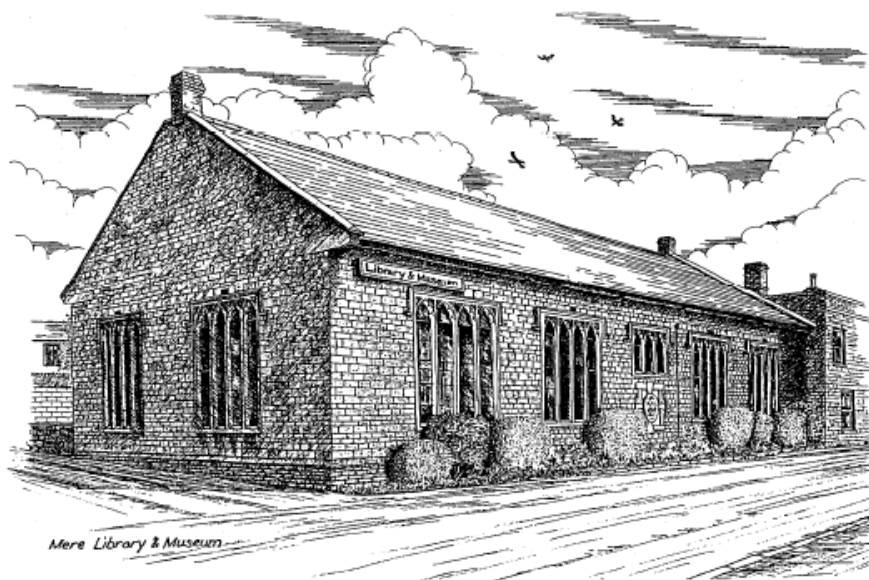


MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



FEBRUARY 2012

MERE MP, ANDREW MURRISON, TO HOLD AN OPEN MEETING

On Friday, 3rd February, in the Grove Building and following the AGM of the SWC Conservative Association, Andrew Morrison MP will be holding a "Meet and Greet" meeting at 7.30pm, which will be open to all Mere residents. Following a short talk, questions will be invited from those attending. Here is an opportunity to question our MP on any parliamentary issue. *Editor*

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 meeting will be on **Monday, 6th February at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.**

The Chairman writes:

Whilst Christmas is now a little way behind us and the New Year well and truly begun, I must mention the many positive comments we have received not only on the new lights on and around the Clock Tower, which we hope will last us well for a number of years, but also on the various displays around the Town itself. Mentioned in particular were the windows of Jill Christie's Hair Salon, which always has a wonderful Christmas scene, and our new Sprout and Flower, which also had beautiful lights above the shop itself. As in the past, the Parish Council set about judging the displays on private houses and our Vice-Chairman, Councillor Leslie Traves, judged the winners to be Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hurst of 5 Denes Avenue who will be presented with their prize by George Jeans. Special thanks for all their hard work on the Town's Christmas lights must go this year to our Groundsman, Tony Suter, Councillor Eric Mitchell, Councillor George Jeans and of course Councillor Phillip Coward and the Hill Brush Company for the loan of the cherry picker and operator, Mr. Richard Hull. We would also like to thank Melinda Emby for arranging the switching on ceremony.

One of the tasks undertaken by the Parish Council towards the end of each year is setting the budget for the next financial year. This was done at a lengthy Budget Meeting in early December and approved by the full Council in January. In these difficult economic times it is necessary to keep a tight rein on expenditure whilst still ensuring that the necessary work of the Parish Council continues efficiently, and this year the parish precept will increase by 3.09% which the Parish Council feels is an acceptable level.

At the February Parish Council Meeting there will be a full discussion on the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at the beginning of June. Our previous request for people to let us know of any planned events, or any particular thoughts of possible events, has brought forth little response to date, but if there are any particular plans afoot by any local organisation, please let us know before the Meeting on Monday, 6th February so these can be included in discussions. The Parish Council is happy to offer use of facilities if required or other general help with plans being formulated. Please telephone or e-mail our Clerk, Mrs. Lindsey Wood.

For further information on Parish Council activities, details of meetings and copies of minutes, please go to the Mere website: **www.merewilts.org** or contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs. Lindsey Wood, ☎ 01747 860701 or e-mail: **lindseywood@merewilts.org**.

Mrs Mary White, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Should you have any connection with "caring" I am sure you have much to consider? Carer Support (Wiltshire) attends Lynch Close or another venue in Mere once a month and it comes under the umbrella of The Princess Royal Trust of which The Princess Royal is Patron. Wiltshire Council provides much of the funding for Wiltshire and give advice and information on services that you may be able to receive.

Filling in application forms to fit the required criteria is not easy, but Age Concern and Citizens Advise can help for instance. However Carer Support would be able to advise on the many agencies and opportunities available. Did you know, for instance, that the British Red Cross in Wiltshire provides a Medical Equipment Loan Service?

Should someone fall ill in your house and become assessed to need care, the NHS can provide carers, for say twice a day for a limited time. If someone needs long term care, a package would need to be agreed with Wiltshire Council, which can incur cost. Should a care home or nursing home be required long term and the person in question lives independently in their own house, I can understand the financial fear of losing their home, although this is not necessarily the case. However, if a nursing home is required and the house is left empty, the cost of care is likely to impact on their home if they own it. These are not hard and fast rules, but I have mentioned them to encourage those who need to know more to contact Carer Support (Wiltshire) ☎ 01722 322746.

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



I now have attended many meetings regarding localism, which is now part of our country's law. Many still do not know what localism is.

I have heard it argued that strong local plans at Wiltshire Council level are required to obtain developments that are sought locally. Development includes the construction of full market price housing that does produce some social housing, but it can be many other things, such as the building of schools, hospitals and industrial units. These local plans are called Neighbourhood Plans and go before an inspector. However, with the Localism Act and with a lot of local support you can achieve something extra to that which would have been allowed before the Localism Act - affordable housing for instance. Every successful planning application for one house in this area now has to include a payment of around £15,000 towards the cost of social housing and this is extra to all other contributions required.

For those of you that have not recently walked into the countryside, I am told that after the recent rainfall our local rivers are flowing again including, I am told, at Burton. I know this is only a "winterbourne" answer, but hopefully abstraction can be controlled or "river enhancement" can be used to allow water to flow in our local rivers all the year around, as must have happened in the past, indicated by the historical fact of the presence of several water mills in Mere.

For those Community groups who cannot easily raise funds, as I have often reminded you, the South West Area Board give community grants, usually up to £5,000, at the discretion of the Board.

The defibrillator for Kilmington arrived weeks ago and will be fitted shortly now that the metal housing has also arrived. It will be sited in the centre of Kilmington for the use of all. Hopefully you will never require it, but please be aware it is there to enable you to help others. Stourton has one already, and Mere will have one soon.

Library members will soon be able to download e-books selected from titles that Wiltshire Library are purchasing, onto your laptop or any e-reader, other than Kindle. This will be free of charge, but they will vanish after 3 weeks, so there will be no overdue charges. The titles will be those that are available through Overdrive, being the chosen provider by Wiltshire Council. With a Kindle you have access to some free books, but need to purchase others. However, Overdrive is negotiating with Amazon, in an effort to gain access to the Kindle book library. With Kobo and Sony e-readers etc., you can download the free software of Adobe Editions to view Wiltshire Library e-books. Kobo also has its own library you can choose from. The files are small and should download reasonably quickly. For music downloads you can go to Naxos on the Wiltshire Council website now, just look for "Library online resources".

I and The Mere Parish council are actively working towards a Skate Park for Mere. I hope this can soon be achieved.

On other local matters, many street lights are not working in Mere. Please inform Lindsey Wood on ☎ 01747860701 or myself of any that have faults.

Lastly, dog fouling is on the increase again and I am getting many complaints. Do not forget that for control in public areas, especially most of Mere, we have by-laws and do not be surprised if sooner or later a local person, fed up with the mess, initiates an action.

ELECTRIC BLANKET SAFETY WARNING

Following a house fire shortly before Christmas in North Wiltshire, Group Manager Kathy Collis, from Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service's community safety department, has issued a warning to other people to get their electric blankets tested. She said: "Electric blankets can be a serious fire hazard if they're old or not maintained properly, so we would urge anyone who owns one to make sure it is safety checked every year. If you're in doubt, you should buy a new one."

The following advice can help:

- When choosing your electric blanket, buy from a reliable source and check that it has a UK safety standard mark.
- Before you use your blanket, make sure that it - or its power cable - doesn't show any of the following danger signs:
 - scorch marks or discoloration areas visible on the fabric
 - wires visible or poking through the fabric
 - frayed or worn fabric
 - damage to the power cable between the plug and the control mechanism or between the control and the blanket
 - a buzzing sound or a scorching smell from the control unit when switched on
 - damage to the blanket's connector, where the electrical cable plugs into the blanket.

If you are in any doubt about your blanket, contact the manufacturer before you use it to make sure that it is safe - it may need to be replaced.

Even when your blanket is not in use, you can leave it on the bed all year round or place it flat on a spare bed, although it should only be plugged in when in use. If you put the blanket away, it should be stored as the manufacturer recommends or loosely rolled in a towel or plastic bag before being placed in a cool, dry place.

All homes should be fitted with working smoke alarms, which should be tested regularly.

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service offers free home fire safety checks to certain households, and free fire safety advice to everyone. To find out more, ☎ 0800 389 7849 or visit: **www.wiltshire.gov.uk**.

MERE WEATHER

The rainfall for November 2011 was 63.0mms (2.48ins), but in 2010 it was 93.0mms (3.66ins). Most of the rain fell in the first and last weeks. The middle of the month was mild but the end week turned colder.

December rainfall was 128.5mms (5.06ins). This was the highest reading for the year. In 2010 it was 30.0mms (1.18ins). We had frost in December on the 9th and 10th and sleet on the 13th.

The total rainfall for 2011 was 853.5mms (33.6ins) compared with 730.5 m/ms (28.8 ins.) in 2010. June, July and December were wetter in 2011 than in the previous year.

January 2012 began with winds up to gale force for the first 10 days and then we had several frosty mornings followed by bright sunshine. The rainfall up to the 15th was 20.5mms (0.81ins).

Peter Durkee



‘MERENEIGHBOURS’ NEWS

December 2011 was fortunately a fairly quiet period for our area crime wise. As community involvement increases we are hopeful that we shall jointly be able to maintain a safe and crime free area for us all to enjoy.

‘MereNeighbours’ now has its own web site where you can access the latest news, advice and download current and old newsletters. Just go to: **www.Mereneighbours.co.uk**. Have you seen it yet? Do you have any ideas for improvement? If you have access to a computer then we would urge you to visit the web site and sign up so that you can receive any emergency news flashes. If you have neighbours who you know do not have computer access then you could of course become a critical link for them.

As the December 2011 newsletter was circulated much later than usual, the next edition will be in February, so let us hope that ‘no news’ for January is ‘good news’.

Remember that our local priorities are to address speeding and inconsiderate parking of vehicles – so please be warned. Drive within the speed limit and please think before you park!

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

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

Emails: richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

For matters relating to ‘MereNeighbours’ only contact:

Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425

Email: rajefferies@btinternet.com

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE

MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE



The practice currently has **NHS appointments** available to anyone in Mere, but Jacquie Barnes is the only dentist seeing new NHS patients

The practice has two Dentists:

Mr Stephen Sherrard

Ms Jacqueline Barnes

..and one Dental Hygienist:

Ms Wendy Hester (Mondays only)

..plus a dental therapist

Jay Lonsdale (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Contact Details: -

Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW

☎: 01747 860365

Tuesday 8.45am – 7.00pm (Both Dentists cover evening appts.)

Normal hours 9.00am – 5.30pm (on Mon, Wed, Thurs & Friday.)

The practice is sited in the school grounds, first building on your left when you go through the school gates

REV'D PAUL BARNES

We are sad to advise you that, due to a recurrence of a stress related illness, Paul has found it necessary, with great regret, to resign from his position as the parish priest of Mere, West Knoyle and Maiden Bradley with immediate effect.

During his five years in our benefice, Paul has become a much loved Priest and member of the community, involved with football training at Mere School and taking a shift in the community shop at Maiden Bradley. He started the Mere Messy Church, where many children with their parents have found fun and exciting ways of interpreting bible stories.

During the coming months, when we will be following the process of selecting a new priest, our churches are open for business as usual. All services will be covered either by visiting priests or by local assistant ministers. If you need to contact your local Parish Church please call one of your church wardens, who will be able to help.

MERE: Mrs Jean Knapp ☎ 01747 860142, Tim Merrell ☎ 01747 860195.

WEST KNOYLE: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534, Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263.

MAIDEN BRADLEY: Mrs Meg Oliver ☎ 01985 844317, Mrs Kim Baker ☎ 01985 844684.

MERE CARERS GROUP

Please come along to Lynch Close, Mere on Tuesday, 7th February from 10:30am-12.00noon to chat to other Carers and have a cup of tea. A support worker will also attend if you'd like to talk, or would like any advice about caring matters while you are there.

Fiona Hunter, Carer Support Wilts ☎ 0800 181 4118 or 01380 871690

LIPREADING CLASS

We meet at The Grove Building, Church Street, Mere on Tuesday mornings at 10.15am, but **not** the 7th or 14th February. Do please join us if you are among the eight million people in the UK who have some degree of hearing loss. We also welcome you if you are 'hearing' but want to know more about communicating with deaf people.

We not only learn lipreading and communication skills, but we also have fun along the way with interesting topics in our practical class sessions. A member of the class said: "I had never appreciated the courage of people with hearing loss in coping with the challenges of everyday life. The friendly acceptance of the Mere group is clearly supportive to all its members. A guaranteed happy morning with quality learning goes by in a flash!"

We are grateful to funding from the Mere Lecture Hall Trust, which keeps individual class fees down to a minimum (£30 per term). We look forward to seeing you. For more information contact:

Elizabeth Messer, Class Tutor ☎ 01300 348580 or H 07786024179

MERE CREDIT UNION

Just think – if you were to save as little as £2 a week for the next 46 weeks, you could be buying a Christmas hamper worth £92 and if you do it through the Mere Credit Union: a) your money would be safe, b) you could put a little extra in when your finances allow or withdraw without penalty when they don't, and c) you may be able to borrow against your savings at a lower interest rate than any payday loan or door-step lender could offer.

Of course it doesn't have to be for a hamper – it could be for a pair of shoes or a bit of spending money for your holiday. Why not drop in to Mere Library one Saturday morning and talk to one of our friendly team of helpers for more information?

(Mere Credit Union is a branch of The South Wiltshire Credit Union)

Judy Hingley ☎ 01747 861596



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



Mere and District will be hosting several events this year, including business luncheons and breakfast meetings with guest speakers, site visits to local businesses, and social and business networking opportunities.

The Chamber is also planning to run more training courses for 2012. Last year we ran an Emergency First Aid at Work Training course, and this January a Food Safety in Catering Training course. Both of which are HSE approved with an examination leading to a nationally recognised certificate valid for 3 years.

We hope to add a further choice of training opportunities. If you have any training needs please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be more than happy in facilitating the provision of training specialists and venue.

Update on Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday, 29th February 2012

Business Lunch with Guest Speakers' Len Turner and Janet Duffield talking about the **Wiltshire Economic Partnership**.

The venue is: The George Inn, Mere 12.30 – 2.30pm.
To book or for further information, please contact
Julie H 07856 700 576.

The Chamber is looking for a new President/Chair Person

Mere and District Chamber of Trade is rapidly growing and has, over the past year, been involved in a project to increase activities and initiatives in which to support its members and the local business community. In order to continue with the progress already made, The Chamber is looking for a President/Chair Person to take us forward. This would ideally be someone who is local and in business and who would like to contribute to the Chamber's role in working with Mere and District business community. If you think this role could be for you and would like to find out more, please contact Julie on above number. Closing date for applications: Tuesday, 31st January 2012.

Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting to be held at Mere Social Club at 7.30pm:
Wednesday, 1st February 2012

You are most welcome to join us at our meetings and if you are interested in being on the committee please come along. More ideas are always essential to keep a Chamber active.
Julie Cousins, Secretary H 07856 700576

WARMINSTER AND DISTRICT FOODBANK: COLLECTION

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill when on a low income. The Warminster & District Foodbank provides a minimum of 3 days emergency food, nutritionally balanced and non-perishable, as well as support to people experiencing crisis in the UK.

The congregation of St. Michael the Archangel in Mere supports the Foodbank at Warminster, which provides emergency foodboxes for a wide area, including Mere.

Following last year's successful collection, when people were amazingly generous, we will be outside the Co-op with our trolley on:

Saturday, 25th February from 8.30am until lunchtime

and ask you to donate one item for the Foodbank.

Sugar, tea, tinned goods, pasta, ready-made sauces, cereals – small sizes only please – whatever you care to donate. If you have eaten today, please remember those who haven't. Thank you.

If you feel you need help from the Warminster & District Foodbank, in confidence, please contact:

Mrs. Gilly Gristwood ☎ 01747 861768 or Mrs. Mary Merrell ☎ 01747 860195.

HELP TO PLOT A WATER MAP OF MERE

When you Visit the new Exhibition of Mere Maps at the Mere Museum

If you know the location of an old well, or spring, or persistent patch of seepage in your house or garden, or know of one in your neighbourhood, please come to Mere Museum, in the Library, and fill in a survey form so that together we can plot a Water Map of Mere. Spring-fed ponds, either present now or in the past, are also interesting as they may mark the line of the famous geological Mere Fault. If you have heard of an historical well location, but not seen it, that information could also be used.

The information you, or your neighbours, give will eventually be coded and plotted onto a residential map like the one which is displayed on a stand at the very back of the present exhibition. It is taken from the central area of the 2002 Mere and Knoyle Parish map. If enough people respond, we will have a 2012 map with so far unrecorded water information on it to add to the museum collection. There is no comprehensive record of Mere's use of household wells or its many springs, many of which must have been diverted into drains during building works. Mere is here because of the past easy availability of good clean water, filtered through chalk and greensand rock, which fed its

streams and wells, allowing the settlement to grow and providing employment at the many historical mills.

A Water Map of Mere will:

- Be a record of how abundant and reliable the natural sources of water were in the past. Part of the history of Mere.
- Describe the natural water situation now and in very recent years. It may be of use in talking to those in charge of water supplies today.
- Maybe helpful in planning a walk along the Mere Fault.

Even if you don't know of a well or spring, come and see the 'desk top' exhibit in the museum which explains the project and have a look at the brilliant maps on display.

For more information, please contact me, preferably by e-mail:
p.m.mcmanus@btinternet.com *Paulette McManus ☎ 01747 861524*

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

27th February – 11th March

This year we are asked to 'take a step' and join the various Fair Trade organisations in their work of creating a world free from the scandal of poverty, where trade is just and people and communities can flourish.

So why not 'take a step' along to the Methodist Schoolroom and join me for my popular BIG BREW BREAKFAST on Tuesday, 6th March from 8.30am until 11.30am for the opportunity to try the many Fair Trade goodies and share in good company in the knowledge that we are helping families around the world to a better life.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

EAST KNOYLE RAILWAY MODELLERS

Drawn together by the love of railway modelling, a group of fellows (and one Lady) came together last autumn to form East Knoyle Railway Modellers (EKRM). With the formal business of the constitution settled and having acquired a lease on club premises, we are now able to focus on the purpose of the club. In addition to meeting for interesting discussions, and sharing skills on railway modelling, our members have a wide range of experience in O, N and OO gauge.

The club has embarked on building a scale working model in OO gauge of Shillingstone station in Dorset, which has been resurrected and brought back to life by an amazing group of enthusiasts.

We are now in a position to welcome model railway enthusiasts from surrounding villages who would like to join us in this exciting project.

Interested? Give me a call or email: stanleyjwilson@btinternet.com

Stanley Wilson ☎ 01747 830525

COMMUNITY LUNCH

This will be held in

The George Inn

on Tuesday, 14th FEBRUARY from 12 noon

Please book in advance ☎ 01747 860427 for the two course meal

The aim of the Community Lunch is:

- To bring together people of all ages, backgrounds, residents new and established, representatives of clubs, organisations and businesses from Mere and surrounding towns and villages to network and inform, for companionship and fun.
- To provide a nourishing lunch in pleasant surroundings.
- To be held on the second Tuesday of the month between October and Easter.
- To advise that transport is available through the Mere Taxi Bus (Connect2 Wiltshire) ☎ 01747 861222 and the Linkscheme ☎ 01747 860096.

For more details please contact me:

Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Charity No. 1062328

☎ 01747 860096

The Linkscheme is available to help those in need of transport to appointments, both medical and non-medical. Our volunteers help in three ways.

First, there are the drivers, who help on a flexible basis, as and when requests are received. They give their time freely but receive a mileage allowance.

We have a team of co-ordinators, who work on a rota, to answer telephone calls and to arrange a driver for each request. Each co-ordinator is offered a dedicated telephone line in his or her own house, all expenses to be paid by the Linkscheme.

Finally, there are those who help to organise the highly successful Literary Festival which is held each October and which raises vital funding for the Scheme.

Whilst volunteers to help in any of these ways are always welcome, at the moment our greatest need is for help with co-ordinating. If you would like to find out more, please contact us on ☎ 01747 860096 or speak to any of our present volunteers. They will tell you how interesting and rewarding it is to meet and talk to a variety of people.

Molly Burden

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The winter programme is now steaming along including Shakespeare and Noel Coward! It is now subscription time, so if you are a member or would like to become one please send £5 (per household) to Wendy Horne, The Cottage, Waterside, Mere, BA12 6EE. Cheques made payable to Mere Theatre Club. If you want to be in on the next programme you need to be a member.

Madeline Morris ☎ 01747 861833, Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712



BRAINWAVE

With the first month of the New Year all but done and dusted, we are already thinking about the first event to cheer us up, which is Valentine's Day. We are once again offering a Valentine's Message Service for the romantics of Mere and district. For just £1 you can buy a red heart-shaped card on which to write a Valentine message. Your message will then be displayed on the shop window. All proceeds will of course go towards the work of Brainwave in assisting brain-damaged children and their families.

Our Christmas tombola raised £635.50, so, many thanks to all those who participated. A new fund raiser is now being launched involving a quiz. The quiz sheets are available at the Brainwave Shop, so please come in and buy one. Clear away the winter cobwebs and get quizzing!

Finally, we would like to remind you that donations of your unwanted goods – clothing, accessories, bric-a-brac, toys and small items of furniture, are always welcome at our Mere Shop. Please continue to keep bringing them in so that we can keep up our work of supporting Brainwave. Thank you.

For further information about Brainwave, please call the shop during business hours ☎ 01747 863432.

SHORT WALK

Join us on a short walk of 2-3 miles around the paths of Mere on Thursday, 9th February. Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00pm. Tea in the Angel Cafe afterwards, for those who wish to indulge.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Can you help MADS solve a murder case? The detective – sorry, director-in-charge, is looking for a young man to finalise the casting. If you can act the part of a young man aged between 20 -30 years and would like to help, please phone Chris Woods (860479) or Bill Pike (861969) so that the Agatha Christie thriller, *A Murder is Announced*, can take to the Lecture Hall stage from Thursday, 29th to Saturday, 31st of March.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE FILM SHOWS

The film on Friday, 10th February is John le Carre's gripping espionage thriller, **'Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy'** (15), with its acclaimed cast including Gary Oldman, who excels as George Smiley, and Colin Firth, John Hurt and Ciaran Hinds among other well known names. Full details are on page 30.

For the rest of this season we have some excellent films coming up, including **'The Help'** on Friday, 9th March, **'The Iron Lady'** on Thursday, 19th April and after Easter we hope to show **'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'** which stars Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Celia Imrie, Derek Jacobi and Bill Nighy among other well-known British actors, and the brilliant **'War Horse'** about which so much is being written at the moment.

'Use it or lose it'

I hope you will agree that the films mentioned above are all well worth seeing and here I must utter a word of warning! Our audiences have been dwindling somewhat over this season, and if our numbers drop too low Moviola will take us off their list of venues for not being financially viable, which has happened in other areas, and our screenings will cease. Please spread the word about the films coming up. If you want to continue coming to films in Mere do support the Film Shows or it really will be a case of 'use it or lose it'

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Writhlington School Orchid Project

Wednesday, 8th February 7.30pm Grove Building

Writhlington School is a secondary school with Business and Enterprise status. The School has become famous for its Orchid project, which is developing innovative approaches to conservation through enterprise and co-operation on a global scale. The project involves hundreds of pupils through vocational courses and extra-curricular activities. At the heart of the project is the School Greenhouse containing one of the UK's leading orchid collections and a Micro-propagation laboratory where students raise thousands of orchid species from seed each year. Visitors and friends very welcome.

Potato Day Plus!

**Sunday, 19th February 10.00am – 2.00pm in the
Grove Building**

We're hosting one of Pennard Plant's renowned potato days – over 80 varieties of tuber and all sold individually. Much, much more including fruit trees, bulbs and seed swap. Plus stalls from Thorngrove and competitions for children. Potato-themed refreshments served throughout the day.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



MERE MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

For our meeting on Tuesday, 14th February at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, Jane Hurd will be Celebrating the Gift of Story-Telling by entertaining us with tales of her holiday in India. (This is a change from the meeting as advertised in the programme).

Visitors are always very welcome to our meetings. If you would like a copy of the programme for the year, please phone me.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553



MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The next meeting will be in the Grove Building at 7.30pm on Thursday, 2nd February, when we shall be playing Table Top Games. This is an informal meeting and would be a good opportunity to find out more about the W.I. Do please come along and join us.

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007

MERELY WOMEN
CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

Friday, 10th February 10.00 - 11.30am Grove Building
Raffle, plus cakes & books etc to buy whilst enjoying a coffee or tea

Everyone Welcome

Jean Eyles ☎ 01747 863450

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

The Day Centre for Mere and district, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 4.00pm

This month at the Centre we will be getting artistic, decorating cupcakes for Valentines Day, then later in the month holding an art session. We will also be having our usual Tai Chi and Music Therapy sessions along with a bingo afternoon. I am looking to

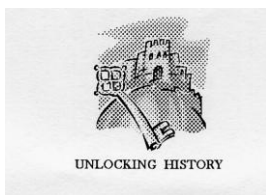
arrange a talk from a local speaker for the afternoon of Monday, 27th February and would be very grateful to hear from anyone who would like to do this. We would like to hear especially from someone who can tell us about their professional life.

We need a new session volunteer for the 3rd Friday of the month. If you can spare just a few hours a month helping serve teas/lunch and engaging with the Guests then I would love to hear from you. We are a friendly bunch and volunteering can be very rewarding. Lunch can be provided at nominal cost.

Many thanks to all who supported our proverb quiz devised by Roger Wilding, which raised £120. Congratulations to the winner, Sue Breeze, and as ever, many thanks to Roger for yet another brilliant quiz.

We are very grateful to the Mere Bowls Club for choosing the Rosemary Goddard Centre as its charity for the year. We hope that many of you will be able to support the barn dance in aid of the day centre, to be held at 7.00pm on Saturday, 25th February in the Grove Building. Please page 24 and look out for posters giving further details.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07563 678541



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

‘Lacock Abbey Update

Annalise Holt

Tuesday, 7th February 2012

at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Several changes have taken place at Lacock Abbey in recent years, with new rooms being opened only last year. **£2 entry for non-members, who are very welcome.**

This talk will be followed by a visit on Monday, 14th May.

Our morning talks continue on Tuesday, 21st February, in the **Grove Building** at 10.15am for 10.30am. “History in the Somerset Levels”, **to book a visit to Kelmscott Manor, the country home of William Morris, on Thursday, 20th June, 2013.** Gerry Cook. **£1.00 entry for non-members who are very welcome.**

There will be a visit to the Museum of Somerset on Tuesday, 17th July, with a tour of the Somerset Levels on the way.

A date for your 2013 diaries! The Society has paid a non-returnable deposit

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

MERE MUSEUM

Another new exhibition opened at the beginning of January, called simply ‘**Mere Maps**’. It includes a variety of maps, from the three Mere Enclosure maps of 1821 to ‘memory maps’ made by residents of Mere, recording the locations of shops, and houses and their occupants in days gone by. The exhibition also provides a backdrop for a project being organised by Paulette McManus which aims to plot the Mere Fault. Dr. McManus is asking for information about wells in Mere – she writes in more detail on page 13.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUEUM

Now your new diaries are up and running, so to speak, please take a moment to make sure you have written down the date of the Friends’ Plant Sale, which will be on **Saturday, 5th May 2012.** There will be more reminders later of course, but it’s not too early to start growing plants for us to sell!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE SNOOKER CLUB

On Friday, 24th February at 7.30pm the Club’s AGM will be held in the Club premises. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the decisions to be made.

Agendas have been circulated. The Club welcomes enquiries from potential new members, whether experienced players or beginners, so please contact me for details
Kevin Smith, Secretary, ☎ 01747 860305



MERE BOWLS CLUB CHARITY EVENT 2012

**Our next event is a Barn Dance on Saturday, 25th February 2012
at 7.00pm in the Grove Building.**

Live music (Black Bear Band) ploughman's, licensed bar

Our chosen charity this year is:

THE ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

Tickets will be available @ £7.50 each

From:-

Jeff Vigars ☎ 01747 860976

or The Tourist Information Centre/Library

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

The unseasonable weather meant that our 2011 season was able to stretch right through into November, a first. It was a good year for the Club, excellent attendances, increased memberships and several very enjoyable social occasions. The Boule Court and the new Table Tennis acquisition were both fully operational.

Whilst not finally decided, it is expected that we will open for play on the Saturday the 7th April this year. It will be an Open Day when everyone, members and interested visitors, will be welcomed with nibbles and a glass of something. The confirmed date will be published nearer the time.

In the meanwhile there will be a 'Between Seasons Get Together' at The Bell and Crown in Zeals on Thursday, 16th February, commencing at 7.00pm. This function is not only an occasion for members to meet but also an opportunity for anyone else to attend and learn more of the club activities. All are welcome and entry is £5 per person, which includes a buffet supper (excluding drinks). To assist with catering, please let me know if you would like to attend.

Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 86083

TOP AWARD FOR LOCAL KARATE INSTRUCTOR

Peter Manning, 6th Dan, from Mere, Wiltshire has been teaching karate in the area since the early 1980's and is considered one of the UK's senior karate instructors. He is chief instructor of the Traditional Shotokan Karate Association and the chair of the technical committee for Great Britain's largest martial arts governing body, the National Association of Karate and Martial Art Schools (NAKMAS).

Peter coached two of the stars of the Matrix ReLoaded Stars, Aiden and Neil Rayment, and attended the premier at Leicester Square and he also led the National Karate display team on Jim Davidson's Generation Game in 1996. He is regularly featured in the top martial arts magazines and has written articles on real self-defence of which he has extensive knowledge through security work in nightclubs and VIP protection.

On 26th November, 2011 he was presented with the 3rd Combat Hall of Fame Award, which is the martial arts equivalent of the BAFTA's. The ceremony was held at the Aston Hall, Aston Villa FC and was filmed for TV to be shown in the New Year.

There were 600 of the Worlds top martial artists in attendance and Peter was presented with his award by Joe Lewis from America who was the first ever full contact karate champion and founder of kickboxing, he was also good friends with Bruce Lee and starred in many of the martial arts movies of the 70's and 80's.

Paul Clifton, Editor of Combat magazine quoted: "Peter achieved his award for his devotion and commitment to martial artists along with his high technical ability".

Pat Manning ☎ 01747 860144 or H 07776 061819

MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB (MTYFC)

At the time of going to press, MTYFC has over 150 children registered to the club, ranging from 5 to under 18yrs. Not only children from Mere itself, but also from many of the surrounding villages; proving that the standard and quality of our club is improving all the time. New members are always welcome.

Training time and venues are as follows:

Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 13 - Friday evenings

Under 12, 15 & 18 - Tuesday evenings

Both groups meet in the Andy Young Pavilion from 6.00-7.00pm

Please come 15 minutes earlier to register and meet your coach.

Fees:

Membership: £5 (payable at registration)

Training fee: £1 a week

Match fee: £2 a month

For more information, please contact me:

Julie Hodge, Secretary MTYFC, H 07808 715725

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

*A facility provided by Wiltshire Council,
Where everybody matters*

Beat The Winter Blues

Join us for some fun, sport and activity, and until Saturday, 31st March 2012, enjoy:

- FREE use of the Multi Use Games Area (flood-lit), available for tennis, football, netball and other activities.
- Turn up for casual use of the sports hall and only pay £1 per court.
Or:-
- Receive 25% discount against all off peak activities available from opening until 6pm Monday to Friday, and anytime at weekends.

Kick start your New Year with an active and healthier lifestyle. We offer:

- Affordable contract and non-contract membership for gym, fitness classes and sports courts with no joining fees.
 - Membership includes a free induction programme.
 - Our dedicated fitness team will support, inspire and motivate you to reach your goals.

Interested in new activities?

- We are looking to run Teeny Tots Football, Ladies Football and a Fun Circuit on a regular basis. Are you interested? If so contact Reception for further details.

Interested in our clubs?

- Our Gymnastics (Fridays) and Football Clubs (Tuesdays) have a limited number of spaces available for beginners. Would your child like to work towards British Gymnastics awards or FA awards? If so contact Reception.

Please note: The Main Hall floor is to be re-surfaced week commencing Monday, 13th February 2012, and is scheduled to be out of use for up to five days. The Gym will, however, still be open for customers. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

For further details, and to book any of the above activities, please contact us on one of the following:

- Reception ☎: 01747 871141,
- e-mail us at: tisburyse@wiltshire.gov.uk,
- or visit the website at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk

1st MERE BROWNIES

Additional Recycling - UNWANTED BANKNOTE APPEAL

We have been informed that the former French, Italian and Finnish currencies will become obsolete in February 2012, with Greece joining them in March. After these dates, their notes will be worthless to everyone.

If you have any unwanted new and used banknotes from **ANY COUNTRY**, we can turn these into cash for our unit funds.

To send your unwanted banknotes Freepost envelopes (prepaid) are available from Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel, Waltons Newsagent, Post Office or the Library. Alternatively they can be left in your own envelope or package at any of these outlets for us to forward on your behalf.

We are still continuing to recycle jewellery, mobile phones etc.

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

GREEN CLASSES



January 11th 2012

**Mere School
Exclusive!**

Welcome to Green Class school report. We would like to tell you about the things we have been doing in school.

This term we are learning about India.

We have worked in teams to make information posters about India. We really enjoyed working as part of a team, "it was great fun" said Lois and Ellie.

We are writing travel journals to tell people about India. They will give people advice on how to prepare for a trip to India. Tia found out that it takes eight and half hours to travel from London to India.

We all really enjoy art in Green Class and at the moment we are painting pictures of the Taj Mahal. We have used inks to make sunset backgrounds. Then we will paint the beautiful, sparkling Taj Mahal on top.

We are planning lots of exciting activities to help us understand what life is like in India. We are hoping to have an Indian day when we get to taste Indian food and take part in activities like dancing, eating and singing.

In the Christmas term the whole school went to see Jack and the Beanstalk. Shannon said, "I liked the bit when the giant fell into the house." Katie said "the giant was very funny."

Last week Blue Class went to post a letter at the post office.

Next week they are going to visit the dentist.

Last term yellow class went down to Mere church as part of their work in RE on special places. Reverend Barnes rang the church bells. Yellow Class said that they really enjoyed this trip.

In Silver class they have a topic called Superheroes. They are planning a special day when they will dress up as superheroes and take part in a dance.

A trip to Castle Hill is being planned by Gold class who are taking part in an adventurers and explorers topic.

Each year Green and Gold Class children go to Gillingham swimming pool for lessons. Green class have nearly finished their lessons and are looking forward to trying to get their swimming badges.

Red class are finding out about life in Roman times. Soon they will be having a go at making their own mosaics. They are also making Roman coins and are researching Roman inventions.

This term we are having an art week. We will be having lots of activities that let us explore painting. We will be looking at two famous artists.

Thank you for reading our Green Class mail. We hope you enjoyed it.

MERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The Centre has entered the New Year with some new additions to its programme and with further sessions to come. Rachel Porter has set up a new group in Zeals called Musical Beginnings on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 to 10.30am with rhyme, rhythm, song and dancing for pre-school children to encourage them to enjoy singing and music. You don't even need to be able to sing to join!

Our Wednesday group (9.15 to 11.00am) is as popular now as ever it was with art activities, educational toys and lots of fun for toddlers. With new low level tables, cooking is once more on our activity agenda with the children making cookies or pizzas. This term we are looking at Friends, Family and the Community.

Even as this article goes to press, the painters are busy giving the centre a new and fresher look with a new Nappy Changing Room upstairs, which we hope will be finished shortly.

Bumps and Babes (9.15 to 11am) continues on Tuesday mornings and it is great to see how the babies are developing and managing new things almost every time we meet. Starting on Thursday, 2nd February, we have a new weekly session run by Gary Lamont from Wiltshire Wildlife. It is called Food Champions and is full of interesting information on growing and cooking your food with lots of thrifty tips to help you save money in today's time of tightened budgets.

On Thursday, 1st March, after lunch, we have a one off session called Next Steps, for people thinking of returning to work either now or in the future. It will offer information and tips on filling in forms, writing CV's and lots of good advice on going back to work as well as how to gain the new qualifications that you might need.

If you have children from 0-5 come along and see what we get up to and join us in having some fun. We look forward to seeing you.

Jane Smith, Mere Children's Centre, ☎ 01747 861108

FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL

We are thoroughly looking forward to yet another fun-filled year with lots going on. In particular please put **Sunday, 28th October 2012** in your diary as the date for the next **Mere Fireworks Festival**, which we have already started to plan.

If you would like to help in any way please contact Penny Deeker ☎ 01747 861534 or e-mail: penny@deeker.net. We are also keen for more members of the community to come and read with the children in school. If you have any free time. please do get in touch with me at: friends@mere.wilts.sch.uk. Thank you.

Sally Muir, Chair of Friends of Mere School PTFA

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly present

TINKER TAILOR S LDIER SPY

(15)

**Gary Oldman Colin Firth John Hurt Ciaran
Hinds Benedict Cumberbatch**

In the bleak days of the Cold War, espionage veteran
George Smiley (Gary Oldman) is forced from semi-
retirement to uncover a Soviet agent within MI6's
impenetrable echelons.

In the Lecture Hall

Friday 10th February, at 7.30pm

(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00

**Available from the Tourist Information Office
(in the Library)**

For more information call Mary White on ☎ 01747 861257

Visit our website at: **www.moviola.org**

MERE MESSY CHURCH

Happy New Year to everyone from us all at Mere Messy Church!

As usual, in February we will have our Family Service at St Michaels at 10.30am on Sunday, the 5th. On the second Sunday, the 12th, we will have Sunday Fun Club in the Grove Building. Feel free to drop the children off from 10.15am to give you time to get over to church. On Sunday, 26th at 4.00pm we will have Messy Church, which will be in the Grove Building. As ever, if you have any questions, please **e-mail** us at: **meremessychurch@hotmail.co.uk**. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Ben Merrell

REV'D ELIZABETH KEMP, THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTER, WRITES:

From the out-going Chair of CTM&D

It hardly seems a year since I started chairing the meetings of Churches Together in Mere and District (CTM&D), on 16th January 2011. It's been a year of personnel changes in the churches: Rev'd Roz Hollingsworth is no longer in pastoral charge of Mere Methodists, that role is now in the hands of Rev'd Helen Caine. We have also seen the departure of Fr Bede Rowe who left St Marys (R.C.) to work in France and the arrival of his successor, Fr Tom Smith. We welcome both Helen and Tom to work alongside us and hope that both of our new colleagues will shortly introduce themselves to readers of Mere Matters.

In the Spring of 2011 John Howard retired as Hon. Secretary, our thanks and good wishes went with him. Sadly since that time, we have been without a secretary. Many thanks to the volunteers who have valiantly taken minutes of the meetings this past year and as the position is still open, any willing secretaries from our member churches would be welcomed with great joy.

At the AGM, we also said thanks to Miss Violet Culliford, who has been the group's Treasurer and she is succeeded by Joan Bell- whom we wish well.

As Churches in and around Mere, we've joined together this past year in celebrating: Christian Aid Week and One World Week, with its very successful One World Week Fair held in the Grove Building. We studied together during Lent 2011 and on Good Friday made a procession of Witness up Castle Hill to the flagpole near where the cross was raised. On a very showery Sunday afternoon, some of us met at Stourton for a picnic and parachute games. Christmas 2011 was less hampered by the weather and by the time February Mere Matters is out, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be over. At our AGM on Sunday, 22nd January I shall have handed over the Chair, to Mr Chris

Reeves, who is a Dairy Farmer from Upper Stour Benefice. I hope everyone will support Chris during his year in office.

During Lent we are holding a Course with a difference. There will be Five weekly sessions, all held in the Grove Building, starting at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 29th February. This will be a more contemplative course than last year's, and we shall study paintings with the assistance of Jenny Wilding and then join in some theological reflection and close the evening with Compline. The sessions will continue on 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March.

Upper Stour Benefice will be offering a more traditional Bible Study course. Lent Lunches will take place on Fridays in the Grove Building starting on 24th February.

Local church leaders meeting together are able to get to know each other and support one another in practical and prayerful ways. When we meet as Churches Together we can share ideas and resources, for there is more that we have in common than divides us. It's brilliant to have a magazine like Mere Matters, which is truly a community magazine, and as I conclude my year chairing Churches Together, my thanks to Graham Avory and the team, who do such a great job with it and have continued to include news from the Churches throughout the year.

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Service prepared by Christian Women in Malaysia

Friday, 2nd March at 2.30pm

at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Pettridge Lane

Speaker: Jane Hurd, Licensed Lay Minister

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of Prayer for everybody demonstrating our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries. All are welcome to attend.

Rev'd Stella Sivour ☎ 01747 861696

CAFE WORSHIP

METHODIST CHURCH, North Street

Wednesday, 22nd February

11.00am to 12noon - Coffee with a difference.

Do come for a mid-week breather.

M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

ST MICHAEL'S WELCOMES NEW ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

St Michael's Mere has gone all the way to Canada to find John White, its new organist and Director of Music. Born in Essex and evacuated to Taunton during the Second World War, John brings a lifetime of experience as a church musician to Mere's parish church.

After training in Illinois USA (BMus), he obtained a Diploma of Licentiate in organ from Trinity College, London, following which he gained experience in organist and musical director posts in Anglican and Catholic cathedrals in San Francisco, Ontario and British Columbia. His most recent position has been associate organist at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Victoria BC.

He and his wife Maggie always knew that after retirement they would return to the UK. He says that he wanted to enjoy a "musical bath" in the West Country, to return to England, "the crucible of my craft, where it all started." The Whites have family and friends in Bath, Radstock and the West Country, so retiring here seemed a natural move for them.

In addition to being a church musician, John was Managing Director of Principal Organs, a church organ supplier with offices in British Columbia and Alberta and directed bands and choirs at a state school in West Vancouver. His wife is a former figure skater with Holiday on Ice and also has a degree in theology, and has worked as a trained non-ordained chaplain in care facilities and hospitals in Canada.

Madrigal choirs, jazz bands, cantatas, reviews, musicals and films - John has bound all these things into very much a jack-of-all-trades life. "I've had a lot of experience," he says, "and I hope it's given me enough humility so that I can bring people to God through the musical life at St Michaels without seeming overbearing." Whether it's a cathedral or church, he says: "it's a house of God and size doesn't matter", and he quotes a saying: "he who sings, prays twice".

Outside the musical world John holds a Private Pilot's Licence and is a member of the Magic Circle. He trained as a crisis counsellor for Lifeline Telecare and is a past member of the Mayor's Task Force on Juvenile Crime in Vancouver.

Steve Hoffman, St Michael's Publicity Officer, ☎ 01747 860514

AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

On Wednesday, 29th February at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church School Room, Miss Violet Culliford will talk on "A History of the King James' Bible". This promises to be an interesting and illuminating talk.

M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

St. Michael the Archangel, Mere

YOUR PARISH CHURCH

Ash Wednesday, 22nd February

Services of **Holy Communion** with Imposition of Ashes

10.30 am (BCP – Traditional Language)

7.30 pm. (CW – Modern Language)

Imposition of Ashes: using ash made from burning the Palm Sunday crosses, we are marked on our foreheads with the Sign of the Cross to remind us of the good news that through Jesus Christ there is forgiveness for all.



You are warmly invited to a

SHROVE TUESDAY QUIZ AND PANCAKE EVENING

In aid of Suchana
in the Grove Building on
Tuesday, 21st February at 7.30pm

Tickets £4.00 per person

(including pancakes)
Licensed Bar

Quiz Teams of 4. Come as a Team or come on your own!

For information/booking contact: Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553
or Jean and Colin Kantharia ☎ 01747 861168



JULIAN MEETING

Quiet Prayer Group

As the Churches Together in Mere & District Lent Course has its first meeting on the last Wednesday in February and its final meeting on the last Wednesday in March, there will be NO Julian Meeting on either **29th February or 28th March**. Our normal Quiet Prayer meetings in the Upper Room of the Grove Building at 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of

each month will resume on Wednesday, 25th April. These are ecumenical meetings, and everyone is always welcome to join us. *Judith Thompson* ☎ 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

FEBRUARY 2012

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel

Contact Churchwardens: Mrs Jean Knapp ☎ 01747 860142 or Mr Tim Merrell ☎ 01747 860195

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		4.30pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	1st	6.00pm	'Start the Month' Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
	12th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		10.30am	Children's Sunday Fun Club in Grove Building
	19th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Wednesday	22nd		ASH WEDNESDAY
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		7.30pm	Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		4.00pm	'Messy Sunday' in Grove Building

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: ☎ 01747 860685)

Sunday	5th	11.00am	Rev'd John Page
	12th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
			Holy Communion
	19th	11.00am	David Webb
	26th	11.00am	Rev'd Morris Munns

The Methodist Church (☎ Shaftesbury 01747 854631)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	5th	3.30pm	Rev'd Andy Curtis
	12th	3.30pm	Mr David Webb
	19th	3.30pm	Rev'd Gwynneth Owen
	26th	4.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
			Holy Communion

**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 11.30am Mass

Children's Liturgy Service each Sunday when help is available

On the 1st 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

Sundays	5th	12.00pm	Matins (BCP)
	12th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
Sunday	19th	9.25am	DIY
	26th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

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; PWC Prince of Wales Club RGC-Rosemary Goddard Centre; YC-Youth Centre

FEBRUARY 2012

1	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 8th & 15th)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Wednesday)	CC
		7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
2	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 9th & 23rd)	L
		10.00am - 1.00pm	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
3	Fri	6.00pm	Zumba Dancing (also 17th & 24th)	L
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Andrew Murrison MP's 'Meet & Greet' meeting	GB
4	Sat	10.00am - 12noon	Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib

4	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
		7.30pm	Three Counties Choir Concert	St Michaels
6	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 20th & 27th)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		6.30pm	Yoga (every Monday)	L
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
7	Tue	10.30am	- 12noon Mere Carers Group	Lynch
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
8	Wed	12.00pm	Carers Support	L
		2.00pm	Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
9	Thur	2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
		5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 23rd)	GB
10	Fri	9.30am	- 11.30 Merely Women (also 24th)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Dancing	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Film Shows: "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy"	L
11	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
12	Sun	10.30am	Children's Sunday Club	GB
13	Mon	8.00pm	Mere Amateur Dramatic Society (Drama Room)	L
14	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		12.00pm	Community Lunch	The George Inn
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
18	Sat	10.00am	Mere Town Youth FC Table Top Sale	L
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning & Traidcraft Stall	CC
19	Sun	10.30am	- 2.00pm Gardening Club's Potato Day Plus	GB
21	Tue	10.15am	Lip Reading (also 28th)	GB
		10.30am	Mere Historical Society morning talk	GB
		7.30pm	Suchana Quiz & Pancake Evening	GB
22	Wed	11.00am	- 12noon Café Worship	MH
		2.00pm	Friends Together	GB
24	Fri	12.00pm	Lent Lunch	GB
25	Sat	8.30am	Foodbank Collection	O/S the Co-Op
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
		7.00pm	Mere Bowls Club Charity Event	GB
26	Sun	4.00pm	Messy Sunday	GB
28	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
29	Wed	12.30pm	MCDT Lunch with Speaker	The George Inn
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Hall: Ann Read ☎ 01747 861486
To Book the Grove Building: Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425
H 07950 797273

MERE INFORMATION

For full information on the businesses, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, visit the town's own website; www.merewilts.org

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

CITIZENS' ADVICE: Tuesdays: 10.30am to 4.00pm
Private Appointments ☎ 01722 327222

**HEALTH MATTERS
ADVICE**

Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

**REGISTRAR
OF BIRTHS
& DEATHS:**

By appointment only

Thursdays: 9.30am to 11.30am

For appointments ☎ 01225 713007

COPY DATE FOR MARCH 2012 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the March 2012 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, 13th February 2012**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: merematters@inbox.com from Monday, 6th February 2012. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

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