

Merton Monthly

February 2026

{Produced by the Clinton Hall Charity Number 1204870 A Not-for-Profit Business}
Committee Members: Michelle Stacey, Julie Stacey, Vicki Benson and Dave Folland

Please send articles to dave.folland@btinternet.com by the 20th of February for inclusion in the March issue

The Clinton Hall, Merton
10am - 2pm



Karen Collins

Food & Craft Fair



Fiona Dodds

Little Dartmoor

Sunday 15 February

Come and support some amazing local Makers, Bakers & Creators. Free parking and entry, disabled access and refreshments available.

If you would like to be a part of these monthly fairs please contact Carrieann on iamcarrieann29@gmail.com

The Clinton Hall

The Clinton Hall is run by volunteers to enable the hall to be there 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

Skittle Alley

Full day £55-00

1/2 Day £35-00

£8-00 hr

Kitchen

Full Day £50-00

3/4 Day £40-00

1/2 Day £30-00

1/4 Day £15-00

Sports Field

Full Day £50-00

1/2 Day £30-00

Conference Room

Full Day £80-00

1/2 Day £45-00

£8-00 hr

Changing Rooms

Full Day no Showers £20-00

Full Day with Showers £30-00

1/2 Day no Showers £10-00

½ 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.



Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for February

***Green Waste Collection Thursdays:** 5th February & 19th February

***Black Bag Collection Thursdays:** 12th February & 26th February

***Recycling & Food Caddy:** every Friday

*The dates are subject to change for Christmas, New Year, other Bank Holidays and adverse weather conditions. We will announce any changes via our website @ [Torridge District Council](#) and social media



All Saints Church

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

Curate: Catherine Duff, tel: 07717-209484

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



Dear Friends,

As many of you will know, Catherine Duff is moving on from Petrockstowe. She has been with us for the last 3 years, but 3 years seem to go by very quickly. And now she is on the move again to Anglesey.

She may not have lived in the village, but she has been well involved and many of us have got to know her – not least through the school and Thursday coffee mornings, as well as the direct activities of the church. Most particularly we were blessed by the Carol Service this last Christmas. There has been fun and care, as well as spiritual depth and worship. Thank Catherine for all you have given us.

Now it is time to move on. That was always the plan. A curacy is a training experience, and we have all helped in that experience. Thank you to everyone for your part in that. We have obviously done a good job – Catherine was snapped up at the first opportunity.

Now she moves to Anglesey and a group of churches there. It will be different, for to start with it's not the Church of England, but the Church in Wales. But it is still Anglican; so the types of services and the church set ups will be similar to here. And it is still very rural - although we don't have a nuclear power station in the area yet. Catherine will be responsible there for the group of churches. She officially begins on 25th February. We have an opportunity to say farewell to her on February 1st: there's a service at 11am at Petrockstowe, and a shared lunch to follow. Feel free to come to one or the other, or both.

As for us here, we release Catherine into her ministry. It has been a joy to have her here. We hadn't had a curate here for as long as anyone knew, and Catherine's placement was a deliberate plan to give experience of rural churches. But there are a lot of rural churches and not that many curates, so they do get shared around. At the very earliest, we wouldn't even be looking to have another curate until summer 2027. And who knows what things will look like by then?

For a curate to move on is always poignant. They are just growing into what God has called them to in ministry; the flower is just opening out. And then it is transplanted to another garden. We can see what is to come, but we will not be the ones to be blessed by it.

But truth be, we have been. For blessing does not come by holding it to ourselves, but by releasing it for the blessing of others. Years ago, we were in a place that had a real sense of God's light shining upon it. They were special times. But after a while, it all seemed to go quiet, even die off. What had happened? Where had the light gone? And then they realised that that is what light does. It goes out to light up other places. It doesn't stay where it is. And that's what had happened.

Look at the stars in the night sky. It is quite possible that, given the huge distances in space, some of the stars that we see are no longer there. The light has finally reached us, but the source is no longer shining. It's how God works – it's how love works. It doesn't hold to itself, but releases for others.

So Catherine, thank you for the blessing you have brought to us. God bless you as you take the next step. And may God bless those amongst whom you will be.

Martin Warren

Services in Merton and Huish

1 st February	11.00am	Communion and Farewell to Catherine Duff (Petrockstowe)
8 th February	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
15th February	9.30am	Communion (Merton)
22nd February	9.30am	Communion (Huish)

Service by Phone Sundays at 4pm

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

From the Registers

Burial: *Our prayers for those who grieve*

Jan 17th: Jean Short and Brian Stenlake



MERTON SHORTMAT BOWLING CLUB

Things have been a little quiet over the Christmas period, we played Beaford Beacons and won 20 to 12. As we approach the end of the season we are now in 3rd place.

Fixtures for February/March

	Date	Time	Home	Away
Wed	4 th Feb	2:00	Halwill Shunters	
Thu	5 th Feb	7:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Tues	10 th Feb	2:00	Colebrooke Chaffinches	
Thu	12 th Feb	7:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Tue	17 th Feb	2:00		Langtree Hawks
Thu	19 th Feb	7:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Fri	20 th Feb	2:00		North Tawton
Wed	25 th Feb	2:00		Halwill Shunters
Thu	26 th Feb	7:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Thu	5 th Mar	7:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Thu	12 th Mar		NO CLUB NIGHT	
Thu	19 th Mar	7:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Thu	26 th Mar	7:00	CLUB NIGHT	

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	Bradworthy	7
South Molton	6	Merton	2

Home Fixtures

All Games 2-30pm Kick Off

Saturday February 7 th	Merton	v	Combe Martin
Saturday February 21 st	Merton	v	Shebbear
Saturday March 14 th	Merton	v	Braunton
Saturday March 21 st	Merton	v	Bideford
Saturday March 28 th	Merton	v	Lynton

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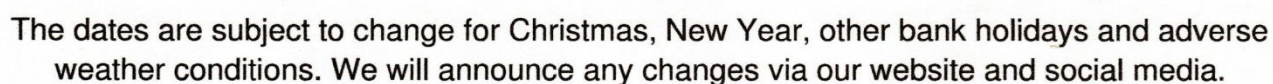
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info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk 01805 603300

Key: **GardenBin** **Refuse** **Recycling**



**Clinton Hall
Merton. EX20 3EQ**

QUIZ Night

£2.50 per person
Max 6 per team

**SATURDAY
28TH MARCH
7.30PM START**

BAR OPEN

*Book your place or just turn up
Call 01805 603 300
Email: info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk*



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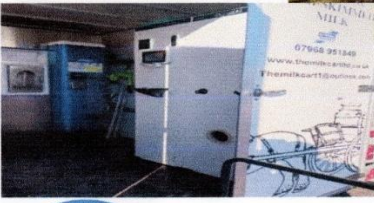
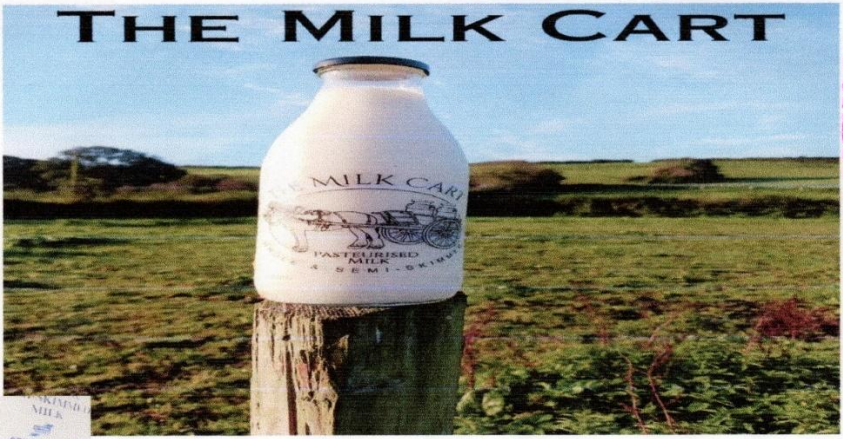
Every Tuesday

THE MILK CART

MILKSHAKES

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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

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Cycling the Tarka Trail

As some of you may know I like to cycle on the Tarka Trail, since I crossed to the dark side {e-bike} I usually ride from my house and pick up the Trail at Petrockstowe Station. Now that the Trail is reopen from the Station with a really solid new fence and drainage, it's worth a ride or walk to have a look at. The picture here is my favourite spot to stop, Beam Weir, just outside of Torrington.



I can spend a lot of time here, it is a beautiful and peaceful spot, wherever I end up riding to, this is always the spot I will stop at both ways on my trip.

On my last ride of 2025 I did a run from Petrockstowe Station to Yarde and back, to say it was cold was an understatement, anyway, as I rode back towards Petrockstowe, I slowed for the gateway at Dunsbeare crossing, slightly over braked on the front and managed to almost fall off in the gateway and managed to hit my ribs hard on the gatepost! Doh!

Once the pain eased, I rode back to Petrockstowe ending up with cramp in both hands, I sat in my

car for a while with the heater going to thaw me out. I have since invested in some supposedly winter gloves to try and keep my hands warm!

Going into 2026 I am hoping to go further afield and try some other trails and tracks we have in our beautiful countryside.

With the e-bike I now use the main roads more than I did, with the addition of front and rear cameras, just in case, it still surprises me how many car and van drivers have little respect for cyclists on the road. Most cyclists do drive cars, pay their VED and a lot of cyclists do actually pay for insurance whilst they are out enjoying their hobby!

Dave

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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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



Events by night in our quirky vintage converted catering trailer and day events with both trailer and/or professional gazebo

We can provide a bespoke service for your event too!

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Remember the deadline. **20th February**
to be included in the March edition