

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

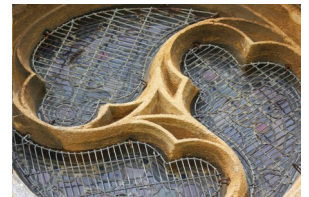
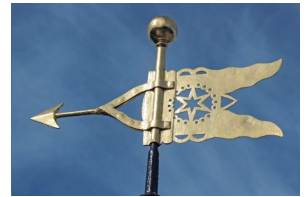
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September 2024

Church Conservation

Every five years each church in the Church of England is required to contract a surveyor to carry out a Quinquennial Survey (5 yearly). The survey identifies works required to conserve the fabric of the church and highlight anything which the surveyor thinks needs further investigation. All Saints Merriott received its last report in February 2022 and the Fabric Committee set out a plan to deal with the actions raised. As you would expect with a 13th century building there were many actions relating to stone conservation and preservation. The first step was to commission a stonemason's report for the majority of the outside of the church building and a steeplejack's report for the stonework on the top of the tower. We then needed to get quotes in for the work needing to be carried out. Once the PCC (the committee responsible for the day-to-day operations of the church) had approved the quotes we were able to go ahead and instruct contractors to start work. Given the need for good weather and the high demand for skilled stonemasons this has been no easy task.

- Dawsons Steeplejacks worked on the top of the tower to repoint the stonework on the vice turret (the bit on the side of the main tower which contains the spiral staircase), regilded the weather vane, and re-coated the supporting ironwork. It was only when the weathervane was inspected, it became evident that there was a vital piece missing. (It is thought this may have been the case since the 1990s). Dawsons created a replacement for the missing piece before regilding and putting it back in its rightful place to shine over the village for many years to come.
- Gales Building Conservation have been working on the main church building to carry out mortar repairs to the windows, walls and buttresses, apply delaminating preservation treatment to some of the stones in the walls and carrying out some repairs to the wire meshes that protect the windows.



In addition to this we have commissioned a report on the condition of the box tombs in the churchyard to check they are safe and to look at protecting these from any further deterioration. It is the responsibility of families and descendants to maintain the memorials (gravestones and tombs) of their relatives and ancestors, however the church does have a responsibility to ensure that the churchyard is a safe space. Geoff Gale, the stonemason, is still working to restore the outer eastern (right hand) side of the porch with pieces of hamstone where previous work had filled the holes with mortar. There is also some work to be completed to re-pin and restore a couple of the pillars on top of the vice turret before reinstating them which emerged during Dawsons' work.

Mark Bunting, Churchwarden, All Saints Merriott



It's here! Your essential guide to 2025

Following the successful introduction of the 2024 Merriott Messenger Calendar, the Editorial Team are delighted to announce a 2025 version. The new calendar is on sale from **Sunday 1st September** at Budgens, Merriott Service Station & Premier Shop and Q & Co Hairdressers. In addition, copies will be available at the Merriott Monthly Markets in September, October and November at Merriott Village Hall. The cost of the calendar is the same as last year and at £8 represents very good value for money. They make ideal Christmas gifts for friends and family.

Last year, we sold 200 calendars, so please purchase yours early to avoid disappointment as we received requests for calendars long after they were sold out. Proceeds from the calendar sales will go towards the costs of continuing a free Merriott Messenger publication for our local community.

BE SURE TO GET YOURS BEFORE THEY ALL GO

Merriott Messenger Information

Your editorial team: John Bowman 74077, Paula Bateman 07856 559502, Marion Biggs 74170, Peter Bryans 78182, Gemma Hughes 07929 740283, Eric Vose 351857, Dee Edwards and Dave Williams 76848

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The information and views in the Merriott Messenger are those provided by the named individual contributors and are not necessarily supported by the Editorial Team. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the information given is accurate, the Merriott Messenger cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Back issues of Merriott Messenger (February 2016 -August 2024) can be found on the Parish website: <https://merriottpc.org.uk/the-merriott-messenger>

Copy date for the October issue is **12th September**.

Wellness, longevity and self-care

Healthy eating and regular exercise certainly help you live longer and live well, but did you know that your attitude, beliefs, and daily thought patterns affect every cell in your body? More and more people are coming to my meditation classes or having a Reiki session because they are recognising that they are suffering with the effects of stress and want to take action to reduce the impact it is having on them. Our nervous systems have become overwhelmed with expectations, to do lists, the impact of the news and NHS struggles to name a few. It's hard to get away from negativity and the disease that is going on in the world now. Society seems to have normalised this level of stress but our bodies have not. The good news is we can actively soothe our nervous systems and take care of our mental health as part of our self-care programme and desire for wellness. Meditation and Reiki can help counter the effects that too much stress is having on our mental and physical health. You can include them as part of your wellness programme or part of your healing. We all need to experience deep relaxation, quiet and inner silence to restore, heal and replenish ourselves. I am a qualified meditation teacher and Reiki practitioner. I run weekly meditation classes, 1.1 sessions and various courses in Merriott, Crewkerne and Yeovil. I also practice Reiki. If you would like more information, please contact me on 07762314319 or suzy.langdon@hotmail.com FB SuzyLangdon Meditation and Reiki. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have. www.suzylangdon.uk

Suzy Langdon



MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL

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We are now taking bookings for weddings and parties and have some availability for regular hirers on weekdays.

More information is available at merriottvillagehall.org.uk or find us on Facebook.

To arrange a viewing or a booking contact Michelle on: merriottvillagehall@gmail.com or phone: (01460) 72508



Gardening quote of the month

"The earth is so rich in September. Apples and quinces fall from heavy branches. Cabbage, squash, broccoli, peppers, tomatoes ripen in every garden. White and blue grapes hang heavy clusters on the vines." from "Fall" by Gladys Taber

Sent in by Mo Frampton



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10.50am - 11.10am



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Desserts for a voluntary donation
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Under 16s free

Sat 21 Sep | 7.00 PM
Merriott Tithe Barn

Contact Mark Bunting Churchwarden for info/tickets
markjbunting@gmail.com / 07799 736857

16 Bells Choir Concert held in All Saints Church Merriott

The 16 Bells Choir gave their 8th Summer Concert in All Saints Church on Saturday July 20th. Under the direction of Rachel Pitman and with Choir accompanist, Emma Sale, the Choir sang a varied selection of songs to an appreciative audience who were able to join in the chorus of 'Donald Where's Your Troosers!' The hour-long concert was followed by tea and cakes in the Church which provided an opportunity for enjoyable conversation.

The Choir is 40 strong and is a friendly, non-auditioned enthusiastic group of people who love to get together to sing. They meet fortnightly during term time on a Wednesday evening in Merriott Church and sing at a variety of special services, concerts and occasions in the six churches of the Benefice. The Choir is always happy to welcome new people to its ranks. If you have any queries, please call the Rectors, Julia and Bob Hicks on 01460 76406

John Bowman



Merriott Village Hall



Broadway, Merriott, TA16 5QH

Sunday Market
By
Merriott Community Cafe & Crafts

Sunday 15th September
10am 2pm

**CAKES - BRIC-A-BRAC - BOOKS
GONKS - CRAFTS - GIFTS - CARDS**

SMELLIES RAFFLE JAMS

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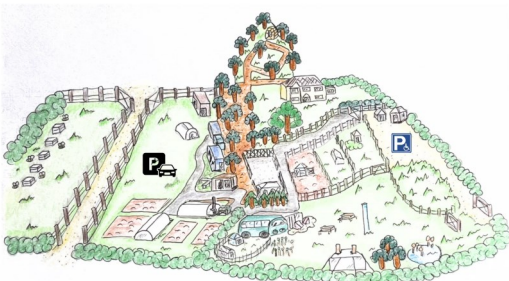
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ARK at Egwood
Changing lives within our community

OPEN DAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2024

Please join us for our Open Day, and support us in raising funds to help us continue providing support to individuals in the community.

Entertainment: including the return of the popular drummers 'Organic Rhythm' and the unmissable 'Cool Tones'!



Raffle prizes include: Two-day course at Lyme Regis Boat Building Academy, Ariel Atom experience, plus many more!

Plus: Stalls, beer tent, hog roast, homemade cakes, ARK honey and our own produce!

Gate Opens at 1030. Parking in the back field via Merriott Road
What3words:///impulsive.whispers.city

ARK at Egwood CIC, Merriott TA16 5QN



Merriott Heritage Trust

We have a great deal of material on local families. Are you related to any of the old village families? Lawrence - Templeman - French - Higgins - Mitchell and others.

Visit The Merriott Heritage Trust at 10 Lower Street to find out more. We are open on Thursday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00 Contact: merriott.heritage.trust@gmail.com

Marion Biggs



Find us on

Facebook

Merriott Social Venue - Run by the Community for the Community

Here at Merriott Social Venue we aim to provide a service for the community. Welcoming everyone to use our facilities, be it a weekly club, fitness group, quiet drink, sports match, free music events, bingos, indoor markets or other events. Please look out for more details in the Merriott Messenger on posters or on Facebook.

Looking for a space to hold an event, party, wedding, christening, or birthday? Our function room is the perfect home for any celebration, please don't hesitate to contact us for more details.



07471 593040
merriottsocialclub
@hotmail.com

Free wi-fi, child and dog friendly, great atmosphere, darts, pool and skittles team, fine ales, cheery staff, pay by card.

What's on weekly:

Monday - Rainbows & guides
Tuesday & Thursday - Karate
Wednesday - Cash Bingo & Ladies skittles
Friday - Men's Skittles

We will be open for all England football matches.

Current Opening Hours:

Tuesday—Saturday
7pm until late

We can open at other times for any bookings.

Merriott Social Venue News

Merriott Social Venue is fundraising to replace the floor under the bar area. We need to raise £4000. Please support us by coming to our events, donating on our justgiving page (see our Facebook page for more details) or via donation buckets on the bar. Local businesses can become a sponsor of the venue - please ask for more details. Big thanks to those who have already helped us raise over £1500 (as of 8/8/24).

September at the venue marks the return of the skittles, pool and darts leagues playing their autumn winter seasons. We wish all our teams good luck and look forward to hosting them and the away teams.

LIVE MUSIC ****THE GOODFELLAS *****

Saturday 21st September, 8.30pm.

We are very excited to have this band performing at the venue. Keyboard player Steve Walker has performed in two world tours with George Benson and Randy Crawford, whilst saxophonist Bob Corrick is an accomplished tour and session musician. They will be playing Ska - including Madness & The Specials, Reggae, Indie and much much more! One not to be missed, free entry.

Saturday 28th September - Cash prize Bingo. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm. Don't forget our Weekly Wednesday Cash Bingo in the front bar, eyes down 8pm, and Friday nights is free pool night.

If you are interested in any of the activities or events above, or wish to book our function room for a private party, please call in and see a member of staff, contact us on our Facebook page, email: merriottsocialclub@hotmail.com or phone 07471 593040.

Penny Gibbs, Secretary



Flower Power

In 2022 I moved into Merriott. We have been welcomed most heartily by neighbours and friends at the All Saints Church and made to feel very much at home here. So much so that I have offered to fill the spot of co-ordinator for the church flowers. There is a lovely atmosphere in our church, it's very much loved by those who know it. But, as with many other beautiful churches in this country, the congregations are smaller than in recent years and many of the people are elderly and not able to do tasks as they once did. Your church is in need of a few extra pairs of hands in several areas, but the Church Flowers are wilting for extra carers!



Since losing a daughter some 40 years ago, I have found pleasure in bringing the beauty of blooms into a church and arranging them to give thanks to the Lord for my loved one. I'd like to suggest to YOU, that you might like to remember someone in this way. All Saints Church would welcome your help (if you would like to try your hand at it) or perhaps you would like to donate flowers for a particular anniversary. If you grow flowers or foliage in your garden the church would appreciate donations which our regular volunteers could use or maybe you'd like to make a cash donation for All Saints Church to purchase flowers to decorate the church in memory of your loved one.

Ladies, gentlemen or children - please give this some thought for surely you would enjoy being able to express your love tangibly. Help is at hand if you're new to this; simple bunches or a more elaborate arrangement. You do not need to be a member of the congregation; All Saints is open to everyone. I would be pleased to hear your thoughts and suggestions on this; if you or someone you know might be interested or would like more information, please contact me by phone on 01460 72945, or email: daphne.carslake@gmail.com

Daphne Carslake

Merriott Social group for partially sighted people and carers

has recently been arranged through Somerset Sight, meeting monthly for coffee and cake, to socialise and chat about issues that might be of concern, to share ideas and problems. The Merriott Social group will next meet at the Feed Station, Church St, on the first Thursday of each month, at 2.00-3.30pm. For more information, please call Rob Wright 07771 643350,

September Church Services at All Saints Church

Sun 1 st	6.30pm Praise Service @ The Tithe Barn, Church Street. An informal, joyful, contemporary worship. (A delicious free supper will be served at 5.30pm)
Sun 8 th	10.30am Parish Communion (contemporary language with hymns)
Sun 15 th	10.30am Morning Prayer (a short non-communion service with hymns)
Sun 22 nd	9am Holy Communion (traditional language, no hymns)

Other Services

Sun 8 th	4pm Pet Service at Lopen Church. All pets and their carers welcome!
Sun 29 th	10.30am Benefice Communion @ St Martin's Church, North Perrott (Church Lane, North Perrott, TA18 7SJ)

Rev'd Bob Hicks



Avon and Somerset Police in Merriott

It is some years since the Messenger carried an article from the Avon and Somerset Police. Though there is no immediate cause for concern, the Messenger Team thought it important that if any resident wishes to discuss any matter informally with the police, they should be able to do so. On 1st September, from 10am to 11am, you will be able to meet the Area's Police Constable Support Officer, Caoimhe Hickey, in the Blake Room of Merriott Village Hall. She will also be there on September 29th from 10am to 11am. She will be happy to meet residents with any issues they may have, which concern the Police. This is a similar arrangement in which the PCSO is available to residents at local places in other parishes in the area.

For emergency issues please call 999, but for non-emergency issues call 101.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use the textphone service on 18001 101.

The Merriott Messenger Team



The Merriott Village Hall Committee are looking forward to welcoming you to another of our popular Quiz Nights on

Saturday 5th October

Tickets are £12.50 per person and include a delicious supper provided by staff and volunteers from ARK at Egwood.

Doors open at 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start. Proceeds will be going to the Merriott Messenger to assist with 2025 Calendar printing. Tickets available from Merriott Service Station, Q&Co Hairdressers and Budgens.

Please advise any dietary requirements to merriottvhsecretary@gmail.com

Natasha Rebbeck



Merriott Gardening Club

Merriott Garden Club welcomes James Cross, Head Gardener at The Bishop's Palace Wells for 20 years. He will be talking about the gardens "Past, Present and Future"

looking at the blank canvas that he started with in 2004 to the new exciting projects going forward. The garden consists of 14 acres and have been developed to contain a rich and diverse mix of picturesque, English garden style and contemporary plants that

complement the medieval backdrop of the palace and cathedral. Come along to the Tithe Barn Tuesday 24th September 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Guests £3 and as always, a raffle and refreshments are available.



Gillian Vines



Merriott Service Station
in association with



We would like to thank all our customers again for all the support over the last year.

We continue to keep the shop well stocked with a good choice including a vast range of price marked items to give our customers the best value. We continue with our special offer shelf. Don't forget to check out our local butcher's meat, delivered fresh daily from Barrett Bros; wide range of groceries, hot food, greetings cards, gifts and toys, ice creams, coal, logs, gas, BBQ items, car accessories, newspapers, stationery etc., Post Office services and, of course, our popular Costa Machine! We of course sell high quality Texaco fuels with all additives and cleaning agents necessary for modern low emissions engines, and Adblue for newer vehicles. We continue to sell the E5 grade for older vehicles also.

Best wishes
Phil and Michelle

Merriott Parish Council Meeting—12th August 2024

The published minutes of the meetings of the Merriott Parish Council (MPC) are the formal record of the proceedings. These minutes are available after meetings on the Council website and should always be referred to for the detail behind the discussions and decisions made at these meetings. To start the meeting, MPC was delighted to welcome Harriet Baggs as our new parish clerk. We all wish her well as she takes up her duties.

We are yet to receive confirmation from Somerset Council of the plans and dates for future maintenance visits at the Moorlands dam and its grille. It was also noted that several of the road-side gullies throughout the length of Church St have silted up and still need attention. MPC shall request Cllr Jo-Roundell Greene to follow up the need for these works with the relevant Somerset Council Teams such that the necessary works are completed before the wetter weather arrives. There were several new Planning Applications to consider. Relevant matters will be dealt with by the Listed Building process and Council resolved to offer no comment. Outline Planning Permission was granted to the proposed Scotts' development site at the Area Planning meeting on 22 July. The principle of building "something" on this site seems to have been approved primarily as housing quotas in Somerset have not yet been met. MPC representatives described the village concerns about traffic density in broad terms but the Highways report available to the Planning Officer carried no concerns at all.

After discussions directly with Highways following the meeting, MPC was invited to put our concerns to them (copy of communication to the Case Officer). Council approved sending this note, hopefully to make Highways at least sensitive to the need to make sure that the local road network will meet some set of accepted standards when supporting such a large increase in traffic movements from the current development sites in Merriott. Detailed management plans are being produced for the Clapperhay Meadow, Holwell LWS and the Heritage Orchard. These proposals, covering maintenance and the tree/hedging requirements shall be clarified and publicised in the Merriott Messenger shortly. It was also proposed that a Parish Volunteer Group is established to help MPC manage and maintain these Open Spaces effectively. If you would like to be involved in such a group please contact Harriet on clerk@merriottpc.org.uk. In the short term, the grass on the field will be cut, baled and removed.

Following the receipt of complaints of dog fouling on footways and footpaths, Council resolved to publicise these concerns in Merriott Messenger and to stress that it is a legal requirement for dog owners to clear up after their dogs. Prosecutions for offences in the village have been successful in the past. Please use poo bags and the poo bins for their intended purpose. If there are any suggestions for locations for new poo-bins, please contact Harriet on clerk@merriottpc.org.uk. MPC shall be holding an Open Forum session at the Merriott Cricket Pavilion (behind the village hall) on Saturday 14 September at 11:00 am. MPC invites Merriott residents to come and meet with Councillors, find out how the Council operates and to share concerns and ideas on how we can improve our village.

Merriott Parish Council

Merriott Camera Club

As part of the Village Hall Centenary Celebrations we will be holding a Photography & Heritage Exhibition on the 28th & 29th September, from 10am until 4pm each day.

We would like to invite everyone to come along and see our local talent and their work. Some Exhibitors will be selling their photographs on the day. There will also be a great display of historical information of the village hall and the village that will be provided by the Merriott Heritage Trust Group.



There is no charge for entry but any donations received will go towards village hall funds. Cakes & drinks will also be available to purchase.

For further information email:
MerriottVHevents@gmail.com or
Merriott_Camera_Club@yahoo.com
Or check out the event on the Merriott Village Hall Facebook page

Lola Dry

Planning Applications

3 Nut Tree Farm, Holly House, Lower Street

Non Material Amendment to approved applications 24/00776/HOU and 24/00777/LBC to include alterations to internal layout to avoid moving an existing roof light, an additional step to the external staircase, alterations to the proposed window in the South West elevation and the addition of a steel flue painted black.
24/01812/NMA. Status: Awaiting decision.



Bow Barn Farm to Balham Hill Farm Lane West Chinnock

The erection of permanent agricultural workers dwellings and associated landscaping 21/02831/FUL Status: Approved

43 Shiremoor Hill

Replacement of Listed Timber Windows 24/01438/LBC
Status: Awaiting decision.

For further information go to [Somerset.gov.uk](https://www.somerset.gov.uk) and "Search for a planning application"

Marion Biggs

Thank you to our sponsors for their support

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 Residential Care Home built by the community Orchard Vale, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0EX Tel 01460 52077 karen@vaughanleehouse.co.uk	Short Mat Bowls Club meets in Merriott Village Hall on Wednesdays 7pm to 9pm. We play all year round, in the warm and dry, and is suited to men and women, boys and girls of all ages. More information from 01308 862203 or 07956 598894. You will be made very welcome.	R. A. Wicks Ltd Fireplace Showroom, Flue Lining and Multi Fuel Stoves 01460 74612	Careford Lodge Residential Home Church Street Contact Laura on 01460 75592 carefordlodge@hotmail.co.uk	 Pet Shop dedicated to your best friend. 10 The George Shopping Centre, Crewkerne TA18 7LU 01460 77106 Info@mybestiepets.co.uk
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