

Merton Monthly

April 2026

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

Committee Members: Michelle Stacey, Julie Stacey, Vicki Benson, Megan Hill and Dave Folland

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

STRATFORD THEATRE COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE WONDERFUL COMEDY
INTO THE BREACH
GEORGE CROCKER
JOINS HIS VILLAGE
DRAMA CLUB TO LIVEN UP HIS LIFE.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TURNS HIS WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.

"A REMARKABLE AND HIGHLY ORIGINAL PIECE OF THEATRE"
BATH ECHO

**"DAD'S ARMY MEETS
THE VICAR OF DIBLEY"**
LONDON METRO

"THIS SHOW WILL MAKE YOU
LAUGH, CRY AND ENJOY A
DEBATE ON SHAKESPEARE"
STRATFORD HERALD

WWW.STRATFORDTHEATRECOMPANY.ORG.UK

Date for your Diary Friday 19th June. See page 6 for more details.

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 April

***Green Waste Collection Thursdays:** 2nd April 16th April & 30th April

***Black Bag Collection Thursdays:** 9th April & 23rd April

***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

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



Dear Friends,

It comes as a shock when events far away have an impact on us. We think they don't matter to us; we can watch dispassionately from a distance, mere observers of the TV screen. We may pass a few comments - mostly pretty cynical; we may laugh at the comedians' witticisms: but it doesn't really touch us.

Until it does. I have been struck how many people locally have had to deal with cancelled flights, or have had family/friends in the midst of it all in the Middle East. And then all of us have watched, some of us with alarm, the ever increasing price of petrol at the pump. It catches up with us quicker than we might expect. We see the impact of a world at war: of violence, of domination and force, of greed and revenge.

We have come to Easter, and it offers us a very different way. The king enters into Jerusalem – on a donkey, not a warhorse. Around him, the Roman Empire is not known for its gentle approach: the Pax Romana was no lovely-dovey affair, but ruthlessly enforced with the sword. And the religious authorities have a temple bristling with armed guards, ready to arrest Jesus when necessary.

In contrast Jesus comes riding on a donkey proclaiming a very different kingdom. It may be the way of love, but it is no push over. We see that in his disputing with the authorities; it is very apparent as he overturns the tables of the corrupt money-changers in the temple forecourts.

And yet it is still the way of love, the way of self-giving. The Way that leads to the cross.

It is tempting to see the cross as the place of defeat. But the gospel writers don't see it that way, and, as they write, it is clear that Jesus doesn't see it that way either. This is the place where the battle is won. Not even death can hold back the victory. It is the way of a very different kingdom. There is, as CS Lewis puts it in the Narnia stories, a deeper magic at work. A magic that this world just cannot comprehend.

And still it can't. Hence the conflict in the Middle East now. Hence the angst in our society. Hence the pain in so much family life and at work. Hence the upheavals in our communities and with our neighbours from time to time. We just don't get the way of love. Why should we have to endure the cross? Why should we take on suffering? But if we don't, there is no breakthrough to the life that lies beyond.

We can harangue the leaders of nations as they make crazy statements on the TV, but it begins with us. Each one of us. Here and now. Can we be prepared to embrace the way of the cross, the way of love, the way of self-giving? Or do we stay doing it our way, standing on our rights, looking to self?

Well other ways don't seem to work, do they? So why not? If we ask him, God will help us. And what a difference that could make in our homes, in our communities, in our country, in this world – and yes, in our churches. Resurrection life, here and now!

Happy Easter all,

Martin Warren

Services in Merton and Huish

Good Friday: 3rd April	2.00pm	Good Friday service (Merton)
Easter Eve: 4th April	8.00pm	Easter Vigil and Communion (Merton)
Easter Day: 5th April	9.30am	Easter Communion (Huish)
12th April	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
19th April	9.30am	Communion (Merton)
26th April	9.30am	Communion (Huish)

Service by Phone Sundays at 4pm

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



Merton F C



Results

Georgeham	4	Merton	0
Merton	1	Braunton	4
Merton	4	Georgham	8

Home Fixtures

All Games 2-30pm Kick Off

Saturday April 4th

Merton v Lynton

Saturday May 9th

Merton v Shebbear

Saturday May 16th

Merton v Combe Martin

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info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk 01805 603300

Meet the Committee Members

Hi, my name is Julie Stacey, and I have been asked to introduce myself to the villagers.

I was born in Okehampton where I lived until I married in 1974 to Brian, probably better known to most people as Bunny, and have lived in Merton for 52 years. We have a son, Kevin and daughter Michelle, also a grandson, Tyler. Unfortunately, Bunny is now a resident at Hatherleigh Nursing Home, so I live alone.

We have both enjoyed travel, the last few years saw several cruises, so we have been lucky enough to have seen a lot of the world including Asia and North & South America. Sadly, this has now come to an end.

I am a self-employed bookkeeper, but at the age of 75 have decided it is time to retire particularly as my health has not been too good recently. I am pleased to report I am now on the mend.

I have served as Trustee/Treasurer of the Clinton Hall for the past three years. The Clinton Hall is an important hub for the village, and I am proud to be part of the management.

I am also a founding member of the Merton Shortmat Bowls Club, of which I am also the treasurer.

Into The Breach

A wonderful comedy written and performed by Mark Carey (What's Wrong with Benny Hill?, Dead on Cue) and produced by Stratford Theatre Company (Three Men in a Boat, Old Herbaceous, Under the Greenwood Tree).

It's "Dad's Army meets The Vicar of Dibley!"

George Crocker is keen to liven up his dull life so he decides to join the village Drama Club hoping to play the panto dame. What happens next turns his world upside down and instead he finds himself taking on the role of Henry 5th! Set during the Second World War this original, inspiring show is suitable for everyone and with one actor playing all 17 parts you can guarantee it's going to be a hoot!

As a member of the Royal National Theatre Company Mark Carey worked on Betrayal, The Relapse and The Merchant of Venice all for Trevor Nunn and has had many appearances on TV in such shows as The Invincibles, Widows, Murphy's Law, Underbelly, London's Burning and most recently Doctors and Luther. Mark's many radio appearances include Wuthering Heights, Ashes to Antarctica, The Kingsnorth Six, and The Archers.

"The quality of acting and writing is as good as any you will see. A deep and nuanced story. Every character drips with personality and charm." **The Cheltenham Standard**

"A great little show. It's "Dads' Army meets "The Vicar of Dibley". **London Metro**

"A delight, a lovely and very humorous play that fully merited the standing ovation." **Stratford Herald**

"Mark Carey shows amazing dexterity and comic skill in playing all 17 parts." **The Stage**

Message from the Clinton Hall. Please note: Friday 19th June, more details to follow.

Farm Fresh Local Milk

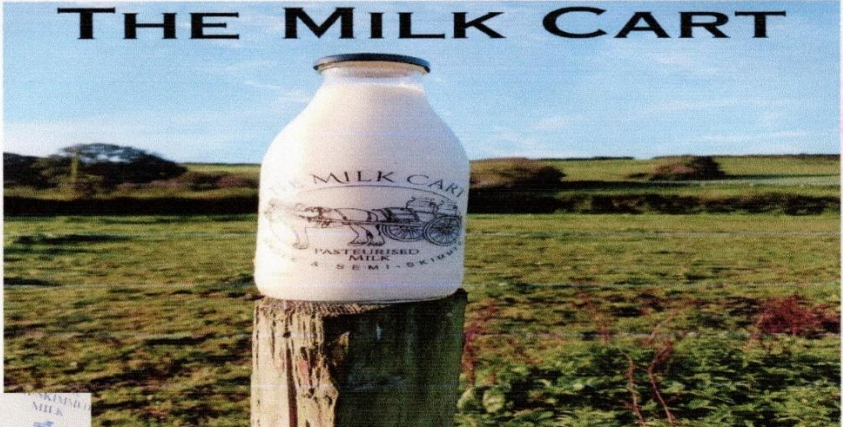
Every Tuesday

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

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Just a reminder this month. The Merton Monthly is produced by the Village Hall for the Parish.

Any articles within reason will be considered for inclusion.

As you will have seen in recent issues, I have covered areas I like to cycle and the occasional issues this runs into.

Local events, stories about how you came to Merton, items for sale. Advertise your business or services.

It would be a shame to see the Merton Monthly fade away, without your support, this may be the case.

Deadline as always 20th of each month.

E-mail articles to dave.folland@btinternet.com or post in my letter box at: Laburnum Cottage. Halfway between the Pub and the old Garage, now Boat Repairs.

I look forward to any contributions.

Many thanks 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

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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



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Remember the deadline. 20th April to be included in the May edition.