa mean that families have little choice but to use their children as labourers – wages are on average less than 2\$ a day and in fact net income is falling. In addition poor returns result in a cycle of deforestation to boost short term yields : tree yields start to decline after about 15 years. Ghana and Ivory Coast have lost 94% and 80% respectively of their forests – one third of it to cocoa production. 40% of Ivorian cocoa comes from protected forests – i.e. technically illegal.

And chocolate manufacturers, mostly vast international corporations earn stupendous profits. It is interesting and rather depressing to read the blurb produced by these manufacturers, some trumpeting their own ethical arrangements. The premium for Fairtrade certified chocolate is 3 times as high as that offered by the Rainforest Alliance.

As the season for advent calendars, chocolate coins and general chocolate indulgence approaches I urge you to seek out the Fairtrade mark. Farmers and their families and the environment will thank you!

Oxfam has lots of FT chocolate goodies. Some is available in (some) supermarkets and as ever I recommend Ethical Superstore.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.co

Shirenewton Church Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who donated tins and packets of food for our Harvest Festival. It is true that in ye olden days it was fabulous to walk into church and smell the Harvest - the dahlias and chrysanthemums, the apples and pears and the freshly dug dirty potatoes. And it was always great to see the wonderful display of homegrown (and Tesco's own) carrots, onions, grapes and oranges.

But those days are gone and we now have a much more practical approach to Harvest - we donate tins of meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, packets of pasta and rice, jars of coffee and boxes of long-life milk. And people were so generous as you can see from the picture. After the Harvest Service we took it down to the Bulwark Food Bank. Okay, so it may not be as aesthetically pleasing as the traditional display of fruit and veg, but it does mean that Dave Cornwell, our safe browsing webmaster - doesn't have to work hard auctioning off vast quantities of robust swedes, enormous but woody beetroots, long lanky leeks, very peculiar (maybe decorative ?) gourds and those definitely unwanted giant marrows. Glynis MacDonald





Advent Fair

In the Church Room

Sunday 1st December

11:00 - 12:00

Hand crafted Christmas goodies

Cakes, Biscuits, Mincemeat, Jams,
Jellies and Marmalades

And of course, a raffle

Coffee and mince pies.

And it's a cash-only bash.

**The money raised will go to
'Médecins sans Frontières'**





**Carols Around the Village
Christmas Tree**
With the Chepstow Town Band!

Sunday 8th December at 6.30

'The Sultan' Car Park.

The Cash Collection will go to

'Médecins sans Frontières'

Bring a torch. And some gloves.

A warm hat. And loud voices!

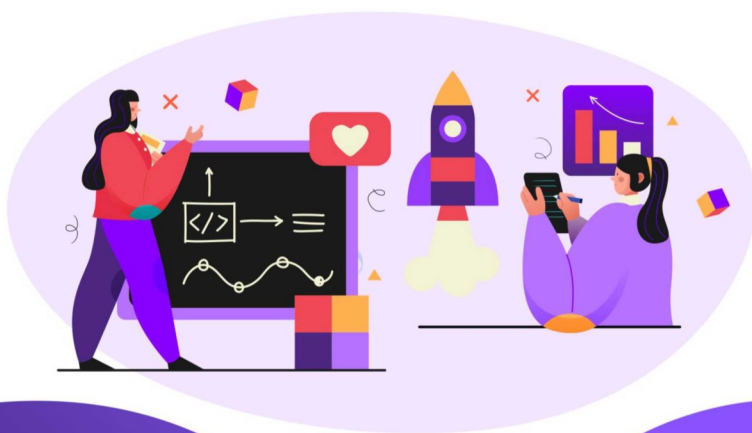
*And if it's raining we will head up to
the candle-lit church.*



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL PLAY OUR LOTTERY



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- The easy way to help us raise funds
- Local cash prizes every week



BUY TICKETS:

Go to: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

And search for: Shirenewton



GambleAware 18+



Chepstow Choral Society

Musical Director – Graham Bull

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales and Making Music – The National Federation of Music Societies. Registered charity no. 1127098

TY CERDD
MUSIC CENTRE WALES

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2024

**at CHEPSTOW LEISURE CENTRE
ARTS HALL**

**WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER,/
7.00pm**

A mix of sacred and secular items –much-loved carols, seasonal readings, and popular Christmas choral music, sacred and secular, and including the choruses from Handel's "Messiah" Part 1.

Light refreshments including glass of wine/soft drinks and mince pies will be included at the conclusion of the concert.

Tickets £10, u/18s, students free) are available from Chepstow Bookshop, choir members - visit our website for further information. www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

CHRISTMAS MUSIC WITH YOUR LOCAL CHORAL SOCIETY!

Gardening Corner

As I sit here writing this, the first named storm of the season is blowing well, and dropping copious amounts of water – as if we haven't had enough recently! I should think that by now, the underground water levels must be at the point of complete saturation. From the gardening point of view, activity outside has all but stopped and work on the ground is unlikely to happen any time soon. I have extolled the virtues of raised beds in the vegetable patch for many years. It is far too wet to even consider working these at present, but just two days dry makes all the difference, and I have a long list of jobs to do in the event that we ever do get back to back dry days again! Weeding will be the first job on the list followed by manuring and then covering the beds over with ground covering. This is porous, which lets air and water through, but stops weeds from growing back. The manure will get drawn down into the ground by the worms resulting in ideal conditions for planting the new crops when the covers are removed in the spring. With all the hedges cut, the next job on the list will be the pruning of all our apple and pear trees. This will be only a light prune this year, as they were hit hard a couple of years ago in an effort to bring them back into a better shape and height. We are certainly missing the fruit this year, with just 12 conference pears and maybe around 50 various apples (not including the cookers) a real crop failure considering the number of trees that we have. There was plenty of blossom, so I can only think the one late frost we had last spring did all the damage. We especially missed the discovery apples – not one grew on the two well established trees. An old variety, but they normally provide us with the juiciest and most flavoursome apples in August/September, well before the other varieties ripen.

So, with activity outside curtailed, it is all hands-on deck in the greenhouses and tunnels. Old crops are being removed and the ground is being cleared ready for the next crops to be planted. If we have enough manure, each bed will get a dressing applied as outside, but we never do ever have enough to go around. Apart from the one early frost, that fortunately did little damage, Autumn seems set to drag on for some considerable time this year. With the never ending wet or grey days, the biggest problem this year inside has been rank mildew and mould problems, the former on things like cucumbers, melons and courgettes, and the latter on the tomatoes. Our biggest tunnel grows a lot of food in a year, but at some 20 metres long and 7 metres wide it can suffer through lack of air-flow. The ends have netting doors, which, when the wind is blowing allows some air circulation, but when there is little wind there is none at all, hence the problems. The cost of putting a decent size fan inside and then running it, would be quite high, so financially it might not be worth the expense. Instead, we try to rely on good housekeeping, like removing any fruits or leaves that show the first signs of mildew or mould, but even this has been a struggle to keep on top of. A job for this week is to remove the bulk of the tomatoes as many of these have finished. With most of

them removed, we are hoping that the plants that are still producing will get more air and so will carry on proving fruit for a little longer yet. The French beans have also finished now, but rather than pull them down straight away they will be left to dry off, and the seeds will be recovered and stored to provide next year's crop. The courgettes and various peppers are still hanging on in there, so they will be spared a little longer. We had a good crop of garlic and shallots this year, both of which were grown under cover in the big tunnel. This will be repeated again next year, but obviously in a different bed, to avoid disease problems. My next job will be to get both crops planted in individual pots, one whole shallot, and an individual garlic clove per pot. I could plant them straight into the ground, but I find that it is easier to manage them when in pots, especially when it comes to watering. They will then be planted out in the prepared bed in early spring, by which time they will be in active growth with good root development. With the cover and extra warmth provided in the tunnel, both crops will be ready for harvesting by the end of June, after which the beds will be cleared and then replanted, probably with a crop like calabrese, which can be fast growing and produce another crop in the Autumn. We are presently cutting some lovely fresh calabrese from an early July planting. There are various other activities underway, which will also feed into next year's plans both in the flower and vegetable beds. Strawberry runners have been removed and potted up, ready to replace some of the older plants. Strawberry plants are really at their best for two years, but certainly no more than 3. They should then be dug up and burnt, and replaced with new plants in a different area in order to avoid a build up of diseases. Sweet pea seed has been sown. We tend to grow one lot over winter, and then sow more in early spring in an effort to get a longer time cropping time. We have taken part delivery of a bulb / plant order, again ready for next year, and these have also been potted up, so that they can be planted out in spring.

We had a very rare 'day off' this month, which was not a busman's holiday for a change. The trip included both our daughters as well, but not their other halves and children, which is very unusual these days! They always arrive with their various broods, numerous cuddly toys, dog, wheelchair etc., but not this time. This was to be a special trip to Windsor Castle for just the four of us. We were greeted by armed police, who were extremely polite and friendly when asking Gemma to 'pop' her car boot and bonnet for a security inspection. This was a bit unexpected and they had to be pre-warned of the inevitable 'paraphernalia' in the boot, consisting of muddy boots, roller skates, knee and elbow pads, helmets etc, etc.,. Another grinned at the very fine collection of frocks and hatinators on display in the car as he said "you've got Prince William today"! Yes, their dreams had come true. I had been awarded an MBE in this year's King's birthday Honours list, for services to Forestry, and Prince William was presenting it to me. Needless to say, the girls (all three) were very pleased! It was all quite an experience. Everyone we met were extremely helpful and friendly, and William was extremely

personable. I won't repeat what he said when I told him I had recently retired from the Forestry Commission, after 45 years, that is between me and him. He thought that this was a very long time!! With William and Catherine at the helm, our Monarchy is in very safe hands, if only they are allowed.

Talking of monarchy (as in queen bees!), I did manage to grab a warm day to see to the bees a week or so ago. The varroa mite treatment was removed from each hive, queen excluders removed, mouse guards put on, and food supplies checked to ensure they were adequate for the cold months ahead. Fingers crossed that they will all survive for next year. On sunny days, the workers are clearly making the most of the ivy flowers, which are the last real nectar and pollen harvest for this year.

Happy gardening until next time, Steve and Felicity Hunt.

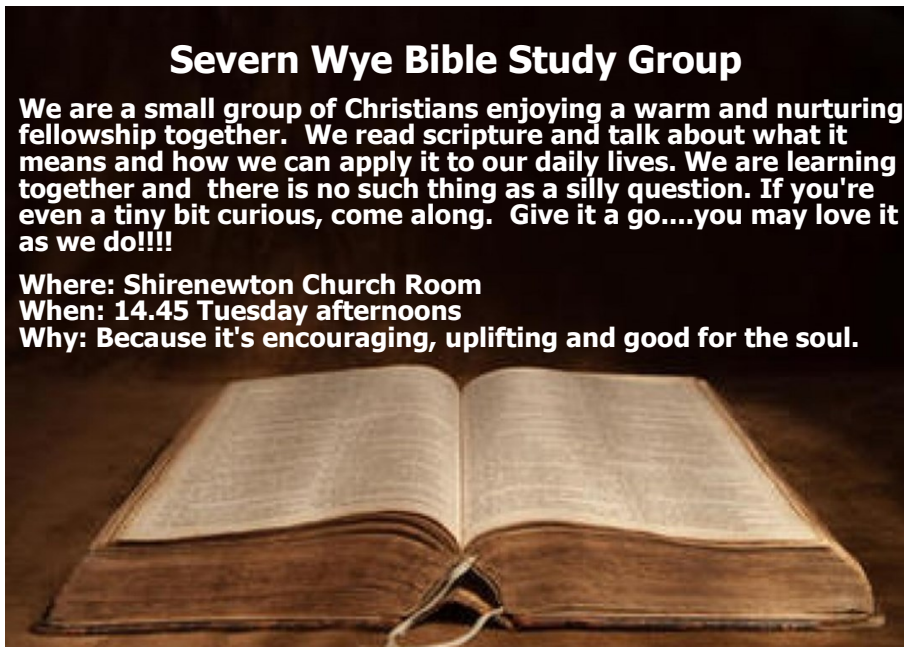
Severn Wye Bible Study Group

We are a small group of Christians enjoying a warm and nurturing fellowship together. We read scripture and talk about what it means and how we can apply it to our daily lives. We are learning together and there is no such thing as a silly question. If you're even a tiny bit curious, come along. Give it a go....you may love it as we do!!!!

Where: Shirenewton Church Room

When: 14.45 Tuesday afternoons

Why: Because it's encouraging, uplifting and good for the soul.



STARGAZING

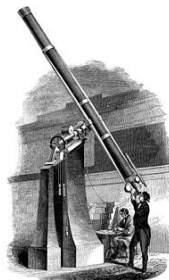


The seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening. It is also known as the Great Bear or Ursa Major. Ursa Major was one of the constellations listed by the 2nd century AD Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy. The constellation of Ursa Major has been seen as a bear by many civilizations. In Greek mythology,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

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

Mid-month the bright planet Jupiter is to the East in the evening sky. It lies to the left of the bright star Aldebaran. Slightly yellow Saturn can be seen to the South. The Gibbous Moon is close to Saturn on 10th November. Gibbous describes the Moon when it is in a phase that is between Full and half-illuminated. The nearly Full Moon is close to Jupiter on 17th November.

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



Shirenewton W.I.

Hearing how the secrets of the beautifully preserved Newport Medieval ship have been unravelled, was a truly inspiring experience! Dr. Toby Jones, curator of The Newport Medieval Ship Project, gave us a fascinating overview of the last twenty years work on this incredible find.



The ship was discovered in the Summer of 2002, during excavation work in preparation for building the Riverfront Arts Centre in Newport. The remains were found 7m deep and, after a number of unsuccessful attempts to raise her, as Newport has very high tides every 12 hours, the ship was taken apart piece by piece and was fully removed by December 2002. Only one skeleton was found,

actually underneath the ship. Carbon dating proved this to be from the Iron Age, a long time before the merchant ship arrived in Newport!

Investigating the ships' timbers proved very interesting, as all timbers were shown to be of the same age. The ship was made mainly of oak and was so well preserved, due to being so well tarred, that the archaeologists were able to walk on the planks with steel toe capped boots.



It was proved that the trees were felled at a forest in the Basque Country, between September 1457 and March 1458. This forest was 80 miles inland with the ship being built in the area of San Sebastian in Northern Spain. None of the wood was sawn but was axed or adzed, with high quality workmanship throughout.

Further research showed, from everyday objects found at the excavation, that the ship was engaged in the wine trade, conveying casks of red wine. Computer modelling identified that the ship was carrying 175 tons of wine which equates to around 225,000 bottles!

Interestingly, everything found on the ship came from the areas of Lisbon and the Algarve, the ship being Portuguese owned and crewed. The wine was transported along the Lisbon to Bristol trade route, taking 2-3 weeks via the Bay of Biscay, before the ship left Bristol and sailed to Newport for repairs. She sailed into Newport sometime after the Summer of 1468 and before the Winter of 1469 and was placed on a cradle. However, the cradle collapsed and the ship fell over onto its side, where it sank into the anoxic river sediment which helped to preserve the timbers.

After removal all timbers were cleaned of tar, barnacles etc., with painstaking cleaning using toothbrushes in part, which took many years. Toby had brought pieces of wood from the ship, one of which had been left to dry out in the sun and had begun to crumble, while another, which had

been cleaned and preserved was as solid as the day it was cut. We also handled the iron nails and oak nails used, over 99% of the iron nails had disintegrated but the oak nails were in amazingly good condition. In the scarf joint at the keel of the ship, a silver petit blanc coin was found, minted between May and July 1447. It was traditional to place a coin in this position and have it blessed to protect the ship, as it was also believed that a cargo ship that had no money, doomed its owners to failure!

Historically, at the end of the Hundred Years War, England lost control of Gascony, with wine supplies being cut off. It is believed that the Portuguese saw a great economic opportunity here and commissioned the Basques to build this huge ship in the mid-1450s, gaining a hugely lucrative wine trade. There also seems to be a possible link to a letter written by Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick, dated November 1469, regarding payment for repairs of his "ship in Newport". The ship arrived at Newport around the time the letter was written so could well be the very ship!

At the present time all timbers have been recorded, cleaned and preserved and are in storage waiting to be rebuilt although, where and how to rebuild are difficult questions to answer. A new museum is needed so that this incredible, totally unique example of Medieval workmanship can be displayed for all to see.

The ship's timbers and many artifacts found during the excavation are housed at Queensway Meadows Industrial Estate in Newport. Guided tours take place on Fridays and Saturdays between Easter and November.

ShAMBLE 2024

For the very first time, Shirenewton W.I. took part in the **Shirenewton and Mynydd Bach Illumination Extravaganza (ShAMBLE)**! Many thanks to the ShAMBLE organisers for their help and advice. Four of our ladies spent an enjoyable crafting afternoon getting to grips with the theme. Our final offering was very well received.



On a final note, the ladies of Shirenewton W.I. would like to give a special thank you to the ladies in the furniture and fabric store in Chepstow. They donated their time, expertise and specialised tools to help complete the interior of the Shirenewton W.I. hand chimes case.



Our next meeting is on **Thursday 14th November at 7.15pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall** and is a Christmas crafts session run by Diana Such. All are welcome to join us. Please just come along or contact Angela Gray at angela.deepweir@btopenworld.com or Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com

Come and join the
Adventure

on Sunday 1st December
3:30 – 4:30 pm
in the Church Room

**ADVENTure game
Quiz**

Take home 'journey bags'
Tea/coffee & homemade cake

More information:
lem.shirenewton@gmail.com

A winter landscape with a large, bare tree in the center. A path leads from the bottom left towards the tree. The ground is covered in snow and there are some small bushes. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. There are some signs on a post in the foreground, one says 'LIFE & HOPE' and another says 'CHRISTMAS'.

Huntsman Hotel Chepstow Ltd

Tin Shed, Lounge Bar & Dining Area



***Food available on our established
takeaway evenings Wednesday & Friday evenings plus
Sunday lunchtime, pre book please.***

ooOoo

Bar Opening times Mon, Tues, Thurs, 5pm till 8.30pm .

***Wed. & Fri. 5pm to 9pm. Saturday 12 noon until 2pm & 5pm until
8.30pm. Sunday 12 noon to 7pm -We'll stay open later if busy!!!***

***So, if you want to pop down outside of published hours let us
know and we can be here for you.***

Lucy's Sunday Lunch

**In Our Lounge Bar @ £15 per Adult & £8.00 per Child
(Freshly Prepared & Cooked on the Day)**

Selection of Starters of the Day from £6.50

Main Course £15 one meat or mixed meats £2pp extra

Choose from

Roast

-Pepper Dusted Silverside of Beef,

-Thyme & Rosemary Leg of Lamb, -Breast of Chicken

-Loin of Pork with Crackling

-Turkey

or

- Honey roasted Gammon Ham

****Veggie options****

Lentil Squash & Chestnut Sweet Potato Nut Roast

Or

Vegetarian Sausages

All With Yorkshire Pudding

**Accompanied by a selection of vegetables, Cauliflower Cheese and potatoes with
home-made rich gravy**

Desserts Selection of the Day from £6.50

To Book a Table or Takeaway

Call 01291-641521

Call or text

07961522393 Lucy

07766 237915 Ally

Welcome to Our Candle Lit
'Christmas Praise' Service

in Shirenewton Church
Sunday 15th December
at 10 o'clock



It's a light service with poems,
readings and the latest
'Recollections',



And plenty of carol singing for all!
With angelic top-sop descants.
There will be a cash collection for
'Médecins sans Frontières'

Mince pies and coffee afterwards
in the Church Room



**Come and join our
Walkabout Christingle!
on Christmas Eve
Tuesday 24th December.
Between 4 and 5 pm**



**What a lovely way to start Christmas!
Make your own Christingle as you walk the
path to Bethlehem.
Meet the kings in Shirenewton Church Room
and collect your orange.
Talk to the Shepherds in the Church porch
and pick up your candle.
See the angels under The Chantry veranda
and choose your sweets and your sheep.
And finally visit Mary and Joseph and the
baby Jesus in the garage, watched over by
two lovely real donkeys! Ahhh!**



Cash Collection to The Children's Society

Good Lord (are we allowed to say that in a Parish Magazine?), I feel old. Excel, the spreadsheet, is in its 40th year! How did that happen? I can remember working with Lotus 1-2-3 on my Amstrad 1512 twin floppy (5 ¼ inch) DOS machine doing a Monte Carlo simulation as part of my MBA. The simulation took, as I recall, about 14 hours to calculate.

This would have been in 1987/1988. Mr Google tells me that the Amstrad 1512 was 'from' £466 (£399+VAT) when first launched in 1986. That is the equivalent of over £1,700 in today's money. Compare with my latest Lenovo ThinkPad laptop which came in at £900 (incl VAT) with a 500GB SSD disk and more computing power than I'll ever need! I imagine it would knock out the Monte Carlo simulation in a few seconds. As for storage, the storage capacity of the 5.25 inch floppy was 360KB, then 720KB and then a mighty 1.2MB for a high density disk!! Even my phone has 256GB.

This progression is a classic example of Moore's law which, in 1965, was the prediction that that the number of transistors in an integrated circuit would double approximately every couple of years. It has morphed into a general understanding that the pace of technological advancement would only accelerate. If the history of computing, and especially the technology which underlies it, is of interest. I can recommend 'Chip War' by Chris Miller. Written in 2022 it's one of the books I read on holiday and, yes it has some technology in it, but it's more focused on the geopolitical aspects and the competitive advantage leadership in this area bestows. You can pick up the book for under a tenner (delivered) on eBay. It's well worth a read.

Excel, of course raced past the established Lotus 1-2-3 to become the de facto standard spreadsheet in companies and therefore the world. Now as part of the Microsoft 365 (before that the Office Suite) it's use is still ubiquitous, and I still use it! I also use the online Google Sheets offering for simple stuff (mainly lists) but you can't beat Excel on the desktop for the 'more interesting' stuff.

But talking, as we were, of mobile phones

As I have repeatedly emphasised, your mobile phone is increasingly important in all aspects of life, especially for digital banking and two factor authentication for logging onto many sites. It was, therefore, with great trepidation I decided to upgrade my mobile phone. This was a surprisingly easy experience as my new phone was able to 'clone itself' based on my old phone using the Clone Phone app which came pre-installed on my Android phones – however, it's not

pre-installed on all phones but can be downloaded from the Play Store and App Store.

That bit is easy, all my apps, data, phones, txts, call history, transferred easily. The only 'wriggle' was the sync between WhatsApp on my phone and PC. The PC app didn't seem to like the new phone and I wasn't getting a duplication of messages. A brief search suggested I'd need to log-out of the PC app and log back in. Simple enough. That, and deleting WhatsApp from the old phone seems to have worked a treat.

The less fun side of this was the tedious task of validating and logging back into the many apps on the phone. All the banking apps, car parking payment apps, social media apps, remote monitoring apps, etc. Many require two factor authentication and some via the authenticator apps which are installed on the phone! This is where it is very useful to have your old phone to hand as the first thing you need is the authenticator apps and you need to authenticate them. I'm sure there is a work around if your phone is stolen and you don't have access to the authenticator apps, but it would be more painful and even more tedious. Therefore, guard your phone and don't lose it!

But, in summary, a surprisingly smooth transition and not nearly as bad as I feared.

As we head towards Christmas and people are looking to purchase gifts, so the scammers ramp up their efforts to part you from your hard earnt cash.

The Times had an interesting article in early October entitled 'Seven Facebook Marketplace scams to watch out for'. It covers: Fake payment confirmations; Counterfeit currency; Rental scams; Stolen goods; Attempts to steal your data; The scammer tells you they'll send a courier to collect the item; and, Faulty or damaged items. Most of these are self-explanatory. The article then suggests a number of 'red flags' which suggest someone may be trying to scam you. These are: It seems too good to be true; Pressure tactics; Unusual payment methods; Incomplete profiles or suspicious locations; and, Refusing to meet face-to-face.

Sky news reports on a TSB finding that approximately 1/3 of all Facebook marketplace ads were scams with users losing around £60million every year. Remember, they are out to get you.

Finally, coming full circle back to chips. It's just been reported that Nvidia has overtaken Apple as world's most valuable company. Googles AI overview response to a question asking it summarise

what Nvidia does is: *NVIDIA is a company that designs and sells GPUs and other chip systems for a variety of uses, including gaming, cryptocurrency mining, and artificial intelligence (AI).* Nvidia is a company featured in the aforementioned book, 'Chip War' by Chris Miller. There you can read about how and why it managed to overtake more established chip makers such as Intel.

On that happy note, safe browsing.

David Cornwell
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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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

Sunday 3 rd 3.30-4.30 p.m.	Light Party Shirenewton Church Hall
Monday 4 th 7.00 p.m.	Shirenewton Community Council Recreation Hall
Friday 8 th 7.00-9.30 p.m.	Christmas wreath making workshop Recreation Hall
Sunday 10 th 10.30 a.m.	Remembrance commemoration Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall
Sunday 10 th 11.00 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday War Memorial /St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton
Sunday 10 th 3.30 p.m.	Birthday Party Social contact severn.wye.MAL@gmail.com
Thursday 14 th 7.00 p.m.	Women's Institute—Christmas craft session Recreation Hall—Diana Such
Thursday 21 st 7.30 p.m.	Mens curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Friday 22 nd 5.30-7.30 p.m.	Youth Christmas market Recreation Hall
Tuesday 26 th 7.30 p.m.	SLHS—Keith Tayton Shirenewton Church Room
Thursday 28 th 7.30 p.m.	Ladies curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Saturday 23 rd 10.30-12.30 a.m.	Christmas market Recreation Hall
Saturday 23 rd 7.30 p.m.	"A Christmas Carol" by Cast Adrift Portskewett Church Hall
Saturday 30 th 10.30 a.m.-14.30 p.m.	Craft Market Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall
Saturday 30 th 10.30-12.30 a.m.	Wreath making workshop Contact Catherine Carne 07496 790456
Saturday 30 th 7.30 p.m.	"A Christmas Carol" by Cast Adrift St Arvans Memorial Hall

DECEMBER

Sunday 1 st 11.00-12.00 a.m.	Advent Fair Shirenewton Church Room
Sunday 8 th	Carols round the Christmas tree

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Wednesday 11 th 7.00 p.m.	Chepstow Choral Society concert Chepstow School Arts Hall
Wednesday 11 th 7.00 p.m.	An evening of Traditional Christmas music St Peter's Church, St Pierre
Tuesday 12 th 7.30 p.m.	SLHS—Itton Church, Naylor Firth Itton Church/The Two Rivers
Sunday 15 th 10.00 a.m.	Christmas Praise service St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton
Sunday 15 th 4.30 p.m.	Christingle Service St Peter's, Newchurch
Thursday 19 th 7.30 p.m.	Mens curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Tuesday 24 th 4.00-5.00 p.m.	Walkabout Christingle Shirenewton
Tuesday 24 th 4.30 p.m.	Christmas Carol Service St Peter's, Newchurch
Wednesday 25 th 10.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service St Peter's, Newchurch
Thursday 26 th 7.30 p.m.	Ladies curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Friday 27 th 7.30 a.m. 9.00 a.m.	Winter Solstice walk up Grey hill Meet in The Woodland Tavern car park followed by breakfast in Shirenewton Church Hall - booking required.

JANUARY 2025

Monday 9 th 10.00-11.30 a.m.	Tots and Toddlers St Christopher's Church, Bulwark
Tuesday 23 rd 7.30 p.m.	Mens curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Tuesday 28 th 7.30 p.m.	SLHS—The Chepstow Roman Crossing Shirenewton Church Hall—Dr Lynne Davies
Tuesday 30 th 7.30 p.m.	Ladies curry night Shirenewton Sultan

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Amazon Smile may be gone but you can still support Chepstow and Caldicot Lions with Easyfundraising!

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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LOCAL CONTACTS

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severnwyema.co.uk

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Ministry Area People's Warden	David Carne	01454 617 277
Ministry Area Lay Co-Chair	Hilary Hillier	
Ministry Area Treasurer	Kevin Higgs	

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	Wendy Montague	01291 329 481
	John Burrows	01291 641 845
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	James Leney	01291 641 271
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
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Church Flowers	Maureen Moody	01291 641 524
Parish Magazine Editor	Bill Clark	01291 641 783
200 Club	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459

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MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

Shirenewton Community Council

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shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Ward

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Keith M Dunn OBE	01291 641152	keith.d@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Gary Mitchell	01291 641037	gary.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Vacancy		

Earlwood and Newchurch Ward

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Police and Neighbourhood Watch Contacts

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Earlswood Hope Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726
Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall
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Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel

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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.

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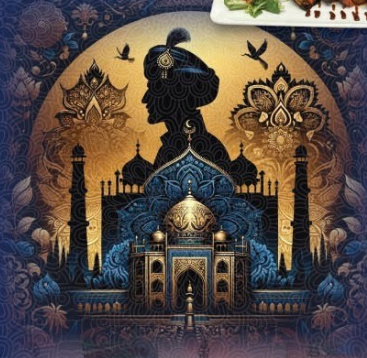
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