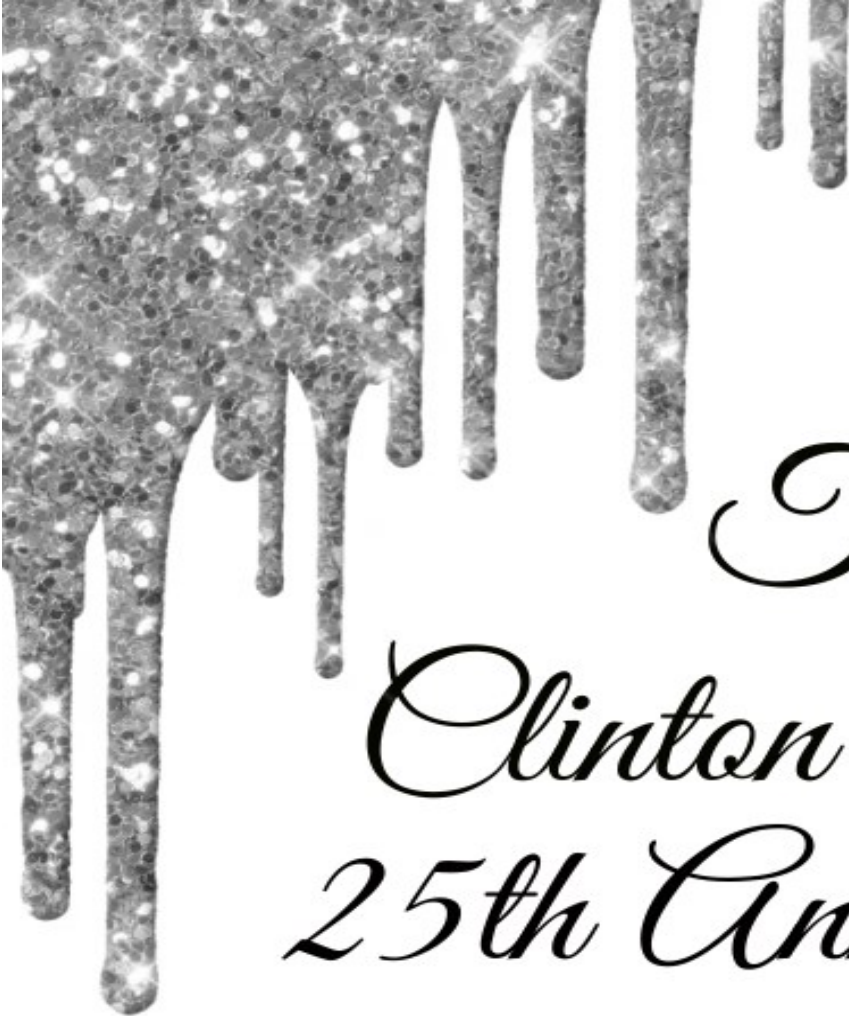


Merton Monthly

March 2023

{ Produced by the Village Hall }

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



Come & Join
the Party to
celebrate

The Clinton Hall's 25th Anniversary

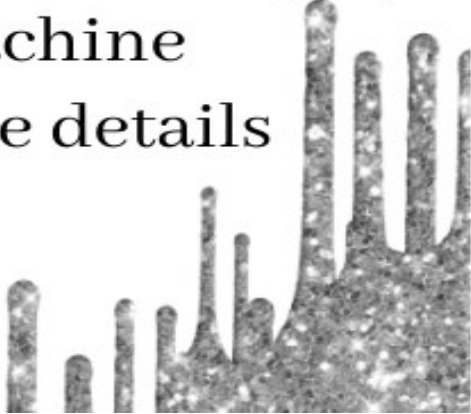
Saturday, April 29th
7pm - 12pm

Merton, Okehampton, Devon. Ex20 3EQ

Entertainment - Joy Machine

Food will be available more details
to follow

Free Entry



All Saints Church



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

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



Dear Friends

The disappearance of Nicola Bulley in Lancashire has caught many people's attention, but least that of the media. In many ways, it is one of our worst nightmares – that someone who is so close to us should disappear out of lives. They're gone; there's no goodbyes, no body, no explanation, no nothing. They're just gone. It's like we are in a hole with no sides – there is nothing to grab on to, nothing to steady us.

And those left behind are left with not knowing what to feel or do. There is bemusement, disbelief, confusion, anger, guilt, loss and much more. If a death is hard to deal with, this is much worse – because is it bereavement or isn't it? We don't know. Speculation is endless.

Most of us, thank God, will never be in that situation. But many are. Across this country, almost 500 people go missing every day. Thankfully most are found fairly quickly. We are so grateful to the police and the search agencies for their wonderful work and expertise in finding people. But there are still a significant number who are long-term missing: over 5,000.

And while we may not be facing a situation like Nicola's family, we can all identify: we lose sight of a child in a crowded shopping centre, a parent with dementia goes walk-about. We have all been there, at least momentarily.

Which makes it all the more possible for the words that can used to be controlled. As observed earlier, speculation inevitably is endless – and not just for the family and friends, but more widely as well. We can all be Hercule Poirot's, but the truth is we don't know it all.

But also the words can be hugely hurtful. And social media – Facebook, etc - magnifies it. And let's not kid ourselves that it is only other people out there putting up stuff about events that have caught the national attention. It happens too on village Facebook pages, school groups, etc, etc. I saw one the other day about dog mess: of course horrible, but so was the wording. A respectable person who should have known better. But somehow we still do it.

In many ways it shows that the problems are not ones of outward behaviour and habits. If it was we would have all changed years ago. Those are but the surface symptoms. Actually the problem is deeper. It's in our character, our very being. It's rooted in the very core of who we are as human beings. As Christians, we describe it as a problem of the heart.

We are now in Lent. We often see that as being about giving up things and being a bit dull for a few weeks. But that is only the surface, and even then a bit of a caricature. Lent is a time to do some heart work; to let God change what we can't, to transform our characters. The truth is we all need it. Will you use this Lent to let God transform you?

Peace and blessing to us all,

Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints' Church & around

5 th Mar	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel (Local led)
12 th Mar	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel (Methodist led)
19 th Mar	9.30am	Mothering Sunday Service (Merton)
26 th Mar	9.00am	Communion (Huish)

Special School events

17 th Mar (Fri)	2.30pm	Mothers' Day special (School)
29 th Mar (Wed)	2.00pm	Easter Service (School)

Service by Phone

Sundays at 4pm

Ring 0330-606-0403.

You will be asked for an access code: (251417)

News from Clinton Hall

**EVERY
THURSDAY**



TARKA TREATS

The Clinton Hall, Merton

**Come and join us every
Thursday 11am -1pm (ish)**

Join us for a cuppa and some tasty treats. It's £3.00 for unlimited tea or coffee and cake. There will also be themed Thursdays throughout the year! Hope to see you there, Vicki and Julie.

Advertising Rates for the Merton Monthly

Within parish boundary

1/8 page – Business Card £25-00

¼ page £40-00

½ page £60-00

Full page £110-00

Outside Parish boundary

1/8-page Business card £30-00

¼ page £35-00

½ page £50-00

Full page £100-00

These rates are for 11 issues, normally from March to February.

Lost & Found free. Items for sale usually 2 issues free depending on advert size.

One off adverts please contact dave.folland@btinternet.com for pricing.



MERTON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Unfortunately, our perfect score has been dented! We played High Bickington away and lost 21 - 7, however, we are still at the top of our division (see below). We have five more matches to play, so "fingers crossed"!

AFTERNOON TRIPLES

Division 3

CLUB	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	POINTS	SHOTS
MERTON	7	6	0	1	12	68
HIGH BICK LITTLE OWLS	8	4	0	4	8	18
HATHERLEIGH B	6	3	0	3	6	23
COLEBROOKE B	5	3	0	2	6	5
CHULMLEIGH	9	3	0	6	6	-31
OKEHAMPTON	6	3	0	3	6	-36
NORTH TAWTON A	7	2	0	5	4	-47

The fixtures for February/March and April are:

Tue	21-Feb	Colebrook Home	H	2pm start
Thu	02-Mar	Club Night	CN	7pm start
Tue	07-Mar	Okehampton Home	H	2pm start
Thu	09-Mar	Chulmleigh Away	A	2pm start
Thu	16-Mar	Colebrooke Away	A	2pm start
Tue	21-Mar	Hatherleigh Away	A	2pm start
Thu	30-Mar	Club Night	CN	7pm start
Thu	13-Apr	AGM/Club Night	CN	7pm start
Thu	27-Apr	Club Night	CN	7pm start

Our AGM is on 13th April starting at 7pm, members of the public are welcome.

We would dearly like to increase our membership in order to enter more leagues and build on our recent successes. 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 on any club night 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!



Merton F C



Results:

Kingsley Wizards 3 Merton 3

Merton win 4-3 on Penalties to play Lynton in the next round.

Merton 0 Combe Martin 1

Merton 4 Northam Lions 0

Fixtures:

March

Saturday 4th March Merton V Lynton 14-30

Saturday 18th March Merton V Bideford 2nds 14-30

Saturday 25th March Merton V Kingsley Wizards 14-30



Semi Final of the Hutchings Cup to be arranged



The Football Club would like to thank **Ron** and **Margaret Down** and **L.J. Developments** for their continued sponsorship.

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

February 2023

£20-00 Nick Ward

£10-00 Tabettha Paddon

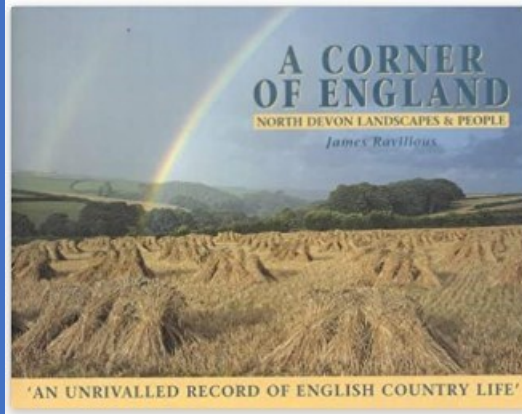
Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for March

Black Bag collection Thursday: Friday 2nd March, 16th March & 30th March

Green Waste collection Thursday: 9th March & 23rd March

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday.

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



Does anyone know the whereabouts of this book by James Ravillious? It was loaned out for the Jubilee Celebrations and has not been returned. It was presented to me on leaving the Beaford Arts Centre after several year's service. If you have it, please return to Tanglewood or, if you prefer to remain anonymous, leave behind the desk at the Clinton Hall.

For Sale

Ninja Air Fryer 9 in 1 2 lid.

2 months old, very little use. Extra warranty, total 3 years

Cost £230-00 will accept £180-00 or very near offer.

Also extra Stainless Steel Pot £50-00

Tefal Actifry Genius 1.2 Air Fryer, little use. Good working order

£25-00

Contact: Andy 01805 603194

FOR SALE

6' x 4' Aluminum Framed Greenhouse

Sliding door (Glass included)

£70 o.n.o.

Contact Bunny on 01805 603405



BIG breakfast



Join us for a delicious

breakfast

raising vital funds for North Devon Hospice

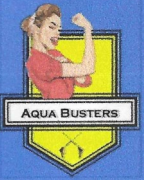
Clinton Hall, Merton

Sunday 26th March

9am – 11.30am

Breakfast £8,
For small appetites £6

To book, please contact
01805 603300, info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk, or
Facebook – The Clinton Hall Merton



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Freecycle/ For Sale

Any items for sale, or just looking for a new home, just let me know.

dave.folland@btinternet.com

Or drop a note in my letterbox at :

Laburnum Cottage, halfway between the Pub and the Garage.

D
W
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~ **Peter Bright** ~

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Do you prefer to get your Merton Monthly delivered or would you like an email version?

If you would like to continue having it delivered then that's great but, if an email version is your choice, please send an e-mail to dave.folland@btinternet.com Thanks for your support.

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