

Merton Monthly

Dec 24/Jan25

{ Produced by the Clinton Hall Charity Number 1204870 A Not for Profit Business }

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



The Clinton Hall

The Clinton Hall is run by volunteers to enable the hall to be the for the whole community near and far. If you feel you could help in anyway no matter how big or how small, we welcome you. Often we have events that require help in the kitchen, behind the bar or help with set up and tidy up from various events. There's always plenty of gardening and tidying up outside to be done also. If you can spare anytime please contact Michelle on 01805603300 or info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk

We love to support our local football team, especially on home matches. We open the bar, serve hot drinks, and put on food for the players at the end of the match. If you could help with cooking chips or running the bar on a Saturday afternoon, then we would love to hear from you.

Hire Rates for the Clinton Hall

Whole Hall Hire {Not inc Outside Sports Facilities}

Weekend (8am Friday—12pm Sunday or 12pm Friday—8pm Sunday) £500-00

Full Day Hire (8am—12am) £250-00

1/2 Day Hire (6hrs) £135-00

Main Hall

Full Day £120-00

3/4 Day £90.00

1/2 Day £65-00

£11-00 hr

Kitchen

Full Day £50-00

3/4 Day £40-00

1/2 Day £30-00

1/4 Day £15-00

Conference Room

Full Day £80-00

1/2 Day £45-00

£8-00 hr

Skittle Alley

Full day £55-00

1/2 Day £35-00

£8-00 hr

Sports Field

Full Day £50-00

1/2 Day £30-00

Changing Rooms

Full Day no Showers £20-00

Full Day with Showers £30-00

1/2 Day no Showers £10-00

1/2 Day with Showers £15-00

Children's Parties (ending before 6pm)

Stage Hire

£25-00 set up by the Committee only.

Up to 4 hrs Main Hall & Kitchen (no cooking) £45-00

Up to 4 hrs Main Hall & Kitchen (with cooking) £55-00

For a combination of rooms or specific times/requirements, please contact the Hall for a quote.

E-mail info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk

Telephone 01805 603300 if no answer please leave a message on our answering machine, which will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Advertising Rates for the Merton Monthly

Within parish boundary

1/8 page – Business Card £25-00

¼ page £35-00

½ page £50-00

Full page £100-00

Outside Parish boundary

1/8-page Business card £30-00

¼ page £40-00

½ page £60-00

Full page £110-00

These rates are for 11 issues, from May to April. Local Clubs/Organisations please contact the Editor.

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.



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TARKA TREATS



**EVERY
THURSDAY
11-1PM**

The Clinton Hall, Merton, EX20 3EQ

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

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

Tarka Treats is a community run event for
the community.

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FOR the local community

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info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk 01805 603300

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for December

Black Bag collection: 5th Dec & 19th Dec

Green Waste collection: 12th Dec

Recycling & Food Caddy: every Friday

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

Merton Mobile Service Post Office

Merton Square Wednesday 15-00 — 16-00

For more details click this link

[Merton Mobile Service Post Office®](http://mertonmobileservicepostoffice.co.uk) | [Okehampton](http://okehampton.co.uk) | [EX20 3EE](http://ex203ee.co.uk)



All Saints Church

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

Curate: Revd Catherine Duff, tel: 07717-209484

Methodist Minister: Rev Chris Jackson, tel: 01837-52302



Dear Friends,

Did someone mention Christmas? Not yet, surely! We've only just had the last one! I'm sure there's more than one Christmas in a year! Before we know it, here it is again.

And maybe with more significance this year. Every year it is a time of light in the dark. Winter days – and especially when gloomy with little sign of the sun – can get us down. It's not for nothing that festivals celebrating light come at this time of year, Light penetrating the darkness.

But this year feels more uncertain as well. Or maybe it's just me. We're all too aware of the ongoing wars – and they seem to be escalating. The election result in America throws a lot up in the air, as too does our new government. Here we are particularly aware of the concern for many farming families with the changes in inheritance tax. And that's before personal issues and concerns in our churches as well. Rocks we thought were firm under feet keep moving.

And so the hope of light in the darkness is even more relevant. The Christian message of Christmas is that there is indeed that light. And we can find it in Jesus. Here is God, not throwing up his hands in despair, but coming to be with us, coming to be that light in the darkness, coming to help us be the light for others too.

One of the joys – there are many – of church ministry is to meet with new parents. Generally mum has got it – they have had 9 months preparation after all. But often for a new dad, the experience of a new life in their arms is overwhelming. It was a delight to watch one couple just the other day. Clearly life had changed: there was a new purpose, a new connection, a new life.

That can be the experience of welcoming the baby of Christmas into our lives. Jesus won't get packed away once we are into January. He can, and does, change everything. We welcome the light into the darkness.

And of course, there still is darkness. There is still hardship and struggle. Every new parent knows that. But there is a new purpose, a new drive – a new love. There is light in the darkness. And just as the child, the light grows and develops. The coming of the light tells us that darkness will not win.

Of course you are very welcome to join with the churches at events and services as we lead up to Christmas. But whether you do or don't, welcome that light afresh wherever you are – and see how it can change you and how we can see the world changed that we live in.

Peace and blessing to you all,

Martin Warren.

Services in Merton and Huish

Details of Services listed on page 10

Events coming up

Fri 6th Dec 7.30pm Auction of Promises (Clinton Hall)

Mon 9th – Fri 13th Dec Christmas Tree Festival (Church)

Fri 13th Dec 7.00pm Carol Service (Church)



MERTON SHORTMAT BOWLING CLUB

Unfortunately, we lost our first match against Colebrooke away 20-17 and our next match against North Tawton home had to be postponed, so there is nothing to report. The fixtures for December and January are as below:

Date		Time	Home	Away
Wed	04-Dec	14:00		Halwill Shunters
Thu	05-Dec	19:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Thu	12-Dec	14:00	High Bickington Barn Owls	
Thu	19-Dec	19:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Thu	09-Jan	19:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Thu	16-Jan	14:00	Colebrooke	
Thu	23-Jan	14:00	Langtree Harriers	
Thu	30-Jan	19:00	CLUB NIGHT	

Welcome to our two new members Mike and Carol and their two lovely dogs.

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

Merton	1	Bideford	1
Lynton	4	Merton	2
Merton	5	Northam Lions	1
Shebbear	9	Merton	0

Home Fixtures

December

Saturday 7 th	Shebbear	2-30
Saturday 21 st	BOCA Seniors	2-30

January

Saturday 4 th	Combe Martin	2-30
Saturday 11 th	Woolsery	2-30
Saturday 18 th	Fremington	2-30

February

Saturday 8 th	Lynton	2-30
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The Club would like to thank Ron and Margaret Down for sponsoring some home games, it's much appreciated.

The Club would also like to wish everyone connected to the Club a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

November 2024

£20-00 Rud Elworthy
£10-00 C Williams

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

December 2024

£20-00 F Diemart
£10-00 Richard Bright
£5-00 Mick Ford
£5-00 Margaret Down
£5-00 Tony Hunt
£5-00 Rob Nancekivell
£5-00 Lewis Hookway
£5-00 Adam Wickett

Christmas and New Year Greetings

Margaret & Ron, Wring House wish
all their friends and Mertonians a
Very Happy and Healthy Xmas, &
New Year & so many thanks for all
the help we receive.

Best wishes to you all.



I pray for God's blessing on everyone
in our parish this Christmas as we
celebrate the birth of our Saviour
Jesus.

May more and more of us discover
his love for us in the year ahead.

Christine Wright.



Bunny & Julie

*will not be sending Christmas
Cards this year so wish all our
friends and neighbours a Very
Happy Christmas and Prosperous
New Year.*



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Wendy Askew

Jill Malcolm sends Christmas and New Year love and best wishes to those friends in Merton.



*Dave Folland would like to wish everyone old and new in the Merton Parish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!
Also a BIG Thank you to all the advertisers in the Merton Monthly.
See you in the New Year!*

Barb Laughton Wishes Neighbours and Friends Christmas Greetings along with

A Happy and Healthy New Year.



Item for sale

Large Adjustable ironing board in good condition or exchange for smaller one in good condition. Offers.

Call Christine

01805 603611

Services in Merton and Huish

1st December	6.30pm	Advent Service (Huish)
8th December	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
15th December	9.30am	Communion (Merton)
22nd December	6.30pm	Carol Service (Petrockstowe)

Christmas Eve/ Day

24th December	3.30pm	Crib Service (Petrockstowe: Baxter Hall)
	7.00pm	Christmas Communion (Merton)
25th December	9.00am	Christmas Communion (Huish)
	10.30am	Family Service (Petrockstowe)

29th December	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
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5th January	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
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12th January	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
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19th January	9.30am	Communion (Merton)
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26th January	9.30am	Communion (Huish)
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Service by Phone

Sundays at 4pm

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



Hello my name is Sophie.

I love football.

I play for Juventus academy u11s and I have the opportunity to go to Turin Italy and play in a world cup against teams from around the world.

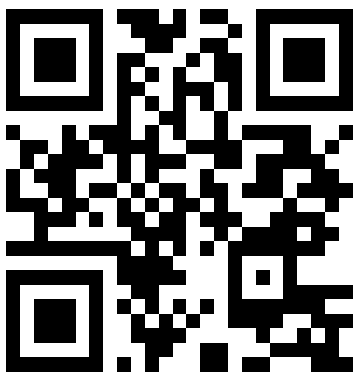
To help raise the money to get me there I plan to run the 685 miles from my house to the Allianz Stadium Turin before June 2025.

To track my miles, I will be using City play while I train.

If you feel you could spare some money, I would be really grateful.

My GoFundMe link is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-to-send-me-to-play-at-the-word-cup-italy>

Or alternatively there will be collection tins at Merton football matches and tarka treats.



From Your Parish Council

It has been an interesting time to be Chair of the Council, with changes to manage, projects to drive forward, and moments of solemnity with November's time of remembrance. Many of us aren't from generations of Mertonians, but to lay the Poppy wreath at the memorial service held at Petrockstowe and to hear the names spoken of those who left this beautiful valley to lay down their lives for our freedom was a humbling moment.

The Poppy wreath has now been hung on the memorial plaque in All Saints, and with plans for something special next year I hope that we might hold our own ceremony, in the village, for the village.

The work to clear **The Square** of decades of silt and soil has brought back to life the ancient cobbles and gulleys; the Community Payback team will continue to clear (weather permitting) until the stones are gleaming again. If you park a vehicle in The Square please try to park centrally and not on paths or gulleys, mainly to allow work to continue but also to prevent mud runoff from vehicles undoing the good work. The Oak tree in The Square will be pruned shortly to lift its lower branches and provide some shaping, it should look much better.

If you are a resident who parks their car in The Square overnight could you please contact our Clerk, Kerry, and provide your details and that of your vehicle for our records, thank you.

You will have noticed that the Church wall is in desperate need of renovation and whilst this is not the Parish Council's responsibility, we appreciate that the Church and its surroundings are truly in the centre of our settlement, and we want to help a little at least.



So, the **Christmas Tree Festival** at All Saints that runs from the 9th – 13th December will raise funds that are to be donated to the Church Funds, and the **Christmas Carol service** on the 13th December will similarly raise funds for the Church renovations. Please, try to visit the Festival to show us that putting on such an event is wanted by the Parish, open daily from 10-4pm.

Looking ahead into **2025** we are very excited as we start to plan for events in the village, if you have ideas for an event or how you might like our funds to be spent to benefit the community, please let us know by the 6th January 2025 to be considered at the next Parish Council meeting on **Monday 13th January 2025** at 7:30pm.

We are fortunate enough to have some funding from the developers of The Maltings (Tarka View) to make changes to the play area at The Clinton Hall. Early in 2025 we will be working with volunteers to consult as many Parishioners, young and not so young, to make sure that any changes are the best possible way to spend valuable resources.

We will hopefully see as many of you as possible at the Festival and Carol Service as we usher in the Festive Season, and on behalf of the Parish Council let me send you our very best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Neil Littleales – Chair. Contact me at cllr.littleales@mertondevon.com

Parish Clerk – contact Kerry at clerk.mertonparishcouncildevon@gmail.com

****Check out the notice board in The Square's bus stop or follow us on Facebook****

Farm Fresh Local Milk

Every Tuesday

8.00am - 7pm

THE MILK CART



MILKSHAKES

Reduce Re-Use Recycle

Buy a glass bottle or bring your own container



Every Tuesday **The Milk Cart** will be at Clinton Hall, Merton bringing you local fresh milk and milkshakes in our self service vending machine

www.TheMilkCartLtd.co.uk

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for January

Black Bag collection: Friday 3rd Jan, Thurs 16th Jan & 21st Jan

Green Waste collection: 23rd Dec

Recycling & Food Caddy: every Friday except Saturday 4th Jan

Check the TDC calendar at: [Torridge District Council](http://TorridgeDistrictCouncil)

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The Gym @ Merton, The Clinton Hall, Merton EX20 3EQ
info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk 01805 603300

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.

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TORRIDGE VOLUNTEER CARS

Admin Volunteers + Drivers

Do you have time on your hands? Would you like to help your Community?

Our **Admin Volunteers** staff our office in Bideford **one** morning a week (Mon – Fri between 09:30 and 13:00, excluding public holidays)

Our **Volunteer Drivers** take passengers to appointments etc, for which expenses are paid.

If you have the time and would like to help, please call the office for a chat.

01237 237140

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