

Misterton

Village Magazine



December 2021



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Note from the editors

The beautiful festive scene on this month's cover is by Chloe Willis and we hope you like it as much as we do! Staying with the festive theme, our feature by John Coquet is about Christmas around the world and uncovers some rather different traditions to our own.

We would like to say thank you very much to all our regular contributors, distributors and advertisers over the year who help us bring this magazine to you every month. And the magazine committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the January magazine is Friday 10th December.

Contributions please to mistertonmagazine@gmail.com or through the letter box at Chestnut Lodge, Broughtons Drive.

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Misterton Village Magazine is now also online!

<https://mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk/village-information/village-magazine/>



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Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team update

This month we would like to remind you about a couple of events the Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team (MERT) will be involved with.

With the festive season approaching rapidly we will be at the Christmas fayre on 27 November where we will be raising money by selling fudge, chocolate truffles and a couple of savoury options. In addition we will be there for discussion on matters that MERT might be able to assist with so please come and see us if you have any issues you would like to raise.

Looking forward to the New Year we have a defibrillator course planned for Monday 10 January at 7pm in the village hall. We will be collecting names for the course at the fayre and will have more details for those who would like to attend. If you are interested and will not be at the fayre please let me know via my email below.

You will no doubt have seen and heard on the news recently how important defibrillators can be and feeling confident to use one might make all the difference in an incident.

We wish all of Misterton a very good festive season and look supporting you in 2022.

Phil and the MERT members

Phil Clifton

MERT Coordinator

philclifton@hotmail.com

Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team

If an incident occurs in Misterton and you would like the assistance of the emergency and resilience team please call:

Iain Rowland on 01460 78951 or 07968 232998

Phil Clifton and Sally Gray on 01460 73815 or 07775 841204 philclifton@hotmail.com

Peter Meakins on 01460 74220

Pete and Jackson Marshall on 01460 73507 or 07909 967319 / 07980 768125

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— Stanley T. Client

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Letter from the Vicar

Keeping the rumour of God alive

Firstly, confession time, I am not Jonathan's replacement, and I also have to confess to not living in Misterton, but it is only half a mile from my house to the village, so I hope you will forgive me.

I would just like to briefly introduce myself. My name is Anne Charlton I am a priest who retired from full time ministry a few years ago, and moved to Crewkerne during 2021. I am engaged to Rob and we hope to marry in Misterton in July next year.

I am very happy to be helping out with church services, and any pastoral care needs until the new Rector comes to Crewkerne in January, and will continue to do so after that if he wishes.

Jonathan in his letter last month talked about a priest's main work being 'to keep the rumour of God alive' and I will endeavour to do just that.

To me God *is* love *is* community, and at Christmas this plays out more perhaps than any other time of year. I wonder what Christmas would look like if *presence* became more important than *presents* this year?

As we welcome the innocent babe born not in a castle or palace but in a dirty smelly stable, let's not worry about the beauty of our Christmas table decorations, or the size of the turkey, but think about those angels in our lives to whom we owe so much.

Angels appear en masse in December – on Christmas cards, on Christmas trees, and in decorations both at home and around the towns. An angel proclaims the coming of John the Baptist to Zechariah as he serves in the temple. An angel makes the announcement (The Annunciation) to Mary that she is with child. An angel appears in one of Joseph's dreams to tell him that he should marry Mary, despite the fact that she is already pregnant. Angels praising God give the message to the shepherds that they should go to Bethlehem to see the new born king. Another angel tells Joseph to leave Bethlehem and to take the family into Egypt – and finally an angel appears to the Holy Family on Herod's death to tell them it is safe to return to Israel.

The word 'angel' comes from the Greek word 'angelos' meaning messenger. An angel is one who conveys a message, particularly a divine message. At this time of year the message is clear – God is sending the Christ Child to give us hope in a world of darkness. The message is of God's immense love and desire for our well-being. To me God *is* love, and that *is* the Christmas message.

Angels – messengers from the Kingdom of God. Of course, many come into our lives the most unexpected forms, rarely as pretty child with a tinsel halo dressed all in white, often as a most unexpected person.

Messages come in all forms – little nuggets of wisdom dropped, seemingly casually, which (if we are attentive to the messenger) can either explode, or gradually grow with such significance that our lives can be transformed.

After the last two years, many of us feel the need to take stock, to think again about what is important in our lives, and as Christmas approaches, let us just listen out for the angels around us, and if we can, spend time with them this Christmastide, and thank them for their guidance and protection.

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas,

Rev Anne Charlton



**Wulfric
Benefice**

The Church of St Leonard, Misterton

Vicar: Rev Anne Charlton

Churchwarden: Rob Jeffreys 01460 279827

Church services December 2021

Sunday 5th December 2021: Advent 2

United Service - Wayford: 10:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Fr G Reilly

United Service - Hewish: 11:45am Holy Communion (BCP) Fr G Reilly

Sunday 12th December 2021: Advent 3

Misterton: 11:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Rev A Charlton

Sunday 19th December 2021: Advent 4

Misterton: 6:00pm Carol Service

The collection at this service will be donated to CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS to benefit the homeless

Friday 24th December 2021: Christmas Eve

Haselbury: 11:15pm Midnight Mass Rev A Daynes

Saturday 25th December 2021: Christmas Day

Misterton: 9:30am Holy Communion (CW) Rev A Charlton

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December 12th	Flower Guild?	-	Mrs L Boalch
December 19th	Flower Guild	Mrs J Jeffreys	-
December 26th	-	-	Mrs M Albert

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Christmas Arrangements



Misterton Flower Guild will again be making and selling festive door hangings £9.00, table centre arrangements with candle £6.00 and memorial arrangements £7.00.

To order please call Sue on 01460 78430, Christine on 01460 76824 or Cheryl on 01460 75025.

All orders to be collected by Monday 13th December.

All proceeds go to Misterton Flower Guild and we hope to have our postponed Flower Festival in August 2022.

Sue Coquet



Somerset Bus Partnership

Somerset Bus Partnership was set up so that the voices of bus users from across Somerset are heard. We now have over 80 bus representatives from all parts of the county who ensure we understand and reflect the needs of towns and parishes across the county. We still need some more representatives. Could you be your parish bus representative? Check if your parish still needs a representative: <https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/representative>

We are also looking for support with the Somerset Bus Partnership's core team. Have you had management experience of the bus industry or in a transport department within a council? Please do get in touch if you have.

Somerset is now entering into an Enhanced Partnership with local bus service operators to implement the Somerset Bus Service Improvement Plan. Somerset Bus Partnership has been invited to attend the launch of the Bus Advisory Board in late November. This is Somerset's first step in establishing a partnership arrangement with local bus companies.

Somerset Bus Partnership will continue to work with bus users and will hold Somerset County Council to the ambitious and worthy goals now espoused in the Somerset Bus Improvement Plan.

If you would like to get in contact with us drop us an email: somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook or via our website: <https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk>.

Tony Reese

Co Chair – Somerset Bus Partnership



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Misterton Church of England First School

Farewell Reverend Morris!



On Wednesday 10th November we invited Reverend Morris into Misterton School, with an ulterior motive. We enjoy Reverend Morris' collective worships but this week the worship focus was all about him! When we had found out he was retiring the children wanted to do something special for him to say goodbye and thank you. The children chose to begin with a wonderful song; 'Rich in Kindness'. This they felt was an attribute of Reverend Morris. During the celebration, the children reminisced and shared their favourite memories:

Marlie - I remember when he was telling the story of David and Goliath he was adding every detail. He kept me interested.

Genevieve - He tells us useful collective worships so we know the stories that Jesus told.

Finely - He takes his time to read so he can include lots of detail. I feel like I am in the story when he is telling the story.

Summer - I liked it when he told us the Creation story of Adam and Eve.

Matthew – I remember when he told us the story of the feeding of the 5000, we liked the saying 'Take what you need and pass it on'.

Sky – I remember when he was doing a worship and he started to juggle right in the middle of it!

The children presented Reverend Morris with some special gifts which they had worked together to make. To end our assembly we sang 'Moving On' This song makes us feel a little sad when we sing it but we know Reverend Morris will never forget the wonderful children of Misterton School as he moves on.

Nicola Ball





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Christmas around the world

Let's face it, apart from exchanging ill-chosen presents, families getting together with a view to eating far too much and becoming the worse for drink, Christmas in foreign countries tends to differ in many respects from ours in England.

For instance, their celebrations often ignore the 25th of December. Christian Orthodox churches in Greece, Russia and Ethiopia still use the Julian calendar by which Christmas Day falls as late as the 7th of January. Some countries have the festivities on the Sunday preceding New Year's Day, others on New Year's Day itself, or even New Year's Eve.

Nor is everything cheery. Norwegians cling to the belief that Christmas Eve heralds the arrival of evil spirits, in particular witches. Accordingly, householders hide all their brooms before going to bed to deter the witches from flying about on them. Families in Denmark leave out a bowl of sweet porridge for the Christmas gnome who will make their lives difficult if they don't. Santa Claus in Austria, Croatia and Germany is attended by horned monsters dressed in rags who will punish naughty children by hauling them off to hell. A similar version, but rather less drastic, occurs in France where Santa's companion, Father Spunker, is on the lookout for badly behaved children.

While we English generally have turkey or the roast beef of Old England for our main Christmas Day meal, other nations favour something different. In Cuba, where Christmas was officially banned from 1969 to 1998, families have roast pork followed by rice pudding. In Greenland they claim to enjoy a festive meal of whale skin with a small helping of blubber. Ethiopians feast on a thick, spicy stew, whereas South African children are treated to plates of delicious fried caterpillars. In Portugal it's poached cod for everyone. Estonians dine on blood sausage and sauerkraut, while Hungarians prefer fish and stuffed cabbage. The Czechs, who eat fried carp with potato salad, have an encouraging folk-belief stating that anyone leaving the table before the end of the Christmas meal will die within a year. One can imagine hearing the words 'You'd better pop upstairs to the loo now, Granny, before we start to eat.'

Angolans favour a wholesome repast of grilled fish accompanied by stewed palm-oil beans – whatever they may be or taste like. On Christmas Eve, Russians set out a dish of porridge in a single bowl to symbolise unity. They are not noted for their buoyant sense of humour but manage to have their dour version of fun by flicking the porridge up at the ceiling. If it sticks there it guarantees good luck. Their main meal, though, is typically chicken and potatoes. Australians who live near the coast and have survived a festive dip in the shark-infested sea favour barbeques on the beach under the hot summer sun. Japanese folk like to eat fried chicken, which has been supplied by KFC in recent years. A more thoughtful tradition in Portugal and Lithuania is the setting out of extra places around the table for deceased relatives.

Care needs to be taken when choosing Christmas presents in Iceland. The Yule Cat, seemingly as big as a house, will eat anybody who fails to receive gifts of new clothes. Books are a good choice too. Families exchange brand new ones on Christmas Eve and then spend the evening reading them. Sounds fun, doesn't it?



Another custom in Europe that English children would hate involves leaving shoes on the hearth for Santa Claus to fill with sweets when he comes down the chimney. Again, you might expect to hear a child saying, 'I've eaten the sweets, Mum. So where's that tricycle you promised Santa would bring me?'

There are so many foreign customs that would not suit the English. For instance, in Caracas, the capital city of Venezuela, it is traditional to travel to Christmas church services on roller skates. German parents hide a pickle – why a pickle? – among the Christmas tree's branches for their children to find. In India, the Christmas tree is a banana or mango tree, and New Zealanders make do with a species of tree that has brightly coloured blossoms. In Ukraine, the Christmas trees are festooned with ornate cobwebs and sparkling spiders. How eagerly Ukrainian arachnophobes must look forward to their seasonal treat.

Still, it is a foreigner we have to thank for our custom of sending Christmas cards. Queen Victoria's German husband, Prince Albert, is credited with introducing them. And an Italian, St Francis of Assisi, popularised cribs in the 13th century. But it was an Englishman who invented Christmas crackers in the 1840s with help from Brock's Fireworks company.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas. Not 'Happy Holidays' as Americans are encouraged to say for fear of offending non-Christians whose religions also celebrate winter festivals. And certainly not 'Happy Winterval' as urged on Midlanders by Birmingham City Council here in England.

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14th December – Trinity Entertainers – Christmas Songs – Christmas Turkey Lunch

21st December – Christmas Party & Buffet

Saturday 11th December – CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT

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Proboscis Clubs provide regular gatherings for those retired or semi-retired business or professional people who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and with similar interests.

Crewkerne Proboscis Club organises meetings for lunch on the last Wednesday of each month. These are held at the **Windwhistle Inn** at 12.15 for 1.00pm. The 2 course meal currently costs £15 per head and is followed by an after lunch speaker on an interesting topic.

Each year special events are held to which our partners, as well as other guests, are invited – a Ladies Lunch in May, an Autumn Supper, a Christmas Lunch and a summer outing.

If you are a retired professional or business man living in the Crewkerne area, why not consider joining us? Contact David Bryant on 01460 74422

Christmas greetings from

Carol Walker



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Pam Glazier



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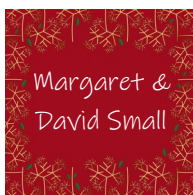
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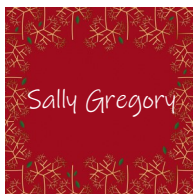
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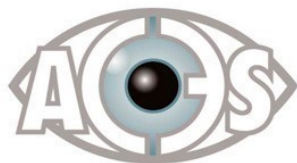
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Misterton tennis club



The Winter League has begun with a mixed team entering Division II. Hopefully, the kind autumn weather will continue and get the new fixtures off to a good start.

The Misterton Tennis Club Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening was held at Haselbury Mill this year. The event was well attended and all were welcomed by our chairman Bob Waterhouse. Members enjoyed a four course meal and were treated to entertainment of background jazz music from the guitar of men's captain Tim Bradley. Our thanks to Social Secretary Catherine Carins for organising such a splendid event.

Tennis Club Awards for the 2021 season were presented to:

Nick Watt - winner of the Mixed Singles Tournament

Heather Butt and Jane Thicknesse - winners of the Ladies Doubles Tournament

Steve Beach and Matt Sykes - winners of the Mens Doubles Tournament

Nick Watt and Jill Christison - winners of the Mixed Doubles Tournament

Thomas Mallett - Most Improved Junior

Steve Beach and Graham White - Club Members of the Year (without whose input and hard work, the club would not be as successful as it is today)

Dates for the future: Sunday 19th December – Chairman's Christmas Bash at the Club Session... so don't forget your mince pies with a warming game of tennis.

There will be NO Tennis Club Christmas Bingo this year for health and safety reasons.

Chris Ellis



Tennis club chairman Bob Waterhouse presenting trophies to (clockwise from top left):

Matt Sykes
Graham White
Heather Butt
Nick Watt



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This photo of the new bridge over the ford on Mill Lane being lowered into place was taken by Mark Field. We thought readers of the magazine might be interested to see it in action!

WELCOME INFORMATION LEAFLET for newcomers to the village - a useful leaflet telling you all you need to know about Misterton is available on our website at Misterton Parish Council; alternatively, if you would like a copy via email or a hard copy, please contact the Parish Clerk at mistertonpc@gmail.com. ***Village businesses who advertise in this leaflet should forward any amendments to the Parish Clerk.***

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Misterton Gardeners Association

It is the time of year when my children say to me “What do you want for Christmas Dad?” Well for us gardeners the answer is not too difficult. There are always pruners, shears, or other gardening odds-and-ends. And of course, there is always the good old-fashioned garden tokens. But can I suggest something different?

How about giving someone an annual subscription to the Misterton Gardening Club? Just contact me for a gift card for the 2022 year. It will cost £15 – and such a Christmas present will provide a lot of pleasure and items which will last throughout the year, not just for Christmas. We have eight gardening talks at the WI hall during the year together with our annual summer BBQ and autumn garden party. Even more. Members get discount vouchers for purchases at Castle Gardens Sherborne or Brimscombe Yeovil – these are particularly valuable for January and February purchases when they attract a 25% discount. Also, Misterton Gardening Club members get 10% off everything bought at Groves Nurseries Bridport at any time of the year.

People seem to like the photos of roses which I post here most month – so perhaps it is timely that I choose my Rose of the Year. So very difficult – as they all are at their best at certain times. I don’t usually go for bi-coloured roses, but one caught my eye at Forde Abbey a couple of years ago – and I managed to find it at Groves. It’s called Eyes For You and it is absolutely wonderful when out. So I have decided to give it my vote as my favourite for 2021. See what you think from the photograph below.

John Dyke

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Misterton WI

Sadly we lost one of our oldest members in November – 93 year old Pat Higdon, who passed away peacefully in Yeovil Hospital. No funeral details available at time of going to press. Pat had been a member of our WI for decades and, despite her frailty, she managed to come to some of our recent events with the aid of her carer, Pat West. We will all miss her.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have supported our events over the past year, all of which have helped to raise funds for the ongoing upkeep of our hall, now regularly used by village organisations and some further afield. We wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas during these continuing trying times.

Our next monthly meeting is on the 7 December at the usual time of 7:15pm. Twigs & Twine will be making a Christmas decoration to be raffled off. **Interested guests are welcome to join us** – no need to book, just come along at 7:30pm (after we have concluded the WI business!). We will be serving light refreshments (including alcohol!) and Anne Taylor's famous mince pies!! We are looking forward to a relaxed social evening with a festive feel. Members will also be exchanging Secret Santa gifts. The Christmas wrapping of said presents will form the basis of our December competition. Of interest, a quick look at our minutes from December 1921 tells me the competition then was 'The best article, the cost to be under 2/-'!! **Members please bring** your Christmas cards for distribution and any donations for the Christmas shoe boxes we prepare annually for the less fortunate.

Although our Xmas Fayre on the 20 November was not as well attended as usual, nevertheless we saw a few new faces at this regular annual event and it was lovely to see our oldest member, 93 year old Betty Symes, gracing us with her presence and looking as smart as ever!

Coffee Mornings/Carol Singing – due to the very uncertain climate vis-à-vis Covid and the weather, we have suspended our monthly coffee mornings until further notice, also our usual annual carol singing session.

Carol Walker

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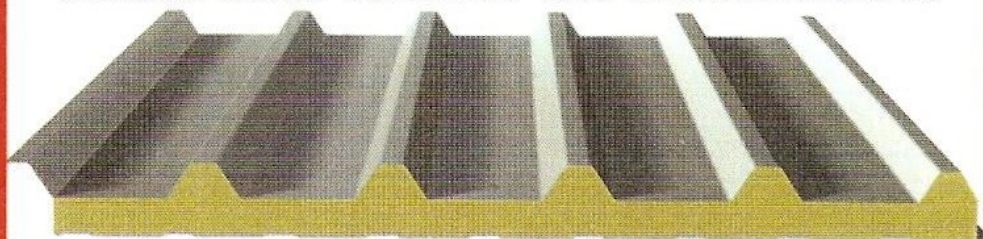
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Dates for your diary

December 2021



Tuesday December 7th	WI meeting	7:15pm	WI hall
Tuesday December 14th	Parish council meeting	6:30pm	WI hall
Monday January 10th	MERT defibrillator course	7pm	Village hall

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