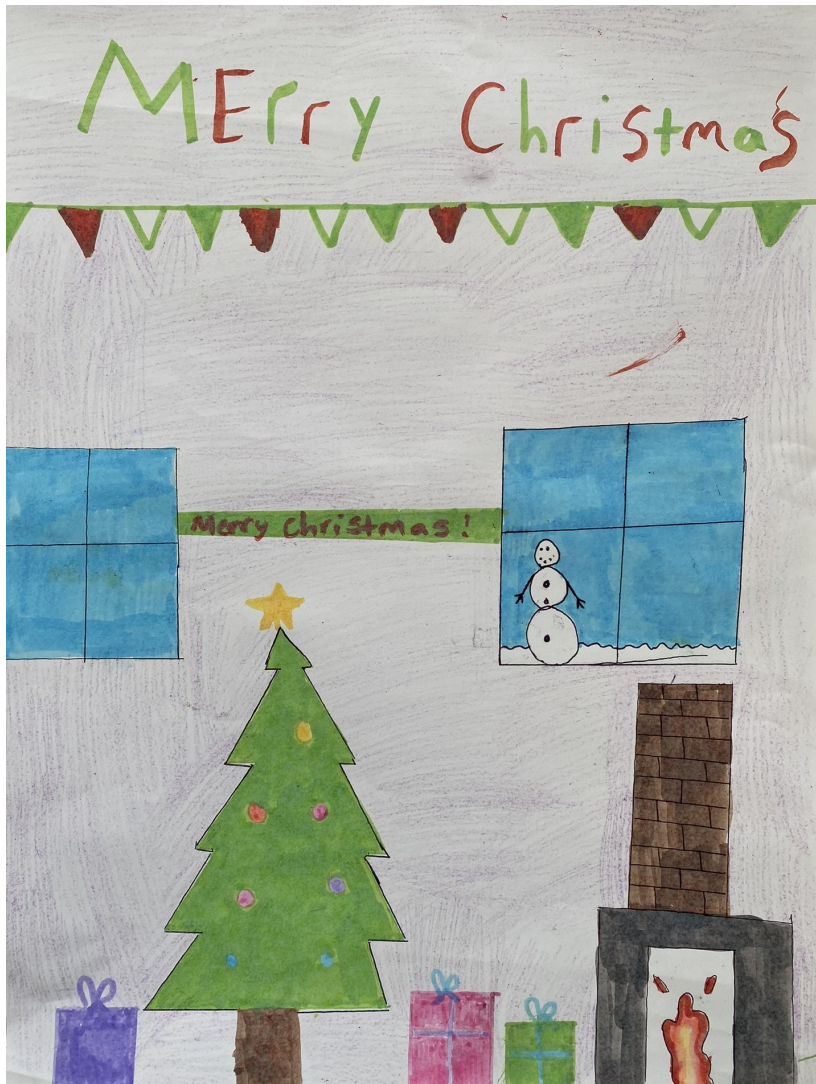


# Misterton

## Village Magazine



December 2023

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## Note from the editors

Our very jolly festive cover this month is by Deven Shurvinton so thank you to her for getting us firmly in the Christmas spirit! To continue with the seasonal theme, John Coquet has taken a look at the history of some Christmas customs and food, a subject close to our hearts at this time of year.

All that remains is for us 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 15th December.

Submissions for inclusion in the magazine please to [mistertonmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:mistertonmagazine@gmail.com) or through the letter box at Chestnut Lodge, Broughtons Drive.

## Magazine committee contact details

**Jacquie Lyus** Editor 01460 78526

**Sarah Watt** Editor 01460 351212

[mistertonmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:mistertonmagazine@gmail.com)

**Leo Bacigalupo** Treasurer and advertising 01460 354174 or 07973 797417

[mistertonmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:mistertonmagazine@gmail.com)

**Diana Dyke** Distribution 01460 77233

**John Coquet** Writer 01460 78430

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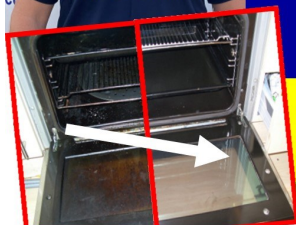
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## Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team

The anticipated autumnal rain arrived in abundance, as I am sure you are aware, creating a few issues for the village particularly as falling leaves added to challenges. After the downpours at the start of the month a group of volunteers spent time moving leaves and mud to help the drains work better, which just about managed. With floods heading towards the centre of the village sandbags were deployed to protect property and divert the water away from entrances to homes. Other flood defences were also issued to some of the community who were concerned about their homes.

The efforts from those who helped was much appreciated as was the generosity of Bradford Building Supplies who donated hessian sacks. Thanks to all who helped, and I would like to think that we have got past the worst but being realistic the winter has a long way to go. MERT and the parish council will continue to work on ways to reduce the impact of wet weather with direct action and by working with Somerset Council.

The other highlight was our latest litter pick on Saturday 18th November. We now have our own parish council litter picking kit which allows us to do small, effective clear ups when we want. Thanks to those who turned out on a damp morning to help the village look better.

*Phil Clifton*  
MERT member



### MERT Contact Details

If you would like our assistance please call:

**Iain Rowland** 01460 78951 or 07968 232998

**Phil Clifton and Sally Gray** 01460 73815 or 07775 841204 [philclifton@hotmail.com](mailto:philclifton@hotmail.com)

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

**Bob Taylor** 01460 271658 or 07931 657312

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In an emergency the first line of support should be via the Emergency Services on 999.



No matches have yet been played by our winter mixed team. The next event is the tennis club bingo night on Monday December 11th. Doors open at 6:30pm with eyes down at 7pm. Please contact Catherine Carins on 07940 521345 if you want to book a table. As regulars will tell you this is a great night with fabulous prizes.

*Bob Waterhouse*  
Chairman

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It is with greatest delight that I can report a change in circumstances for our clerk, Jane, which has led her to withdraw her resignation. I am now happy to recommend to the council that we push forward as fast as we can on issues that need resolution. I am mindful that 18 months ago the village possessed five notice boards for the display of relevant Parish Council rules and regulations but only two of them were equipped with information sheets and in one the paperwork quickly disappeared as it was eaten by slugs. Today all five have their correct data and I encourage you to read these as they spell out the legislation under which we must operate. Our monthly meeting agendas with subsequent minutes are displayed in the boards at Mallabones, Old Mill Estate and the corner of Silver Street and The Avenue. The bye laws for the recreation field are on the recreation field board and rules governing the operation of the cemetery and chapel are posted on the board at the cemetery entrance. Information is also carried on our website [mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk).

I trust that everyone is aware that the Parish Council share of your annual rate is far and away the smallest of your payments. The greater amount goes to Somerset Council, covering tasks previously undertaken by district and county and also separately the police cost. All involved should be well aware that at present many people are struggling to make ends meet. The unitary council is limited to 5% increase whereas for we parish councils the potential increase is limitless but that will not help our rate payers. At present the ruling county councillors are on the verge of bankruptcy and have asked parishes to fund some of the county council responsibilities. This can only be harmful for you the rate payers. Those who would replace county council once they become bankrupt are not restricted in the increase they can impose on your rates, and we cannot fund the responsibilities of county council without a further increase in our rates. A classic catch-22 caused by management failure. We are convening a separate meeting to investigate carefully what is at stake.

Extra benches and the table are ordered and hopefully they will soon be installed at the recreation field.

As I write this report, we are celebrating a second village clear up for the year and thanks go to all especially councillors White and Clifton. A full report is in the MERT section of this magazine.

Our meeting next month is on Tuesday 12th December and we take the opportunity to wish the whole village a happy Christmas.

*Paul Bradly*  
Chairman

**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](mailto:mistertonpc@gmail.com). ***Village businesses who advertise in this leaflet should forward any amendments to the parish clerk.***

## Chubbs (Crewkerne) Almshouses

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## Crewkerne Probud Club

Probud 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 Probud Club organises meetings for lunch on the last Wednesday of each month. These are held at the **Windwhistle Golf Club** at 12:15pm for 1:00pm. The two-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

## Misterton Gardeners Association

At this time of year your children (or maybe grandchildren) will ask “What do you want for Christmas?” For us gardeners there are plenty of choices from forks to flowers or plants to pots. But there is another possibility for Misterton residents. How about a subscription to the village Gardening Club? This costs just £15 for the whole of 2024 and for that you will enjoy six or more illustrated talks about garden topics and a summer garden party somewhere in Misterton. And on top of that you will receive vouchers entitling you to discounts at local garden centres. Foremost amongst these is a whopping 25% for purchases on almost all items at Brismore Yeovil or Castle Gardens Sherborne throughout January and February. Contact me before Christmas and I will print off a gift token.

Haven't the autumn colours been wonderful this year, both in Misterton and neighbouring villages. A couple of times we have done a little tour around our area just to spot the reds and yellows which early November brings. They are over now but I did come across a wonderful small tree in Susan's garden (see photo). It is named Cercis Forest Pansy and its ruby red leaves (which are with it for six months of the year) in autumn appear translucent and glow when planted in a position where it is backlit by the sun. Look out for it.



Finally, our warmest congratulations go to Heather Passmore, the winner of our 2023 Flower of the Month competition. Heather's prize is free admission to Misterton Gardeners Club next year. Very well done Heather and to everyone else who entered.

*John Dyke*

01460 77233

### Message of thanks

I'd like to thank you for all the cards and messages of support that I received after my husband Tony, passed away on October 19th; it was a great comfort. We have made so many friends and memories in our 29 years living in Misterton and I hope to remain here and value the support you have all shown.

*Christine Perrin*

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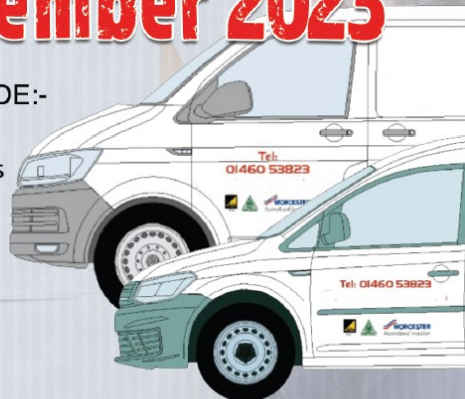
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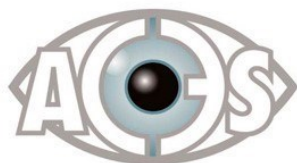


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## History of Christmas customs



The tradition of giving presents at what became Christmas dates from ancient times. Pagans in Europe and the Middle East exchanged presents at winter festivals. These festivals included Saturnalia, a raucous and old Roman event in honour of the God of

Agriculture. Revellers greeted one another with a joyful 'lo Saturnalia!', the Roman equivalent of 'Merry Christmas!' But it was only in the mid-19th century that Christmas presents became common in England. The first Christmas card was sent at about the same time.

Turkeys were first introduced from America in 1526 by William Strickland, a Yorkshireman. He managed to get hold of a few from American Indian traders on his travels, and sold the turkeys for two pence each in Bristol. He was so proud of his acquisitions that his family crest was altered to feature a large turkey. Naturally enough, English people thought for many years that turkeys came from Turkey. Whatever they thought, turkeys were only associated with Christmas fare in Victorian times when they gradually replaced goose and capon as the main ingredient of the Christmas meal. Henry VIII was the first English king to have eaten turkey.



Wartime food rationing in the Second World War affected everyone, especially housewives whose husbands were in the armed forces. Rationing lasted till 1954, nine years after the war ended, and the UK was the last country involved in the war to bring an end to rationing. Meat was the last item to be de-rationed. Incidentally, clothes were rationed in 1941 and soap was rationed in 1942.

Housewives (hardly any men knew how to cook in those days) were encouraged to make the best of food shortages. One of the Christmas dishes they were expected to create was something called murkey, otherwise known as mock turkey. The published list of ingredients consisted of a single onion, a single leek, three slices of bacon, a small parsnip, dried sage, a knob of lard and as much sausage meat as was available from the butcher. The instructions for making murkey were:

Fry the chopped onion and leek in the lard.

Mix the sausage meat with an equivalent volume of breadcrumbs.

Add the onion and leek.

Form everything into the shape of a turkey crown.

Parboil the parsnip for 10 minutes.

Cut it lengthways into two and place them in the position of real turkey drumsticks.

Cover the whole of the 'breast' with the bacon.



As for Brussel sprouts, they only became popular in the 1800s.

Mock goose included dried lentils, slices of bread, an onion, chopped sage, butter, chicken stock and lemon. Mock marzipan's ingredients were 4oz of flour, 4oz of sugar, 2oz margarine and 2 teaspoons of almond essence.



Christmas pudding originated in medieval England, though it only became associated with Christmas in the mid-16th century when the Puritans soon banned it as being wasteful and likely to encourage people to eat and drink to excess. In earlier years, Christmas pudding was called frumenty, a completely different pudding from what we eat now as it consisted of beef and mutton, raisins, prunes, spices, and wine. By the end of the century, it had gradually changed into plum pudding with eggs and breadcrumbs. Later recipes showed that there were thirteen ingredients to represent Jesus Christ and the

twelve disciples.

A Christmas pudding recipe published in 1944 included baking powder, grated nutmeg, cinnamon, mixed spices, suet, sugar, dried fruit, breadcrumbs, marmalade, reconstituted dried eggs and a quarter pint of milk.

Christmas cake was originally eaten on Twelfth Night. It started off as plum porridge enriched with butter, flour, eggs, dried fruits. Spices were also added to symbolize the gifts of the three wise men. The cake was decorated with marzipan and icing.

The singing of Christmas carols dates from the 4th and 5th centuries. 'Good King Wenceslas' was composed in the Victorian era as Queen Victoria herself wanted a happier, more upbeat song to sing at Christmas.



Pantomimes are a revival of ancient Roman comedies with slapstick humour and ridiculous jokes. And Christmas crackers were invented in the 1840s.

The hanging of mistletoe goes back to the time of the ancient Druids. It was supposed to bring good luck to the household and ward off evil spirits.



Boxing Day was traditionally a day off for the servants. As a present, they often received a special Christmas box - hence Boxing Day.

We wish all our fellow villagers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

*John Coquet*



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## Letter

**What is Advent all about?** Preparing for Christmas - Advent calendars, making the Christmas pudding and preparing to celebrate again the coming of Christ?

Well, that only scratches the surface...

Advent is certainly about preparation - for Christ to come again.

And we may prefer to think of Christmas - but we shouldn't. Christmas cheer, after all, won't take away the anguish of our world - but Christ promises that when he comes *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes"*. (Revelation 21:4 - NIV). Such is "heaven".

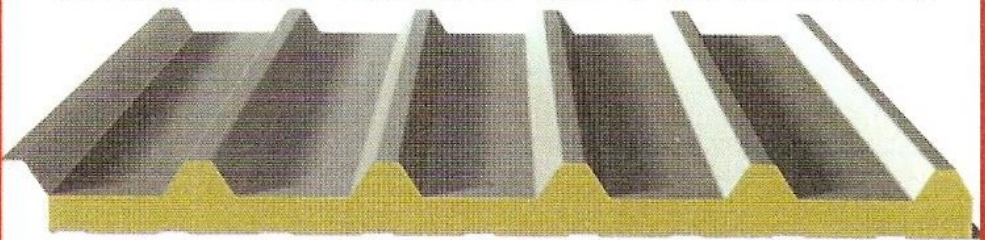
And of course - seeing that helps us celebrate Christmas properly.

If heaven is to be perfect, how can you and I be there - unless something happens to save us?! Well, remember the glad tidings - *"unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."* (Luke 2:10-11 - ESV).

With my prayers and best wishes this Advent

CJ Davis

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Rector: Rev CJ Davis, 07707 719137, [cjdavis.wulfric@gmail.com](mailto:cjdavis.wulfric@gmail.com)

### Church services December 2023

#### Sunday 3rd December 2023

Wayford: 9:30am HC

Hewish: 9:30am HC

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am HC

#### Sunday 10th December 2023

Misterton: 11am HC

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 8am HC

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 17th December 2023

Hewish: 11am HC

Wayford: 4pm Carol service

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 8am HC

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am Morning Prayer

Misterton: 4pm Carol Service

**Monday 18th December 2023** Hewish: 7pm Carols by Candlelight

#### Sunday 24th December 2023

Wayford: 11:30pm Midnight Communion

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am Morning Prayer

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 4pm Christingle

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11:30pm Midnight Mass

#### Christmas Day

Misterton: 9:30am HC

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am HC

**Sunday 31st December 2023** St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am HC Benefice Service

|               | Flowers               | Brass       | Cleaning     |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 10th December | -                     | Group clean | Mrs M Albert |
| 17th December | Flower Guild          | -           | -            |
| 24th December | Flower Guild to check | -           | -            |

*Please note these services do not now include Haselbury and North Perrott. Rob Jeffreys has very kindly agreed to pass on information on their services by request on [bobsbiking@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bobsbiking@hotmail.co.uk). For those interested:*

|               |         |                    |                      |
|---------------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|
| December 17th | 3pm     | A Carol Concert    | North Perrott Church |
| December 24th | 11:30pm | Midnight Communion | Haselbury            |

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## Misterton WI

During the past year Misterton WI have been busy in many ways; enjoying some superb speakers at our new meeting place, The Globe, in Misterton, educational outings, celebrating our 103rd Birthday and holding informal coffee mornings once a month.

Our coffee mornings give us the opportunity to meet and chat, usually enjoying some delicious home bakes, but we have also supported several causes recently. Through donations and collections, we have raised funds for:

The Halstock Hedgehog Rescue Centre

The Shoebox Appeal

The Somerset Federation HQ replacement car park fund

MacMillan coffee morning

And provided 22 hot water bottles with covers for the Hope Now Appeal for refugees in Ukraine.

Our December meeting on the 5th at the Globe at 7pm will be a social evening. There will be light snacks with mulled wine and cake. Ladies you are welcome at any of our meetings as guests or prospective members and we look forward to meeting some of you in the future.

Misterton WI will be hosting the WI group carol service on Monday 11th December at 2:30pm at St Leonard's and if you would like to join us, please come along to your local church.

*Susan May*

01460 73934

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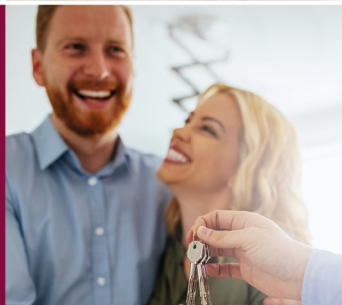
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## In this month...

Events in world history that happened in December.

- 3rd 1967: In South Africa the first successful heart transplant takes place
- 5th 1791: Composer Mozart dies a pauper aged 35 in Vienna
- 7th 1941: Pearl Harbor is attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft
- 13th 1642: New Zealand is discovered by Dutch navigator Abel Tasman
- 14th 1911: Norwegian Roald Amundsen is the first to reach the South Pole
- 15th 1995: Introduction of the Euro currency
- 21st 1879: Birth of Josef Stalin (born Iosif Vissarionivich Dzhugashvili)
- 23rd 1888: The painter, Vincent Van Gogh, cuts off his ear during a fit of depression
- 27th 1901: Birth of Marlene Dietrich
- 29th 1170: Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas A Beckett is killed by four knights in his cathedral

*John Coquet*

## Allotments

Some allotments have become available on the tunnel steps site.  
If interested, please contact Leo on 07973 797417 for details.



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## Dates for your diary

December 2023

|                               |                                  |        |              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| <b>WI meeting</b>             | Tuesday 5th December             | 7:00pm | The Globe    |
| <b>WI group carol service</b> | Monday 11th December             | 2:30pm | St Leonard's |
| <b>Christmas market</b>       | Saturday 16th December           |        | Village hall |
| <b>Christmas bingo</b>        | Every Monday until 18th December | 6:30pm | Village hall |
| <b>Parish council meeting</b> | Tuesday 12th December            | 6:30pm | Village hall |

**Christmas Market** at Misterton village hall on the 16th of December.

Santa will be there too, tickets are pre bookable (please contact Antoinette 07530 438340 if you wish to book a slot to see him). Refreshments available as well as some wonderful unique handmade crafts.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Christmas concert** of favourite seasonal music is being held on Sunday 17th December at 3pm in St Martin's Church, North Perrott with Roma Loukes soprano, Mikael Onelius tenor and Jonathan Delbridge piano and organ. Tickets £12, under 16's £6, to include tea and cake after the concert from G Hoskyns 01460 72883, J Falkiner 01460 76457 or the North Perrott Farm Shop. Proceeds to St Martin's Church funds.

**Misterton Flower Show returning Saturday 17th August 2024.  
More details to follow in future magazines.**

## Misterton Football Club

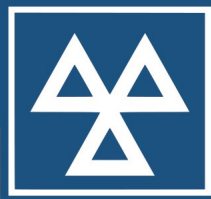


Misterton Football club would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas as we look forward to a good December where we hope to retain our position on top of the league The first team's only scheduled home game is Saturday 9th December at home to local rivals Halstock. Also in December the reserves host West & Middle Chinnock on the 2nd December and then a clash with South Petherton reserves on 16th December. As it is Decemvber these are 2pm kick offs. We are also hosting our annual Christmas bingo at Misterton villlage hall on Monday 18th December: eyes down 7:30pm.

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