

Merton Monthly

April 2021

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

A message from the Editor

Many thanks for the replies, I will be looking at making some changes, if anyone has a recipe they would be happy to share please send it to me by e-mail, or drop in my letterbox, Laburnum Cottage, Merton, halfway between the Pub and the Post Office.

This issue is very short of copy, I am awaiting further feedback from the Hall regarding the advertisements that are usually inside, hopefully this will be resolved for the next issue.

With the end of lockdown finally in sight {hopefully} events will be allowed to happen again, and people can start getting back to more normal life.

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 Post Office, Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 am — 1 pm

If anyone is interesting in delivering copies of the MM in their area of the village could you let me know and I can arrange safe collection or delivery of the required copies.

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.

Thanks

Many thanks to the Parish Council for 3/4 clearing the flower border at the top of the Square. I look forward to seeing what you put in next, though I realise the soil is going to take a lot of breaking down first.

Could I ask that you also refurbish the two seats which have got pretty rough. I, {and sometimes a friend} used them a lot last Summer.

That would be much appreciated.

Christine Wright



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.



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

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

March 2021

£20-00 Tony Hunt

£10-00 Andy Varney

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for April

Black Bag collection Thursday: 1st April, 15th April & 29th April

Green Waste collection Friday: 9th April & **Thursday** 22nd April

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday except:

Saturday 3rd April & **Saturday** 10th April, then back to normal.

Check the TDC calendar at: [Torridge District Council](https://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,

One of the many difficult knock-on effects of the pandemic has been couples having to delay their wedding day. Planned months ahead, sometimes well over a year, to have to rethink what is a foundational day for their lives together is no easy process.

And it can look like a case of what is it that matters most: the vows or the party?

'Hey, hold on a minute,' you cry out. 'That's a bit harsh.' And yes, of course, it's not that simple. Often couples are tied into reception venues with a significant deposit; there are particular people who should be there – on occasions, even one of the couple - who are stuck overseas. It's definitely not that simple. Many have ended up changing their date twice!

But to put it in such terms does make us think about what matters. The clamour for a holiday as restrictions look to ease makes me wonder again just what matters. And again, there will be those for whom a holiday is an absolute essential. But maybe the pandemic has taught us – tried to teach us? – just what really matters.

At the beginning of April, we are marking Easter. Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs are lovely and all very well, but they can distract us from the deeper and indeed darker story. For here is a story of what matters. Jesus is not prepared to settle for superficialities or half-truths. In love, he is ready to give his all even unto death. In the end, he knows that it is the only way through to new life. The Cross is the way to Resurrection.

We have given much over the last year – mostly willingly. We have taken care; we have looked out for each other; we have sacrificed the luxuries of life, and, at times, what feels like some of the basics. It has been the way of love. We have seen what really matters.

Can we hang on to that? Now is a time to check out what really matters and live our lives around those things: a commitment to each other, to our communities, to the creation. It's the way of love; it's the way of resurrection life.

Happy Easter everyone. Enjoy the chocolate.

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.)

In the meantime, and continuing:

Online Church Every Sunday at 11am (or any time to suit)

www.torridgeteamchurches.org.uk

Special occasions:

April 4th

Easter Day

Only a click away – Church online.

Can you remember a year ago? March 23rd and lock-down was declared. We could see it coming, and most were already shut away. Everything stopped – regular shopping, going out to work, schools, meetings, coffee mornings, and so on. It all stopped. Nothing was happening.



Only that wasn't quite true. We had all – well, many of us - had gone online. Shopping was online; school went on online; meetings were on online - even a few coffee mornings! And so was church!

The week-end before lock-down, that was the way we had decided to go as well. And so we did: **Church Online**. And we're still there



Apparently it looked like a seamless transition. Well.... More like ducks paddling frantically below the water. But it has been a huge success.

Many more people joining in worship than in our churches on a normal Sunday. The average has been 193 (Sat – Mon). The highest was 299 (Sat – Mon) for Harvest; 499 (all week) in November for All Souls. (And most local, as far we can tell.)

So many people involved: 149 in all – in choirs, reading, leading prayers, being interviewed, etc.

A real local feel. Seeing people from around here. But also able to involve others from elsewhere, including our Bishop and mission links in Guatemala and Romania.

There were two options:

Zoom with everyone meeting up live, at one time

Or a pre-recorded service.

We are so glad we did the second. It has been so flexible, and folk have been able to join when they can, although we have encouraged 11am on Sundays. And the thought of managing lots of folk on Zoom fills me with terror. Herding cats comes to mind!

But what about those who aren't tech savvy? Well, it is amazing how many of us have learnt a huge amount. But even so there are those who haven't got internet access – or prefer something a bit more interactive.

So we didn't just go online, we went on the phone as well: **Church by Phone**. Free phone conferencing at 4pm every Sunday has kept quite a few of us in touch. A simple service - and we can even sing – and often a bit of a chat as well. Some feel they are part of church after years of not being.



Many have joined in. It has been good to share together. If you haven't already, you are very welcome.

And this could be the shape of the future: Hybrid Church - Online and on the ground. Who knows?

Online Service: www.torridgeteamchurches.org.uk

Phone Service: Sundays at 4pm. Ring 0330-606-0403. (Access code: 251417)

Clearing the hedgerows

I was particularly horrified recently to collect a big pile of rubbish from the sides of our roads. I knew there was rubbish – but so much?! It was appalling! And we walk and drive past it each day, and hardly notice.

Bottles, tins, plastics, cartons, bags, etc, etc. It was horrible. Thank God, little black plastic off the fields. Farmers, well done. (I remember seeing so much in the hedges and on fences when we were on wind-swept Shetland. They called it 'witches' knickers'!) But it is still all our rubbish. We can't blame it on holiday-makers: this has been winter, and we have been in lock-down. Sadly it is our rubbish.



But it is also our countryside. The countryside we love and in many cases have moved here for. We wouldn't live anywhere else. So can we take responsibility and do something about it?

Take a bag with you when you go for a walk, and collect up rubbish. Then recycle it. Be careful: best to leave any needles or sharp items. You may want to wear gloves.

Say you will check a particular road every so often.

Are there particular causes of the rubbish in the first place? Are there things we could do to stop it getting on the roadsides to start with?

I know some already do these things. On behalf of us all, thank you so much. With many more of us, we could make a real difference. Get the kids on it too. There's an Easter holiday project. So what about it?

Now where's that bag?

Martin Warren.

Alerton and Petrockstowe Heritage Group

Dear Members,

As lock down continues it is hoped now the vaccination programme is going so well there might be a relaxation in some of the rules. I expect many of us have had our first dose and some their second. It all seems to have been well organised for the main part.

Our treasurer Jenny has left Petrockstowe for the bright lights of Torrington but will still continue to hold office and be a member. On leaving she gave me a prayer book belonging to William Trace dated Jan 19th 1823. William was the mainstay of Petrockstowe church band and choir for 50 years. He was so talented he was offered a place at Exeter Cathedral but refused as he didn't want to leave the village. As well as being a good singer he also played the violin and bass viola and trained the village choir boys.

The prayer book has been well used especially the pages for the morning and evening services. Many of the same words are used in our prayers today except for the Royal family who back then included Queen Charlotte, their Royal Highnesses George, Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales and all the Royal Family.

At last some news on the Torrington 100 Project. All the films have now been edited and will be put on the web site of Torrington 100 and their face book page. The Petrockstowe film looks really good and lasts for 30 minutes while Taddipport, Littleham and Monkeigh each run for 15 minutes and it's interesting to see how different they are. It would be good to make another film in 2 years' time to compare and see how back to normal we will have become and the repercussions of Covid 19 on all our villages. You will be able to watch all four films. I will let you know when these become available.

Keep safe

Ann Luxton 01837 810728—annluxton@hotmail.co.uk

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



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.

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.

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.

Remember the deadline. 15th April to be included in the May edition.