



# MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND  
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



DECEMBER 2012/  
JANUARY 2013



## DR ANDREW MURRISON MP WRITES:

My first few weeks as a minister have been fairly exhausting. The fact is being a backbench MP is full-on if you do the job properly so time for the extra responsibilities inevitably must be carved out of existing commitments. So, there's less time at home with the family in Mere! However, having served in the Armed Forces in one way or another for 30 years, it is a very great privilege to land up in the Ministry of Defence.

I've learnt to tweet, or rather succumbed to the inevitability of bending technology to get a message across quickly given pressure on time. The trouble is, you have to be so very careful as a number of high profile imprudent tweets have put their senders in an unhappy place. I thought I was doing rather well with 300 followers so far but apparently colleagues have followings into the tens of thousands, presumably because they're writing more risqué things. So far I have confined my interest in Facebook to, as far as any parent can, keeping a watching brief on what my daughters get up to.

The recent iteration of the parliamentary constituency boundary review still has Mere at the heart of a new constituency called Warminster and Shaftesbury which takes in the larger part of my existing South West Wiltshire seat. The revised proposals I suspect are now pretty much as they will be put to the Commons late next year. However, it is unclear at this point whether they will get through because of tensions within the coalition.

I have had some correspondence on the state of the A303. The solution usually pressed is dualling throughout but the Stonehenge bottleneck remains a real hurdle, the tunnelling proposal having been rejected. My priority is improving the road safety record of the A303 in the vicinity of Mere together with sorting out the worst bits of the A350 and A36. I am in touch with neighbouring MPs on this and with both the County Council and Highways Agency.

May I wish all my neighbours in Mere and West Knoyle a very merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

## MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst 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 the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You can raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meetings will be on **Mondays, 3rd December 2012 and 14th January 2013** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

### The Chairman writes:

After a glorious summer of sport in the UK, I am pleased to be able to praise the excellent state of sport in Mere. The recent annual Sports Development meeting was well attended by representatives of the towns' sports clubs, and they reported that the men's football team is top of its league, and the archery clubs have two World

Champions within their memberships. The Bowls club goes from strength to strength, and a hundred or so youngsters regularly play football and cricket. Unfortunately, the swimming pool has not been usable this summer as extensive repairs are required. It is hoped that, with the help of grants, fundraising and an enthusiastic committee, it will be possible to restore this amenity. We would like to congratulate and thank the organisers for the second Mere Firework Festival, which was extremely well attended, in spite of the weather. We do hope that it was a huge success.

I was pleased to represent the Parish Council on Remembrance Day. Many people attended the memorial at 11.00am, and the church was full for the service afterwards.

I would like to say how happy the Council is to welcome back to work our groundsman, Tony Suter, after his recent illness. He is a much valued member of our staff. On behalf on the council I would like to thank John Thorpe who has carried out groundsman duties during Tony's absence.

At the last Parish Council meeting we discussed various planning applications as well as a consultation document on Community Infrastructure Levy – this is a charge that will be imposed on developers in order to help pay for off-site infrastructure. The Parish Council also agreed that it should ask Wiltshire Council to prioritise a small length of double-yellow lines in Salisbury Street just to the west of the car park junction, in order that visibility is not obstructed for cars coming out of the car park.

Some of you will have noticed that there are now goats grazing on Long Hill. As you may be aware, the Higher Level Environment Stewardship Scheme requires us to graze the hill with cattle between April & September but Natural England has agreed that, in the meantime, the goats may have environmental benefits as they will eat the scrub. We have erected notices on the gates into Long Hill and would request that dog walkers keep their dogs on leads when going onto the hill. So far, the response from the public has been very positive.

As there will not be a Mere Matters now until the New Year, I would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

*Mrs Lesley Traves, Vice-Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

The Parish Council's groundsman, Mr. Tony Suter, would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that sent him kind messages, cards and get well wishes during his recent illness. He says that this support was very heartening and he is now very happy to be back at work.

For information on Parish Council activities; details of meetings and copies of minutes, please view the Mere website: [www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org); or contact the parish clerk, Mrs Lindsey Wood: ✉ [lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org) or: ☎ 01747 860701.

**Richard Robbins - Trained Gardener - 25 years  
experience. All aspects of Garden Care Undertaken  
01373 473008 Mobile 0751 0130 083**



## **GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, WRITES**

The Environment Agency website has a page for the Cranborne Chase area, including Mere. It currently states that following the wet summer groundwater is at unseasonal high levels. Many winterbournes are already at their capacity levels and will slowly rise even further. This situation will continue until there is a prolonged break in the unsettled weather.

2,730 bottles will have been lit on Bradley Knowle near Kilmington in aid of Breast Cancer by the time this article is published, which has been made possible by kind permission of the landowner, Angus Neish and farmer, Martin Brown. Hopefully, the pink and blue lights you will still be able to see in the evenings by the time you read this. At five metres wide and three metres high, the installation, called 'Beacon On The Hill', is by Bruce Munro, a local British lighting designer and installation artist. Bruce Munro is best known for lighting installations such as 'Field of Light', which was first exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, in 2004.

I have received various questions and queries in Mere, Zeals and West Knoyle relating to boulders, stones, bollards, hedges and fences being placed on verges adjacent to the highway and have sought advice from the Highway Authority regarding "highway rights". In short, the adjoining landowner (the frontager) can apply for a Section 142 licence from Wiltshire Council to allow them to cut grass and plant non-invasive ground cover type species, but not trees or hedges.

The placement of stones, fences or other types of hard furniture or barriers on the highway verge is illegal and may lead to enforcement action and or prosecution against the perpetrator by Wiltshire Council. Furthermore, if an adjoining landowner fails to keep the verge free of obstructions and a road user comes into contact with same i.e. when taking evasive action, then that landowner is liable in law for any loss or damage incurred. The Highway Authority has the right to remove any obstructions on the verge and recover all reasonable costs from the perpetrator. 'Obstruction' includes hedges, which are sometimes planted too close to the verge, and their foliage and root system can cause problems for the highway user.

Remembrance Day this year being a Sunday, a service was held by Mere Town Clock when wreaths were laid. The Local Churches, Fire Brigade, Mere Parish Council and many others worked together. Mike Durkee voluntarily provided the sound system. I had to manually turn the Town Clock hands to 11.00am, because the clock mechanism

### **Merrell's Mobile Foot Health Clinic.**

**For the professional treatment of:** Corns • Callus/Hard Skin • Nail Trimming • Fungal & Thickened Nails • Athletes Foot • In growing toenails • Qualified to treat diabetics and those taking Warfarin and steroids • Massage given to make your feet feel fitter in the comfort of your own home. **Contact Mary on 07809 738237**

failed us. At one time our area of Mere received little or no coverage in the local press of our Remembrance Service as -photographers and reporters could not be at all the local towns at the same time. I used to send photos to the local press, which local people had taken and they were printed. Now with so many people using digital cameras, the photographs have to be good to get published. For those who do not get to the service or who have moved away, I and others like to see the Remembrance Service in the local press for the above reasons. It is difficult to take a good picture inconspicuously, I asked Graham Russell a local professional photographer to take some pictures, which he did and one was chosen and sent to the local Blackmore Vale magazine. They did print it. For this I would like to thank him. Again it was voluntary.

For those of you who get a rebate from your Wiltshire Council domestic rates, you will be subjected to a reduced maximum eligible council tax support of 80% of the Council Tax chargeable for all those of working age, except those in receipt of disability premium or war widows/disablement pensions. Those with social housing of non-pensionable age may be further affected as a "bedroom tax" will be imposed. One bedroom too many and 14% will be lost from housing benefit, and with more than one bedroom spare, 25% will be lost. This will effect about 3,000 people across Wiltshire. I believe Wiltshire Council is objecting to the Government about these changes forced upon it. This could cause people of non-pensionable age to have to leave the area. Those households on benefits of more than £500 a week could receive a further cap, back to £500 a week. Note for those of you who rent or have unoccupied and unfurnished property (Class C), only 3 months 100% exception will now be given.

I have asked for a sign at the west end of Chetcombe Road to say "Centre" or similar, there are those occasionally who turn right and then try a three point turn in The Hollow to get back on course.

The Wiltshire Council Cabinet agreed that the roles of the corporate director with statutory responsibility for adult social services and the joint director of public health are integrated to create one corporate director post with joint statutory responsibility for adult social services and public health. This decision will enable a re-structure of the senior management team to be completed by 1st April 2013 when the integration of public health takes effect and public health service staff transfer to the Council. The new role will be a statutory chief officer (corporate director), and the holder will be the principal advisor on all adult social services and health matters including public health, health improvement, health protection and healthcare.

**[southwestwiltsblog@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:southwestwiltsblog@wiltshire.gov.uk)** So far there have been 493 unique visitors to the site in the month (that's individuals, not repeat visitors). Communications report that our blogsite is by far the most visited at the current time, and there has been an increase recently in people making comments and uploading their own articles.

I have already had complaints regarding the implementation of reduced speeds by Wiltshire Council to 50 mph from 60mph, the National Road Speed, through the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (50 mph) in the following places:

B3092, Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield and Kilmington - from a point 295 metres south east of its junction with Kingston Lane, Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield to a point 57 metres south west of its junction with The Street, Kilmington.

B3095 Warminster Hollow, Mere - from a point 66 metres south west of its junction with Mere Byway 11 to a point 113 metres north east of its junction with Downside Close.

B3092 Gillingham Road/Mapperton Hill, Mere - from its junction with B3095 Castle Street to the County Boundary with Dorset.

Any person aggrieved by the Orders and desiring to question the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in the Orders on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant Section of the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of that Section or of Part III of Schedule 9 of the Act or any regulation made under the said Schedule, has not been complied with in relation to the Orders may, within six weeks of the date on which the Orders were made, make application for the purpose to the High Court. The Orders will come into operation on 23rd November 2012.

My thanks to the Rev'd Judith Thompson, retired Church of England Minister, for voluntarily caring for the new defibrillator that is housed on a wall in Castle Street, Mere close to Barton Lane.

A skate park for Mere is still being progressed; Lindsey Wood and I met with a new volunteer who we believe will further push the scheme ahead.

Superfast broadband has a target date of 2015. The contract has been awarded to BT.

It has been a year most of us will never forget with all the national celebrations, may I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.



## **‘MERENEIGHBOURS’ NEWS**

### **Milk Thefts**

These are continuing and positive action is being taken to hopefully resolve the issue. If any local residents have information surrounding these thefts please contact PCSO Noble or PC Salter – Dial 101.

### **Scams**

There would appear to be no end to the ways in which people will attempt to relieve you of your personal details and money. Constant vigilance is the best deterrent – just hang up on those PPI and similar telephone calls, never pass your bank, email or other account details to anyone you do not know, delete unsolicited emails – do not even open them and whatever you do – remember that there are no guaranteed ‘get rich’

## **Wiltshire Wildlife Trust ~ Of Mosquitoes, Ticks and Man**

Impact of climate change on the arrival of new insects in the UK

**4<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm in The Grove Buildings**

**Refreshments available**

**All Welcome**

schemes. More advice is to be found in the latest newsletter and on the web site.

## **Community Issues**

Members of the public can now raise concerns and report local issues direct to Wiltshire Council, e.g. pavement parking, litter etc. Just follow this link:

**[https://forms.wiltshire.gov.uk/area\\_board/report\\_issue.php?area\\_board=South%20West%20Wiltshire](https://forms.wiltshire.gov.uk/area_board/report_issue.php?area_board=South%20West%20Wiltshire)** and for issues to do with highways maintenance:

**<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets.htm>**

Our newsletters are freely available in the Post Office, Library and from the Grove Building. You can also stay up to date on-line from the web site at: **[www.MereNeighbours.co.uk](http://www.MereNeighbours.co.uk)**. Have you joined the 400+ registrations on the Web Site for inclusion on the Emergency Notification circulation? By so doing you will be informed of any major local issues.

We are always available for help and advice and our contacts are:

*PC Richard Salter and PCSO Jake Noble ☎ 101 (24hrs)*

✉ **[richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)** or

✉ **[jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)**

*For matters relating to 'MereNeighbours' only:*

*Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425 ✉ [rajefferies@btinternet.com](mailto:rajefferies@btinternet.com)*

## **WEATHER REPORT**

In October we had 133mms (5.24ins) of rain. Last year we had 64.5mms (2.54ins). The last half of the month was drier than the first, but with 20mms (0.79ins) on the 31st.

November started wet and colder with frost on several mornings and sleet on the 5th when some places nearby had snow. Not much sun on either month but cloudy and cold. When there was any sunshine in the mornings it was much appreciated. Up to the 18th November we have had 37mms (1.46ins) of rain. 23mms (0.91ins) fell on the 4th - making everything nice and wet for the fireworks! *Peter Durkee. ☎ 01747 860363*

## **NEWS FROM THE DENTAL PRACTICE**

Jacquie Barnes left the practice at the end of November. Jacquie has been with the practice since February 2007 and we would like to use this opportunity to publicly acknowledge her contribution to the practice and wish her every success in the future. Christopher Davies has kindly agreed to increase his working days and will be looking after Jacquie Barnes patients with the help of Stephen Sherrard. The practice is now looking for a new part-time dentist.

**Bourton and Zeals Preschool** a happy, relaxed atmosphere.  
Child-led care tailored to individual needs, working in partnership  
with parents. Tel: 01747 840537 Mon - Friday, 8.45am - 3.45pm

Email: **[info@bourtonandzealspreschool.org](mailto:info@bourtonandzealspreschool.org)**

Website: **[www.bourtonandzealspreschool.org](http://www.bourtonandzealspreschool.org)**

Congratulations to Christopher Davies on getting a First in his Forensic Dentistry Degree, a remarkable achievement which reflects all his hard work.

### **Mere Dental Practice Christmas Opening Hours 2012**

Monday, 24th December 9.00am – 12.00noon Emergencies only clinic

Tuesday, 25th December Closed, Wednesday, 26th December Closed

Thursday, 27th December Normal hours

Friday, 28th December Normal hours

Monday, 31st December 9.00am – 12.00 noon Emergencies only clinic

Tuesday, 1st January Closed

Normal hours from Wednesday 2nd January 2013

The practice answering machine has all the out of hours contact telephone numbers.

Practice number ☎ 01747 860365

*Francine Sherrard, Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860365*



### **Mere Dental Practice**

*The practice has Dentists - Stephen Sherrard & Christopher Davies  
and Dental Therapists Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale*

*Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road,  
Wiltshire, BA12 6EW, ☎ 01747 860365,*

*E-mail: **meredental@btconnect.com**, Website: **meredentistry.co.uk**,*

*Opening hours: - Monday – Thursday 8.45am – 5.30pm, Tuesday  
8.45am – 7pm & Friday 8.45am -5pm*



*The practice is sited in the grounds of Mere Primary School, first building  
on your left when you go through the school*

### **MERE CARERS GROUP**

We meet on Tuesday, 4th December 2012 and again on Tuesday 8th January 2013 from 10:30am-12.00noon at Lynch Close Community Centre. It is a chance for people caring for a family member and friend to get together for a cuppa tea and a chat with support available from Carer Support Wiltshire if you need it. Visit: **www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk** to find out more

*Fiona Hunter, Carer Support Wiltshire ☎ 01380 871690*



## MERE WEIGHT-WATCHERS UPDATE

The Mere meeting has now been running for just over two years and we have seen some great successes helping members lose weight and keeping it off.

Since the meetings started we have got 15 members to their goal weights, and this has also improved members health and well being.

So if you looking to lose weight in 2013, why not join this really successful and friendly meeting. So far this year the group has lost 784lbs, which is a fantastic 56 stone.

The meeting is every Thursday at 6.30pm in Mere Social Club. For further details, please contact me.

*Lin Davie ☎ 07428795827*

## ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, MERE

### Foodbank News

We will be collecting food for the Foodbank, with the kind permission of Mere Co-op, on **Saturday, 1st December**. We are hoping you will buy one extra item of non-perishable food with your shopping to put in our trolley. Thank you.

*Jane Hurd ☎ 01747 860218*

## FATHER CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO MERE

Mere Carnival is happy to announce that Father Christmas is coming again to Mere on Saturday, 22nd December. He will be in the Clock Tower from 10.00am-12.00 noon and will be waiting to meet you. Mince pies and coffee/tea will be available to put everyone in the festive spirit.

*Carol Payne ☎ 01747 861639*

## ARE YOU GOOD AT ORGANISING?

### Do you have Lots of New Ideas?

If so, we would love you to join a small group of people who will start in January to organise the Church Fete in June 2013. You don't have to be a member of St Michael's Church, just someone who would enjoy helping to put together a fun event for the whole community.

If this sounds like you, please drop an e-mail to St Michael's Parish Office: **office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk** or speak to one of the Churchwardens, or to the Vicar.

## MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

### Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860096

The Linkscheme will be closed from Friday, 21st December until Wednesday, 2nd January. Requests for transport early in January may be left on the answerphone. We hope that all our volunteer drivers enjoy a well-earned rest over the holiday period.

*Molly Burden*

## MERE WALKING GROUP

Our New Year walk will be on Wednesday, 2nd January 2013 and be based on the White Lion at Bourton, starting at 10.00am. A four to five mile walk is planned and then lunch at the White Lion. I have agreed to pre-order our food and will send out menus to those who wish to participate. Transport to the White Lion can be arranged. All are welcome. For more information, do contact me:

*Roger Laidler, ✉ [roger46laidler@talktalk.net](mailto:roger46laidler@talktalk.net) or ☎ 01747 863447*



## THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE Christmas Social Evening



**Wednesday, 5th December from 7.30pm  
at The George Inn in Mere**

Mere Chamber would like to invite you to come along to an informal Christmas social evening, whether you are an established or a new business, or maybe just starting up. This will be an opportunity to meet other local business people, to find out more about the work of The Chamber and to enjoy a festive drink or two!

### **'Meet your Neighbours' The meeting of 5 Chambers**

In January 2013, Mere Chamber will be participating in a joint event with other Chambers of Commerce in the area. The aim is that this will provide an opportunity to network with a wider group of businesses and to meet your neighbours!

For further information on this event or any of our meetings, please contact Julie Cousins on ☎ 07856 700 576

### **Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting**

This will to be held at Mere Social Club for 7.30pm on Wednesday, 9th January 2013  
*Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576*

## THE FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL **"CALL MY BLUFF" - Gentlemen v. Ladies**

**Friday, 8th February 2013 @ 7.30pm  
The Grove Building**

Once again by popular request two teams will attempt to deceive each other about the meanings of some unusual words. Keeping order will be Peter Mason as Chairman. Hamish Bell, David Leakey and John Page will represent the 'Gentlemen', and Adrienne Howell, Ann Jeffries and Mary White will represent the 'Ladies'.

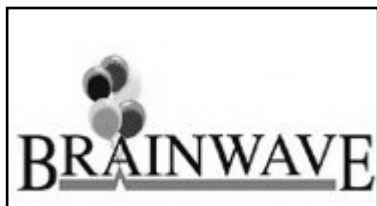
This promises to be another entertaining evening.

There will be a bar, and light refreshments will be served in the interval. Tickets will be available from the New Year at £7 each [which includes your first glass of wine] from the Information Desk in the Library or from 16 Homefield, Mere [01747-861776].

Tickets are limited, so get your bid in early!

*Pat Isom* ☎ 01747 861776

<p><b>REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2013 ISSUE</b> <b>MONDAY, 14th JANUARY 2013</b></p>
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## **BRAINWAVE**

'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' especially in the shops where they cleared away the Halloween stock and replaced it with Christmas decorations. Our Christmas Tombola is now in full swing and we already have some Christmas items in the shop for those who like to

get started with their preparations in good time. However, if you have not yet retrieved your box of decorations from the loft and find surplus items when you do, please pass them on to Brainwave for re-sale. We now have our rail of party clothes up and running for the festive season, so if you're looking for something different to wear this year it's well worth checking us out. As always, we welcome your donations of all unwanted goods and ask you to remember us when you are turning out to make way for all the new stuff that will probably be coming into your home in late December.

Finally, we hope to hold a late-night shopping evening to coincide with the turn-on of Mere's Christmas lights. As in previous years, we shall be offering a warming welcome and some free NON-ALCOHOLIC punch to everyone who comes into the shop on this special night. Merry Christmas and a wish for a peaceful and prosperous 2013 to you all! For further information about Brainwave, please call the shop during business hours ☎ 01747 863432.

## **COMMUNITY LUNCH**

All are welcome to the Walnut Tree Inn, Shaftesbury Road, on Tuesday, 11th December 2012 at 12.00noon for a two course Christmas Lunch costing just £8.95, drinks not included. Please book in advance ☎ 01747 861220.

If you miss that celebration, come and welcome in the New Year at The George Inn, The Square, on Tuesday, 8th January 2013 at 12 noon for a two course lunch for just £8.95, drinks not included. Please book in advance ☎ 01747 860427.

I Look forward to seeing you there to meet and have some fun. Transport is available through the Community Bus and the Linkscheme. For further details please ring me.

*Lynette Elliott* ☎ 01747 861646

## **DECEMBER'S SHORT WALK**

This will again have a seasonal twist. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park as usual on Monday, 17th December. We will keep to pavements and paths to avoid any muddy spots so it will be accessible to buggies and wheelchairs. There will be NO January walk.

*Janet Way* ☎ 01747 860884

## **THE BOOK OF MERE**

By Dr. David Longbourne

(containing more than 300 photographs) is on sale at

**Mere Library/Information Point, Barton Lane, Mere, - Price £9.95.**

## MERE THEATRE CLUB

There are a couple of tickets left for the Candlelit Carol Service at Wells Cathedral on Thursday, 20th December.

The winter mailing will be out soon, so if you want a copy, do join us by contacting either Madelaine or Wendy. Happy Christmas and a culturally stimulating New Year!

*Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833 or Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712*

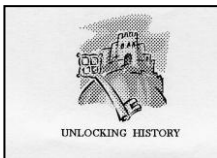
## CHRISTMAS CONCERT - SHREEN HARMONY

Shreen Harmony will be holding a **Christmas Concert in the Grove Building on Saturday, 22nd December at 7.30pm**. The programme will contain Christmas carols, some familiar and some less well known, more songs from around the world and some Christmas related readings. The usual good spread of refreshments will be on offer.

There are no tickets or charge for entry but there is a retiring collection for the local branch of Home-Start, a charity which helps and supports families, with children under 5 years old, in short-term crisis situations.

Come along and start your Christmas with a swing! We look forward to seeing you.

*Ann Dethick, Shreen Harmony ☎ 01747 863498*



## MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Treasures saved for the Nation by the Art Fund

**by Anthony Pugh-Thomas**

***Tuesday, 11th December at 7.30pm in the Grove Building***

Since 1903 the Art Fund has helped over 700 museums and galleries throughout the UK to acquire thousands of great works of art from 2,000 BC to the present day for the public to enjoy. Anthony has been a member of the fund for many years. **£2.00 entry for non-members, who are very welcome.**

## **Bourton – A Surprising Village**

**by Brian Martin**

***Tuesday, 8th January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Grove Building***

### **Morning Talk**

Our morning talk for Tuesday, 22nd January 2013 is: "The Shetland Bus: a little known story of WW2" by John Wilson. We meet in the small Room of the **Grove Building** at 10.15am for 10.30am. **£1.00 entry for non-members who are very welcome.**

**NB: NO morning talk in December**

*Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797*

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Tickets are still available for the Pantomime 'George and the Dragon' at the Library, but hurry, time is running out! Remaining performances are on Friday, 30th November at 7.30 in the Lecture Hall, and on Saturday, 1st December there is a matinee at 2.30pm and an evening performance at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at the Library, price £6.00 & £3.00 for children. And when George and his Dragon have come to the end of their adventures, we hope they, and all our supporters, enjoy a very festive Festive Season.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## 'MORE THAN JUST A PAPER CHAIN'

If you missed my Sale last month, it is still not too late to buy or order those last minute presents. Help to make a Fair Trade paper chain, stir and make a wish in the Fair Trade Christmas Pudding and browse the lovely crafts. Having visited some of the projects supported by Traidcraft on my holiday in Nepal, I have witnessed first hand the amazing benefits Fair Trade brings to the very poorest and marginalised people in their society. So please come along and know that your gifts will be doubly appreciated.

Drop in any time to Wits End, North Road, Mere on Wednesday, 5th December, between 8.30am and 4.30pm.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## MERE FILM SHOWS

There will be no film in December as we have been unable to find a suitable date that does not clash with other events – as has been said before, there is so much that goes on in Mere! Our next film will be on Thursday, 10th January 2013 and the title has yet to be confirmed, so during December look out for posters around town, but rest assured that whatever the film, it will be a good one! Have a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

*Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

## MERE GARDENING CLUB

### Fun social and quiz evening

**Wednesday, 9th January at 7.30pm in the Grove Building**

An evening to get to know club members and have fun! **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome and meet members.**

### Note:

**There will be NO December meeting.**

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*



## MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our December meeting provides a foretaste of Christmas with our MU Deanery **Carol Service** in St Michaels Church **at 3.00pm on Tuesday, 11th December** followed by tea and mince pies in the Grove Building. **Everyone is welcome to join us**, so please just come along, if you would like to.

For our January meeting on **Tuesday, 8th January** we'll be enjoying the Christmas Menu at The Ship Hotel for our annual meal out together. Current, past, and prospective MU members are all very welcome, together with spouses/partners/friends who would like to join us. Please speak to your MU 'contact person' or ring me to book asap and by Sunday, 23rd December at latest.

*Judith Thompson (MU Branch Leader) ☎ 01747 860553*

## **GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND**

The result of the '100' Club Draw, drawn in St Michael's on Sunday, 4th November by Caroline Bishop:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 72	Kit Stallard
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 54	Betty Weston
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 93	Brian Shotter
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 169	Ann Henson

*Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964*

## **FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT**

The Residents thoroughly enjoyed a splendid fireworks party on 6th November complete with a bonfire and tasty buffet supper.

After this, the Friends need to raise some more money, so make a note in your (brand new 2013) diaries of the date of our next **Quiz Night: Saturday, 19th January** at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. Tickets £1.50 at the door, Licensed Bar.

Meanwhile, A Very Happy Christmas to all our generous supporters!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## **CASTLE HILL QUILTERS**

Castle Hill Quilters had a fascinating talk last month by Jan Hassard who brought with her a large number of quilts dating from the 18th century to the present day. Of particular interest were the quilts donated by the Canadian Red Cross during WW2 to people who were bombed out or were bereaved - about 25,000 were distributed, a huge effort. We were delighted that a number of visitors were able to join us to hear Jan's talk.

Our last meeting before Christmas will be on Thursday, 13th December and our first meeting in the New Year will be on Thursday, 10th January when we will have a lunch at the Walnut Tree, followed by our meeting at the Grove Building.

For further information please contact us either by telephone ☎ 01747 860514 or by email at: [info@castlehillquilters.org.uk](mailto:info@castlehillquilters.org.uk)

*Jennie Hoffman, President, Castle Hill Quilters*

## **ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE FOR THE OVER 60s**

**Mere and district Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere  
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 3.00pm**

We have so much going on during December - we have our Christmas meal outing plus our Christmas dinner at the Centre, not to mention our 'Christmas Review', which all our volunteers are invited to at 2:00pm on Friday, 21st December.

In the New Year we have arranged to go and watch 'Sleeping Beauty' at Salisbury Playhouse, so we are all excited about that. All our volunteers deserve a mention as without them we would be unable to continue to run the service we provide, so many thanks to you all! I have to say how impressed I am with our guests, especially Hilary Norman for organising our display for the Church Christmas Tree, thanks to all involved.

**Don't miss out on our Christmas quiz which is now on sale at Mere Library. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone, from all at the RGC.**

*Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406*

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE &**

### **Carols in the Square**

Christmas Eve                      11.00am Everyone welcome

### **St Michael the Archangel, Mere**

Sunday, 16th December      4.00pm      Messy Church Carols and  
Tree Decorating Service

Wednesday, 19th December   6.30pm      A Celebration of Carols

Christmas Eve                      5.00pm      Crib Service (Children invited  
to dress as nativity story characters)

11.30pm      Midnight Mass



Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Family Communion with Carols

## **St Mary the Virgin, West Knoyle**

Sunday, 23rd December	6.00pm	Candlelit Carol service
Christmas Day	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)

## **United Reformed and Methodist Churches**

Sunday, 16th December	6.00pm	United Carol Service at the Methodist Church
		Preacher: Rev'd Helen Caine
Sunday, 23rd December	11.00am	URC Celebrating birth
		Preacher: Rev'd Margaret Laurie
Christmas Day	10.45am	United Christmas Morning Service at United Reformed Church
		Preacher: Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp

## **St Mary's Roman Catholic Church**

Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Mass
Christmas Day	10.00am	Mass

# DISTRICT - CHRISTMAS 2012

## Parish of Upper Stour

Christmas Eve

4.00pm 'Carols at the Crib' service at  
**St George's Church, Bourton**

Special Crib displays: all ages welcome

6.30pm Traditional Carol Service at  
**St Peters Church, Stourton**

11.30pm Midnight Mass at  
**St Marys Church, Kilmington.**

Christmas Day

10.00am Festival Communion with  
Carols

**St Martin's Church, Zeals**

**Visitors are most welcome at all services**

\*\*\*\*\*

**All the Churches wish everyone a  
happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.**

# Christmas Tree Festival

Following last year's success, St Michael's is holding another Christmas Tree Festival. It will run from **Wednesday, 19th December** through to **Saturday, 5th January 2013.**



The Church will be open between 10.00am and 4.00pm (except when a Service is in progress) and the trees will be decorated to represent Christmas Carols and Songs. There will be a quiz for you to guess which carol is represented – just for fun!

Do come along to St. Michael's to see the trees - there's no admittance charge. On Saturday morning, 22nd December, coffee and mince pies will be served. We look forward to seeing you.



*Ann Dethick, PCC Secretary, ☎ 01747 863498*

## MERE MUSEUM

Our splendidly conserved banner of the Mere Juvenile Total Abstinence Society is the centrepiece of the new exhibition called '**The Banner of the Band of Hope**'. Providing a background to the banner will be photographs and text with details of the conservation process itself, and also materials from the collection relating to the Juvenile Temperance Movement in Mere.

The exhibition opens to the public on Tuesday, 4th December and will continue until well into the New Year.  
*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## , FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

First a reminder to everyone that the Friends' final fund-raiser of the year is an evening with Chester House Productions who will present their '**Canterbury Tales**' on Friday, 7th December at 7.30pm in The Grove Building. Tickets £6 (to include a glass of wine) may still be available at the Library.

At the Friends' AGM in October, a cheque for £1,500 was presented to the Curator towards Museum projects. This is the lifeblood of the Museum finances and the Museum Committee is extremely grateful to everyone for their support of the Friends which makes these donations possible.

The Preview of the new exhibition will be on **Monday, 3rd December at 6.30pm**. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas – you deserve it!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

***Compton Smith - ¼ page advert***

***Shaston Garden Machy - ¼ page advert***



# *Mere Amateur Dramatic Society*

*presents the pantomime*

## *St. George & the Dragon*

*By Chris Wood & Ian Grieg*

*29th, 30th November @  
7.30p.m 1st December @<sup>t</sup>.*

*2.30. & 7.30pm*

*The Lecture Hall*

Tickets Adult £6 /Children £3 from Mere Library or on the door

### **MERE SNOOKER CLUB**

A very enjoyable and well attended musical Quiz Night was held in the Grove Building in October. The Club would like to thank: all who came and supported the event, Mike and Vicky for the music, Mike Gladding for the questions, Chalkstream Wine, Jeans Electrical, all those who donated raffle prizes, the Grove Building for the wonderful venue and the club ladies for the delicious supper.

Congratulations also go to Michael Durkee and Gareth James, winners of the November Doubles Tournament. The next tournament will be on Tuesday, 4th December and is open to all members. Enquiries to me, please.

Kevin Smith ☎ 01747 860305

### **MERE BOWLS CLUB**

The club annual dinner and presentation evening will be at The Walnut Tree Inn on Tuesday, 22nd January for members and partners.

This will be followed on Saturday, 9th February by our fund raising Barn Dance at the Grove Building in support of Fives Court and we look forward to support from all. Keep an eye out for details displayed around the village.

New members are always welcome so come along to the pavilion o Saturday, 6th April to register your interest and, weather permitting, have a go and receive instruction from our qualified coaches. For further information and updates please contact Alan Inwood

☎ 01985 844215 or Jeff Vigars ✉ [jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk)

*Jeff Vigars, Match Secretary, ☎ 01747 860976*

# ***RED CLASS REPORTS***



**Year 5**

**Autumn month at Mere  
School**

House. They thought that the garden trail was exciting.

## **Spooky Salisbury**

The children in Years 5 and 6 went to meet the children's author Cornelia Funke at Salisbury Cathedral. She had just released her new book, Ghost Knight, which is set in the local area and as part of the visit read extracts from her book and answered our questions.

As well as finding out about some of the history that Ghost Knight was based on we also got the chance to write our own stories and explore the cathedral. Willow from Red class said, "We had a fabulous time and learnt a lot about the book."

## **Halloween Fun**

As part of their topic on celebrations, Blue Class celebrated Halloween by carving out a pumpkin. They also made a special potion. Now they are looking at fireworks.

## **Whilst in Rome**

Both Red classes have been learning to live like a Roman. We have learnt how to dress in a toga and have made our own clay emperor heads. We are now busy designing and making our own Roman sandals.

## **Montacute House**

Gold class have been studying the Tudors and enjoyed visiting Montacute

## **Special Visitors**

Mere School recently had a visit from OFSTED. The inspectors visited lessons, looked at our work and talked to children, staff, governors and parents. Mrs Williamson said that she was very proud of everyone and in particular thought that the behaviour of the children was fantastic. We are eagerly awaiting the official report.

## **Alien Invasion**

Purple Class have been studying space and during literacy wrote Mars poems. They are looking forward to their visit to Bristol.

## **Music Week**

All classes thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our music week. Every class recorded their song and performed them to parents. The CD (featuring the school choir and the staff) is available to buy from the office!

## **Remembrance**

Yellow class have been remembering the war by writing poems.

As part of their topic on the Second World War, Green Class has been painting Blitz pictures. Through drama they have been exploring what life was like in Britain during the war.

**[www.mereschool.co.uk](http://www.mereschool.co.uk)**

## 1st MERE BROWNIES

### Recycling project

We are still collecting Jewellery – Gold, Silver, Costume and watches; Foreign and UK coins and notes - any currency and of any age; Mobile phones. (They do not have to be working, but it is advisable to remove the SIM card). **Please note: This is about you giving unwanted items. Please be careful not to give anything of sentimental value that you may later regret donating!** We can recycle them for you – with proceeds to unit funds.

So far in 2012 we have raised approx £280.00, so thank you for your continued support. Collection points for all your contributions are still at Waltons Newsagent, The Post Office, Jeans Electrical Shop and Jeans Chapel Showroom as well as The Library.

*Sue Luffman and Sue Jeans, Brownie Guiders ☎ 01747 860215*

## MERE LIBRARY CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS

**Saturday, 8th December from 10.30am – 12.00noon**

Make a Decoration for the Library Tree and take one home for your tree.

**Friday, 28th December 2.30 – 3.30pm**

Make it a date to make your own Calendar for 2013

Free Events - Children remain the responsibility of their Parents/Carers. For more details, please contact Mere Library on ☎ 01747 860546. *Sally-Ann, Mere Library*

## BARN BUDDIES

Barn Buddies will continue to meet each Friday throughout December and January, except December 28th., at Barrow Street Farm from 6.30 until 8.00pm. All children from school year 2 are welcome, or younger if accompanied by a parent.

For more details please contact me. *Tim Merrell, ☎ 01747 860195*

## ‘THANK YOU’

### from the Friends of Mere School

We are writing to say thank you, to you, your friends and families for your fantastic support in making this year's Mere Fireworks Festival such a success. Our aim was to put on a community celebration in this important year, involving volunteers from across Mere and our villages, providing our children with a fantastic experience which they will remember with pride, and at the same time raising funds to revamp the school play areas.

Thank you to the 150 plus volunteers from across the community who made this possible. If you sold or bought raffle tickets, sponsored the festival, got sponsorship for us, paid a pitch fee, donated a raffle prize, told a story, donated money, baked cakes, took photographs for our publicity, delivered flyers, put up posters, helped or came along to the workshop, ran a stall, marshalled, helped with the lighting, worked on the gates or in the school kitchen, helped with traffic control, set up the fireworks and the event or with the clear up afterwards – you know who you are – thank you.

Just so you know (because people are already asking about Festival 2013!) provided there is continued support for the event we have decided to run it bi-annually. The festival is a culmination of eight months continual work and this will mean that our sponsors and everyone involved can have a bit of a rest in between years.

Events on this scale are very costly to stage and include essential costs like licensing, health and safety, first aid cover, staging, tents, publicity and security, before we even get to the fun stuff! The Festival relies on everyone buying tickets, plus sponsorship, to cover these costs and then to provide funds for the school. We wouldn't be able to put on a Fireworks Festival without the continued financial and practical support from the community. Approximately 2,700 people attended this year's event and although exact figures are still being calculated we hope to have raised more than £4,500 for the school.

This is a fantastic achievement for Mere School and we've all been enormously proud to be a part of it. We hope you have too!

*Penny Deeker, Friends of Mere School ☎ 01747 861534*

## MERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Although it is a little early, let me start by wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and saying a big thank you to all of you who use the Centre and support us in the work we do. If you have a child aged five and under and have not yet visited us please come and meet our friendly team and look around our Centre and see which of our activities on offer would suit you and your child. All our activities are free and are planned in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stages to promote and encourage young children's development.

We also extend a very warm welcome to our new Centre Co-ordinator, Tara Vallance, who has now joined us and is the Co-ordinator for Mere, Wilton and Tisbury. We all very much look forward to working with her.

Our Bingo Evening and Christmas Fayre were both very successful thanks to Valda Hambledon and to everyone who took part. Taken together have raised £436 with more still to come in. This has meant that we have been able to hire entertainers for our Christmas party, which is now fully booked and which we are looking forward to with great excitement. We are very happy to have been able to invite Mere pre-School and the Reception Class from Mere School to join us for the entertainment. Many of our sessions will be starting Christmas activities soon so that we are all prepared for Christmas. Do come along and join in the festive preparation.

Recently we have had lots of exciting changes at the Centre. We are currently running a **Parenting Course** on **Monday** mornings, packed with helpful information about how to increase the behaviour that you want from your child and discourage the unwanted behaviour in a positive way. The current course is full, but if you would be interested in attending the next one please ring the number below and talk to one of the team.



**Musical Beginnings** in Zeals at the Parish Hall every **Tuesday** at 10.00am continues to be a success with children engaging in all sorts of musical activities exploring Rhyme, Rhythm and Dancing, come and join us for a fun morning.

On **Tuesday afternoons**, we are currently running a **Baby Massage Course** that can assist with bonding, babies' development, sleep patterns and even digestive patterns. If you are interested in joining in with the next course please contact one of our friendly staff on the number below and put your name down for this excellent course.

**Stay and Play** is still on **Wednesday mornings** at 9.15am with fun activities for your children to take part in and many developmental toys for your children to play with.

On **Thursday mornings** we have an informal **Drop In** for you to come to the Centre to use our facilities, toys or explore the sensory room, which can be booked for individual sessions if you prefer by calling the number below.

Our baby group has moved to 10.00am on **Friday mornings** and is now called **Mere Babes** with activities for you to do with your baby, nursery rhymes to sing and visiting speakers to advise you on developmental matters for your child.

At the end of November we started running the **Full Freedom Programme**, which is open to women who have been affected by domestic abuse. This is a twelve week programme, which is being run in response to the 'Living with a Dominator' session that we put on earlier this year. Those interested in joining this programme please call

☎ 01747 861108 and speak to one of our friendly team or ring our Outreach Worker, Rachel Porter on 07899 804829. If you know anyone who would benefit from this programme please pass on these details to them.

**Other out and about activities** include visiting **Tiddlers and Toddlers** on the third Thursday of the month to join in the fun there with a craft or messy play activity from the Centre.

We are also working in partnership with **Mere Pre-School** with the children joining us on a rota system to make use of our kitchens and have **Cooking Fun** with us, learning how to make simple recipes which are economical and lower in fats and sugars than many commercial products as well as often being connected to current topics such as Spice Biscuits for Christmas.

We would also welcome anyone who would like to help us as a volunteer; we can offer training opportunities and an action packed time with a pleasant and friendly team. Please call the number below if you are interested.

*Jane Smith, Families Support Worker ☎ 01747 861108*



A date for your diary!

**SHROVE TUESDAY QUIZ AND PANCAKE EVENING**  
**in aid of Suchana**  
**in the Grove Building on Tuesday, 12th February at 7.30pm**  
**Details will be published in February Mere Matters**

**LENT LUNCHES 2013:**

Each year Churches Together in Mere and District serve Homemade Soup Lunches in the Grove Building on every Friday during Lent. These will begin on Friday 15th February 2013 with the final lunch after the Good Friday Procession up Castle Hill on Good Friday (29th March).

Each Church within our area takes part by providing soup and servers and the proceeds are shared between Christian Aid and CAFOD. They are a great way to work together, get to know each other better and share wholesome food.

There will be a planning meeting in the Methodist Schoolroom on Wednesday, 16th January 2013 11.30am to plan the lunches and organise rotas. If anyone is interested in helping, please come along and could each church ensure they send a representative.

Further details available from me on behalf of Churches Together in Mere and District.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

**MESSY CHURCH CAROL SERVICE**

Messy Church will hold a special Christmas Carol Service on Sunday, 16th December at St Michael's parish church starting at the usual time of 4.00pm. In addition to singing traditional carols, children and parents will dress the Messy Church Christmas tree with symbols that they made at their November session for their Jesse Tree.

*Steve Hoffman, St Michaels Publicity Officer, ☎ 01747 860514*

**FOUND IN ST MICHAELS CHURCH**

A beautiful black and pink pashmina was found in St. Michael's church after the Remembrance Service on 11th November.

Would the owner please contact Mrs Jean Knapp, churchwarden, ☎ 01747 860142, to arrange for it to be collected.

## **THE REV'D CAROL WILSON-BARKER, PRIEST-IN-CHARGE AT ST MICHAELS CHURCH, WRITES**

Dear Friends

Thank you all for the warmth of your welcome! Mere and West Knoyle are known for their friendliness and as new-comers to the area we can certainly agree with that.

This is my first letter for the excellent "Mere Matters (and so does West Knoyle)" magazine and I'm really glad of the opportunity. We've been in the area for 3 months now. The time has flown by in making the Vicarage our home, settling children into schools, finding our way around this beautiful area and ensuring Lily the cat feels comfortable. We have been greatly assisted by all the practically helpful people who worked on the house or gave donations to fund the many jobs that needed to be done here: our grateful thanks to you.

I was licensed as Priest-in-Charge (there is a reason it's not as Vicar, I'll tell you if you want to know!) in mid-September in a wonderful service at St Michael's. As the new Priest I had to ring the bell as a symbol of her desire to communicate with people – perhaps in these days we should be given a computer too! Since then I have had an absorbing and enjoyable time going round the Benefice (which of course includes Maiden Bradley) getting to know people. The community mindedness of so many people and particularly businesses is a striking aspect of village life.

Preparations are underway for the Christmas season. There will be a lot for me to learn as I honour the traditions here and find new ways to bring the Christian message to this generation. In our churches we will be glad to welcome you for worship.

I'm sure from what I've already experienced that there will be an outpouring of generosity to those in need at Christmas whether homeless, Christians in the Holy Land, the Trussell Trust or the many other worthy charities. But, as a spiritual leader I'd like to ask you to make preparations in your heart and soul too by giving yourself quiet, still times – even if it's only a couple of minutes. I hope these words will help "Dear Lord, still my heart and mind. Prepare me for the remembrance of the wonderful mystery of your love brought to humankind in the birth of a tiny baby."

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

With love in Christ.

*Rev'd Carol*

### **"START THE YEAR" SERVICE**

**4.00pm on Sunday, 6th January 2013 in St Michaels Church**

This is a new contemporary-style service which specifically aims to look forward to the New Year ahead. It will include prayers for healing and forgiveness to help start the

New Year in a positive frame of mind. We will light candles, sing hymns and say prayers together. All are welcome. *Rev'd Carol, ☎ 01747 861859*

## BELL RINGING AT ST MICHAELS

We had a quarter peal at St Michaels on 7th November. We are now planning Christmas ringing. You are welcome to join us at Zeals on Wednesdays at 7-30pm for practice.

*Jenny Lucas, Secretary, St Michael's Bell Ringers ☎ 01747 840293*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

### DECEMBER 2012

**The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:**

**Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,**

**✉: carolw953@aol.com**

**Churchwardens:**

**Mrs Jean Knapp 01747 860142 and Mr Peter Mason 01747 861296**

<b>Each Sunday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Monday</b>		9.15am	Morning Prayer
<b>Each Tuesday</b>		9.15am	Morning Prayer
<b>Each Wednesday</b>		9.15am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Thursday</b>	The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker is not available		
<b>Each Friday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		4.30pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Family Communion with Baptism
Wednesday	5th	6.00pm	"Start the month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
			Preacher from Christian Aid
		10.30am	Sunday Club in Grove Building
Sunday	16th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		4.00pm	Messy Church Carols and Tree
			Decorating Service
Wednesday	19th	6.30pm	A celebration of Carols
	23rd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
			Preacher, Christine Marsh

**Christmas Services in Mere - see centre pages**

Sunday 30th 10.30am Matins (BCP)

**The United Reformed Church**

**Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685)**

Sunday	2nd	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	9th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp Holy Communion
	16th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazell Barkham

**Christmas Services in Mere - see centre pages**

Sunday	23rd	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	30th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour

**The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777**

**Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370)**

Sunday	2nd	6.00pm	Mr R Rickards
Sunday	9th	6.00pm	Rev'd John Page

**Christmas Services in Mere - see centre pages**

Sunday	23rd	6.00pm	United service at Bell Street Shaftesbury
	30th	6.00pm	Mr A Hardiman

**The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (☎ Warminster 01985 212329 – Fr. Tom Smith)**

**Mere Contacts: Teresa Read ☎ 01747 860289 or Margaret Thompson ☎ 01747 860291**

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	5.00pm	Mass

**Christmas Services in Mere - see centre pages**

On the 4th Sunday of the month - there will be Coffee after Mass together with the sale of Fairtrade produce.

**West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin (☎ 01747 830534)**

Sunday	2nd	9.15am	Matins
	9th	9.25am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	16th	10.30am	DIY

**Christmas Services - see centre pages**

30th	10.30am	Benefice Matins at St Michaels NO service at West Knoyle
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Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional language)

# CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

## JANUARY 2013

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

To enable us to grow together as Christians we are going to pray in each others churches this year.

Every week day we will meet at 10.30am to worship together:

Friday, 18th January	10.30am	St Michaels Church
Saturday, 19th January,	10.30am	United Reformed Church
Sunday, 20th January,	3.30pm	Unity Service at Mere Methodist Church with refreshments afterwards
Monday, 21st January,	10.30am	Maiden Bradley Church
Tuesday, 22nd January	10.30am	West Knoyle Church
Wednesday, 23rd January	10.30am	Mere Methodist Church
Thursday, 24th January	10.30am	St Martin's Church, Zeals
Friday, 25th January	10.30am	St Mary's RC Church

*Rev'd Carol*

**The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:**

**Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,**

**✉ carolw953@aol.com**

**Churchwardens:**

**Mrs Jean Knapp ☎ 01747 860142 and Mr Peter Mason ☎ 01747 861296**

<b>Each Sunday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Monday</b>		9.15am	Morning Prayer
<b>Each Tuesday</b>		9.15am	Morning Prayer
<b>Each Wednesday</b>		9.15am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Thursday</b>	The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker is not available		
<b>Each Friday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		4.30pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	2nd	6.00pm	Start the Month Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Parish Communion for Epiphany
		4.00pm	<b>Start the Year Service</b> (see page 31)
	13th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Parish Communion for (CW1)
		4.00pm	'Messy Church' in Grove Building

### **The United Reformed Church**

**Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685**

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	13th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	20th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
			Holy Communion
	27th	11.00am	Mr Peter Kershaw

### **The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)**

**Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370**

***Note Services in January and February 2013 will start at 3.30pm***

Sunday	6th	3.30pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
			Covenant Service
	13th	3.30pm	Mr Ken Elcock
	20th	3.30pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
			United Service with Churches
			Together followed by tea
	27th	3.30pm	Mr David Webb

### **The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (Fr. Tom Smith ☎ Warminster 01985 212329)**

**Mere Contacts: Teresa Read: ☎ 01747 860289 or Margaret Thompson: ☎ 01747 860291**

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	4.15pm	May devotions
	5.00pm	Mass

On the 4th Sunday of the month - there will be Coffee after Mass together with the sale of Fairtrade produce.

### **West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin: ☎ 01747 830534**

Sunday	6th	9.15am	Matins ((BCP)
	13th	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	20th	9.15am	DIY
	27th	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional language)

# DIARY DATES

## DECEMBER 2012

**AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Buildings; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church Hall; MSC Mere Social Club: RGC-Rosemary Goddard Centre; MSC Mere Social Club; YC-Youth Centre**

1	Sat	10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.00am - 12.00noon	Foodbank Collection	Outside Co-Op
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
		2.30pm	MAD'S Pantomime "George and the Dragon"	L
	and	7.30pm	MAD'S Pantomime "George and the Dragon"	L
3	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 10th & 17th)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (also 10th & 17th)	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 10th)	GB
		6.30pm	FMM Exhibition Preview	Lib
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 10th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 10th)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (also 10th & 17th and see 24th)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council	AYP
4	Tue	10.15am - 12.15pm	Lip-Reading (also 11th)	GB
		10.30am	Mere Carers Group meeting	Lynch
		6.00pm	Pilates (also 11th & 18th)	L
		7.30pm	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (☎ 01722 717925)	GB
5	Wed	8.30am	4.30pm Fairtrade Christmas	Wits End, North Road
		9.30am	Tai-Chi	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (also 12th & 19th)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (also 12th & 19th)	L
		7.30pm	MDCT Chistmas Social	George Inn
6	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 13th & 20)	L
		10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (also 13th & 20th)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 13th)	GB
		6.30pm	Weight-Watchers (also 13th & 20th)	MSC
		7.00pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
7	Fri	6.00pm	Zumba Dancing (also 14th)	L
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (also 14th & 21st)	BSF
		7.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum "Canterbury Tales"	GB
8	Sat	10.30am	12.00noon Children's Christmas Activity	Lib
		7.30pm	Mere Youth Football Club Bingo Night	L
10	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Drama Room)	L
11	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L



11	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
12	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together - Whist Drive	GB
13	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies	GB
		7.30pm	Girl Guides	GB
17	Mon	2.00pm	December's Short Walk	CP
22	Sat	10.00am	12.00noon Father Christmas	Clock Tower
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony Concert	GB
24	Mon	4.00pm	Slimming World (also 31st)	L
28	Fri	2.30pm	3.30pm Children's Activity	Lib

## DIARY DATES

### JANUARY 2013

**AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Building; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church Hall; SM-St Mary's RC Church; YC-Youth Centre; Z - St Martins Church Hall Zeals**

2	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
3	Thur	10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		6.30pm	Weight-Watchers (every Thursday)	MSC
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
4	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		6.00pm	Zumba Dancing (every Friday)	L
5	Sat	10.00am - 12.00pm	Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
7	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
8	Tue	10.15am - 12.15pm	Lip Reading (also 15th, 22nd & 29th)	GB
		10.30am	Mere Carers Group meeting	Lynch
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	L
		7.30pm	Historical Society	GB
9	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		2.00pm	Friends Together – Whist Drive	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
10	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (every Thursday)	GB

		6.15pm	Brownies (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Girl Guides (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Moviola Filmshow (Film title to be announced)	L
11	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 25th)	GB
14	Mon	6.00pm	Beavers (also 21st & 28th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 21st & 28th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 21st & 28th)	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Drama Room)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council	AYP
15	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
16	Wed	11.30am	Churches Together (Planning Lent Lunches)	MH
19	Sat	7.30pm	Friends of Fives Court Quiz Night	GB
22	Tue	10.15am	Mere historical society Morning Talk	GB
		7.30pm	St Michaels PCC meeting	GB
23	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
29	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
30	Wed	7.30pm	Julian Meeting (Upper Room)	GB

## STOP PRESS

### 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS AT RIVERSMEET

Over indulgence is one of the joys of Christmas. Going to parties, and eating and drinking too much with family and friends are a part of what makes Christmas so much fun.....and also part of what makes us feel so guilty in January! RiversMeet has come up with a solution to this problem. They are offering a pre-Christmas present to all users this December with their '12 Days of Christmas' offer.

For just £12 you get 12 consecutive days unlimited use of the swimming pool and fitness suite giving you the opportunity to exercise as much as you can in the build up to Christmas, making the extra slice of Christmas cake that little bit more acceptable!

December is the perfect time to start exercise. Making exercise a part of your life pre-Christmas you will find it a lot easier to get back in to exercise in January. If you take up the offer and enjoy the 12 days, you can take out membership with no joining fee, a saving of £20!

So whether you are just trying to get your revenge in first on the Christmas excesses, want somewhere to escape to avoid the pre-Christmas stresses or simply want to trail the excellent facilities on offer at Riversmeet, why not try their version of the 12 Days of Christmas!

For further information on this deal and everything RiversMeet has to offer, including the benefits of membership, contact the centre ☎ 01747 834013 or visit:  
[www.riversmeetgillingham.org](http://www.riversmeetgillingham.org) *Gary Francis, General Manager*

## **BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE**

Grove Building:	Richard Jefferies	☎ 01747 863425
Lecture Hall:	Ann Read	☎ 01747 861486
Methodist Church Schoolroom	Mary Siderfin	☎ 01747 861370

## **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 Mere's own website; [www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org)*

## **MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY**

*The following Clinics/Advice Centres are held on a regular basis*

CITIZENS' ADVICE:	Tuesdays: 10.00am to 3.30pm
REGISTRAR	<b><u>By appointment only</u></b>
OF BIRTHS	Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am
& DEATHS:	For appointments ☎ 01225 713007
RNID	1st Wednesdays 10.00 – 11.30am
CREDIT UNION	Saturdays 10.00am – 12noon

# **COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY 2013 ISSUE**

Editorial contributions for the February 2013 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 14th January 2013**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: **[merematters@inbox.com](mailto:merematters@inbox.com)** from Monday, 7th January 2013. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

## **ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:**

**Mrs Jane Kennedy**

✉: **[jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)**

☎: **01985 844740**

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