

# SHAPWICK NEWS

December  
2018  
Issue 287

Hi folks,

Are miracles relics of a bygone, pre-scientific era? That was the question addressed in one of the science & faith talks during the autumn. As we come up to Christmas, we're commemorating one of the most remarkable miracles of all – the birth Jesus, God's son.

For those of us who believe in God, it shouldn't be difficult to believe that God might choose to intervene – but we're often reluctant to do so, perhaps partly because we're conditioned by the secular culture around us.

For those who don't believe in God – and I used to be an atheist many years ago – the challenge is to be open to the possibility that one's starting assumption might be wrong. It's often assumed that the world runs entirely along scientific laws – but would you be open to evidence that challenged that assumption?

Two thousand years ago, Christians believe that Mary gave birth to Jesus without having had sex either with her betrothed or with any other man. This is a story of supernatural intervention by God – a miracle which points to his existence and reality.

We'll celebrate Christmas a number of ways. Through the carol services and services on Christmas Day, we'll tell the story through the accounts in the Bible and in singing carols. But we do it not because we think that it's a lovely traditional fable which makes us feel nice and that's all – we do it because those of us who are Christians believe that it actually marks the start of a real life that tells us more about who God is than anything else.

So do come along to our Christmas events to celebrate God's intervention into the world two thousand years ago! It's right that it's a season of fun and festivity – but let's not forget the historical events behind it.

Every blessing,

Rich Tweedy

[vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk](mailto:vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk)

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Carols by Candlelight  
19th December 7.30pm  
St. Mary's Shapwick



Singing round the  
Christmas Tree  
6th December 6.30pm

The Pavilion @ Shapwick

Christmas Cracker: Friday 14th December festive fun -  
mulled wine and minced pies. Bar open from 7.00pm.

Hopefully see you there!

Happy Christmas to all our readers!

## Library Van

The next visit by the mobile library, is on **Tuesday 18th December.**

The time and place remain the same. The van arrives at the Cricket Pavilion at 10.55 for 20 minutes.



## Shapwick Starlets WI



This month has been an extremely busy one for us with lots going on, which is actually not unusual!

Our Book Club are reading 'My Grandmother sends her regards and apologies' and we all enjoyed the film Philomena at our exclusive Honeycrook Cinema. The next film will either be It's a Wonderful Life or the Greatest Showman.

On Halloween there were some Witchly potions being concocted for the youngsters who were taking part in a Pumpkin Parade. Thankfully there was enough Hot Chocolate left (secret recipe including condensed milk and Nutella) for the grown ups, thanks Jude it was magic! The children were presented with medals for completing the challenges set and then it was off to the Spook Zone. Excellent work Tim Harding, you definitely left us in high spirits.



Even more mysterious goings on, were the frequent visits to Honeycrook HQ armed with knitting needles, crochet hooks and balls and balls of wool. Our secret mission was to decorate the gates to the church porch for Remembrance Sunday, and I have to say well done to the team for making over 300 poppies. We had fun doing it and thanks to Amanda and Peggy for keeping the troops going with biscuits and pastries.

We will be having a Christmas Craft evening this month with Phil and Sam who will be showing us how to wrap those awkward footballs and tins of sweets, and in preparation for our Christmas party we will be making our own gift tags. Looking forward to our first mince pies and Amaretto hot chocolate.

On the 28th November we will be taking part in the World Say Hello Day,

as part of the Make Time for Mental Health campaign. The idea is to greet 10 people during the day to demonstrate the importance of personal communication for preserving peace. 'Make Time for Mental Health' is the WI 2018 Resolution, and the first stage is to educate us all about our own mental well being. With this in mind, we are running a Mindfulness Workshop for our members in December.

At the beginning of December we will be spending the afternoon with The Somerset Wildlife Trust on Brean Beach helping to make the beach a safer haven for wildlife and more beautiful place for visitors, by taking part in a family beach clean. Continuing with that theme, our Christmas Party this year is going to be a 'Home-made Christmas' with homemade garlands, table decorations and crackers. The final event for this year will be Carol Singing on Friday 14th December ending up at the Cricket Pavilion to join in with their Christmas Cracker celebrations. A fitting way to bring this year to a close and to continue to thrive next year bearing in mind the three key messages - to inspire, to make our WI everything we want it to be and to make of it what we want!

If you would like to join us in the New Year, find us on our Facebook page, Shapwick Starlets WI or contact Sue Sellick on 01458 210357



**Well done to Tim Harding for putting on an excellent spooky show in your garage for Halloween—it was really spooky. Pauline Richardson**



"If you are looking for local news and events, try the [Shapwick Village Community Group](#) page on Facebook. Other villages are successfully running similar pages where items can be advertised for sale, local events and services are promoted etc. So please go and have a look and feel free to start posting!"

## Create-Space Exhibition

Shapwick artist, Merlenya Lee, is taking part in the Create-Space III exhibition in Street. For the third time, the old Tesco building is open for local artists and craft workers to display their wares. Thirty exhibitors are due and the show runs until December 15th. All local artists are welcome to join in, there is no commission to pay and further events are scheduled for next year.

M. Lee specialises in 'barge' type painting on metal, wood and occasionally Perspex and stone, using traditional as well as unique designs. The aim is to bring colour to even everyday objects to brighten and personalise the home. For details on commissions and exhibitions please contact : [merlenyalee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:merlenyalee@yahoo.co.uk)



Yards from the A39 where it cuts through Loxley Wood is this public footpath sign with, below, another: Swayne's Jumps. Close to and parallel with the road are four marker stones six paces apart that commemorate the escape in 1685 of Shapwick villager Jan Swain from the mounted dragoons of King James II, sent to arrest him as a supporter of the failed rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth whose army had been defeated at nearby Sedgemoor. Swain, a noted athlete, was being taken to Bridgwater for eventual trial and probable death by being hanged, drawn and quartered or, if more fortunate, transportation to the West Indies. But watched by his wife, children and numbers of villagers he begged for one last chance to show his prowess at jumping. This granted he took three successive leaps and vanished into the tangled woodland, so dense that the men on horseback could not follow. Accounts say he remained in the ditches of the neighbourhood 'until the time of slaughter was overpassed, when he returned to his happy family.'

Although the fugitive's name is given as Swayne on the modern signpost it is more normally spelt Swaine and the stones mark leaps, not jumps; it is 'leaps' on the older sign nailed to a tree closer to the site although, unfortunately, the crucial letters of the surname are missing. Finally, it is said that Jan Swain is buried in Shapwick Church but where? And one wonders, in this village of long time residents, whether any descendants remain? Certainly one family can claim a direct line to a Monmouth 'rebel' who was transported and, it seems, also returned to resume normal life in Shapwick to see only three years later William of Orange take the throne from James !! who was himself forced into exile.

*Frank Barnard*

## What's On in Shapwick

### Polden Wheel Church Services December 2018

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Advent 1

9.00 **Catcott** Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 **Edington** Informal Worship

4.00 **Ashcott** Christingle

#### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2

10.30 **Shapwick** Cafe Church (Bacon rolls/coffee etc from 10am)

4.30 **Chilton Polden** Christmas Tree Service

6.30 **Burtle** Holy Communion with carols

#### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

6.30 **Edington** Candlelit Carol Service

#### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December

4.00 **Shapwick** Messy Church

#### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 3

10.30 **Edington** Holy Communion

4.00 **Catcott** Family Worship with Carols

#### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December

6.30 **Ashcott** Carol Service

#### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December - Advent 4

10.30 **Shapwick** Benefice Family Communion

6.30 **Chilton Polden** Carol Service

#### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve

5.30 **Edington** Nativity Play with Carols

11.30 **Burtle** Holy Communion (CW)

11.30 **Catcott** Holy Communion (CW)

#### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day

9.00 **Ashcott** Christmas Communion

10.30 **Chilton Polden** Christmas Communion

10.30 **Shapwick** Family Fun Service

#### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

10.30 **Burtle** Communion with Carols



## SALE

In cabin 8 Monks Drive (off Station Road)

15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December 11.30am to 3.30pm

\*China Casseroles\*Books\*Tools\*Raffle\*Clothes\*& much more!

Come and get your last minute presents. Have a cuppa.

Phone 210084

### Useful Contact Details

Parish Council - Clerk -Sue Williams 01458 210749

[shapwickpc@btinternet.com](mailto:shapwickpc@btinternet.com)

Village Hall - Secretary Claire Brown 01458 210784

[shapwickvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:shapwickvillagehall@gmail.com)

Hall Bookings—[shapwickvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:shapwickvhbookings@gmail.com) or 01458 210329

St. Mary's Church - Jan Jones 01458 210804

## Festive Lite Bite Lunch

17 December 2018 12:30pm–2.00pm St Marys Church.

For further information please contact Helen on 210885

NB: No Lite Bite Lunch in January

Are you looking for a babysitter? -Well if you are, you're looking in the right place.

Hello, my name is Elliot and I am 15 years old. I live in Shapwick and I think I am the only boy babysitter!

If you need a babysitter don't hesitate to contact me at any time on- [07746910485](tel:07746910485)

Also, in the school holidays or at weekends I'm free to do pet sitting or dog walking or any small general jobs that need doing.

### Christmas Peace *Dora Watkins*

The moon casts its shadows  
Through the branches of the churchyard cedars  
Everything was still

Grass crunched beneath my feet  
Suddenly through still frost laden air  
Sounds of carolling

Lighted stained glass windows  
Emphasising the peaceful tranquillity  
The expectancy

Lifting the latch I walked in  
Grouped around the organ the children's choir  
They went on singing

Their sweet voices telling  
The age old story told freshly each year  
The Christmas story

There amongst the pews  
In this ancient church greenery bedecked  
Twinkling Christmas tree

I lifted the latch  
Stepping out into a cold star lit night  
With warm Christmas thoughts

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Sue Williams by [20th December](mailto:shapwicknews@yahoo.co.uk) or to [shapwicknews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shapwicknews@yahoo.co.uk)

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