

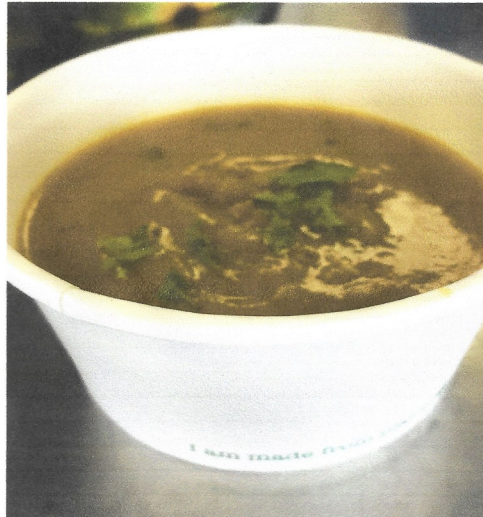
Merton Monthly

February 2021

Please send articles to dave.folland@btinternet.com by the 15th of February for inclusion in the March issue.

THE CLINTON HALL, MERTON EX20 3EQ

Cuppa & Chat Cafe



Thursday's 10am - 1pm

Serving bacon rolls, homemade soup, homemade cakes & bakes plus weekly specials.

Hot & cold drinks

Takeaway or local delivery available

Look forward to welcoming you Alana & Kath

Cash or Contactless Card Welcome

Contact Alana 07444725278 (pre order or delivery)

COVID Secure

- Face coverings to be worn inside.
- Only 2 people inside
- Sanitise hands upon entry
- Pre order to avoid hanging around
- * No mingling
- Hands, Face, Space

WHAT'S ON DIARY – other info, where applicable, in newsletter

Thursday

Cuppa & Chat 10-00 – 1-00pm

The Malt Scoop Inn

Pub, Restaurant & Bed & Breakfast

Contact No. 01805 603924 / Website www.themaltscoop.co.uk

Takeaway Fish & Chips every Friday until 9pm

Price £7, includes a pot of mushy peas

Also available curry sauce at an extra £1

Fish is cooked to order so please order before Thursday AM



Sweet tooth?.....Chocolate also available (sharing bars at £1 each)

MERTON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB



Following on from my last report in May 2020, yes!! that's right

MAY 2020! it is looking increasingly unlikely that we will be reforming this year.

However, we are still here and raring to go just as soon as we are permitted and are still looking to recruit new members.

Please contact Jeanie on 01805 601125 or Julie on 01805 603405

for more details.

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

January 2021

£20-00 Karl Winsor

£10-00 Brendon Harris

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for February

Black Bag collection Thursday: 4th February & 18th February

Green Waste collection Thursday: 11th February & 25th February

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday

Check the TDC calendar at: [Torridge District Council](http://www.torridge.gov.uk)



All Saints Church

Team Rector: Revd Martin Warren,
tel: 01409-281424

Team Vicar: Revd Susannah Metz,
tel: 01837-810621

Methodist Minister: Rev Liz Singleton,
tel: 01837-52302



Dear Friends,

We did it!

Of course we did! Christmas happened – and it will be one we will not forget, because it was different. All the others are much the same, aren't they – but this one was definitely different. I loved the lights around the villages. (Some folks really went to town!) And to sing carols just when we did, did mean we weren't all totally fed up with them by then. And ok, a Zoom drink with family on Christmas Day wasn't quite what we would like, but we did see them though.

A few things did strike during it all, and also into the present lockdown:

Do check the facts. Not all the stories as to who's got what, how bad they are and how they got it are accurate. It's so easy for rumours (fake news?) to spread.

And even taking all the precautions and following all the rules, we can still catch Covid. We can minimise the risks, but we can never totally eliminate them. So don't blame people when they test positive, or when you do. None of us are exempt.

But one thing that has stood out was the sense of hope. The vaccines are coming. I loved it that after the very first ones, so many were so very keen to tell everyone. It was like they had been awarded an MBE. They were so proud and so full of it.

Hope is so important. Without we drown in despair, or suffocate in staleness. Hope gives us purpose. There is a light out there ahead. There's a reason to get up in the morning. Life has a vitality to it.

Please God the vaccines do make a difference. I am sure they will – but we will still have to live with Covid around us. But there is a greater hope, whatever the vaccines offer us. As Christians we know it. It drives us on whatever the world is like, whatever life throws at us. It was there in the Christmas message that God has come to be with us in Jesus. But it doesn't stop there. It takes us on to the hope of new life that we find in friendship with Jesus. It is not just comfort, but joy as well.

Maybe this is especially significant as we struggle through another lock-down – and then will have to face all the consequences of the actions we have had to take as a nation in the last year. It is not an easy path ahead. But with God, there is always hope. The light has never gone out.

Peace to us all,

Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints (and other church buildings.)

For the time being we have decided to suspend services in the church building. There are occasional ones in some of our neighbouring villages. And we will keep the situation under review.

Please see the Church notice board, or ring to check for services elsewhere on other Sundays.

All this is pretty uncertain, so do check on the noticeboards, or phone in, or go to our website:
www.torridgeteamchurches.org.uk

But the Church Building is open:

Please do use it for individual prayer and reflection as you wish. (If it is locked at the time you do come – and it has to be at times – please ask for a key.)

Christmas Carols - in the bleak midwinter.

Sorry not to have any photos – it was piddling it down, something of a deluge! So little time to think of photo ops. It was a bit of a bleak midwinter.

But an amazing number just came and stood in the wet! What a crazy bunch we are. For at least an hour, folks hung around in The Square. We met up in a way we haven't been able to do for months. We saw people we hadn't for an age. Carols surrounded us. Little ones danced in the puddles. It was so good to do. Thank you everyone for coming out. Not quite cold and crisp; more wet and woolly. But still you came.

Thank you particularly to Andy for setting up the music – there was something very special about music across The Square. And thank you too Janet and Jean for the mulled wine and mince-pies: very heart warming. And the horse-box was just perfect. And many thanks to Devon Food Company for the food. I don't think they stopped serving all evening. They certainly kept us there, despite the rain.

Bless you all. Thank you. Take the cheer of it all through into these hard-going months. We can do it, even when it rains!



Donations for Refugee Centre.

You must all have been doing a clear-out during lock-down! We have so much for the Refugee Centre. Thank you so much. It has been quite overwhelming. And just as well we had no-one to stay over Christmas.

Unfortunately we still have all your donations. Sadly, the Centre in Plymouth is closed with the lock-down – and it may be a while before they are able to reopen.

You may well ask, 'But isn't the need still there?' And yes, of course, it still is. But the Refugee Centre is definitely not easy to make Covid secure. It is a small space. Almost all the work is being done remotely at the moment, and they aren't able to cope with lots of donations.

Clearly that situation will change, but we will also look to see if there are alternative places to use your generous donations. Any suggestions appreciated. And thank you.

Martin and Penny Warren



Sunday Worship Online

11.00am

www.torridgeteamchurches.org.uk

(or, of course, any other time of your choosing.)

Feb 14th Valentine's Special

Feb 28th Pet Service

Service by Phone

Sundays at 4pm

Phone: 0330-606-0403

Access code: 251417

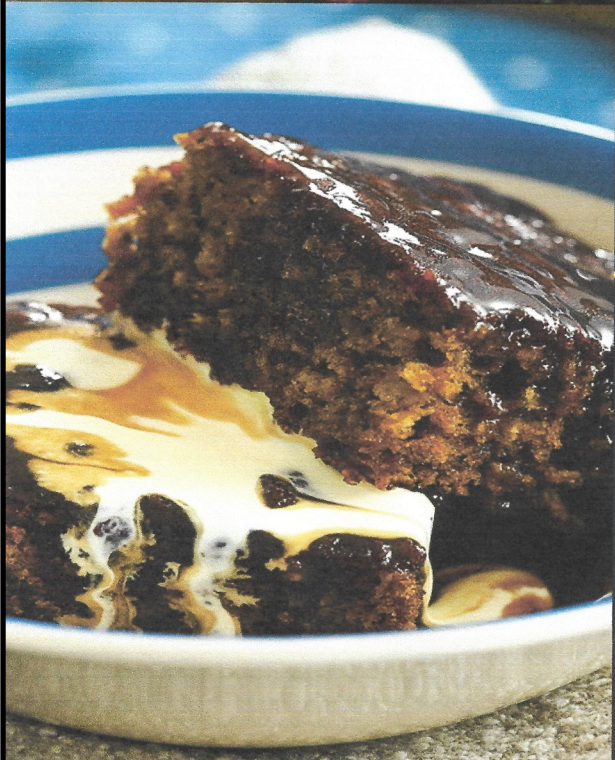
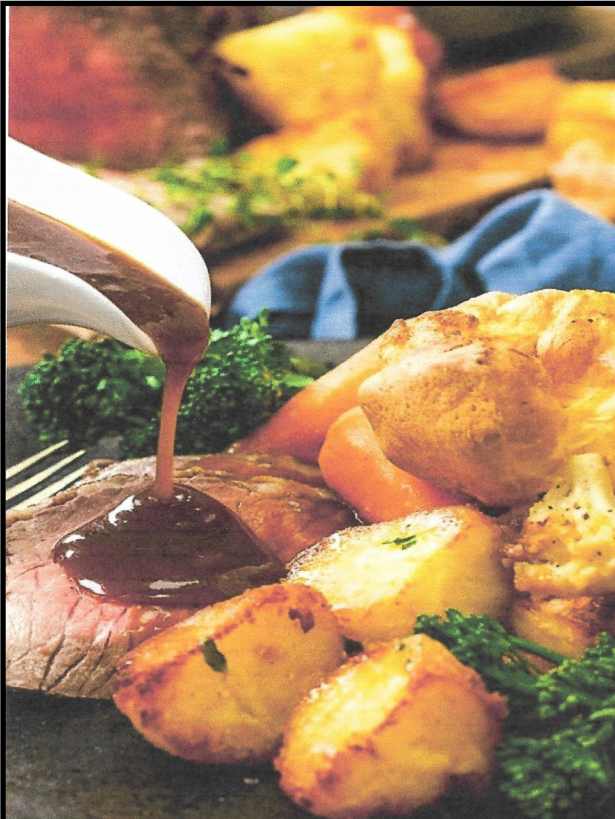
A message from the Editor

Could I ask if you know your neighbour doesn't have access to the internet could you let them know that the Merton Monthly printed copy is available from the Clinton Hall, which is manned, Thursday's 10-00am to 1-00 pm.

For up to date information check the Merton Village Facebook page, Clinton Hall Facebook page, or have a look at www.mertondevon.com

Until next month

Dave.



ROAST TO GO

Sunday 14th Feb

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BY FRIDAY 12TH Feb 9AM

CONTACT ALANA 07444725278
LIMITED AVAILABILITY

Remember the deadline. 15th February to be included in the March edition.



The Gym at Clinton Hall

The Gym is now closed at the moment but please contact Alana if you'd like some home workouts. Alana Mabon. 07444 725 278 or by email: alana@amfitnessservices.co.uk or check out details on Facebook @thegymatclintonhallmerton



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Merton Village on Facebook

If you are on Facebook for local information and help during the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak take a look at MertonVillage, ask to join and find out a lot of information and assistance.

Be safe, take care, and don't go out if you have no need to.



Little Otters Pre-School, Merton

Opening times: Term time

Monday - Thursday 8-45am – 3-30pm

We aim to provide a safe and stimulating pre-school environment and to work within a framework, which ensures equality of opportunity for all children and families.

We believe that early years' education is much more than teaching sounds, colours, numbers and letters. It is about developing strong, curious and confident children. Our aim is to make learning fun and for children to enjoy learning as they start their journey in life.

Your child is entitled to 15 hours, funded, the term after they are 3 years old. We are also able to provide 2gether funding for 2 year olds.

For more Information please contact the school on 01805 603357 or email theclinton@alumnismat.org.

Little Otters Parent & Toddler Group

Fun and stimulating activities for children aged 0-5 Years.

Activities available vary from messy play, story/singing sessions, small world play and much more!!

A chance for Parents/Carers to have a catch up while your children play in a safe environment.

A healthy snack & drink will be provided for the children & tea/coffee & biscuits for the adults.

Where - Merton Pre-School

When - Every Friday, 9am - 11.30am

Contact the school on 01805 603357



Merton Monthly e-mail notification.

If you are not all ready on the mailing list, would you like to be notified when the next issue of the MM is available to view online?

If so, please send me an e-mail requesting your name to be added.

Send to dave.folland@btinternet.com

Thanks for your support.

The Friends of Merton Church

The Friends of Merton Church would like to thank everyone who attended the Christmas Evening on such a horrible night. Thank you to Andy for the lovely Christmas music and setting up the lights to get us all in the mood for Christmas, it was lovely to see so many people.

Thank you for the generous donations.

We sang Christmas Carols outside the Church at Christmas Eve, when the weather was kind to us all.



As treasurer of the now defunct Merton Skittles, I am holding a bank account with funds collected over the past 13 years. It is my intention to donate the funds to the **NHS Devon Partnership Covid-19 Appeal.**

If anyone has any objection please email me on julie@pound-wisebookkeeping.co.uk

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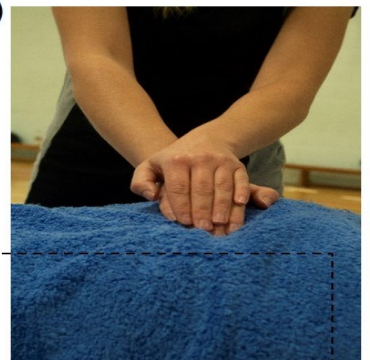
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Advertise in the Merton Monthly

Advertising space is available throughout this newsletter, please contact The Clinton Hall at: - info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk

Small adverts to full page are available, please contact us for more details.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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~ **Peter Bright** ~

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Remember the deadline. **15th** February to be included in the March edition.