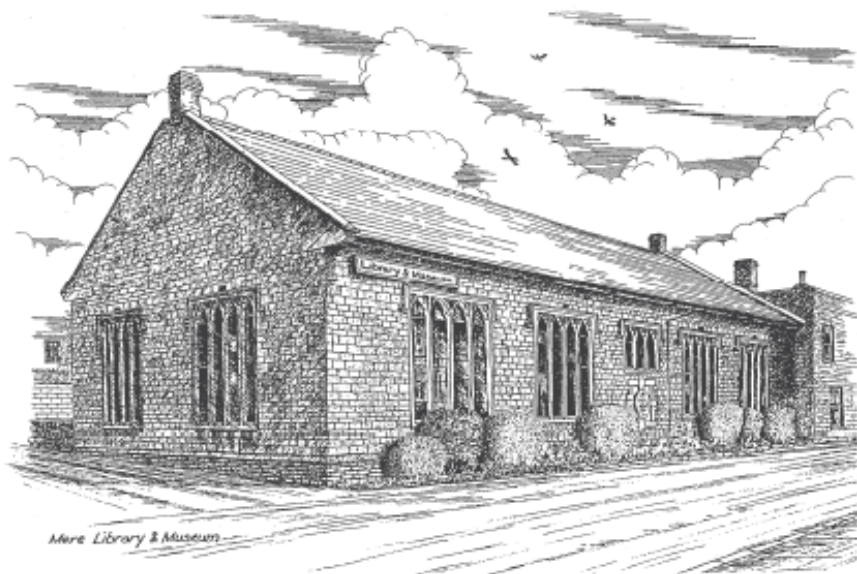


# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**February 2016**  
**MERE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Town Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the town - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 1st February 2016** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

### **The Chairman writes:**

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Sams of Lynch Close for winning the Mere Christmas light competition. I would like to thank Jeans Electrical and Mr John Jordan, Vice-chairman of Mere Town Council, for donating the prizes for the competition. I would also like to thank all those involved in decorating the town clock and the square with Christmas lights, and all residents and shop owners for making the effort to illuminate their properties over the Christmas period. Mere did look very festive this year.

In the October Mere Matters, I reported that Wiltshire Council is conducting a review and consultation concerning the future of childrens' centres in Wiltshire. Mere children's centre at Duchy Manor was one of the centres earmarked for closure. I am very pleased to report that on 15th December, Wiltshire Council Cabinet decided to keep Mere Children's Centre open three days a week, with Tisbury providing service on the other two days.

Every December, the Town Council has to set its budget for the following financial year. This meeting is where members have to consider likely expenditure over the next year in order to determine the precept requirement (Town council's share of the council tax) for 2016/17. The precept will show an increase of 9.7% or £9.09 for the year on a Band D house within the town. This is the most challenging meeting of the year, even with this increase there is very little wriggle room, the Town Council will have to work hard throughout the year to keep within budget.

We are fortunate here in Mere to have many events which we often wish to publicise by putting up posters on well-placed poles around the Town. It is disquieting to find that someone has recently decided that they have the right to tear down posters for events, which are presumably not to their personal taste. Having said this, posters should be taken down once they are out of date, and before they become shabby and unreadable. People putting up their posters should also remove or replace them when necessary.

For information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website: **[www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org)**, e-mail the town clerk at: **[lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org)** or ☎ 01747 860701.

*Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council*

## **WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council last met on 24th November where members considered the likely expenditure over the next financial year in order to determine the precept requirement (parish council's share of the council tax) for 2016/17. Members were mindful that there is pressure on Parish and Town Councils to help with financial support to provide services that are under threat or being cut by Wiltshire Council. The Parish Council, therefore, made the decision to increase its precept by 20% this year which will mean an increase of £10.15 per band D house for the year.

Following our last report, we have received two more volunteers to join the Community Speedwatch Scheme and we are hoping that the training will be arranged shortly and the scheme can get up and running before too long. To compliment this scheme, and thanks to Paul Yates and George Jeans, we now have a Speed Indicator Device in the village. This Speed Indicator Device is to be shared between a number of parishes in the South West Wiltshire Area and so will be in the village a few times a year for a few weeks each time.

With regard to the possibility of the provision of superfast broadband, it was reported at the Parish Council meeting that there had been a significant interest from parishioners. The Parish Council agreed at the meeting that it would provide a donation towards this scheme. However, this is proving to be more difficult than anticipated as there would appear to be rules and regulations preventing us from contributing. We will try to look at ways to overcome this problem and the subject will, I am sure, be one of the main topics of discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 1st March.

The Christmas lights throughout the village were incredible this year, and were judged independently. The winners were Albert and Pamela Russell who received a couple of bottles of wine, kindly donated by George Jeans. We would like to thank everyone for making the effort to provide such a fabulous display throughout the village.

*Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council*

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

During the Christmas and New Year period, Wiltshire Council only maintained emergency services, however on a daily basis I still get council problems put to me.

Walking around Mere and the surrounding villages, delivering Christmas cards gave me the chance to find and report potholes, slippery pavements etc. Mere and the villages around had a great display of Christmas lights - well done to all who participated. Mere and West Knoyle Town and Parish Councils respectively, ran a competition.

It has been a very wet and warm period, my rain gauge only records to six and a half inches. I estimate seven inches of rain fell between mid-December and mid-January. I was told that someone with a rain gauge in Kilminster, recorded four inches of rain for December.

Additional yellow lines for Salisbury Street and Water Street, Mere, which many have requested, get closer. Adverts will appear in local papers, local posters and consultation on the Wiltshire Council web site, not in the general consultation section, but in the section specially for TROs (traffic regulation orders), see link below. These orders will cover more than just that above. Therefore please read: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations/troconsultations.htm>

I sit on the Financial Task group, and much of the discussion is not yet public, however, I can confirm the government is continuing to cut funds to Wiltshire Council.

The South West Wiltshire Area Board has funds at present for youth grants. If you know of a project please apply while we still have the funds.

We are in the lucky position of having three Speed Indicator devices for a while in the Mere area, although unfortunately we only have one working at present, which is at Kilminster. Thank you to Roy Flower for volunteering to charge the battery. I am working on having the other two up and running, one in West Knoyle for which I would like to thank Paul Yates for volunteering to erect a pole etc., plus one for Mere.

I have been chasing monthly, the final completion of the newer part of the Downside Close roads. This month I have not yet had a reply, however, I am sure the officers are doing all they can to get the road finally surfaced.

**Universal Service Commitment - Overview of scheme:** Wiltshire Council has just launched a scheme that is intended to deliver the Government's Universal Service Commitment to ensure that homes and businesses have access to download broadband speeds of at least 2Mbps from December 2015.

Under the scheme, residents and businesses which have speeds below 2Mbps will be able to apply for support for a satellite broadband connection. A Government subsidy will be provided to cover most of the cost of installation and commissioning of a satellite broadband service. The applicant will be responsible for paying any remaining cost of installation and commissioning, for choosing the features of the satellite broadband service required, and for paying the monthly subscription for the service. Wiltshire Council will process the applications on behalf of the Government.

Who can apply? This will depend on whether a property is currently able to benefit from download speeds in excess of 2Mbps. If it cannot, and that premise is not scheduled to benefit from the delivery of our fibre broadband roll-out in the near future (Phase 1 or Phase 2), then it will be eligible for subsidy.

A resident or business will be able to apply to benefit from the scheme by completing a simple online application form on the Wiltshire website or over the telephone when required.

The Wiltshire Online team will complete a series of eligibility checks to confirm whether the home or business will feature in the superfast broadband roll out. Based on these checks, Wiltshire will advise whether or not the premises will be eligible to benefit from this scheme.

If the property is eligible, the applicant will be provided with an eligibility code and a list of participating satellite service providers.

Implementation process: Once the applicant has received their unique eligibility code, and the list of pre-approved satellite broadband retail service providers currently operating under the scheme, they should review the products and prices available from each provider and select the product that best meets their performance and cost requirements.

The applicant will then need to approach their chosen satellite broadband retail service provider to order the service they require, using the eligibility code provided by Wiltshire Council.

The scheme will cover most or all of the cost of installation and commissioning of the satellite broadband service. The end user will be responsible for paying any remaining cost of installation and commissioning (if any), and paying the monthly subscription for the service selected, including VAT.

Further information about the Universal Service Commitment, the application process and a full FAQ is available on the Wiltshire Online website

Finally to remind you, an App called **My Wiltshire** can be downloaded onto your mobile smart phone to report highway problems, also **My Wiltshire** can be found on the web.

## **'SEEDS4SUCCESS' TO DELIVER CO-ORDINATED YOUTH WORK ACROSS SOUTH WEST WILTSHIRE**

A contract to provide young people in the Mere, Tisbury and Wilton community areas with a service that enables them to grow in confidence, develop their skills and engage with their local community has been signed between South West Wiltshire Area Board and local charity 'Seeds4Success'. The Area Board has committed £60,000 from its youth funding allocation, which will ultimately help young people with their future employability, and enable them to realise their full potential.

The service will be offered to young people aged 13-19, although the service provider will also work with young people pre-13 and post-19 whenever appropriate, and will provide the following:

- Opportunities for young people in South West Wiltshire to access sessions of locally provided youth work including open access, targeted and project work. Seeds4Success will offer a minimum of 6 term-time sessions per week and transport will be provided to enable young people in more sparsely populated villages to access the youth work.
- A range of opportunities which enable young people to develop soft and vocational skills with linked accreditation.
- A minimum of one targeted term-time session per week for local young people who are at risk of becoming or are currently NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).
- Support young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) to access wider opportunities to develop personal and social skills, engage with other young people and access linked accreditation.
- Opportunities for young people to become involved in active volunteering during school holidays and weekends through Social Action projects including 'Leisure Credits' and National Citizen Service (NCS) and through the developing Young Leaders and Peer Mentors programmes.

More information about Seeds4Success can be found on its website:  
**<http://www.seeds4success.org.uk/>**

South West Wiltshire Area Board still has funding for youth projects available for 2015/16; for more information please contact Nicola Sage, Community Youth Officer  
☎ 07768 033278, ✉: **[nicola.sage@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.sage@wiltshire.gov.uk)**

*Stephen Harris, Community Engagement Manager (SWW) ☎ 01722 434211*

## **WARMING UP WILTSHIRE!**

Living in a cold home can be bad for your health. Consistently low temperatures in your home may exacerbate existing health issues (particularly respiratory and cardiovascular conditions) and make it harder for you to recover from illnesses. It can cause you and your family to feel miserable at home, effecting concentration, dexterity and mental health.

Residents can now contact **Warm & Safe Wiltshire** - the commitment from Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and their partners to help residents live in safer and healthier homes - and a one stop shop for all cold home and energy queries.

The service provides free, impartial advice about keeping your home warm, understanding your heating system and energy bills, switching energy supplier, making energy saving improvements and a comprehensive home fire safety check where eligible. Energy advice can be given through home visits as well as over the phone.

Warm & Safe Wiltshire can help to improve energy efficiency in the home which can reduce fuel bills. The service can also advise on possible benefit entitlement and available grants such as the Warm Home Discount. Insulation is one of the best ways of lowering your energy bills, and a new grant offer means that if you are a homeowner or privately-renting tenant in Wiltshire with a suitable property, you can have cavity wall insulation installed in your home, free of charge – helping to make your home warmer and cheaper to heat.

In some circumstances you may also be able to access grant funding to help with the cost of insulating your loft. All offers are subject to survey, funding availability and property suitability.

if you would like any advice or you know anyone who would benefit from a referral, please contact us. ☎ 0300 003475 ✉: **[warmandsafe@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:warmandsafe@wiltshire.gov.uk)**

## MERE LIBRARY NEWS

National Libraries Day is Saturday, 6th February and Mere Library will be celebrating with a week of varied activities to interest everyone.

On Monday, 1st February 2.00-4.00pm, we will be running family history sessions using Ancestry on the public computers. This will include an introduction and brief 'hints and tips' for getting started in family history, followed by a guided tour of the ancestry database. There will also be help on how to search for records and use the resources, followed by time for personal research. Please book in advance to take part as spaces are limited.

Tuesday, 2nd February 2.00-4.00pm, for all your other digital questions, ask a Digital Champion Volunteer from the Wiltshire Online service.

Friday, 5th February, 10.00-10.30am, join in the fun with our weekly Rhyme Time for babies and pre-schoolers and their parents/carers.

Friday, 5th February, 1.30-4.30pm, need your blood pressure checked? Don't keep that health niggles to yourself – ask the Nurse during the Health Information session. No appointment necessary. Also, for those affected by issues relating to Alzheimer's and Dementia, the monthly drop in advice session will be running between 2.00 and 4.00pm.

Throughout the week, we will be encouraging you to go on a Blind Date with a Book – a fun promotion to discover new authors and books that you may not have thought of

reading! Or maybe you would like to test your local Wiltshire knowledge by entering our free quiz? People are also being asked to say what they love about their local library as part of special displays in libraries, and also on social media, by using the twitter handle **@WiltsLibraries** and the hashtag **#librariesday**.

Any child (aged 0 to 15) joining a Wiltshire library during February will be automatically entered into a prize draw, and anyone visiting a library on Saturday, 6th February will be able to reserve a book, DVD or audiobook for free.

Do make time to check out all of the above and much more that's happening down at Mere Library. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you in the Library.

*Sally-Ann Hooper, Library Supervisor ☎ 01747 860546*

**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**





## POLICE NEWS

### Positives from a negative....

We recently had a message from a male who asked why we had put details of his car crash on our Facebook page. I explained to him that we report collisions like this to make other drivers aware and slow down and remember that this road (B3092 Mere to Gillingham) is a dangerous stretch at this time of year with the weather changing for the worse, and if our message stops even one person from being injured in the future then something good has come out of something bad. Just look across at the incidents this month and count the number of incidents on our roads. They are dangerous places. Be safe!

**Two bicycles** were stolen from a property in White Road this month, we have put the pictures on Facebook and asked people to share so that we get the widest audience possible. The thieves came back a week later but were stopped by a vigilant neighbour and an alarm system that the resident had installed after the first incident. If you saw

any suspicious activity opposite Mere fire station on 22nd and 27th of December, call Wilts Police on 101.

**The lorry driver** who crashed into the car on the A303 last year got a lengthy ban, and admitted that he was distracted by his mobile phone, the resulting collision killed the female car driver. Two things here that could have stopped the terrible consequences. If you break down on a fast road such as the A303, get out of the vehicle safely, even if it means getting out of the passenger door! Call 999 and stay well away from the road. If you are a driver and your mobile phone rings, this lady would possibly be alive today if the driver had not taken notice of it and watched the road ahead.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and Thanks for all your assistance through the last year. Please keep safe.

### Current scams...

We get daily reports of someone having a scam either e mailed, posted or telephoned, below are a few...

**When shopping**, remember to not let anyone see your pin number, we have had persons in our area who follow customers out of the store, having seen a pin number, they then stop you near your car and ask for directions, another person will be looking in your bag for the card while you are distracted....

**Letter saying you have been left money** by someone in a foreign country, but you have to pay taxes to get your windfall! SCAM

**Telephone call** from someone asking you to place an ad in a police magazine (usually to businesses) SCAM

**Telephone call from your bank** telling you that someone has taken some money from your account and you have to give them your card details including pin! SCAM, NEVER GIVE YOUR PIN NUMBER TO THESE PEOPLE. Also be aware that the caller can stay on the line and you think you have dialled your bank but in reality you are talking to the same person!!

There are new scams reported daily. Action Fraud collates details and passes them on to us. Please notify them (☎ 0300 123 2040) - the more we spread the word, the less people get caught out.

**Call '101' for non-emergencies and '999' in an emergency.**

*PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky ☎ 101 (24hrs)*  
 ***peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk***

## **MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS (M&DRM)**

A big thank you to all the residents of Mere who supported our open day on 6th December and helped us consume some excellent cakes made by the ladies of the club. As could be observed by those who attended, some very interesting projects are under way, the main effort being to complete our O gauge layout 'BLACKMORE VALE' in time for our weekend long Summer Exhibition, which we are holding in the Lecture Hall on, Saturday, 18th and Sunday, 19th June.

The Club meets every Wednesday from 7:00pm and anybody interested is most welcome. Due to our on-going projects the club has decided to only have a formal lecture/craft activity on the first Wednesday of each month.

Forthcoming local events that might interest people are:-

Club night - Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Wednesday, 3rd February Creating Buildings with guest modeller Angus Watkins

Saturday, 13th and Sunday, 14th February - Gartell Model Railway Exhibition

Saturday, 13th February - Warminster Model Railway Exhibition

Saturday, 20th and Sunday, 21st February - Wessex Association of Model Railway Clubs Annual Exhibition at the Digby Hall, Sherborne

Wednesday, 2nd March Club night - A presentation by Peter Hudson and Graham Avory about the Canadian Pacific Railroad. *Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977*

## **Mere Dental Practice**

*The practice has three Dentists: Stephen Sherrard,  
Christopher Davies and Mishari Al-Dhafeeri.*

*It also has 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](mailto:meredental@btconnect.com), Website: [meredentistry.co.uk](http://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*

## **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH DEVELOPMENT**

On Wednesday, 3rd February at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church, there will be a presentation to the community of the ideas for re-ordering the church showing plans as they stand and photographs of other churches, which have had similar developments. We would be interested to hear from anyone with an interest in the church. Please come along and be involved. Any enquiries, please, to Rev'd Vickie Goodman, ☎ 01747 860070. *Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker, Priest in Charge*

## **MERE CARNIVAL**

### **Carnival Events**

### **Carnival Quiz**

Grove building

Wednesday, 17th February

7.30pm - £2.00 per person - teams of 4

Raffle and Refreshments

### **Carnival Bingo**

Friday, 15th April

Grove building  
Doors open 6.45pm - eyes down 7.30pm  
Raffle/Refreshments/Specials

These are our first fundraisers for the 2016 carnival season. Please come and support us so that Mere will still have the funds needed to run our Carnival on Saturday, 17th September 2016

## **Carnival Prizes**

Do you have any unwanted new, small or larger items that would be suitable for prizes during the Carnival fundraising events? If so, we would be very grateful to receive them for use.

“Odd” items are welcome also, i.e. in date non-perishable items, bottles, confectionery, toiletries, stationery, books, etc., as they can be made up into “prize boxes”

Donations can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel Showroom. Alternatively leave a message 01747 860215, and collection can be arranged.

*Carol Paine ☎ 01747 861639*

## **MADE IN MERE**

There is so much talent within our town from dressmakers, quilters, knitters, artists, card makers, flower arrangers, wood turners, bakers and gardeners that I have often felt it would be marvellous to arrange an opportunity to showcase these diverse skills. In talking to various members of our clubs and organisations, many others are really keen on the idea of making a big splash one weekend. As it will take quite a lot of organising, we are looking to hold this event in 2017 when St Michael's Church is already planning to hold a Flower Festival on the theme of Community. If you are interested in taking part, please come along to an initial meeting on Monday, 22nd February in the Methodist Schoolroom at 2.00pm or contact me if you would like to take part. Hope to see lots of you there.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## **TRUSSELL TRUST**

You may have seen Richard Parsons, on Points West, delivering Christmas Shoe Boxes in Bulgaria, which had been packed by a Wiltshire School. The delight on the children's faces said it all! To all of you who, from Mere, packed the 135 boxes (a record!) which made their way to the very, very poor in Bulgaria this last Christmas, a HUGE thank you. They really do bring such joy.

The work in Bulgaria goes on throughout the year, and the Trussell Trust is now working closely with the Balkan countries to help them to help themselves. Exciting foundations to create opportunities to break out of poverty and social isolation have been set up with

Trussell Trust as partners so that young lives can be transformed and dreams fulfilled. Donations towards these projects are very, very welcome and I am happy to forward these for anybody who would like to contribute. Again - THANKYOU for your generosity and kindness.

*Wendy Horne. ☎ 01747 861712*

## **TRAIDCRAFT**

### **Show You Care Campaign**

After my appeal in 2015 to support Tradecrafts' work especially with smallholders, I am really delighted to report that my Fair Trade Sales this year have topped £3000 with an especially wonderful response to Easter Egg and Christmas Card Sales. Thank you everyone who has helped to contribute to this marvellous amount. Don't forget I have a regular stall at the URC Coffee Morning and after the 10.30am service in St Michael's on the third weekend of each month, and I hope many of you will support my events in Fair Trade Fortnight (See below).

### **Fair Trade Fortnight**

This falls between Monday, 29th February and Sunday, 13th March. I will be holding my popular Big Brew Breakfast on Tuesday, 1st March in the Methodist Schoolroom from 8.30-11.30am. You can enjoy a drink and fill up on all the wonderful Fair Trade goodies all for £2, share good company and know that you are helping farmers around the world. I will also have Easter Eggs available. *Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## **COMMUNITY LUNCH**

Bring out your 2016 diaries and book in these dates and venues for the 2016 Community Lunches: Tuesday, 2nd February at The Walnut Tree Inn; Tuesday, 1st March at The George Inn and Tuesday, 5th April at The Walnut Tree Inn. We then have a break so that you can all get out into your gardens until the Literary Festival in October when the Community Lunch starts again as part of the Literary week events.

You will note that we have moved the lunches to the first Tuesday of the month, but as Mere Matters does not come out until the end of the month, I would hate you to miss the Lunches - a prestigious event each month, hence the advance notice!

For those who are new to Mere, the Community Lunches are a way of meeting new people from all areas of the Community; it helps to avoid isolation and it keeps you in touch with what is happening in the town.

The next Community Lunch is to be held at The Walnut Tree Inn, Shaftesbury Road, Mere on Tuesday, 2nd February at 12.00noon for 12.30pm. The cost is £9.95 for a two course meal, drinks not included. Please book in advance direct to the venue: ☎ 01747 861220. For more details, please contact me

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*



## TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 24th February at 3.00pm. All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on ☎ 01747 860524 and leave a message or pop in and leave your name by Monday the 21st February.

Come in and have a chat with tea and cake. All are welcome.

*Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524*

## FEBRUARY SHORT WALK:

This will take place on Monday, 8th February. Please meet in the Surgery car park at 2.00pm for a 3 mile walk hopefully to see the snowdrops. Warm up with a welcome cuppa at The Angel Café afterwards.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*



## MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

### Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 17th February - 7.30pm at Mere Social Club

*Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576*



## PROJECT SUNRISE – MERE

Project Sunrise - Mere

Although the funding from the South West Wilts Area Board for Project Sunrise has now finished, the Chamber is continuing to follow the concept though at a much lower level of activity. We are still looking to encourage Single Person Enterprises and other

initiatives which bring trade to the town.

In that connection we were pleased to support the **Churches Together** Committee in encouraging people to “**Shop Local for Christmas**”. They identified around 40 local people who make and sell small items of craft and publicised them by means of a leaflet delivered to most houses in Mere. We look forward to hearing how successful the participants were in extra business during the holiday period.

On behalf of the town, we have again subscribed to “**Visit Wiltshire**”, the tourist body which publicises the county throughout the country by print and web publications. This gives the town exposure to coach companies and organisations, as well as individuals, and encourages them to visit us. We know that last year at least two coaches came to Mere because of this, to both shop and take meals, although we believe a number of others came without making special parking arrangements.

The publication of the new **“Walking Maps”** was supported financially by the Chamber and individual businesses. They are available from the Library and local shops for a modest sum, which will ensure that they can be revised and reprinted when the current print run is exhausted. They are selling well and it's gratifying to see that the demand for these indicates there was a real need.

The booklet describing significant places of interest in the town, **“A Mere Meander”** is also doing well.

We know that suitable premises are difficult to identify and their lack inhibits growth in the town and surrounding area. We were pleased to see that there is now a commercial **Art Gallery** in the Beaumont Business Centre in Woodlands Road. With **Walton Antiques, This and That**, and vintage clothes in **Brainwave**, Mere is becoming quite a source for a wide range of artistic, antique, and vintage goods.

### **Sunday Market**

I've previously mentioned that the Chamber was discussing the possibility of a Sunday Street Market, once a month during the summer. A list of possible traders has been assembled and there has been an encouraging response from them. However the Chamber feels that while initial funding could be provided, it doesn't have sufficient people resource to be able to proceed. If a group of interested individuals in the town would like to take this on, we would be interested in supporting them, and discussing how the project could be progressed.

If you are interested in helping the Chamber in any way, even if you are not in business yourself, please contact me or Julie Cousins on ☎ 07856 700576.

Our email is: ✉ [merechamber@outlook.com](mailto:merechamber@outlook.com)

*Hamish Bell. President, Mere & District Chamber of Trade*  
☎ 01747 861717

## **SHREEN HARMONY**


We had a very successful Christmas, performing at Maiden Bradley and in Mere. Both concerts were well supported and enjoyable. We raised £350 in Mere for Woofability, the charity which supplies dogs to help people with disabilities. We had a very warm welcome in Maiden Bradley and the collection was to go towards the church roof.

We are now back in a New Year and learning new songs. The choir meets every Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m. in the United Reformed Church Hall and anyone who might like to join us is very welcome to just come along and see, there are no auditions just the love of singing together.

Our next concert is in Templecombe on Thursday, 17th March and I will give more details in the next addition of Mere Matters. *Sandra Fisher* ☎ 01747 861980

## **SPECTRA MUSICA**

### **Come and Sing Day**

Spectra Musica are holding a Come and Sing Day on Saturday, 20th February in Cheap Street Church, Sherborne. Under the lively and enthusiastic leadership of widely experienced Musical Director Peter Leech, the programme includes Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem and works by Mozart and Bolis. All are welcome. For application forms do contact me, by phone (below), or by  [sarah.bignell@btinternet.com](mailto:sarah.bignell@btinternet.com)

*Sarah Bignell ☎ 01935 814997*

## **MERE THEATRE CLUB**

If your new year's resolution is to get out more, meet some new people and enjoy some cultural stimulation, then the theatre club could be for you. Our subscription is still only £5 per household per year and we attend a wide range of theatrical events 9/10 months of the year. Contact Madelaine or Wendy, see below.

A reminder for our members, if you haven't paid your subscription - a request was sent out in January - you won't receive the next mailing!

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

## **CANCER RESEARCH**

The Christmas Market held in the Town Square was a huge success and the crowds were huge and very happy! We raised a grand total of £919.54p, so a huge thankyou to everyone for their help, donations and time.

To finish our year off on a high note, Mere Youth Club had a fund raising event and very kindly gave all the proceeds to us - £100 - so a big thank you to all the club members who are a credit to themselves, the club and to Mere.

We are very lucky that people are very generous with donations of stock for us to sell at our various events; however, we have run out of storage space! We are looking for a new store to keep all our stock in and would love to know if anyone out there has a shed/barn/outbuilding/garage that is dry, secure and easily accessible that we could use? If you do, please contact Penny on details below.

### **Dates for 2016**

Spring Bazaar - Saturday, 12th March, May Fayre - Saturday, 21st May. Autumn Bazaar – Saturday, 8th October, Christmas Market - Friday, 2nd December. Finally we are delighted to announce that we raised the amazing total of £15,200 in 2015. A huge



thank you to everyone who came, bought, donated, hosted, helped and were there for us at all our events. Together we will beat cancer sooner.

As a committee we are always grateful for any donations, ideas, funds and volunteers. We are also in need of some helpful 'muscle power' to help us set up and dismantle events. If you can help us in any way please contact us in one of the following ways:

✉: [merecancerresearch@mail.com](mailto:merecancerresearch@mail.com), Facebook – **Mere Cancer Research** 📞 Penny Fennon (after 6pm). Thank you. *Penny Fennon* 📞 07833 137112

## MERE FILM SHOWS

On Friday, 19th February we are showing the film 'Suffragette' for which Carey Mulligan has an Oscar nomination. Mulligan plays Maud Watts, a young laundrywoman and mother who is reluctantly drawn into the pioneering feminist movement and their new campaign of 'civil disobedience' to obtain fairer pay.

These women were not primarily from the genteel educated classes, but were working women who had seen peaceful protest achieve nothing and were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality – their jobs, homes, children and their lives. Maud was one of these foot soldiers and the story of her fight for dignity is gripping, heart-breaking and inspirational, and the film brings to life vividly and touchingly the high price paid by some women to obtain the right to vote for all women. Full details on page 25.

### Dates for your diary:

Thursday, 31st March: 'The Lady in the Van' and Thursday, 28th April: 'Brooklyn'

*Mary White* ☎ 01747 861257

## MERE GARDENING CLUB

### Plants for Culinary and Medicinal Purposes Castle Gardens Speaker

#### Wednesday, 10th February, 7.30pm Grove Buildings

Plants for culinary and medicinal purposes have a long and interesting history and will make a fascinating talk. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**

*Janet Way* ☎ 01747 860884



## MERE MUSEUM

The current exhibition, which introduces Mere Historical Society's Archive, will remain on show until the middle of March, when it will be replaced by a travelling, photographic version of an exhibition entitled 'The Story of Wiltshire in 100 objects'. Three items from Mere Museum's collection are included in the display - quite a coup for a small Museum!

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

After the very successful talk by Peter Ginn in November on the archaeological project "Waterloo Uncovered", a new display on the subject can now be enjoyed in the digital photo frame display in the clock tower. Do go and have a look!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Reinvigorated by Christmas jollity and New Year's celebrations, MADS members have re-grouped and forgathered, and are busy plotting further entertainments for the delight and delectation of all. To that end we are pleased to announce 'A Mere Variety Show'! The dates are Thursday - Saturday, 17th - 19th March, at 7.30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall. Tickets - which include a buffet supper - can be yours from the beginning of February, from the Library, on payment of the modest sum of £8 per person. Places at this premier event are limited to 50 each evening, so do be sure to reserve yours at the earliest opportunity, or risk eternal disappointment!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## DRESSMAKING IN MERE

The Mere Dressmakers enjoyed an amusing evening at the cinema watching "The Dressmaker" starring Kate Winslet, followed by a popular Evening Get-together with many of the course students since our first course in November 2014. Wine, food and a little show-and-tell with the items they had proudly made, brought 2015 to an enjoyable and friendly close.

We now commence our next six week courses on Monday, 1st February at 10.30am to 1:00pm and Wednesday evening, 3rd February from 7:00 to 9.30pm in the small hall of the Grove Building. Our Morning Class is full with a waiting list, but we now have just one place on our evening course. Our Facebook Page is often viewed, named simply "Dressmaking in Mere", and we are happy to tell you more by phoning either me or Susanne (The Sewing Lady) ☎ 07788 595 434. *Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923*

## MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE



Looking back to our December meeting, what a really fun evening we had, being entertained by Mere Melodies handbell ringers and a rather "unrehearsed" mini pantomime. We were delighted that the Grove Building was full with members, friends and Group Members who joined us to get Christmas off to a great start, with mulled wine, buffet supper and presents from the Secret Santa.

Some members joined Jenny Wood at the Quaker Meeting House in Shaftesbury a few days later for the Friends of Westminster Memorial Hospital Christmas Fair, an enjoyable event that has not been on the Womens Institute (WI) calendar before.

Several members travelled to All Saints Church, Westbury for "A Wiltshire Christmas". A really memorable afternoon. There was a parade of Group pennants which was headed proudly by one of our Mere members, as we are the oldest of all the WIs in the Group. The afternoon included carols, one adapted for the WI based on "The twelve days of Christmas", readings and memories reflecting the history of our county, all rounded off with tea and light refreshments. Definitely something to look forward to joining and participating in again at the end of this year 2016.

We did not have a meeting in January but 17 members enjoyed a New Year Lunch at the Kings Arms in East Stour. This was popular and well supported and a venue that we will visit again.

Our next meeting on Thursday, 4th February at 7.30pm in the Grove Building is a talk by Shirley Richardson entitled "Travels on a Motorbike." She has travelled as far away as China with her husband on their motorbike. Certainly a very different kind of a holiday and a revelation matching the "Hairy Bikers" adventures.

Please don't forget to bring your donations for the 100 items Trussell Trust Food Bank Collection, our ongoing commitment as part of our Centenary celebration.

*Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH 2016 ISSUE**

**MONDAY, 15th FEBRUARY 2016**



## **MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP**

A merry meal together at The Walnut Tree Inn in January got us off to a good start for the year, and we continue with two interesting events in February: On **Friday, 5th February at 3.30pm** at Shreen Vale (Thelma Ing's house) we meet for our annual MU 'Wave of Prayer, which, like a Mexican Wave', continues all the way around the world – we're just a tiny part of it.

Our meeting on **Tuesday, 9th February at 2.30pm** in the Grove Building, will be an Origami Workshop led by Helen Holtham, who is a member of the British Origami Society and also wife of the Bishop of Salisbury. Everyone is welcome to these events.

*Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553*

**ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE**

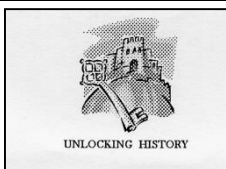
**For the over 60s. Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere  
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 3.00pm**

We started off our new year with a visit to Salisbury Playhouse to watch 'Cinderella', and we all thoroughly enjoyed the production! We are looking forward to a programme packed full of activities with a few trips out chucked in for good measure. Our guests have chosen Swanage for our seaside trip destination later on in the year.

We are looking to recruit a new volunteer who would be able to help during our Monday sessions. If you or anyone you know may be interested in this rewarding position please contact me for a chat and more information.

Many thanks to all who supported the Annual Quiz which raised £217. The answers are with those who sold to you and are on display in the library, Post Office and Lecture Hall. The winner, Margaret Mead, was drawn from the 12 who scored 37.

*Sandie Hawkins ☎:07835 272406 [www.MereDayCentre.org.uk](http://www.MereDayCentre.org.uk)*



## **Mere Historical Society**

**There is no evening talk in February,  
but the morning talk will be**

### **A Fresh Look at the Silk Industry in Mere Julia Mottershaw**

**Tuesday, 2nd February 10.15am for 10.30am in the Grove Building**

Many of you will have enjoyed Julia's last talk. This time she will be telling us about the results of her research into the Silk Industry.

**Non-members are very welcome.**

**Don't forget to check out our web site:**

**[www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)**

*Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797*

**GROVE BUILDINGS "100 CLUB"**

The result of the '100' Club Draw for December 2015, drawn on Tuesday, 1st December by Maureen Osborne (Post Office) was:

1st Prize (£60)	-	No. 159	Denzil Mathias
2nd Prize (£40)	-	No. 195	Julia Rankin
3rd Prize (£20)	-	No. 46	Shelagh Brown
4th Prize (£10)	-	No. 75	Sheila Shotter

The result of the '100' Club Draw for January 2016, drawn on Wednesday, 6th January by Phil Gatehouse (Mere Garage) was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 36	Daphne Tighe
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 95	Maggie Carnon
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 107	Jenny Jackson
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 146	Annie Sainthill

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*

## **MERE BOWLS CLUB**

A date for your diary (again!). Mere Bowls Club will once again organise and host a Spring Barn Dance in aid of a local charity, this year the chosen charity is the Rosemary Goddard Centre. The Centre, located in The Lynch, helps isolated and elderly members of the community with day care, nutritious lunches and occasional day trips out.

The Barn Dance will be held in the Grove Building at 7:00pm on Saturday, 9th April (should have warmed up a bit by then) and will include all your old favourites, a raffle, door prize, a fish & chip supper, a bar and dancing to the wonderful Black Bear Band. All dances are walked through before we do them so you do not need to be at 'Strictly' standard to take part. Ticket details will be advertised when everything is finalised.

(continued on page 27)

***Terry Mead - ¼ page advert***

***Alexanders - ¼ page advert***

<b>WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA</b>
--------------------------

in association with  
**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
proudly presents

# **'SUFFRAGETTE'**

(12A)

**Carey Mulligan, Anne-Marie Duff,  
Helena Bonham Carter, Ben Wishaw, Meryl  
Streep**

The story of Maud (Cary Mulligan) one of the foot soldiers of the pioneering feminist movement, who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State and were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality.

**In The Lecture Hall**  
**Friday, 19th February, at 7.30pm**  
(Doors open 7.00pm)

**TICKETS £6.00**

**Available from The Library**

*For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

Visit our website at: **[www.moviola.org](http://www.moviola.org)**

**Mere School Reports**



# Happy New Year!

## Christmas Celebrations!

Looking back, the end of the Christmas term was a busy time for all the staff and children at Mere School.

## Salisbury Pantomime

All the children were taken to Salisbury to watch 'Cinderella'. They had a fantastic time and really enjoyed the show.

We would like to thank the Friends of Mere for organising it.

## Christmas Productions

This year Key Stage 1 performed 'The Fleas Christmas Story' and Key Stage 2 performed 'The Carol Singers'. The children sang and acted extremely well with costumes that looked fantastic.

## Christmas Lunch & Grotto

A delicious Christmas lunch bag was enjoyed by all the children in the school to celebrate the end of term.

They also visited Father Christmas in his amazing Grotto!

## Christmas Angels

Volunteers from St Michaels Church in Mere spent the day with the children creating Angel collages. They also learnt about the importance of angels in the Christmas story. The angels were then displayed in the church over the Christmas period.

Thank you to all the amazing volunteers.

## Christmas Carol Service

On the last Friday of the term the children walked to St Michaels Church and took part in our annual carol service. The children sang beautifully, the readers read with great confidence and the recorder club entertained us with their playing. It was a lovely way to end the term!

## STOP PRESS!

Don't forget to look at our website for more details and pictures of what we have been up to:

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

On the Bowling front, we plan to open for business on Saturday, 23rd April, so if you want to give the sport a try just come along at 3:00pm with a flat pair of shoes and one of our trained coaches will get you taking part in no time. Members are requested to attend at 2.30pm to allow time for them to pay their fees, chat and partake in the Season Opening Spider.

If you don't fancy coming along on the 23rd, then the Club will be holding an Open Day on Saturday, 7th May when all the Club coaches will be present, along with a small number of members, to take anyone who wants to give the sport a try through their paces, once again flat shoes are a must to minimise damage to the green.

For any other details about the Club please contact either Alan Inwood on ☎ 01985 844215, Alan Spencer on ☎ 01747 860803 or me, Don Butchers, on the number below or by ✉ [don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com)

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary ☎ 01747 860775*

## LEARN, PLAY AND HAVE FUN!

At Mere Children's Centre we run various free groups for families with children from 0-5 years of age, providing activities for you and your child to learn vital skills to help their development in the Early Years



### What else can we offer?

Adult Learning courses  
Sensory room bookings  
Drop-in sessions  
National Careers Service  
Outreach support for families



.....and lots more!

Drop in to the Centre or give us a call if you would like to find out more about the groups that we run

☎: 01747 861108

✉: [MereChildrenCentre@4Children.org.uk](mailto:MereChildrenCentre@4Children.org.uk)

You can also find us on Facebook!

## METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

### Café Worship

Cafe Worship will be on Wednesday, 24th February at 11.00am, following Coffee at 10.30am in the Methodist School Room. Everyone welcome There is a coffee morning every Wednesday with a brief Pause for Thought at 11.00am if you can't manage Cafe Worship.

*Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*



# CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE & DISTRICT

## Lent Lunches

**Sale  
Table**



**Everybody  
Welcome !**

**Come along and enjoy delicious home-made soup with  
a roll & cheese followed by tea/coffee for just £3 !**

**Grove Building 12.30 – 1.30pm**

**Saturday, 27th February**

**Friday, 4th March**

**Saturday, 12th March**

**Friday, 18th March**

**Friday, 25th March**

**All proceeds will go to Christian Aid & Cafod**

**Please support the lunches – see you there !**



## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE & DISTRICT

A very big thank-you to everyone who helped in any way with our Christmas Lunch, now in its third year. Again, a very happy event and very much appreciated by those who came who would otherwise have been alone or not able to do very much by way of celebration for other reasons.

Easter is early this year, so Lent is early too and Lent Study Groups begin on Monday, 15th February 10.00-11.30am in the Methodist School Room, and on Wednesday, 17th February 7.30-9.00pm at the URC Church. Each group will meet on the same day (respectively) each week for five weeks and will be following an engaging and topical course entitled 'Migration and Movement' based on contemporary stories from around the world and linked to stories and events in the Bible. It has been thoughtfully prepared by a missionary society currently working in various ways with refugees in Europe and elsewhere. Everyone is welcome to join either of these study groups.

Churches Together will also be holding Lent Lunches as usual (some on Saturdays and some on Fridays) in the Grove Building. For dates and other details, please see the notice above.

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 &  
Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884 for CTM&D*

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

We are blessed in Mere with the beautiful church of St Michael the Archangel, a building which is the pride of its congregation and the townspeople of Mere too. When we gather there to worship we are conscious of God's presence, but also of the generations of people who have lovingly given their time, energy and money to support it. As well as being a beautiful antiquity, it is also a "living and breathing" place – alive with the Spirit of our loving God and his pilgrim followers.

Whilst respecting the beauty of the building, we also need to ensure that it is welcoming to the needs of modern day users – that is the current congregation, townspeople and visitors alike. I was once taking a wedding rehearsal when the pregnant bride suddenly needed the loo. The excellent Grove Building was not available, it is frequently used by private parties and is also a distance for the elderly, infirm or very young. In the end there was nothing for it but to invite her to the Vicarage, it was embarrassing.

We have been looking at ways to bring improvements to the church and have had architects plans drawn up. We have sort the advice of Historic England (the new name for that part of English Heritage that protects the historical environment of England) and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (the church equivalent of Local Authority planning). On **Wednesday, 3rd February at 7.30pm**, in St Michaels, we will be presenting these plans together with additional information to the congregation and to any who are interested. We have already had a lot of discussion and received many comments, but would be interested to hear your views too. Please come along.



**In aid of Suchana, everyone is very welcome to join our  
SHROVE TUESDAY QUIZ AND PANCAKE EVENING  
in the Grove Building on Tuesday 9th February at 7.30pm**

**Licensed Bar ♦ Tickets £5 (children £3) ♦ Teams of 4**

***(Come on your own or come as a team)***

***To book, sign list at back of St Michael's Church,  
or ☎ phone Judith Thompson 01747 860553 or Jean  
Kantharia 01747 861168***

***And a date for your diary: Isobel Howell ☎ 01747 860297 will be  
hosting a coffee morning in aid of Suchana on Tuesday, 1st March  
10.30am-12.00pm at Weavers Cottage, Hazzards Hill***

# CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

## FEBRUARY 2016

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

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

**✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk**

**Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424**

**Mr Michael Marsh ☎ 01747 861212**

**Church Administrator: Ian Treece ☎ 07754 524802**

**✉ administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk**

<b>Each Sunday</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Wednesday</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Friday</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)

The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker normally has a rest day on a Friday

Tuesday	2nd	6.00pm	"Start the Month"
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Family Communion
Wednesday	10th	7.30pm	ASH WEDNESDAY Evensong
			Holy Communion
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Lenten Worship
Sunday	*21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Lenten Worship
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Lenten Worship

\*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

### **The United Reformed Church**

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

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	21st	11.00am	Rev'd Andrew North
			Holy Communion
	28th	11.00am	Rev'd John Page

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

**Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎ 01747 860291**

**or John FitzGerald ☎ 01747 860867**

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass

Tea and Cakes will be served after the last Mass of the month.

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

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

Sunday	7th	3.00pm	Rev'd Denise Binks
	14th	3.00pm	Local Fellowship Service
	21st	6.00pm	Healing Service at Gillingham Methodist Church
	28th	3.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold

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

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

**✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk**

**Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534**

**Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263**

Sunday	7th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	14th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	21st	9.30pm	DIY
	28th	9.30am	Holy Communion

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

## DIARY DATES

### FEBRUARY 2016

**AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; 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; MSC-Mere Social Club. RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse URC-United Reformed Church.**

1	Mon	9.30 am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 8th, 22nd & 29th)	L
		10.00am	Chair based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		10.30am	- 1.00pm Dress Making (also 8th, 22nd & 29th)	GB
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	- 4.00pm Family History Session	Lib
		2.15pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 8th, 22nd & 29th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 8th, 22nd & 29th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 8th, 22nd & 29th)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
2	Tues	10.00am	Card Making	L
		10.15am	Mere Historical Society, Morning Talk	GB
		12.00pm	Community Lunch	The Walnut Tree Inn

2	Tues	2.00pm	- 4.00pm "Get-Online" Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.00pm	Healing Course (every Tuesday)	GB
3	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi, (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
		7.00pm	- 9.00pm Dress Making (also 10th & 24th)	GB
		7.30pm	St Michaels Re-ordering proposals	St Michaels
4	Thur	10.00am	- 12.00noon Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am	- 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
5	Fri	10.00am	- 10.30am Weekly Rhyme Time (every Thursday)	Lib
		10.00am	Open the Book	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Duplicate Bridge Club (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
6	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
8	Mon	2.00pm	February Short Walk	CP
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
9	Tues	2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Shrove Tuesday Quiz & Pancakes evening	GB
10	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
11	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
12	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 26th)	GB
13	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
15	Mon	10.00am	- 11.30am Lent Study Course	MH
17	Wed	7.00pm	- 9.00pm Lent Study Course	URC
		7.30pm	- Carnival Quiz	GB
		7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
19	Fri	7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Filmshows 'Suffragette'	L
20	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
22	Mon	2.00pm	'Made in Mere' initial meeting	MH
24	Wed	10.30am	Café Worship	MH
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm "Tea@3"	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm "Get-Online" Drop-in session	Angel Tea Rooms
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
27	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
		12.30pm	- 1.30pm Lent Lunch	GB

## **BOOKING MEETING HALLS**

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎ 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎ 01747 861063

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

**HEALTH MATTERS**

**ADVICE**

Fridays: 1.30 to 4.30pm

**MEMORY LOSS**

**READING GROUP**

Wednesdays: 2.30 to 4.00pm

**ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT**

1st Friday: 2.00 to 4.00pm

**REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS  
& DEATHS:**

**By appointment only** (☎ 0300 0034569)

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

**'GET ONLINE'**

**DROP-IN SESSION**

1st Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00pm

## **COPYDATE FOR MARCH 2016 ISSUE**

Editorial contributions for the March 2016 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, 15th February 2016**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 8th February 2016 to: [editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk)

Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please **add their name and a contact telephone number to ensure inclusion.**

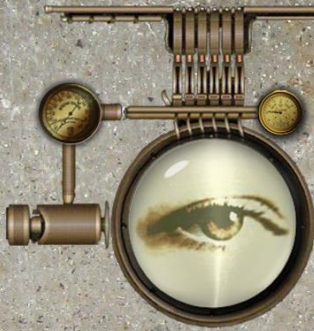
## **ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:**

**Mrs Jane Kennedy**

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

☎: 01985 844740

The picture on the front cover is by kind permission of Dr Colin Anderson



# Teeandee Productions

**Tel: 01747 841458**  
**Mob: 07799 325214**

**Email: [tim@teeandeeproductions.com](mailto:tim@teeandeeproductions.com)**

**Website Design & Computer Services**