



# Mere Matters

& so does

West Knoyle



We wish you a  
Merry Christmas  
and a happy and peaceful  
New Year

**your community magazine  
including a guide to local events**

**December 2019/  
January 2020**

## **Mere Town Council**

The Town Council meet every month. While it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. Council members are working on your behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in Mere. You may raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

### **Mere Town Council -The Chairman Writes**

I was honoured to lay a poppy wreath on behalf of Mere Town Council at the recent Remembrance Day Service and to give a reading in the church afterwards. It was heartening to see so many people around the War Memorial paying their respects and remembering the fallen. Next year we will be celebrating the **75th Anniversary of VE Day** (the end of World War II in Europe) between 8th & 10th May – the early May bank holiday has been moved to Friday, 8th May for this purpose. The Town Council has not made any specific arrangements for these celebrations as yet, but would welcome suggestions from members of the public and would like to hear about any events being arranged by other organisations.

For the last year or so, a number of councillors and volunteers have been meeting to discuss Emergency Planning – in other words, what can we do to help the primary responders if a disaster or emergency should occur in or around Mere. Wiltshire Council are the principal co-ordinators for Emergency Plans but the Town Council can certainly add local knowledge and provide a supporting role. This group, named the **'Mere Local Resilience Forum'** have identified a number of proposals

and suggestions that were presented to the Town Council at the last meeting and we will be taking these forward. I would like to thank all those volunteers involved but in particular Richard Jefferies, who did a tremendous amount of work on this project.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the work carried out by **Jenny Wilding** who has retired as the Curator of Mere Museum after 20 years of volunteering and curating. Thanks to her hard work and dedication Mere truly has a museum to be proud of. I would like to wish the new curator, Rose Heesom, every success.

Before the next Town Council meeting a group of councillors will attend what is usually the longest meeting of the year as we draft a budget for the coming year. Each year we try and find a balance between providing what residents want (in a climate where our County Council provides less) and the amount that it will cost. The cost is borne by all of us who are Mere residents in the precept added to the Council Tax bill we receive and each year we strive to keep any precept rise as small as possible whilst trying to retain services, standards and facilities. This is sometimes a very difficult balance.

As we near the end of the year, I would personally like to thank all the members of the Town Council staff for their hard work and dedication in maintaining Mere and keeping

everything running smoothly so that Mere remains the place that we all enjoy living in.

Clive Hazzard, Chairman, Mere Town Council  
for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.  
☎ 860701 📧 [lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org) 🌐 [merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org)

## **Wiltshire Councillor ~ *George Jeans Writes***

Help may be at hand for those in small areas suffering **poor Broadband** provision. If each person in these areas applies for and receives vouchers these can be pooled together to sometimes raise quite a large amount of funding. Whoever becomes responsible for the “pool of money” can then look for the work to be done. This has been or is in the process of achievement in parts of the Mere Division. Please contact me if you require more detail.

Wiltshire Council has launched a reward campaign to reduce fly-tipping throughout the county. **Fly-tipping** costs Wiltshire Council more than £180,000 each year. High Street vouchers to the value of £200 are offered if information is reported that leads to the successful prosecution of an offender or the payment of a fixed penalty notice (FPN). It should be noted people should not confront offenders thereby possibly putting themselves in danger.

A **Mere Neighbourhood plan** which can provide supplementary planning guidance extra to The Wiltshire Council Local Plan or the present Core Strategy, has seen development to the 7<sup>th</sup> stage of 14 in Mere. At a public meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November the committee garnered several more

expressions of interest to join the existing committee. When completed it will be a positive document adding to the Wiltshire Local Plan or Core Strategy.

It is worth noting that Wiltshire Council are now allocated the number of dwellings it must allow for. An example where, if not heeded, is where South Oxfordshire DC has been told the Government could take over the running of a controversial homes plan. The local authority's cabinet previously agreed it would urge councillors to throw out its local plan to build 28,500 homes, but Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick said he was considering taking the plan out of the council's control.

Wiltshire Council has been named the most climate-friendly council in England and Wales by Friends of the Earth. The green group assessed councils in different categories including renewable energy, public transport, lift-sharing,



energy efficiency at home, waste recycling, and tree cover to find an overall winner – with Wiltshire coming out on top with an overall score of 92%.

For those in need of the local food bank, a voucher can be obtained from the local Vicar Carol Green for a food box, which can be collected from Mere Library or Mere Post Office.

Please continue to report any non-working street lights near you.



Super-tough roads built using graphene are being trialled in Oxfordshire under plans to eradicate potholes. The material should extend the lifespan of the road and prevent cracks emerging during cold and wet weather. Italian firms Directa Plus and Iterchimica are funding the trial in the village of Curbridge, west of Oxford.

Millions of people will be urged to take a free NHS online mental health check, as part of a major new campaign being launched on 7 October 2019. Every Mind Matters is backed by the Dukes and Duchesses of Cambridge and Sussex and will mean millions of Britons can use the 'Every Mind Matters' website to receive a tailored 'action plan' containing clinically-proven steps to improve their mental health.

Wiltshire Community First administer a Surviving Winter grant of £300 per person to help vulnerable residents pay for winter costs (<https://www.wiltshirecf.org.uk/SurvivingWinter2019>).

The referral partners help clients complete the application form process and compile the necessary evidence for Wiltshire Community Foundation to make their decision.

Although there are now only two official referral partners, it does not preclude any individual, relative, family friend, professional or organisation helping someone gather the relevant information required and provide it to Warm and Safe or Age UK to complete the application process.

The grant is administered on a first-come-first-served basis and it is in two rounds this winter. Funds are limited.

Applicants can call **Warm and Safe Wiltshire** on 0800 038 5722.

I have a facebook page: Cllr George Jeans. It is not a platform for conversation at present, therefore I do not accept friends request on the site; I do not view it regularly.

☎ 07710 441599 ✉ [george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## **The Butt of Sherry**

Our much loved pub is up for sale and indications are that it will be sold for conversion into flats. This may sound a bit irrelevant to many Mere residents that are not regulars in the pub but it is going to wipe away a traditional watering hole that has been open and trading as the Butt of Sherry for 125 years and for 50 years prior to that as a spirit trader. The Butt wasn't however the only business on the upper stretch of Castle Street, there was a tea room, a boot shop and many more, however it is now the only one of those businesses still trading. The Butt of Sherry is something that we as locals use regularly, we need to cherish our heritage and embrace it because once it's gone, it's no good looking back nostalgically, it will be gone forever just like the Old Ship, the Swan, the Angel, the Green Dragon and all the other much loved pubs of Mere.



**So what are we doing?** We have already applied to make the Butt an Asset of Community Value which we hope will restrict its sale albeit for a short period. Moving forward the only way we will be able ensure its future, will be to buy it and we are looking for either someone local to purchase it or raise enough capital to put it into community ownership.

The current landlords, Brendan and Dawn are doing all they can to make a success of their tenure and have indeed managed to turn its fortunes around over their 5 months as tenants. Brendan and Dawn have fallen in love with Mere and felt this was their forever home but in such a short time their dreams are being swept aside.

Melvin Wilkinson  [melvinwilkinson@hotmail.com](mailto:melvinwilkinson@hotmail.com)

## **One World Fair**

The Grove Building was buzzing with visitors browsing and buying from the 14 stall holders at the Fair on 2nd November. The atmosphere was helped along with the lively music from JMS Folk Group and later entertained with songs from St George's School Choir and Shreen Harmony. The kitchen was kept busy serving refreshments and delicious lunches. Once expenses are paid, we are hoping to be able to send a donation to One World Week and add to our Group Account with Shared Interest. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way and who came and supported us but especially to the youngsters from **Seeds for Success** who performed a miracle in clearing the Hall in record time. Although this is the last Fair we will be organising, we are hoping that someone may feel able to continue this popular event in the future.

Janet Way & Judith Thompson  860884

## **The Community Lunch**

There will be no Community Lunch in December as we will all be out shopping, writing our Christmas cards, cooking and partying.

The next Community Lunch will be held on **Tuesday 14th January** at the **George Inn**, The Square, Mere at 12.30pm and will be followed with a talk from Philip Schofield on his illustrious career in the Army

The two course meal will cost £11.95, drinks not included. Please ring and book directly with the George Inn (860427).

The lunch is for anyone in the community, who may wish to meet more people, catch up with the local news and events in the town or just enjoy a good meal in pleasant company. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646 📧 [lindyelliott22@gmail.com](mailto:lindyelliott22@gmail.com)

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## **Mere Historical Society - *My 50 Years of Motor Racing, Mike Wilds***

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 7.10pm in the Grove Building**

The talk starts at 7.30pm and will be preceded by wine and mince pies, so please come along early to enjoy! Mike Wilds is a hugely experienced British racing driver who started racing in May 1965 and began instructing on track in the early 1970's. He also gives helicopter tuition. Mike will share his inspirations, challenges and memorable experiences spanning his 50 Year career, and is a lively and entertaining speaker.

**£3 entry to all talks for non-members who are very welcome**

### **Morning talks:**

**Tuesday 10th December:** Copper Printing Plates, by a volunteer from Stourhead, who has replaced the original speaker who cancelled. This illustrated talk is about an exciting find in the library and plates will be available for us to see. We are delighted that Geoff Ellen and Sandy Kerr (volunteers at Stourhead) have come to our rescue.

**Tuesday 7th January:** "The History of Bells and Bell ringing", by Mike Durkee. The sound of bells ringing is deeply rooted in British culture. Almost everyone in Britain lives within hearing range of bells. We can look forward to an interesting talk.

*(Visitors welcome, suggested donation, including coffee, £3)*

**NB There is no evening talk in January.**

Caroline Cook ☎ 861797 🌐 [merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)

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## **Fair Trade Pop-up-shop**

Susanne's Sewing Corner was busy with a steady stream of customers - (including some brave souls who faced the torrential rain on Saturday morning and came in 'streaming'!) enjoying buying gifts, cards and Fair Trade nibbles and stirring the Christmas Pudding. If you missed my sale, there will still be the opportunity to buy or put in an order at my stalls on **December 14th & 15th** in time for Christmas. Hopefully everyone's wish will come true!

Janet Way ☎ 860884 ✉ [jwaywitsend@gmail.com](mailto:jwaywitsend@gmail.com)

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## **Community Tea @ 3 ~ Christmas community tea**

Warm mince pies with clotted cream. Those wishing to attend please book by Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> December please

Paul Farrow ☎ 860524

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## **Mere Walking Group**

The annual New Year walk will be on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** and this time will be based on the **Red Lion at Heytesbury**. We will meet at the Salisbury Street Car Park at 10.00am and share transport to drive to the Heytesbury. The walk will start from the pub and is around 4 miles, followed by lunch. We have been asked to pre-order our lunch and I will let you have the menu if you are interested in the walk. Please advise by **December 14th** (or sooner).



The annual planning meeting for 2020, to which all are invited, will be held at the **George Inn (Mere)** on **Tuesday 11th February** 2020 at 7.00pm.

Roger Laidler ☎ 863447 ✉ [roger46laidler@talktalk.net](mailto:roger46laidler@talktalk.net)

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## **Mere Cancer Research**

At a meeting of the Mere Cancer Research Fund Raising Committee it was decided to close the committee due to lack of members to support the fund raising activities.



**CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK**

Many thanks to all those people and organisations/companies who have assisted and given support over the years.

Aubrey Colman

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## **Mere Theatre Club**

Now in the depths of winter we are off to Bath, Bristol and Salisbury for drama and for music, and hopefully some good lunches as well! If you fancy joining us, contact details below.

A very happy Christmas to all our members and a happy and entertaining new year!

Wendy Horne ☎ 861712 Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833

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### **MERE CARNIVAL FUNDRAISING QUIZ**

**Friday 17th January 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Grove Building**

**Tables of five maximum**

**£2.00 per person**

**Refreshments and raffle**

**Please come and join us for a fun evening**

Carol Payne ☎ 861639

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### **Fives Court ~ *It's all happening at Fives Court!***

**Saturday 14th December at 10.45am**, we are hosting a coffee morning with entertainment from singer Mike Sidaway. Join us for Christmas songs and old favourites.

**Thursday 19th December from 10.30am Annual Christmas raffle** morning, with some great prizes which last year included an MOT and other donated gifts and vouchers from the community.

**Friday 20th December at 7.30pm** we will be having our **Big Christmas sing-a-long**, join us for an evening of Christmas songs, mulled wine and mince pies

**Monday 23rd December 11am** come along for a **coffee morning** and music and sing-a-long with the much loved Becky from Kiddley Divey.

**Friday 24th January from 10.30am** join us for a coffee morning and have a go at Prize Bingo! £1 for two games.

Refreshments will be available at all the functions. Everyone welcome.

Brenda Martin ☎ 860707

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## **Mere Film Shows**

We are still waiting to have our films confirmed for next season but we are hoping for Downton Abbey [PG], The Good Liar [15] and Mrs Lowry & Son [12A]. We will publicise the confirmed films and dates in the Library and online as soon as possible. Alternatively, please contact me on the number below. In the meantime many thanks again for all the support this year and The Mere Film Shows Team wishes you all a very Happy New Year!

Rosie ☎ 861567

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## **Mere and District Chamber of Trade - AGM**

The Chamber will be holding an Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm at The George Inn in Mere

Mere Chamber would like to wish you Season's Greetings and good wishes for 2020 and to thank all Chamber Members and local businesses for your continued support.

Chamber Secretary Julie Cousins ☎ 07856 700 576

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## **Mere Tiddlers and Toddlers Group**

Mere Tiddlers and Toddlers group provides a social shared play environment for parents and carers, with babies and children under 5.

It enables play, support, interaction, and friendship. We provide refreshments, craft activity, and a singalong every week together with providing access to free food bank produce at the end of the session. People often make friends for life at this group.

We have sadly had to say goodbye to the students from **Ivers House** this month who have been helping to run the group as a community project for the last eight years. We shall miss them all very much. This has made running the group very difficult. *Unless we can recruit new volunteers, we are going to have to wind up the group after Christmas together with the integral Foodbank.*

Skills required of volunteers are various- from organisational skills, being able to listen to others, good sense of humour, fondness for children, some physical strength required for lifting toy boxes, and food crates, plus food preparation skills. Help with the activities below is required term time only, at Mere **Lecture Hall**, every **Monday morning, 9.00 am - 11.45** and also drivers are needed to collect Foodbank produce some weekend afternoons or evenings from Gillingham Waitrose and ASDA.




### ***Can you please Help with the Monday routine?***

- Managing toys at the start and end of the session
- prepare children's healthy snacks, hot drinks for parents and carers, and washing up ( Food hygiene certificate holder would be helpful )
- organising simple craft activities
- fronting a children and parent singalong with musical instruments , including mostly action rhymes, and some parachute games at the end of the session

If you are able to help in any way with this very friendly group, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Finally please, we would like to thank **Robin Chard** for so kindly mending our children's small wooden tables and chairs, the easel, a favourite big wooden jigsaw missing a piece, and for putting the lovely dolls house on a table with wheels. We are all very grateful indeed!!

Merry Christmas to all our wonderful children, and their lovely parents, who have been so helpful in trying to keep this valuable group going for so long.

Anne Rich  arich4@icloud.com  07413512023

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### **Look after yourself this winter**

As the dark nights draw in across Wiltshire and winter really starts to bite, it's worth thinking about how we can all make sure we're looking after ourselves and staying well over the cold winter months.

The NHS recently launched its annual winter campaign – **Help Us Help You** – which is here to help make it easier to understand the things you can do.

We all know hospitals and surgeries can be especially busy during the winter months and it can often be tricky to know the best place to go for help, so here's some handy tips to see you through until spring:

#### ***It's not too late to get your flu jab***

The free flu vaccination is offered to those who are at increased risk from the effects of flu, including people aged 65 and over, pregnant women, those with underlying health conditions and children aged 2-10. If you've not had one yet, it's not too late.

#### ***Call 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk online***

If you're unsure where to go and think you need urgent medical attention, but it's not life-threatening, contacting NHS 111 can help you make sure you reach the most suitable NHS service for your needs.

Ask a pharmacist for advice before minor ailments or winter illnesses get worse

Community pharmacists are qualified healthcare professional who can offer clinical advice and over the counter medicines to safely manage things like coughs, colds and sore throats.



[wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/local-services](http://wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/local-services)

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## **Short Walks**

Join me for a short walk with a seasonal twist on **Tuesday 17th December**. Meet at the **Walnut Tree at 2.00pm**. For those of you who have been on this before there will be something new! There will be no walk in January.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 ✉ [jwaywitsend@gmail.com](mailto:jwaywitsend@gmail.com)

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## **Warminster Food Bank**

A massive thank you to everyone who came along on a wet and cold Saturday and donated towards our festive collection - despite the rain and cold I am thrilled and slightly stunned to tell you that we collected a whopping 269kg of food and £70 in cash donations! The volunteers at the depot were over the moon as we had delivered 222 kg only the month before!

You, the lovely people of Mere and the surrounding villages, never cease to amaze me with your generosity towards those in our community who are less fortunate than us.

The collection point at the library is a massive success. So much so, that we are doing a final run of the year on 10th December. So please if you have any food, festive treats, toiletries, pet food, baby product donations please drop them in and we will make sure they go up ready for the last of the festive boxes and ready to stock up post New Year. Thank you to **Wendy Horne** for making the runs to the depot with all the donations.

If you, or know of someone, are in need of an emergency food box please contact either Rev Carol Green 861859 or Mr George Jeans - 07710 441599. As always please if you have eaten today remember those in our community who have not.

Contact - Penny Fennon 📞 07833 131712 (after 6pm please).

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## **Mere Local Resilience Forum (MLRF)**

**‘Grab a bag’.** If you had to evacuate your house in a rush because of some emergency, how accessible are the important things you would want to take with you? Why not have an emergency bag with 1st aid kit, tablets (or at least a list of them), torch, contact numbers, a small amount of money, perhaps passport, driving license, clean underwear and anything else you think you might need so you can ‘grab and go’.

**Emergency Information:** Have you thought of letting your neighbours have a list of your family/friends contact numbers and addresses just in case?

**ICE:** We know that it is getting cold but ICE can also stand for **In Case of Emergency**. If you have a mobile phone, why not put your main contacts in as ICE 1, ICE 2 etc. Emergency services may then be able, should the need arise, to alert your immediate family etc.

Fairy lights, candles and paper trimmings can all create a fire hazard.

### ***Minimise Garage Thefts:***

- 🌲 Register your valuable items such as bikes, electronics, tools etc. for free on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com).
- 🌲 Take pictures of valuables and record their serial numbers and keep these safe.
- 🌲 Visibly and permanently mark property using a Secured by Design-approved forensic property-marking kit.
- 🌲 Consider installing a Secured by Design approved anchor post inside the garage to which you can secure valuable items such as bikes.
- 🌲 Consider fitting additional locks on your garage door.
- 🌲 Never leave a garage or shed unlocked, especially if it has a connecting door into the house.
- 🌲 Think of securing any windows with grills or heavy wire mesh to increase security and maybe use net curtains to deter casual viewing inside of your garage.
- 🌲 Store Christmas presents inside the house but out of sight.



Season's Greetings to all and have a safe Christmas.

Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425



## **Friends of Mere Museum**

Warm thanks to everyone who came out on a miserable November evening to hear an excellent talk by Dr. Morgan about Turner and Constable and their association with Salisbury. We all went home very much enlightened about these two great English painters. More fund-raising events are planned for the New Year – watch this space. The Friends' Committee wish all Friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

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## **Dressmaking in Mere**

We have now been running our Dressmaking Courses for five years. In January we are welcoming back five dressmakers from previous courses as well as our many ladies who have made countless creations now. We all agree that if you have sourced your fabric, spent time making something special then you wear it for many years to come. Well and truly “Made in the UK” ~ well Mere actually.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Meal at Hillbrush this year, then we have a break and return on **Tuesday January 14th and Wednesday 15th**. We have a few spaces, mostly on Wednesday evening if you would like to join us.

We wish all our dressmakers past (quite a few in five years!) and to all who read our articles a very Happy Christmas and a creative and Happy 2020.

Carol Lord ☎ 861923 or Susanne 📠 07788 595434 📺 Dressmaking in Mere

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## **Mere School**

The children at Mere School have once again been working very hard and visiting lots of local places to support their learning. Read on to find out what all the children have said about their trips.



### **Key Stage One and Reception**

We went to the fire station. We looked around and Joe tried on the fireman clothes. We went in the fire engine and we learnt what to do if there was a fire. (Olivia King aged 6)

### **Y3**

When we went to Montecute House it was great. First we went to a shelter where we put our things. Then my group went with Mrs Barry to write with feathers and ink. I said to Mrs Barry that it was so good it's how we should write at school but she said it would take too long! After lunch we looked in the gardens and saw the fish in the pond and the old ice house. (Belle Bryce aged 7)

### **Y4**

In October Green Class went to Nothe Fort. It was amazing! There were six activities; the town hall, the school room, the Anderson shelter, the shop, the kitchen and the basement. When we came in at first, there was a man dressed up as a warden, who told us that whenever we were asked a question, we had to answer with either 'sir' or 'madam'. We all managed to do that, although some of us did struggle! The most exciting bit was when we went into the Anderson shelter as it felt like we really were being bombed. (India Butler aged 8)

### **Y6**

At the beginning of term, Purple Class visited the Ancient Technology Centre in Cranborne to learn about the life of Saxons and Vikings. We had a great time learning to grind grain into flour to make bread and weave willows into fence panels. We had lunch in the Viking longhouse sitting round the fire that had been lit in the traditional way. (Edie Wilson aged 10)

### **Upcoming Events:**

December: Year 4 visit to Bramley House

December: Year 5 visit to Rosemary Goddard Centre and Five Courts

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December: Salisbury Pantomime trip

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Key Stage 1 and 2 Christmas Productions

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December: Santa's Grotto arrives at Mere School and Christmas lunch

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December: Annual Carol Service at St Michaels – all welcome!

## December 2019 Diary Dates *(Recurring events are first shown in **Bold** then in Blue).*

### Venue Key for Diary :

**ATR** - Angel Tea Rooms

**Drs** - Surgery

**Lib** - Library

**StM** - St Michaels Church

**AYP** - Andy Young Pavilion

**GB** - Grove Building

**MSC** - Social Club

**URC** - United Ref Church

**CP** - Main Car Park

**L** - Lecture Hall

**RMC** - Castle St Car Park

1	Sun			
2	Mon	09:30	<b>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers (every Mon Term Time Only)</b>	<b>L</b>
		18:00	<b>Beavers &amp; Scouts (every Mon Term Time Only)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		19:30	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
3	Tues	10:00	<b>Moo Music (every Tues Term Time Only)</b>	<b>L</b>
		10:30	<b>Dressmaking Group (every Tues)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		13:00	<b>Pilates (every Tues)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		18:00	<b>Pilates (every Tues)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		18:20	<b>Zumba</b>	<b>L</b>
		19:10	Historical Society	GB
4	Wed	09:30	<b>Ta-Chi (every Wed)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		10:00	Mere Charity Distribution	L
		11.15	<b>Pilates</b>	<b>GB</b>
		18:00	<b>Karate (every Wed)</b>	<b>L</b>
		19:00	<b>Dressmaking Group (every Wed)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		19:00	<b>Railway Modellers (every Wed)</b>	<b>RMC</b>
5	Thur	10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic	DRS
		10:00	<b>Art Group (every Thur)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		14:00	<b>Bridge Club (every Thur)</b>	<b>L</b>
		14:00	<b>Quilters (every Thur)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		17:00	Girlguiding	GB
6	Fri	10:00	<b>Rhyme Time (every Fri)</b>	<b>Lib</b>
		10:00	<b>Movement for the Mind (Alternate weeks)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		13:45	<b>Duplicate Bridge (14.00 start every Fri)</b>	<b>GB</b>
7	Sat		<b>Coffee Morning</b>	<b>URC</b>
		11.00	Leaping Frogs Christmas Fair	L
		19:00	Oasis Bingo	L
8	Sun			
9	Mon	19:30	MADS Meeting	L
			<i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L), Beavers &amp; Scouts (GB)</i>	
10	Tues	10:15	Historical Society	GB
		12:00	Mothers Union Carol Service	GB
			<i>Moo Music (L), Zumba (L), Pilates (GB)</i>	
11	Wed	14:00	Friends Together Whist	GB
			<i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers</i>	
12	Thur	<b>All Day</b>	<b>ELECTIONS</b>	<b>L</b>
			<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Zumba (L)</i>	



13	Fri	<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>		
14	Sat	10.00	Moo Music Christmas Special	L
			Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall	URC
		10.45	Coffee Morning @ Fives Court	
15	Sun	Fair Trade Stall (after 10.30 service)		
				StM
16	Mon	<i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L),</i>		
17	Tues	14.00	Short Walk	Walnut Tree
			<i>Moo Music (L), Zumba (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
18	Wed	15:00	Community Tea @ 3	ATR
			<i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	
19	Thur	10.30	Big Christmas Sing-a-long @ Fives Court	
			<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
20	Fri	19.30	Shreen Harmony	GB
		19.30	Annual Christmas Raffle @ Fives Court	
			<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Movement for the Mind (GB), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
21	Sat	<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>		
22	Sun			
23	Mon	11.00	Coffee Morning & Music @ Fives Court	
			<i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L)</i>	
24	Tues	10.30	Coffee Morning & Bingo @ Fives Court	
			<i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
25	Wed			
26	Thur			
27	Fri			
28	Sat	<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>		
29	Sun			
30	Mon			
31	Tues	10.00	Moo Music Party	L

### **Shreen Harmony ~ Christmas Concert**

7.30pm **Friday 20th December**, Grove Building. Rehearsals are well under way for our Christmas concert so please do join us for some festive songs and interval refreshments. This year our retiring collection will be in aid of the 10 year old local charity '**It's in the Bag**' based in Bristol and covering the whole of the South West. Set up and run by a group of testicular cancer survivors the charity provides support and practical help to those suffering from the disease as well as increasing public awareness.

Caroline Landymore ☎ 228819

**January 2020 Diary Dates** (*Recurring events are first shown in **Bold** then in **Blue**.*)**Venue Key for Diary :****ATR** - Angel Tea Rooms**Drs** - Surgery**Lib** - Library**StM** - St Michaels Church**AYP** - Andy Young Pavilion**GB** - Grove Building**MSC** - Social Club**URC** - United Ref Church**CP** - Main Car Park**L** - Lecture Hall**RMC** - Castle St Car Park

1	Wed	<b>19:00</b>	<b>Railway Modellers (every Wed)</b>	<b>RMC</b>
		10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic	DRS
		<b>10:00</b>	<b>Art Group (every Thur)</b>	<b>GB</b>
2	Thur	10:00	Mere Walking Group - Heytesbury	
		<b>14:00</b>	<b>Quilters (every Thur)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		17:00	Girlguiding	<b>GB</b>
3	Fri	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Rhyme Time (every Fri)</b>	<b>Lib</b>
		<b>13:45</b>	<b>Duplicate Bridge (14.00 start every Fri)</b>	<b>GB</b>
4	Sat	<b>Coffee Morning</b>		<b>URC</b>
5	Sun			
6	Mon	<b>09:30</b>	<b>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers (every Mon Term Time Only)</b>	<b>L</b>
		<b>18:00</b>	<b>Beavers &amp; Scouts (every Mon Term Time Only)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		<b>10:00</b>	<b>Moo Music (every Tues Term Time Only)</b>	<b>L</b>
		<b>13:00</b>	<b>Pilates (every Tues)</b>	<b>GB</b>
7	Tues	<b>18:00</b>	<b>Pilates (every Tues)</b>	<b>GB</b>
		19:30	Historical Society	<b>GB</b>
		<b>18:20</b>	<b>Zumba</b>	<b>L</b>
		<b>09:30</b>	<b>Ta-Chi (every Wed)</b>	<b>GB</b>
8	Wed	14:00	Friends Together Whist	<b>GB</b>
		<b>18:00</b>	<b>Karate (every Wed)</b>	<b>L</b>
			<i>Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers</i>	
9	Thur	<b>14:00</b>	<b>Bridge Club (every Thur)</b>	<b>L</b>
			<i>Art (GB), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
10	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	<b>GB</b>
			<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
11	Sat	<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>		
12	Sun			
13	Mon	19:30	Parish Council Meeting	<b>AYP</b>
		19:30	MADS Meeting	<b>L</b>
			<i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L), Beavers &amp; Scouts (GB)</i>	
		<b>10:30</b>	<b>Dressmaking Group (every Tues)</b>	<b>GB</b>
14	Tues	10:30	Suchana Bring & Buy Sale & 14 Lovage Way (Kantharia's)	
		12:30	Community Lunch @ The George Inn	
		14:30	Mothers Union	<b>GB</b>
			<i>Dressmaking (GB), Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
15	Wed	11:30	Really Sing	<b>L</b>
		15:00	Community Tea @ 3	<b>ATR</b>
		<b>19:00</b>	<b>Dressmaking Group (every Wed)</b>	<b>GB</b>

		<i>Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers</i>	
16	Thur	<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
17	Fri	10:00 Movement for the Mind (Alternate weeks)	GB
		19.30 Mere Carnival Quiz	GB
		<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Movement for the Mind (GB), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
18	Sat	Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall	
19	Sun	Fair Trade Stall (after 10.30 service)	
		StM	
20	Mon	<i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L), Beavers &amp; Scouts (GB)</i>	
21	Tues	<i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
22	Wed	14:00 Friends Together Meeting	GB
		<i>Tai-Chi (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	
23	Thur	<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
24	Fri	10:00 Merely Women	GB
		<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
25	Sat	<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>	
26	Sun		
27	Mon	<i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L), Beavers &amp; Scouts (GB)</i>	
28	Tues	<i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
29	Wed	<i>Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	
30	Thur	<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
31	Fri	<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	

## **Mere & District Railway**

As winter evenings draw in, the urgency to provide exhibition layouts accelerates so as to fulfil the requirement for the greater number of exhibition venues nationally. The club has recently received a gift of a number of professionally built baseboards from Ross Merricks of Shaftesbury. These should keep the club going until 2025!

The next exhibition that the club is committed to is the West Wilts. O Gauge Groups Exhibition at WESTBURY on 16th November where the excellent club layout of "Mere Abbas" will be on display, if you miss it, the same layout has been invited on **4th & 5th January** to the Cheese & Grain in Frome. This exhibition is run by the Wessex Association of Model Railway Clubs and was set up in 2018 by the exhibition manager of your club when he was secretary.

Our Christmas Lunch this year is to be held at The Coppleridge Inn at 7pm on **Wednesday 18th December**. All those persons who help with the annual exhibition but are not regular club members are cordially invited.

Unfortunately we have lost one of the original members this year through ill health so we are always glad to greet new faces. Should this be inconvenient for anyone who wishes to have a look around before joining please contact Tom to book a visit.

### *Future dates:*

28th December West Camel Model Railway Society at Davis Hall, BA22 7QZ opening 10am -3pm.

4th & 5th January The Wessex Association of Model Railway Clubs Exhibition at The Cheese and Grain in Frome.

20th & 21st June Mere Model Railway Exhibition

Tom Snook ☎ 861977

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## **Mere Gardening Club**

There will be no December or January meeting. A Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all our members.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 🌐 [meregardenclub.org.uk](http://meregardenclub.org.uk)

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## **Children in Need**

Our Teddy, Toy tombola and 'Name the Teddy' event raised £156.10. A very big thankyou to Alan Dowland who donated most of the teddies and thanks also to the McDonalds, Wendy, Carol, Liz and Sue'. Special thanks to Gilly (& Alan!) for the lovely cakes.

Kathy Herbert

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## **Mere Museum**

Thank you to everyone who has added names to the photographs in the Museum. Please continue to spread the word as new photos will be added.

**The Walton's exhibition** will run until the New Year when it will be replaced by The Workhouse in Mere. Preview date to be announced.

Lastly I would like to thank Jenny for all her support over the last year and the many hours she has invested in the Museum. I very much look forward to working with her in the coming months.

Rose Heesom 📞 07791 559674 ✉️ [roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk)

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## **Are you a Carer?**

If you look after someone you love or care about, you may not consider yourself a carer. Caring is something we do as parents, partners, children, sisters, brothers and friends, often without question.

A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a family member or friend who could not always manage without their support. They might look after someone with a physical disability, long term health condition, mental health issue or a problem with substance misuse.



**Carer Support  
Wiltshire**

**Carer Support Wiltshire** can provide

- Free courses to help carers in their caring role
- Days out and hobby groups
- Pampering and complementary therapy sessions
- Connections to local communities with our Make a Friend, Be a Friend project
- Friendly Support Groups and Carer Cafes
- One-to-one support and befriending if needed
- Opportunities to get involved and shape services
- Our Courage to Care project supports those caring within serving families
- Our twice yearly newsletter, what's on guide and monthly Carers News e-newsletter keep carers up to date with news, what's on and services available

Contact Carer Support Wiltshire [carersupportwiltshire.co.uk](http://carersupportwiltshire.co.uk). If you would like further information about registering as a Carer you can also contact

Rachel McCabe-Harrison at Mere Surgery ☎ 860001.

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## **Alan James Lawrence 1940 -2019**

A **Service of Thanksgiving** for the life of Alan J. Lawrence ('Ajax') will be held on **Saturday January 25th 2020 at 2pm** in the parish church of St. Michael.

Alan hailed from an old Mere family and was born and brought up in the town. He attended Mere schools and then Shaftesbury Grammar School for Boys before going on to study electrical engineering.

Alan's ground-breaking work in telecommunications took him to the USA but Mere, primroses and fungi held a special place in his heart and he visited his family home at Old Hollow regularly in the spring and autumn.

Members of Alan's American family plan to be at the service and it was the wish of his widow, Anne, that his ashes be interred in Mere Cemetery.

All are welcome to the service and then for refreshments in the Grove Building.

Adrienne Howell ☎ 860475

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## **Rosemary Goddard Centre**

As we get ready for Christmas, it is a good time to think about anyone you may know that is lonely or at risk of becoming socially isolated. If you know anyone that could benefit from attending the centre please urge them to contact me on the number below. We recently took our guests for a lovely lunch at The Walnut Tree in place of a Christmas outing and we are all looking forward to the wonderful Christmas dinner that Fives Court provide for us. For our celebrations this year we are happy to welcome the hand bell ringers and have a special prize bingo lined up for our guests. In the New Year we have a full programme of activities arranged including Tai chi, art and crafts, chair zumba, quizzes, games afternoons and a visit from 'The Sing Alongs'. From all of us here at the RGC we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406 🌐 [meredaycentre.org.uk](http://meredaycentre.org.uk)

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## **Mere Amateur Dramatic Society**

Well what a relief. The 'Mere' Christmas Carol' had the hoped-for happy ending, which means we can all now get on with the Christmas shopping. But don't think that it's all over. Our next production is already starting to take shape on the horizon; more in the next issue. But meanwhile, a Very Happy Christmas to you all!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

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## **Mere Rivers Group - Wildlife Sightings for October**

Water started flowing well from mid-October and, as we anticipated, the little egret was seen again. Also a larger variety of wildlife sightings were reported both around our rivers and in the wider Mere area. This was probably due to young mammals and birds not yet having dispersed to find their own territories and the large number of berries that were still available in our hedgerows providing a good food source. One resident, who has a garden with a stream running through it, regularly has a visiting kingfisher and was lucky enough to see it 36 times during October. The same person also had a late moorhen's nest built but this was later abandoned.

Sightings for October were: kingfisher 37 times, little egret 8 times, hedgehog and sparrowhawk both seen twice. Seen once were a flock of 12 magpies, goldcrest, kestrel, greater spotted woodpecker, water rail, grey wagtail, a young moorhen, 3 roe deer, signal crayfish, brimstone butterfly and an elephant hawk moth caterpillar.

### **Nature Notes**

As stated above, there was a large variety of wildlife seen on the Mere Downs and in the fields around Mere. In October some of the creatures seen in the vicinity were red kite, kestrel, buzzard, ravens, linnets, stonechat, red-legged partridge, yellowhammers, fieldfare, meadow pipits, corn buntings and hare. There was also a wide variety of fungi seen in our woodlands and meadows.

We are so fortunate to have such a diversity of countryside around us bringing a rich mix of wildlife to our area. As we are now heading into winter and with the Christmas holidays ahead of us, any hard, crisp days offer fabulous opportunities to explore these lovely landscapes and look for all that wonderful wildlife! We will be so pleased for you to report anything you see but it is the river wildlife that is particularly important for the health and wellbeing of our waterways. So keep up the good work and send your sightings to our email address below. Thank you!!

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Lynne Bann ☎ 860174 ✉ [mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com](mailto:mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com)



## **Mere Christmas Fayre**

The Mere Christmas Fayre will be held on **December 6th** in and around **The George Inn** starting at **5.00pm** with the lights switch on at the Christmas tree at 6.00pm and after the switch on Santa will be in his grotto in the clock tower.

Also I would like to take this opportunity to say how successful Mere Carnival was back in September and to thank everyone who turned out to support it. A super big thank you must go to everyone who helped organise and run the event. It is impossible to thank each and every one individually, but without all this help the Carnival Committee's job would be a lot harder.

Also thanks to all who helped by advertising in the programme and we are very grateful to the companies who sponsored the carnival by having their company name put up in lights on the new LED scrolling sign board. Anyone who would be interested in joining us and helping to organise the carnival and other related events then please come along to our first meeting in 2020 on **January 14th at 7.45pm at The Walnut Tree Inn.**

John Gammie, Chairman for Mere Carnival ☎ 07831 572831

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IN MERE & DISTRICT



You are warmly invited to a Taizé service at St Mary's RC Church in Pettridge Lane, Mere on **Sunday 8th December** at 6pm. Members of Wincanton Pilgrim Singers will be joining the congregation for this hour of worship.

You are also invited to join us singing carols on **Christmas Eve** in the Square at Mere at 11am. For full details of Christmas Services at all our churches please see later page. Everyone is welcome at any of our services

January is also busy! As usual, the Week of **Prayer for Christian Unity** runs from **18th – 25th January**. Everyone is welcome to join us for the very short, informal, weekday services which will be held as follows:

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 9.30 am at URC Church, Boar Street, Mere

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am at St George's Church, Bourton

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 9.30am at Mere RC Church, Pettridge Lane

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 9.30am at St Mary's Church, West Knoyle

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 9.30am at St Michael's Church, Mere

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am at All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am at St Martin's, Zeals

**Please note:** On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January the main Sunday service for all our churches will be at 10am at St Martin's Church, Portnells Lane, Zeals, using the form of service provided by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Last but not least, please put 7.30pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January in your diary. This is the date of our AGM to be held at Mere URC Church

The Revd Duncan Goldie ☎ 01935 812916

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## **St Michael's News**

In the week before Christmas St Michaels Church will be featured on BBC national TV. We can't yet say when but look out for local advertising.

Sunday 22nd December 4pm Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas.

Talking Christmas with Vicar. Tuesday 10th December at 7.30 in the Butt of Sherry. Relaxed atmosphere over a drink with a chance to question the Vicar Rev Carol over all things Christmassy. Ask all those things you always wondered but didn't like to ask!

Advent Study and Prayer Group. Wednesday 11th December in the Vicarage 2-4pm. Perfect antidote to a General Election. All welcome please ring in advance for numbers if possible 861859.

**Ever thought of coming to a Friday Service at 8am?** Even if you're not going to be a 'regular' you might value coming occasionally to this half-hour shortened version of the Sunday 10.30 service (ie the 'modern' service). You might think of coming especially if you miss church on Sunday, or if there's something particular you want to pray about or give thanks for, or if a quiet and peaceful service feels right for you at present. Whatever the reason, you would be extremely welcome to join the regular few from time to time if you can.

Rev Carol ☎ 861859

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## **Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group**



We would like to invite you to the Mother's Union Christmas Deanery Carol Service on **Tuesday 10th December** at 12 noon followed by warm sausage rolls, sandwiches, homemade mince pies and a warm drink in The Grove Building. We welcome those of you who may be new to Mere or possibly find the evening services not so easy to come to. This is a very special way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and it will be lovely to sing those familiar Christmas Carols.

We will welcome the New Year by enjoying a festive Christmas Meal at Hillbrush on 7th January and look forward to a full programme of events in 2020.

Christine Marsh ☎ 861212, Christabelle Kiriticos ☎ 861065, Carol Lord ☎ 861923

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Suchana continues to grow and now provides pioneering and ongoing learning support for 'Adivasi' children and communities in 29 villages, reaching 1500 children in rural West Bengal, based around their little two-story centre in Khanjanpur village. This year the Mere support group has been continuing to focus on the provision of first-language story-books enabling younger children to encounter books written in their own mother tongue for the first time – a booster to morale and learning confidence. To keep up the good work, we need your support! So please come, if you can, to our coffee morning and **bring & buy** on **Tuesday 14th January** 10.30-12.00 at 14 Lovage Way (home of Jean & Colin Kantharia); and, a date for your diary: our ever-popular **Suchana Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancake Evening** will be held in the Grove Building at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 25th February**. Details in February Mere Matters.

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553

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**Letter from the Churches ~ *Rev Carol writes:***

The reindeer ears and fancy costumes were out in force in the local DIY store in mid-November. It's one thing seeing it on TV, but buying light bulbs from Santa just after Remembrance Day? Christmas isn't a jolly time for everyone and starting so early can rub the feeling in.

In St Michael's we are again having a Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. It will be 30-40mins long with an opportunity to remember your special people. There will be tea and cake afterwards.

As a kid one of my favourite hymns was "God is love" I liked the tune and the encouraging, positive rhythm. Recently I heard a sermon on 1 Corinthians 13 in which the preacher took out the word "Love" in "love is patient, love is kind" to say "God is patient, God is kind". He wanted to help us better understand the nature and closeness of God.

When we lose loved ones we wonder where they have gone and what could happen to all that life or all that kindness. As Christians we believe all those good gifts come from God and so on death they are still safe with Him. And as God is eternal so are our loved ones and all that was beautiful about them still survives. It survives with Him, but also within us in the way that by knowing them we were changed for the better, loved and cherished.

The wonder about Christmas is that God/Love came down to earth to live in all the beauty and messiness that is humanity and taught us through Jesus how to live. God is love: we can live and trust in that and his presence for us.....if we choose to.

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year

Rev Carol Green

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**DECEMBER 2019 Church Services in Mere and West Knoyle*****The Parish Church, St Michael's the Archangel:***

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Green ☎ 861859

[vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk) *Saturday is Rest day*

Churchwarden: Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 861646

PCC Secretary: [office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

1	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am 06:00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Family Worship Evensong
6	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
8	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
10	Tue	Noon	MU Carol Service
13	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
15	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
19	Thu	07:00 pm	Lessons & Carols
20	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
22	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am 04:00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion Remembering Loved Ones
24	Tue	04:00 pm 11:30 pm	Crib Service Midnight Mass
25	Wed	10:30 am	Family Communion
27	Fri	08:00 am	No Service
29	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Benefice Service in Mere

**West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:**

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Green ☎ 861859

[vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk) *Saturday is Rest day*

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 830534, Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 830263

1	Sun	09.30 am	Holy Communion
8	Sun	09:30 am	Matins
15	Sun	06:00 pm	Lessons & Carols
22	Sun	09:30 am	DIY

25	Wed	09:30 am	Christmas Day Communion
29	Sun	10:30 am	Benefice Service at Mere

## **All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley**

**Priest in Charge:** Rev'd Carol Green ☎ 861859

[vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk) *Saturday is Rest day*

**Churchwardens:** Mrs Celia Blay ☎ 01985 844817

1	Sun		No Service
8	Sun	10:00 pm	Matins
15	Sun	10:00 am	Communion
22	Sun	6:00 pm	Lessons and Carols followed by mince pies
24	Tues	11.00 am	Midnight Mass
25	Wed	10.00 am	Family Communion

## **The United Reformed Church**

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

1	Sun	11.00am	Mr Dudley Coates
8	Sun	11.00am	Rev Colin Marsh Holy Communion
15	Sun	11.00am	Mrs Catherine Dyer
22	Sun	2.30pm	Rev Duncan Goldie
25	Wed	10.30am	Rev Margaret Laurie
29			TBA

## **The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.**

Father Louis Beasley-Suffolk: ☎ 019634408 [hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk](mailto:hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk)

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Every Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	9.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church
Every Thur	10.00am	The Rosary of Our Lady
Every Sat	5.30pm	Holy Mass

**Catholic Masses at Christmas.****24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve.**

6.00pm Vigil Mass. St Luke and St Teresa, Wincanton

8.00pm Carols followed by

8.30 pm Night Mass. St Mary's, Mere

**25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

10.30am St Luke and St Teresa, Wincanton

**26<sup>th</sup> St Stephen's Day.**

9.45am St Mary's Bruton.

**JANUARY 2020 Church Services in Mere and West Knoyle**

3	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
5	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am 06:00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Family Communion Evening Prayer
10	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
12	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
17	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
19	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP No Service in Mere Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Zeals at 10am
23	Thur	09:30 am	WPCU (Discussion and prayer)
24	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
26	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
31	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion

**West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:**

5	Sun	09.30 am	DIY
12	Sun	09:30 pm	Matins
19	Sun	09:30 am	No Service WPCU at Zeals 10am
22	Wed	09:30 am	WPCU (Discussion and prayer)
26	Sun	06:00 pm	Holy Communion (BCP)



## **All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley**

5	Sun	10.00 am	Sunday Catch-up, coffee and croissants in the hall
12	Sun	3.00 pm	Plough Sunday at Rodmead Farm BA12 7HP
19	Sun	10:00 am	W.P.C.U. Zeals
26	Sun	10.00 am	Parish Communion

## **The United Reformed Church**

5	Sun	11.00 am	TBA
12	Sun	11.00 pm	TBA
19	Sun	11.00 pm	Rev. Duncan Goldie Holy Communion
26	Sun	11.00 pm	Mrs Jane Hurd

## **Booking Meeting Venues**

Grove Building:	Derek Fisher <a href="mailto:administrator@grovebuildingmere.com">administrator@grovebuildingmere.com</a>	☎ 07935 266375
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	☎ 861063
URC Church Hall:	Eileen Burfitt	☎ 860685

## **Mere Information Point @ The Library**

The following Support/Advice Centres are held on a regular basis:

Wiltshire Dementia Adviser Service	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	2.00pm – 4.00
Registrar of Births & Deaths	By appt. only Thursdays	☎ 0300 003 4569 9.30am – 11.30
Health Trainer (As from Jan 2020)	Last Tuesday in month	10.00am – 12.00

## **Mere Information**

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of “Mere Matters”, please visit 🌐 [merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org)

## **Copy date for February 2020 Issue**

Closing date for receipt of Copy is **4:00pm on MONDAY 20th JANUARY.**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 from **13<sup>th</sup> January** (or earlier) via [editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk) or deliver to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU.

Please be sure to state your name and a contact telephone number to ensure inclusion.



# Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection changes

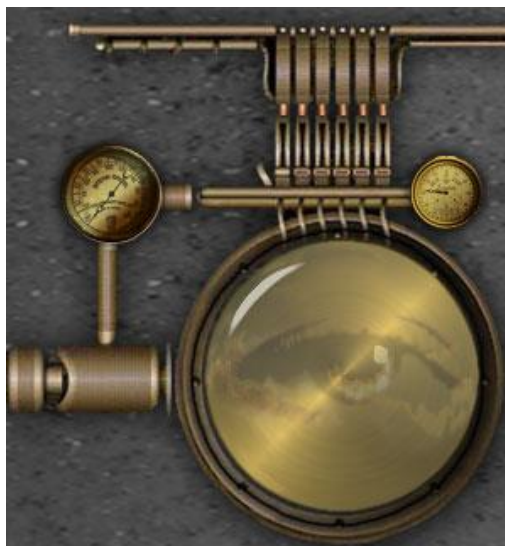
**Changes from**  
23 Dec - 13 Jan

Your normal collection day	Household and recycling	Garden waste*
Mon 23 Dec	✓ no change	✗ no collection
Tues 24 Dec	✓ no change	✗ no collection
Wed 25 Dec	Fri 27 Dec	✗ no collection
Thurs 26 Dec	Sat 28 Dec	✗ no collection
Fri 27 Dec	Mon 30 Dec	✗ no collection
Mon 30 Dec	Tues 31 Dec	✗ no collection
Tues 31 Dec	Thurs 2 Jan	✗ no collection
Wed 1 Jan	Fri 3 Jan	✗ no collection
Thurs 2 Jan	Sat 4 Jan	✗ no collection
Fri 3 Jan	Mon 6 Jan	✗ no collection
Mon 6 Jan	Tues 7 Jan	Tues 7 Jan
Tues 7 Jan	Wed 8 Jan	Wed 8 Jan
Wed 8 Jan	Thur 9 Jan	Thur 9 Jan
Thurs 9 Jan	Fri 10 Jan	Fri 10 Jan
Fri 10 Jan	Sat 11 Jan	Sat 11 Jan
Mon 13 Jan	✓ back to normal	✓ back to normal

**No collections: 25 December, 26 December, 1 January**

Check your collection dates and household recycling centre opening times at [wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling](http://wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling)

**Wiltshire Council**



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