

Merton Monthly

September 2022

{ Produced by the Village Hall }

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



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Afternoon Tea anyone?

As part of our coffee morning, as well as being able to buy some lovely bakes and have a cuppa, we are offering Afternoon Tea. You could also add some Fizz as well as tea/coffee. Menu to follow shortly. (Takeaway also available) Bookings only so we know how much to bake!

**Macmillan Coffee Morning, Clinton Hall, Merton EX20 3EQ
1st October 2022**



All Saints Church



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

Methodist Minister: Rev Chris Jackson, tel: 01837-5230



Dear Friends,

Who would want the job of being Prime Minister? It's one thing to be there, and then have various crises thrust upon you – but to see all the problems before us, and still want the job!! Well, it either takes a very special person, or they're nuts! Whoever it is, they are definitely going to need our prayers and our support.

Which makes us realise just how vital Christian faith is. For we know that ultimately it is not about who is Prime Minister, or US President, or anything else for that matter. Of course they do matter, and what they do matters – but ultimately we follow the one who has been proclaimed to be king over all of creation.

I wonder if you have ever thought about where the word Christian comes from. 'Of course,' you will say, 'it comes from the name Christ – it's those who follow Jesus Christ.' And you are absolutely right. But Christ is no extra name, a sort of surname to Jesus – like John Smith. Rather it's a title. It's the same word as Messiah, or God's anointed one. It's the Jews expected divinely-given king. Jesus Christ is in effect, King Jesus. And a Christian is a follower of the King – God's appointed leader.

But a king with a difference. He doesn't rule by power and law, but by love and mercy. His way is one of compassion and justice and peace. And with Jesus, we have the confidence that it is the way that wins out, even when it seems it can't. It is a very different way to the ways of the world, whether democratic or authoritarian.

To know Jesus as that king is to have an assurance even when there is much uncertainty around. Whether the health service can cope or not, whether energy prices are stretching what we can manage, whether the climate is challenging our future, we can know God's arms around us, holding us secure. There is someone in control: it is all safe in his hands, whatever happens. And he is with us through it all and will guide us as to the best way at one moment to cope.

Peace and blessing to us all,

Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints' Church

4 th Sep	9.30am	Peters Marland (Communion)
	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel
11 th Sep	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel
19 th Sep	9.30am	Communion
26 th Sep	9.00am	Huish (Communion)

Advance Notice

Harvest Celebration Sat Oct 15th, 7.00pm at Clinton Hall

Book the date now.

Service by Phone

Sundays at 4pm

Ring 0330-606-0403. (You will be asked for an access code: 251417)

News from Clinton Hall

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning event.

**Please come and join us for a bake and a cuppa from 11.00am
on 1st October, Clinton Hall, Merton EX20 3EQ.**

**We will also be providing Afternoon Tea (bookings in advance
only), takeaway will also be available.**

Afternoon Tea Menu

Sandwiches and Savoury

Sausage roll or Mini Cheese and Onion pie

Cheese and onion quiche or Mushroom quiche

**Round of sandwiches - Cheese and pickle, egg mayonnaise or
ham and tomato**

Sweet

Oreo or Strawberry and cream cupcake

Strawberry cheesecake

Cream tea

£10 per head

Add Fizz (non alcoholic available) for £7 a bottle

(Please note the cost of the fizz will not be donated to Macmillan unless anyone is kind enough to
donate a few bottles)

Add unlimited tea/coffee £1 per head (eat in only)

**Please contact Julie on mobile 07947508091 or email
julie.finch899@btinternet.com if you'd like to help, make a
cake or book afternoon tea!**





MERTON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

I am pleased to report that, slowly and surely, we are recovering from lockdown, so much so that we have decided to enter the Charity Afternoon League. We would still like to build up our membership, but in the meantime we will continue with our social evening roll-ups on a fortnightly basis. Our schedule for the rest of the summer will be:

Thursday 13th September 2022

Thursday 27th September 2022

Thursday 11th October 2022

Thursday 25th October 2022

Thursday 8th November 2022

Thursday 22nd November 2022

The Charity League matches will be in addition to the above, players will be notified directly. Please note, the hall is not available on 1st September, so we may try to book another evening, also, due to annual holidays, it is possible that 27th September may be cancelled.

If you wish to try out the sport, or just come to watch, you will be given a warm welcome. Please come to the Clinton Hall for an introductory session. We will supply equipment, just bring yourself!

If you prefer, contact Jeanie on 01805 601125 or Julie on 01805 603405 for more details.

We look forward to seeing you!

For Sale

Lego Friends sets, All Complete, Bagged and with Instructions. No boxes.

Various prices from £2.50 to £30 . Please call for a full list. Thank you.

Julie Bromhead 01805 603620

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for September

Black Bag collection Thursday: Friday 2nd Sept, 15th Sept & 29th Sept

Green Waste collection Thursday: 8th Sept & 22nd Sept

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday. Except **Saturday** 3rd Sept

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

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

August 2022

£20-00 Ron Down

£10-00 Kenny Heaman

A message from the Editor

Hi,

Well, Summer appears to be leaving, trees already dropping leaves, and as I was told at work, only 3 more pay days until Christmas!

Hopefully there will be some decent weather before the end of the year, we will have to wait and see what happens.

As always, if you have any items to include, please either e-mail me, dave.folland@btinternet.com or drop it in my letterbox at Laburnum Cottage, Merton, halfway between the Garage and Pub.

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.

Exploring Nature Pond Dipping



2nd September 2022, 10am – 1pm
Meeth Quarry Nature Reserve



Come along throughout the morning and have a go at pond dipping.

Hopefully we'll see dragonfly nymphs, diving beetle larvae and maybe a newt or two! Great for all the family – young and old.

Park in the main car park at Meeth Quarry Nature Reserve and follow the signs to the pond dipping area. We'll be based just a short walk from the main car park, mostly on hard standing. We have the nets and all the equipment needed.

This event is part of the Conservation Communities Project.

For further details email Jo: jpullin@devonwildlifetrust.org



Bell ringing at Exeter Cathedral

On the second Sunday of each month, the ringers at Exeter Cathedral extend an invitation to members of the Devon Association of Ringers (of which the Merton team are members), to come and ring the cathedral bells before the Sunday service.

In June, I took advantage of this invitation and went there to ring.

We met up at 8:30 at the west end of the cathedral, before climbing the stairs to the ringing chamber. There were a couple of flights of narrow spiral stairs, built into the walls of the building, followed by a long walk through the roof spaces above the cathedral's vaulted ceilings.



Eventually, we came to the ringing chamber – and what a space! The cathedral has 12 bells, but to allow different sets of bells to be rung, there are two additional bells available. (They are the ones with the green 'sallies' in this picture).

The heaviest bell in the ring (the tenor) is over 3½ tons, and makes it one of the heaviest peals of bells in the country.



We then rang a number of peals, using various combinations of bells, up to the start of the service at 10:00 a.m., when we adjourned to a nearby café for a late breakfast.

It was a memorable occasion, and I feel very privileged to have been able to ring the bells, which must be audible over a large part of the city.

Steve Papworth

Species of the Month

September— Grass Snake



Conservation Communities -Torrington to Hatherleigh

Help build up a picture of the wildlife in our area by telling

Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (www.dbrc.org.uk) about the species you have seen.



Photo: David Chamberlain

Grass snakes are the only UK snake to lay eggs, which are clumped together in groups of 10 - 40, one egg measures 2.5—3cm.

The eggs are laid in piles of rotting vegetation, a garden compost heap makes a perfect spot! The young hatch throughout August and September, looking much the same as the adults, but about the size of a pencil. You might spot some of these youngsters, out in the sun or tucked away beneath pots in the garden.



Did you know?

- Grass snakes are often found near water.
- Their favourite prey is amphibians, but they will also eat small mammals, birds and fish where they can.
- Next month, in October, they will start to prepare for hibernation, finding a sheltered, humid spot away from the cold. Here in the South West, where the weather is quite mild, hibernation can be delayed.



Photo: Mary Harper

Why DBRC need to know about grass snakes in this area:

There are very few records of reptiles within the Conservation Communities area, although grass snakes have been spotted throughout the summer. Send in your records to put this species on the map in your parish!



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Any items for sale, or just looking for a new home, just let me know.
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Or drop a note in my letterbox at :
Laburnum Cottage, halfway between the Pub and the Garage.

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Remember the deadline. 15th August to be included in the September edition.