

The Overton Oracle



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December 2010

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Christmas Gifts ready to fly



Children at St Mary's School, Overton have once again been busy collecting gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child, a charity that provides much needed happiness at Christmas for children in some of the World's poorest regions.

In 2010, the charity celebrates 20 years of this special shoebox appeal, which has brought joy into the lives of over 80 million children worldwide. Last year children and adults in the UK wrapped and packed 1.2 million shoeboxes full of gifts and goodies, which were then sent to orphans and vulnerable children living in often difficult circumstances overseas

Pictured with some of the boxes brought into school are:

Back row left to right: Karolina Starejki, Mary Mcbain,

Dean Roberts, Paul McCulloch & Charlotte Middleton

Front row left to right: Lilley Middleton, Myles Hughes, Katie Mackinley and Dylan Mackinley

New look for Overton's website

Overton Community Council have updated their website, and will launch the new look in January 2011. All of the content from the old website will be transferred to the new one.

The old website is shown on the left with the new one on the right. If your organisation or business is not on the village website then get in touch with Jacky Maskall on jacky.maskall@tiscali.co.uk

And check out on www.overton-on-dee.co.uk



Old look



New look

Happy Christmas to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors
Please note that because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, contributions for the January edition should be left at the Corner Shop or sent to editor@overton-on-dee.co.uk by December 18th at the latest.

Ramblings From the Rectory

by David Lewis



A husband and wife in their late 80s were both becoming extremely forgetful. He would forget where he put his glasses. Then he would go from room to room searching for them. And soon he would forget what he was looking for. His wife would announce that she was going to the shop for butter. But when she got there, she would forget what she was shopping for.

One evening as they watched TV, the husband stood up and the following dialogue took place.

Wife: *Where are you going?*

Husband: *To get snacks. It's my turn.*

Wife: *I want a Hot Chocolate Sundae. Write it down!*

Husband: *I don't have to write it down*

Wife: *And put nuts on it. Write it down!*

Husband: *Listen, I don't have to write it down!*

Wife: *And whipped cream on top. Write it down.*

Husband: *Listen I am not daft. I don't have to write it down!*

The husband then stomped off to get the snacks. When he returned he presented his wife with a plate of bacon and eggs.

Wife: *Where's the toast?*

I don't know about you, but I can be very forgetful. Often I will blame everyone else for my forgetfulness. *'Where have you put it?'*, I will demand *'You must have moved it!'*

People are forgetful. They even forget what this feast of Christmas is all about. Even good Christians can forget. A recent poll conducted by the Lutheran Church found that the largest percentage of Christians interviewed said that Christmas was all about families getting together.

Well that is a part of Christmas, but what about Christmas being about Jesus? Even those who did mention Christmas as the birth of Christ, tended to focus on the wrong things. They tended to focus on the sentimentality of it all. The appealing baby in the manger, ever smiling shepherds and wise men. What they forgot to mention was the love of God for all of us, shown in a baby.

There is one word which for me sums up Christmas. It is not a word; many of us would associate with the festive season. But it is at the heart of Christmas. And that word is **Passion**. It is not a word of sweetness or gentleness. For me passion is at the heart of the Christmas story. Because God does have a great passion for us. Christmas is about a driving desire on God's part to dwell among us, to be a part of us, to be a part of the human situation. To be totally alongside of us wherever we are in life. God loves us all that much. God yearns for us that much and that's passion. So this Christmas, may we stop and think of God's great passion for each one of us, shown in a tiny baby.

Happy Christmas,

David

Organ Recital



Come and enjoy an evening of seasonal music played by an organist with an international reputation, but with local roots.

On Saturday 11th December. Dr Anthony Hammond will be giving an organ recital in St Mary's Church, Overton. Dr Hammond was born in Shrewsbury, has relatives in Overton and began to

study the organ when he was a pupil at Oswestry School. He is now Organist & Director of Music at Cirencester Parish Church.

The evening is organised by the Friends of St. Mary's who help to raise funds for the maintenance, care and improvement of the historic building that is our parish church. Tickets are available from the Corner Shop, or 01978 710219.

Problem solving designers

Year 6 Pupils at St Mary's School have been taking part in a number of problem solving workshops organised by Careers Wales.

Earlier this term they were visited by Steve Edwards Education Officer at Airbus UK. After finding out about the work that Airbus do the children were set a task of designing a trailer to carry two model A380 wings. They then had to program a Lego buggy to transport the trailer around a course.

Pictured with their K-nex buggy are Joe Jackson and Charlotte Clarke.



Lunch Club



The December Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday December 8th at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be Traditional Christmas Lunch and will be followed by musical entertainment.

To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

OVERTON CHRISTMAS OPENINGS



OVERTON SURGERY

Closed Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th.
Closed Monday January 3rd.
On closed days and outside surgery opening hours ring
NEWDOC
on **01244 834999**

OVERTON CHEMIST

Closed Christmas Day, Monday 27th, New Years Day and Monday January 3rd
Emergency chemist at St Georges Crescent, Wrexham

LAST POSTING DATES

1st Class within the UK
Tuesday December 21st
2nd Class within the UK
Sat. December 18th



THE WHITE HORSE

Christmas Eve 12 to 11.30pm
(Food 12-3.00pm only)
Christmas Day 11.30 - 1.30 (No food)
Boxing Day 12-6pm (Food 12-3 only)
Mon 27th 12-11pm
(Food 12-3 & 6-8.30)
Tues 28th 12-11pm
(Food 12-2.30 & 6-8.30)
Wed 29th 12-2.30 & 5.30-midnight
(Food 12-2.30 & 6-8.30)
Thurs 30th 12-2.30, 5.30-midnight
(Food 12-2.30 & 6-9.00)
New Years Eve Closed lunchtime
Open 6-1.30am (No Food)
New Years Day 12 - 11pm
(Food 12 - 2.30, 6 - 8.30)
Sun Jan 2nd 12 - 11pm
(Food 12-3.00 & 6-8.30)
Mon Jan 3rd 12 - 10pm
(Food 12-3.00 & 6-8.30)

THOROUGHGOODS DECEMBER

24th 7am - 7pm
25th CLOSED
26th 9am - 1pm
27 & 28th 8am - 1pm
29th, 30th, 31st 8am-6pm
JAN 1st 9am - 1pm
2nd 8am - 2pm then
return to normal hours

LIBRARY

Overton Library closes
6pm Wednesday 22nd
December
and re-opens
2pm 5th January 2011.

MAELOR VETERINARY CENTRE

Monday 20th to Friday 24th December:
open as normal.
Mon-Fri 1-3pm Tues & Thurs 5-6pm
Monday 27th - CLOSED
Tuesday 28th - CLOSED
Wednesday 29th-
Thursday 30th- 1 to 3pm & 5 to 6pm
Friday 31st 1 to 3pm
Monday 3rd January - CLOSED
Tuesday 4th January onwards- normal
opening times.
In an Emergency please telephone
(01978) 711975

CORNER SHOP

Xmas Eve 05.30 - 17.00
(buy your lottery early)
Xmas Day Closed
Boxing Day 8am - 1pm
Monday 7am - 1pm
Tuesday 7am - 1pm
Wednesday 7am - 6pm
(buy your lottery early)
Thursday 7am - 6pm
Friday NYE 7am - 4pm
(buy your lottery early)
New Yrs Day 8am - 1pm
(buy your lottery early)
Sunday 8am - 1pm
B H Monday 8am - 3pm

DUSTBIN DAYS

General Rubbish
will be collected in
Overton on
FRI Dec 24th
WED Jan 5th,
TUES Jan 11th
MON Jan 17th
SAT Jan 22nd

Then back to
normal for Friday
collections

WOODLANDS DELI

Dec. 24th 9.00am - 4.00pm
Dec. 25th to 28th Closed
Dec. 29th 9.00am - 6.00pm
Dec. 30th 9.00am - 6.00pm
Dec. 31st 9.00am - 4.00pm



Bishop's Visit to Overton

The Bishop of St Asaph's visitation will be on Sunday December 5th. There will be Fish and Chip lunch in the Village Hall at 12.30pm. Tickets are £2 from the Church wardens. The Visitation is at 1.45pm.

Everyone who holds a license in the Deanery is asked to attend. Everyone is welcome. Please join us to celebrate Bishop Gregory's visit to our deanery.

Overton Library

Junior Bookclubs are having a joint Christmas meeting on 9th Dec from 5pm to 6ish in the White Horse.

Beginners computer courses have been very well attended. We are taking names for what we hope will be more courses in the new year.

Overton Medical Practice

Our new Receptionist Julie Maher has now joined our team. Adam Bond, a medical student from Cardiff, starts 6 weeks training with us in November and December. He will be sitting in with doctors during their consultations with patients. Dr Amy Stevenson will be rejoining us again from 1st December until 10th March, and will be finishing off her Registrar training.

From the 2nd week in January we will be open on Thursday afternoons, the same times as all the other afternoons in the week. We will also be revising the appointment system in January. The Flu Campaign is well under way but we had a slight delay with the 2nd batch of vaccine being held up by packaging problems from the supplier (now arrived). There are dedicated clinics being run in Overton so if you have not had yours done yet, please get in touch with the surgery and make an appointment. Remember you can have your Pneumonia injection as well if you fall into the 'at risk' category and this one is only done once, not every year like the Flu!

We mentioned last month about children being rather a nuisance with riding their bikes in the car park. Now we have an additional problem with vandals daubing the walls with white paint. The Police have been informed but we would appreciate anyone speaking up if they know anything about this.

Famous names - The Maudes by Ken Farrell

Among the notable names linked to Overton (and there have been quite a number over the years) is that of the Maude family. There is often confusion over mother and daughter and their different accomplishments so let me describe each of them.

Mary Fowler Maude née Hooper was born in 1819 in London and married the Rev Joseph Maude in 1841 at St Giles in London. They had 4 children, 2 sons and 2 daughters. After being a vicar in the Isle of Wight the Rev Maude moved with his family to be Vicar of Chirk. He died in 1874 and his widow, Mrs Maude was obliged to leave Chirk vicarage and came to live in Overton at Primrose Hill Villa on Salop Road which she renamed Pandyffryn.



Mrs Maude is chiefly remembered as the author of the hymn "Thine For Ever, God of Love" which she wrote in 1847 for the members of her Sunday School class who were approaching Confirmation in St Thomas' Church, Newport, Isle of Wight where her husband was Vicar. Some years later, when at the Bishop's Palace in St Asaph she found it, much to her annoyance, published in a hymnal with the fourth line of the fifth verse changed, without her permission, from "Led by Thee from Earth to Heaven" to "Lead us Lord from Earth to Heaven". She appealed, in vain for it to be changed back to the original. After all, as she herself said *"The copyright is mine!"*.

She published many other religious academic books, for example "Scripture Topography", "Scripture Natural History", "Extracts from the Works of Travellers", "Scripture Manners and Customs", and many of her books have been recently republished in America. She was also an able poet and in 1901 published a volume of her verses, a number of which were set in Overton. A plaque on a pillar in St Mary's Church tells us that for 37 years she worshipped from a pew nearby. She died in 1913 and is buried in Chirk churchyard.

It was Mrs Maude's eldest daughter **Mary Julia Maude** who was the gifted artist. She was born in 1848 in the Isle of Wight and lived with her mother all her life, staying on at Pandyffryn after her mother's death until her own death in 1934. A substantial collection of her watercolours are owned by St Mary's Church, Overton, (*see details below*). Mrs Maude's younger daughter Edith Jane 1851-1927 married Francis James Chavasse, Bishop of Liverpool who is closely associated with the building of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, the fulfilment of a long held ambition. They had 7 children, one of whom was Capt. Noel Godfrey Chavasse (RAMC) who died of wounds in Flanders in 1917, the only man to receive the Victoria Cross twice in the First World War.

(For the story of Noel Chavasse see *Overton Oracle* February & March 2007)



Mrs Maude and her daughter Mary Julia (and dog)

Mrs Maude's poetry

Mrs Maude wrote this poem about the Crimean War. She did not know that within a few years of her death, 3 of her grandsons would be killed in WWI. The sentiments still hold true for today, 150 years later.

*Hark! O'er the deep blue waters
Heard ye the din of war.
The dirge of sorrow's daughters -
The death cry from afar.
Cheeks that once glowed with gladness,
With grief and fear are pale;
Where children played - in sadness
Riseth the orphans wail!*

*Oh! While your song resoundeth,
Breathe ye a prayer for them
While joy your homes surroundeth,
Bless the true-hearted men,
Who, leaving Home and Country,
And all they counted dear,
At Britain's cry for 'Duty!'
Sped nobly to the War.*

*Lord God of Hosts! in mercy,
Shorten the evil day;
And with Thine arm Almighty,
The strife of nations stay -
Arise! Shine in Thy glory,
On a sin-stricken world,
Quelled be man's wrath and fury,
Thy flag of peace unfurled.*

Miss Maude's paintings

Reproductions of five of Miss Maude's paintings of Overton in the late 19th century have now been made into cards and are on sale in aid of St Mary's Church, Overton.

They are sold with envelopes and can be used as notelets or greeting cards. They cost £2.50 for a set of 5 and are available from the Post Office or from Euan Stevenson 01978 710618.



COUNTRY BEAT

by Constable Stephen Evans

The Halloween party organized by Jemma was a huge success with everybody both young and old enjoying themselves. Jemma worked really hard and I'm sure you will support me in thanking her for her efforts. Thanks also to Rebecca and Alex from the youth club, Catherine Starkey from the Community Council, members of the special constabulary and local businesses who assisted in providing refreshments. The event was funded by the Police and Community Trust and the Overton Community Council.



Half term/Halloween and then bonfire night is usually a busy time for the police service. However instances of anti-social behaviour have been very low across the division this year. Now that we are in the run up to Christmas can I take this opportunity to remind you to be security conscious in and around your homes. If you are in any doubt about what you can do to make your home safer, please contact one of us and we will happily pay you a visit.

Thank you, Steve, Jemma and Beth.

Overton Police Station, Tel: 0845 6071002 ext:48425
Mobile: 07966 086868
E-Mail: Stephen.Evans@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Playgroup News

The 3rd December is our Christmas Fair at 7pm. Lots of stalls for doing your Christmas shopping and refreshments as well - all for £3 entry! At 10.30am on the 11th we have the Playgroup play *One Wintry Day* - all playgroup children will be taking part and some Toddlers too! £2 per adult. On 20th Dec we shall be at the Library for a story session for children with activities and mince pies. Come along and join us at 12.15pm - all families welcome. On 21st Dec & the 4th of Jan we are running family sessions from 10am-12pm. Don't forget to get your Turkey Quiz sheets, available from the Corner Shop and Playgroup, £1.00 per quiz and a Christmas turkey could be your prize! The Turkey has very kindly been donated by Home Farm Produce, Home Farmhouse, Wrexham Road, Overton LL13 0HG, and is being well looked after and reared in the village! Many thanks go to Fiona Leaver's Dad for producing the quiz for us all the way up there in Scotland!

Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs and Lottie Blake

Hey guys,
We would just like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope you enjoy our kolumn.



Make your own Advent Calendar

Materials:

Toilet paper rolls (13), scissors, glue, construction paper, black marker, small wrapped candy. (Optional: paint, bow)

Instructions:

Cut 13 TP rolls in half. Paint them or cover with construction paper. Cut circles out of construction paper (trace around 1 of the largest toilet paper roll ends to get the size). Glue a circle onto 1 end of each TP roll half. Let dry. Drop a small candy into each little TP roll cup that you've created. Glue a circle onto the top of each TP roll half. Let dry. Use a black marker to write the numbers 1 thru 25 onto the closed TP roll cups. Tape 2 pieces of construction paper together to make one large sheet (or use a piece of poster board). Arrange the cups in whatever way you wish and glue them onto the poster board (we just made a rectangle, but you could arrange them into a Christmas tree shape, a candy cane shape or a wreath shape) Add a bow if desired.

Film Review- THE HOLE 3D

The hole is a 12a and packed full of everything from laughter to horror. But don't let us put you off that's just our opinion, we seemed to be the only ones in there that were terrified.

It's about a pair of brothers that stumble upon a mysterious hole lurking in their basement leading to the corridors of their darkest nightmares.

Rating of 8/10

Really its not that scary (according to everyone else)

Christmas Maze



Help Rudolph the Red-nosed reindeer find his way to your house!



WHAT'S ON

December Diary for St Mary's Services

- Sunday December 5th** 11:00am Deanery Eucharist with Bishop Gregory
- Sunday December 12th** 10.00am Christingle Service
11.00am Remembrance Service
- Sunday December 19th** 6:00pm Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve 3.00pm Crib Service
11.00pm Midnight Mass
- Christmas Day** 9.00am Christmas Eucharist
- Sunday December 26th** 10.00am Group Eucharist in Penley.
- Sunday January 2nd** 11:30am Holy Eucharist

Overton Methodist Chapel Services

- Sunday December 5th** 6.30pm Chapel Anniversary
- Wednesday December 22nd** 7.00pm Festival of Carols
- Christmas Day** 9.00am Communion led by Rev Una Mclean

December 2nd & 3rd 1.30pm St Mary's Foundation Phase production of "Ralph the Reindeer" at the Village Hall. Tickets available from school

Friday December 3rd 7pm. Playgroup Christmas Fayre at Overton Village Hall. Tickets £3

Friday December 3rd 7.30pm Maelor Music Society Christmas Supper Evening.

Saturday December 4th 2.00pm Overton Methodist Chapel Christmas Fair

Tuesday December 7th 3.30 pm Overton Senior Citizens Christmas Party at the Village Hall.

Wednesday December 8th 12.30pm Overton Christmas Lunch Club followed by musical entertainment at the White Horse. Booking required

Thursday December 9th 6.30pm St Mary's School Juniors Nativity at St Mary's Church

Thursday December 9th 7.30pm WI meeting in the Village Hall. Laura Evison demonstrates 'Christmas Flower Arrangements'.

Saturday December 11th 7.00pm Organ Recital in St Mary's church by Dr Anthony Hammond, Organist & Director of Music at Cirencester. In aid of the Friends of St Mary's.

Saturday December 11th 4.30pm Penley Christmas lights switch on aid of Wales Air Ambulance

Tuesday December 14th 7pm Film for 8pm Overton Film Club in Village Hall "The Secret in their Eyes" The big foreign film hit of the year, an Argentinian crime thriller that won the 2010 Foreign Film Oscar.

Tuesday December 14th Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public may speak between 7.20 – 7.30pm.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy December Birthdays to Nick Russell, Joseph Thomas, Dani Jones, Iris Edwards, Howard Jones, Jenny Maskall, Walter Roberts, Carol Morrison, Lisa Edwards & Amelia Lloyd.

Congratulations to Pat Loughlin & Jackie Edge on their recent marriage.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Barbara Long.
Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Clara Palmer, who has passed away at the age of 91.
Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bill Balderson who has passed away at the age of 95. For many years Bill was organist at St Mary's Church.

For Sale

'Christmas Flower Arrangements'

Demonstration by Laura Evison on Thursday 9th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Seasonal refreshments including mince pies.
Everyone Welcome

Christmas Lights

This year will be the final year of the Penley Christmas lights.

Pat and Pauline Lynch will switch on their Christmas Lights for the final time on December 11th at 4.30pm. The donations from the display raise money for the Wales Air Ambulance.

Pat and Pauline have done this display for 15 years. Christmas will just not be the same.
Thanks to them for all they have done.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline 18th of December Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment
THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS

Leave your contributions, & announcements at the Corner Shop.

Your Oracle Team -

Chairman & Advertising David Burton; **Secretary** Nicole Netzband; **Treasurer** Rob Piggott; **Distribution** Cynthia Davies; **Sean Clarke, & Euan Stevenson.**

Editor - Jill Burton.

Tel 710631 or e-mail editor@overton-on-dee.co.uk

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