WELCOME TO SHEARSBY
ST. MARY MAGDALENE SHEARSBY

The village church, which is the most prominent ancient building in the parish, sits on a high mound in Church Lane designed so that it can be seen from all angles on entering the village. It has been there in one form or another since the fourteenth century.

The tower was built and capped in the late eighteenth century, and various restorations took place over the following century including rebuilding of the side walls, roof, and parts of the interior.

The screen between the nave and chancel is believed to have come from the ruins of Knaptoft church, as do some of the bells which date back to the seventeenth century.

The bells are designed so that they can be rung by one person and are known as the Ellacombe Apparatus. The Ellacombe apparatus is a method for performing change ringing of church bells requiring only one person.

Unlike the traditional method, where the bells are spun 360 degrees to sound them and one person is needed for each bell, instead the bells are kept static and a hammer is struck against the inside of the bell. Each hammer is connected by a rope to a fixed frame in the bell-ringing room. The ropes are taut and pulling one of the ropes will strike the hammer against the bell. The system was devised by Reverend Henry Thomas Ellacombe of Gloucestershire, who first had such a system installed in Bitton in 1821. It is believed he created the system to make bell-ringers redundant, so churches did not have to tolerate the behaviour of unruly bell-ringers just so that they could have their bells expertly rung.

The beautiful organ was built by the famous organ makers Walker and sons in 1834 and was donated to the church in the last century.

The Harvest Festival takes place in late September followed the next evening by the Harvest supper and sale in the village hall.

Fund raising events go on throughout the year with a Village Fete which alternates with a Promises Auction.

THE VILLAGE FETE
Coffee mornings and other social activities also take place in the village hall in aid of church funds.

In a normal month 3 services are held in Shearsby ranging from Communion, all age worship, and morning prayers.

At Christmas there is a carol service accompanied by a local brass band at which sherry and mince pies are on offer and on Christmas Eve carols are sung round the Christmas Tree on the Village Green.

David Durran  0116-2478-708
Church Warden

THE SHEARSBY AND ARNESBY WI.

The Shearsby and Arnesby WI was started about 1933 by Mrs. Kate Elliott of Shearsby. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. We have some very interesting speakers, demonstrations, and also organized outings.

Anyone is welcome as a member or as a visitor. Once a year in September we provide refreshments at a produce show that rotates between Shearsby and Neighbouring villages.

For further details contact: Tricia Dean: 01455 698 851

THE HEXAGON PARISHES NEWSLETTER

Shearsby is in a group of 6 parishes known as the Hexagon.

The Hexagon newsletter is delivered free to over 1000 homes in the six villages in the Hexagon Benefice: Amesby, Bruntingthorpe, Husbands Bosworth, Mowsley, Shearsby and Theddingworth. It is also available on the Internet. Local businesses generously support this by paying for advertising space each month.

An item from the Rector or Curate is included each month, together with other Benefice news, such as events being organized aimed at attracting people back to church, and details of Church festivals throughout the year. Times of the services at each church and key contacts in each parish are also regular items.

The Hexagon plays a vital part in the community, and readers are encouraged to send in letters, e-mails and texts for inclusion. There are two C. of E. Primary Schools within the six villages and regular items from the children or teachers are included. Helpful information about events in each village such as clubs, parish meetings and charity fundraising events are covered.

Parish magazines are often the lifeblood of their local communities and offer a great resource for those communities as well as allowing churches to make vital contact with all their parishioners. If you would like to receive the Hexagon by e-mail instead of a paper copy please let me know.

Revd. Liz Bickley  lizbickley@bbinternet.com
01658 880 351
The Hexagon Church Magazine
SHEARSBY VILLAGE HALL

Shearsby Village Hall, located in Church Lane opposite the Church, forms a focal point for village life by providing an up to date and comfortable venue for private and public meetings and functions. The historic building was built in 1862 as the village school and became the Church Hall once the school had closed. In order to fund necessary improvements and create a more versatile space the Parish of Shearsby purchased the freehold of the Hall in 1997, with the intention of raising the finance to extend and renovate the existing structure. A Charitable Trust was formed to manage the Hall and set about this fund raising.

Plans were drawn up to allow the Hall to be extended as far as the plot would allow and re-build the existing structure to the latest standards of comfort, health and safety, accessibility and environmental efficiency. Local fundraising and grants from several organisations including the Millennium Commission met the costs.

The Hall re-opened in February 1998 and has been enjoyed by all sectors of the local community since.

The Hall is equipped to the highest standards and suit’s a wide range of uses. The kitchen is equipped with a professional catering gas range cooker and hob, and rapid dishwashing facilities. Tables, chairs, table ware, glasses and cooking equipment are provided for up to 60 people.

The Charitable Trust consists of a management committee, and the hall may be booked by contacting: Jill Stanley Tel: 0116-247-8540.

Martin Littlejones – Chairman

SHEARSBY PARISH COUNCIL

The first Parish Council elections took place in May 2013; previously the village had a Parish Meeting with a Chairman.

The Council has 5 members who are elected by the residents every 4 years. It employs a Clerk for legal support and as its Responsible Financial Officer.

The Parish Council website can be found at.
www.shearsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk

This website is to enable residents of Shearsby to view information relating to the Parish Council. There are many features available and residents can contact the Councillors here, as well as accessing planning and community issues, news and much more. Take a look!

If you need to contact us –
chairman@shearsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Councillor Martin Reynolds 0116 247 8717
Contact the following -
Councillor Martin Reynolds:

LUTTERWORTH FOODBANK

Based at Church Gate Centre in Lutterworth, the foodbank opened in January 2014. A second centre opened at the Methodist Church in Countesthorpe in October 2015.

The foodbank provides food to people in crisis for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income.

Clients will have to bring a voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three day’s emergency food.

If you wish to donate food there is a collection box in the porch of Shearsby Church
SHEARSBY VILLAGE WEB SITE

Shearsby has had websites for a number of years now. We used to share a site with Arnesby, then in 2010 it was decided that Shearsby should join forces with Leicestershire Villages, which proved successful, but the funding was cut in 2014 and in February 2015 a new website was launched –

www.shearsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk

On the site you can view the latest village news, keep up to date with planning matters and the Neighbourhood Development Scheme, as well as details of Council meetings, finances, documents and more. The website also displays a calendar of events and notifications from the Community Association, Village Hall, Church, History Group, Neighbourhood Watch, The Chandlers, and various others.

The website has scope for much more information and will continue to be developed and improved.

You can help keep this website relevant and up to date by sending details of events and businesses, photographs to share with the community, news etc. to Website coordinator Martin Reynolds: 0116 247 8717
Chairman@shearsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk

SHEARSBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

In 2017 it was decided by a number of village residents to reform Shearsby Neighbourhood Watch.

Currently there are five coordinators of the new scheme; since it was restarted residents have been invited to be part of the scheme which promotes the philosophy of “Good Neighbouring”

There is currently a village What’s App group which promotes the scheme.

New Neighbourhood Watch signs have been financed by the Parish Council and located within the village and Neighbourhood Watch literature distributed to residents wishing to participate in the scheme.

The scheme is supported by Leicestershire Police and is part of the UK’s largest grass roots movement.

Contacts:
Joanna Quick NHW coordinator: 0116-279-9094
Paul (Chalky) Chawner 07976967611 re. Shearsby App

In the case of emergencies contact Leicestershire Police: 999 or 101 if less urgent.

Police information is to be found on the website
https://leics.police.uk/local-policing/broughton-astley-and-walton

Remember, in an emergency, dial 999.
In a non-emergency dial 101

The current Shearsby Neighbourhood Watch coordinators are –
Joanna Quick
Kevin Gill
Katherine Jones
Man Lan Adams
Peter Cosgrove
CHANDLERS ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE

Stella and Martin welcome you to The Chandlers, a traditional village pub with home cooked food and up to 7 real ales.
Phone: 0116-2479-384 or see website for opening times and other details.
www.chandlersinshearsby.co.uk

The Chandlers Arms

NEWSAGENT

Newspapers are delivered early every morning by Mercers Newsagents, 86 Welford Road Wigston. Tel: 0116 283530

DEFIBRILLATOR

A defibrillator is kept in the old Telephone Box on The Square. To access this, first call 999 and tell the operator about the emergency and that you need access to the equipment. You will then be told how to proceed.

PILATES

Pilates classes take place in the village hall every Tuesday starting at 3.15pm. Beginners, improvers, any age or gender welcome.
For further information contact Gemma Taylor 07971 674 653

HISTORY GROUP

Are you interested in local history?
This is an open forum and all are welcome.
Shearsby History Group meets on the last Monday of each month at 7-30pm in the village hall.
A £1 subscription covers costs. Tea and biscuits will be available.
Contact Martin Reynolds chairman@shearsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Beer Garden
BRIDGE
A social bridge group meets on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm.
Contact: Mavis Jeffery, Elms Brook Fenny Lane.

TEA BREAK
Come along to our monthly tea break morning, 10-30am to 12 noon on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.
Villagers can pop in for a cuppa and biscuits and have a natter.
A small donation is welcome to cover costs.
Contact: Martin Reynolds
chairman@shearsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk

SPORT IN SHEARSBY.

Football
A social 5-a-side game is held every Sunday from the end of March until October. This takes place at 17.00 on the Green. During the winter the game starts at 17.00 at Lutterworth Athletic Astro Pitch. The current age range is from 14 to 64!

Any player regardless of age, ability or experience would be welcome.

Table Tennis
Table Tennis can be played in the Village Hall every 3rd Monday of the month from 7pm to 9pm. (closed for summer months)

Contact Andy 0116 2479 865

TRANSPORT

SOCIAL CARE SCHEME
Contracted to provide transport for the NHS. Explain where you are going and for how long, whether you are a wheelchair user, accompanied or not. They will make a small charge but it will be less than a taxi.
Tel: 01858 468 499

LIBRARY VAN
Shearsby Village Square once a month at present, 10.05am to 10.15am, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.
Mobile Library: Tel: 0116-305-3646. www.leics.gov.uk/mobilelibrary
Email: libraries@leics.gov.uk

LOCAL DOCTORS
Countesthorpe Health Centre, Central Street, Countesthorpe. 0116-2776336
Fleckney Medical Centre, High Street, Fleckney. 0116 2403139
Dowell and Maxwell Doctors. The Surgery, Kilworth Rd, Husbands Bosworth 01858 880522
SHEARSBY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Shearsby Community Association was formed in 1965 to raise funds for improvements to the village hall and to provide facilities for both young and old people in the village. Many events were held to raise money including a cheese and wine tasting, a whist drive and a garden fete.

A youth club was formed and Christmas parties were arranged as well as subsidized theatre trips. The success of the Community Association brought many other tangible benefits, notably for the village hall, a new ceiling that is still in situ today, and chairs and tables. Several outdoor seats have also been installed around the village.

In 1972 a village exhibition denoting Shearsby’s history was held in the village hall with artifacts and documents on display and a flower festival in the church. A Sunshine Fund was started and continues today for those who have become ill or are hospitalized.

Today there is an annual Senior Citizen’s Lunch which is well attended. This started in 1974 under the title of a “Hot Supper” 1977 and 2002 and 2012 saw celebrations for the Queen’s Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees. A rainy day meant the first street party in 1977 had to have the food in a building in the Square called the “Wool Room”, now converted to a house named Jigsaw Cottage. There were still outdoor games possible between the showers, wheelerbarrow road races round the green etc.

Current Activities – A brief overview.

The SCA consists of a fairly informal committee which meets on an occasional basis to organize various activities for the benefit of villagers. The present committee has continued with subsidized theatre trips, annual children’s parties, sunshine gifts and the yearly senior citizen’s lunch. Additionally, fun evenings are held such as the “Mowers and Strimmer’s” for the volunteers who look after the grass cutting in the churchyard.

LIVE ON THE GREEN

At the beginning of August each year a musical event “Live on the Green” is held which funds all of the foregoing and includes a donation to a charity such as LOROS. Money raised is also spent on the purchase and replacement of public seats, the planting of thousands of spring bulbs and projects that the church has undertaken. Also, there are gifts presented to those leaving the village who have worked for our community.

To keep Shearsby tidy litter picks are organized which also spread out along a portion of the roads approaching the village.

The SCA is important and participation in the fund-raising events pays for all of these activities which prevent a village from becoming just a dormitory as has happened in many other similar sized communities.

The committee is open to anyone who lives in Shearsby and would like to join. You can visit our “Shearsby Village” Facebook page to view past and present photos and posts.

RICHARD KEW- Chairman
KEITH BEESON- Treasurer
CHRIS SWAIN—Secretary