Newsletter

Milcombe Newsletter will be produced each month and will be available from the New Road Shop only while Covid-19 restrictions remain in place

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the

December - January 21-22

Issue 77

Contributions, by email (Microsoft Word 2010 compatible), to be received by 18th of month prior to publication to milcombepc@gmail.com or

marlene.cowell@milcombe.com

All contributions are published 'as recieved' and do not necessarily represent the views of the Parish Council.

Dear Residents of Milcombe

As we watch the TV footage of civil disobedience in Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands against the re-imposition of Covid restrictions, we have to hope that the same will not happen here. It does seem clear that the greater willingness of UK citizens to take the vaccine, and the tremendous efforts of the NHS to administer it, has played a key part in keeping the number of hospitalisations within manageable proportions. I extend my sympathies to anyone who fell victim to this dreadful disease. While all of us rely on District Council services to some extent, dustbin emptying to give one example (and I should like to pay tribute to the crews for their herculean efforts through the lockdowns when the quantities of household waste increased significantly due to most of us relying on home deliveries), many will not have cause to contact the Council more than very occasionally. For those others who are in more regular contact, I hope that the service we provide to you (ranging from efficiently handling your initial phone call, or other means of contact, through to delivery of the service or response to your query) was as you would wish it to be. Certainly, the figures I see indicate that, while we could always do better, on the whole we are performing satisfactorily. If your personal experience is different please let me know and I will follow up on it.

Because Oxfordshire maintains a split-Council model, with both a County Council and a District Council, there is always some confusion about where the responsibilities of one Council ends and the other begins. Essentially, Cherwell District Council deals with planning matters, housing, dustbin emptying and licensing while Oxfordshire County Council deals with highways, transport and social care (both adults and children). If you have any concerns about where to direct your query please do not hesitate to contact me and, if need be, I can pass it on to your County Councillor (Cllr Kieron Mallon)

Like many small communities, residents of Milcombe may have concerns about what they perceive to be over-development. I am very alive to these concerns (living in a small village myself) and am constantly feeding these concerns to the Leadership of the Council. As I sit on the Planning Committee, I am well placed to comment, and vote, on individual applications which come before that committee and believe that I have a good track record of not supporting vast developments in inappropriate locations which would overwhelm their host communities. I have supported smaller developments which have, as their primary focus, the provision of housing for those who would otherwise have to leave their home-village. Of course, the District Council has to act in accordance with the legal position, as it applies to the whole of England, and thus we are bound, amongst other factors, by the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework which requires the District to keep available a 5-year Housing Land Supply. The calculations to determine how much land-supply we have is extremely complicated (one of the variables taken into account is the speed with which development progresses once permission has been granted, which is clearly outside the Council's control) but at the moment Cherwell maintains 4.7 years. The main reason that it is important to achieve the 5-years is that this gives us some bulwark against speculative developments which are much harder to resist if we don't maintain the requisite number of years. Cherwell is striving to get back to the 5-years. You may also be aware of recent consultations which have taken place with regard the new Cherwell Plan 2040 and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. Between them, these two plans will have a profound effect on land usage in our District and I would urge all residents to engage with them.

Residents who travel to Banbury may have noticed that the Castle Quay development progresses at pace. The new Lidl supermarket has now opened and the new Light Cinema complex will be opening sometime before Easter next year. This exciting development will contain a 55,000 square foot entertainment space over three floors, which will include a premium cinema, 10 lanes of bowling, a retro arcade, mini golf, as well as a terrace restaurant and bar. Many wondered about the wisdom of Cherwell District Council's decision, in December 2017, to purchase the outstanding 85% which it did not own of the Castle Quay Shopping Centre. I supported, and voted for, it. This project was never conceived as a purely commercial transaction but, with the previous owners looking to sell their stake, it provided an opportunity for the District Council to take full control of the regeneration of Banbury Town Centre of which the new Castle Quay Waterfront development is but a part.

There are many other topics I could touch on but it might be easier if you were to contact me on any subject of concern to you (or to praise some aspect of the Council, its employees or its work). One of the main duties of a District Councillor is to be available to their constituents to help in any way (or, if it is outside our area of competence, to direct the concern to the right destination). I look forward to hearing from you - the easiest way to contact me is via e-mail at hugo.brown@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

In the meantime, it gives me great pleasure to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Clir. Hugo Brown Ward Councillor for Deddington, Cherwell District Council



THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE

THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE IS NOW OPEN DRUING TERM TIME

THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE – PLAY AND LEARN AT THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE, Bloxham Primary School, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.30-11.00am (term time only).



THE HORSE & GROOM PUB AND KITCHEN

CHECK THE WEBSITE OR PHONE FOR DETAILS OF THEIR CHRISTMAS MENUS AND OPENINGS

horseandgroominn.co.uk

Email: horseandgroominn@ gmail.com

Tel: 01295 722142

FREE Adverts for local business





Milcombe Parish Council

www.milcombepc.co.uk

Follow Milcombe Parish Council on Facebook NOvember 2nd 2021



Parish Council Precept 2022/2023 – The Parish Council increased the Precept (the funds it receives from Cherwell District Council to provide services such as grass cutting, maintaining street furniture, providing and maintaining the play area etc) from £13,500 to £14,000 for 2022/2023.

Milcombe Newsletter – Thanks were passed to Mark Boardman for continuing to print the MNL on behalf of the village. The December 2021 and January 2022 edition would be combined.

Play Equipment – The installation of the new equipment is taking place during November 2021 and the play area will be closed for the whole of the month. Please do not enter the play area whilst the works are being carried out

Remembrance Day - Councillors Myra Peters and Nigel Davis would lay wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day services in Bloxham and Milcombe on Sunday 14 November 2021.

The Choir of Exeter College, Oxford – The Choir will be at St Mary's Church, Bloxham on Saturday 4 December 2021 at 7.30pm.

Christmas Party 2021 - The children's Christmas party is being held in the Village Hall on Saturday, December 4th from 4pm to 6pm organised by the Hall committee. Numbers are restricted to children living in the village. Details will be advertised on the Milcombe community page.

Wheelie Bins – Residents are kindly requested not to block the footpaths with their wheelie bins, where possible. If they could also be collected back in as soon as they had been emptied, this would avoid the footpaths being blocked for those pedestrians with pushchairs or wheelchair users.

Snow Warden/Grit Bins – If anyone in the village would like or care to volunteer to be a Snow Warden to help clear the footpaths in adverse weather conditions, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council. Grit bins are all full and grit may be used on slippery public footpaths and roads only. It should not be used for private property use.

Hedges – **Hedges** on New Road and on the way to Rye Hill Golf Course had been reported to the County Council because they needed cutting back.

Highways – Repairs which were required to potholes should be reported to the County Council's Fix My Street web site. https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ New road markings had been painted on the road by the junction at the Horse and Groom.

Oxfordshire 2050 – The Parish Council had submitted a response to the County Council's consultation.

Planning – The Parish Council had no objections to the following planning application:

21/03221/NMA Land North of The Green and adj To, Oak Farm Drive, Milcombe Non-material amendment to 19/00046/ REM - Amendments to Condition 2 to allow alternative materials

The Parish Council had made observations to the following planning applications: 21/02974/F 6 Dovecote Close, Milcombe

Two storey rear extension with first floor balcony

20/03609/F Land North of The Green and adj To, Oak Farm Drive, Milcombe Application for an additional four dwellings to be reviewed in conjunction with previous planning approval 19/00046/REM approved 22nd January 2020.

Local Plan – The deadline for making comments on the Local Plan is 10 November 2021. Please visit the PC web site for more details and the impact on Milcombe. https://www.milcombepc.co.uk/news-story.php?newsid=41

Trees/Bushes/Hedges - Residents were reminded that trees/bushes/hedges should not be causing an obstruction because they were overhanging a boundary onto a footpath or road. If an obstruction was occurring in the village, it should be reported to https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/

Dog Waste Bin – A new dog waste bin would be installed at The Green and the current bin would be moved to the entrance of Dovecote Close.

Oxfordshire County Council Highway Initiatives – Applications will be made to the County Council for a 7.5 ton weight limit and a 20mph speed limit on New Road and the surrounding roads.

Civil Parking Enforcement – Oxfordshire County Council is providing Civil Parking Enforcement Officers in the Cherwell area and it is hoped that they will monitor Milcombe for illegal parking.

Community Emergency Plan – The County Council had been advised that the Village Hall and St Laurence Church could be used as emergency centres, if should they be required.

Adverse Weather:

Oxfordshire County Council works closely with all its partners to monitor the weather and as a reminder there are some numbers that you can call to report weather related issues if you become aware of them:

- To report fallen trees or other debris which pose a risk to your safety or the safety of others, please call 999
- To report fallen trees or other debris which doesn't pose such a high risk but still needs to be dealt with, please call 101
- If you lose power or can see that a power line has come down please report it by calling 105
- If you are concerned about flooding, you should visit the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit online https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.

com – and I will summarise the key numbers to call below:

- If you have a flooding emergency which is a threat to someone's life, contact Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service on 999
- To report flooding relating to a highway such as blocked ditches, blocked drains or flooding on a road call Oxfordshire County Council Floodline on 0345 310 1111
- To report flooding from a main river contact the Environment Agency through the Floodline (Tel: 0345 988 1188 or 0800 80 70 60) or visit their website
- If your property is at immediate risk of surface water flooding please contact Thames Valley Police on 101

Planning applications and comments could be viewed on Cherwell District Council's web site at:

https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/115/planning/443/see-or-comment-on-a-planning-application23as

Meeting Dates – It was hoped that all future meetings, starting at 8.00pm would be held in person and not on Zoom. However please check the agendas on the Parish Council web site the week prior to the meeting.

Tuesday 4 January 2022 Tuesday 1 March 2022 All welcome to attend!

Agendas and minutes are available on www. milcombe.com or please contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, at milcombepc@gmail.com or ring 01295 710965 during normal office hours.

Reminders:

Roads (including potholes)/footpaths/street lighting/overhanging trees/hedges: Report to Oxfordshire County Council https://fix-mystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/

Faulty Street Lights: Report on freephone 0800 317802 giving exact destination and pole number if possible.

Dog Bags: These are currently available from New Road Stores and in the Church porch. Due to cutbacks in CDC's budget, they will no longer be supplied when present stocks run out. It is still necessary for you to clean up after your dog - it is an offence not to.

Électricity: SSE 0800 294 3259 or text phone 0800 316 5457, UK Power Networks – 0800 169 9970, Western Power Distribution – 0800 096 3080

Water: Thames Water 0800 009 3652 or text phone 0800 316 6899, Anglian Water 03457 91 91 55

Power failure: If there's a power cut call the free number 105 to check what's happening with your local provider

Milcombe Parish Council wish residents a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY

NEW YEAR



MILCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

villagehallmilcombe@outlook.com

MILCOMBE VILLAGE HALL IS OPEN FOR BOOKINGS. Please contact Amy Jackson, the Bookings Clerk, on villagehallmilcombe@outlook. com. Hirers of the Hall still need to be cautious. Hand sanitiser, cleaning wipes and paper towels are provided in the foyer. Where possible, please continue to observe social distancing.

A Smartmeter has now been fitted and is in working order. Hirers will have noticed problems with paint peeling on the ceiling at the stage end of the Hall which is thought to be due to it being closed for such a long period. The Committee will consider the problem at the next Committee meeting.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE HALL ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th FROM 4.00-6.00pm WITH SANTA PAYING A VISIT.

Please note that due to restrictions on numbers, it is only possible to accommodate children living in the village. There are already posters around the village and details on Milcombe Community fb. Please contact Amy Jackson on the above email.



What's coming up later this winter?

As we approach the end of the year, we're sharing some updates, ideas, and events for the festive season. We couldn't continue to support our wonderful community without the help of people like you. Thank you!

The gift that keeps on giving

If you're after a great idea for Christmas pressies, then we think our A4 Charity Calendar for 2022 makes a great gift. The calendar features 12 stunning local scenes - taken by talented members of Banbury Camera Club and helps to raise vital funds for our hospice. You can pick up your calendars as well as our fantastic range of Christmas cards in one of our shops or find them in the Christmas Shop on our website.

RC Baker Christmas Tractor Run - 18 December

Once again, RC Baker will be bringing the X factor to tractors this Christmas. The hugely popular Tractor Run is making a welcome return, bringing all the glitz and glam of the festive season. On Saturday 18 December, a fleet of fairy-lit tractors will be taking a tour around local villages to spread some Christmas cheer and raise money for Katharine House Hospice. To help plan your evening, you can find all the details as well as the route and timings on our website.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree...

There's nothing like the smell of a real Christmas tree to get you feeling festive. And this year, instead of worrying about how to environmentally dispose of your tree after all the festivities are over, you can make a donation to Katharine House Hospice and, in return, we will send one of our elves to pick up

your tree to be recycled. Interested? Head to our website to find out more and check if your postcode is included in the scheme.

Could you be a Village Champion for **Katharine House?**

We're looking for volunteers to help put up posters three or four times a year in their local village to help us spread the word about our upcoming events. We already have some brilliant Village Champions, but we're looking to recruit more. If you think you could help, then we'd love to hear from you. Send an email to GetInvolved@khh.org.uk or find out more on our website.

Bereavement support

Coping with the loss of someone special is difficult and can be painful. We offer support and counselling to the family and friends of those cared for by Katharine House Hospice. But we're also here to help anyone in the wider community who is adjusting to a bereavement. If you think that talking to someone would help, or you just want to find out how we can help support you, please get in touch with Mel Mobley, Bereavement and Counselling Lead, on 01295 811866 or email khhbereavement@ouh.nhs.uk.

Digital monthly newsletter - keep up to date with your hospice

Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice.

Find out more

Head to our website to find out more about all these events and news: www.khh.org.uk.



FREE Adverts for local business

For over 19 years Barking Mad dog boarding has offered a bespoke, 5-Star Trustpilot rated alternative to kennels for your waggy-tailed one. If you would like to learn



Happy Dog. Happy Holiday. Happy You.

more about our local 1 to 1 home boarding service call Andrea and David on 01295 477295 or email cawleys@ barkingmad.uk.com. You can also learn more at

www.barkingmad.uk.com/ local/oxfordshire/banbury/



FREE Adverts for local business



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- Repairs
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 Fuseboard replacements
 Free lighting design
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 Repairs
 PAT testing

- 07738 164551 nnes@garrenelectricalservices.co.uk v.garrettelectricalservices.co.uk

01295 721854

FREE Adverts for local business

MILCOMBE, BANBURY

FOR ALL YOUR DOMESTIC PLUMBING FULLY QUALIFIED ENGINEER

T: 01295 368150 M: 0742 5982855 E-mail:info@pltplumbing.co.uk

TEA AND TOAST

TEA AND TOAST HAS NOW OPENED UP IN THE PARISH ROOMS ON FRIDAY MORNINGS.

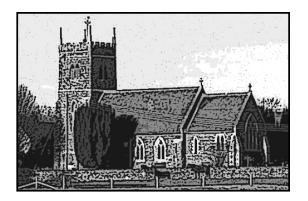
> Please contact Jan Ogilvy 720054 for details

FREE Adverts for local business



Hammer and tongs Farrier Professional and reliable Please contact Hannes on

07377 405626 hammertongsfarriers@gmail.com



CHURCH NOTES SERVICES IN ST.

LAURENCE'S CHURCH

these vary between 8.00am and 11.15am.

DIARY OF SERVICES AND EVENTS:

BLOXHAM CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH FROM DECEMBER 3rd – 5th

FESTIVAL CONCERT at 7.30pm BY THE CHOIR OF EXETER COLLEGE, OXFORD, ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th

PLEASE SEE POSTERS AND THE WEEKLY SHEET or contact lan Myson ian_myson@hotmail.com

LIGHTING OF THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th. This may be held prior to the children's Christmas party in the Hall or at 6.00pm afterwards. PLEASE SEE NOTICES FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th (Advent 2) HOLY COMMUNION AT 11.15am. (There will be a PCC meeting in the afternoon)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12th (Advent 3) HOLY COMMUNION AT 11.15am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19th (Advent 4) **CHRISTINGLE AND CRIB SERVICE** at 3.00pm. (No Morning Service) If you are able to help make up bags of Christingles for the children to make up their Christingle oranges, please let Marlene know 720750

CHRISTMAS DECORATING – We would like all flower arrangers to do their Christmas arrangements prior to the Christingle. (December 17th/18th) If you are unable to do your usual arrangements, please let Marlene know.

ST. MARY'S WILL BE HOLDING A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS at 6.00pm on DECEMBER 19TH.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25th – CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION at 10.00am with well known Carols.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26th – The day after Christmas – ALL AGE WORSHIP at 11.15am

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2nd (Christmas 2) - A SHORT CAROL SERVICE OF SIX LESSONS AND CAROLS. (This will be a joint Service with SN in St. Laurence's at 11.15am)

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE ABOVE DATES IN YOUR DIARY. JANUARY 2022 SERVICES WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE NOTICEBOARD.

Please continue to wear a mask in Church and use the hand sanitiser provided. We still need to be aware of extremely vulnerable people who may be in the congregation and who still need to take precautions.

The Church is open between 10.00am and 4.00pm each day and you are very welcome to come into the Church for quiet prayer and reflection.

The electrical testing has been put back to the end of January. The electricity may be off periodically during the testing.

PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR WASTE IN THE CORRECT BINS – All green waste from graves (such as dead flowers) goes in the brown bin. No plastic in the brown bins and no cellophane from shop bunches to be put in the blue bin. This goes in the green bin

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS AND CARTRIDGES which Tony and Joan Stickings take to the Redwing Horse Sanctuary near Stratford. These can be left on the table

just inside the Church. Don't forget to remove the stamps from your Christmas card envelopes.

Contact details for St. Laurence's Church are Rev. Dale Gingrich 01295 720750 or email office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk. The Churchwardens are Michael Haynes hynmicha6@aol.com and Suzette Watson churchwardenmilcombe@gmail.com.

THE VICAR AND MEMBERS OF ST. LAURENCE'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL WISH ALL PARISHIONERS A PEACEFUL AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

DOG BAGS – INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL THAT FREE DOG FOULING BAGS WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE. Unfortunately, due to current budget cuts, they are unable to justify the expenditure. Although this must be a very small portion of their budget, it is felt that there are ways of getting around the problem. Maybe selling them to Parish Councils who can then hand them out to residents. Marlene Cowell and Myra Peters have both emailed CDC with this suggestion but, to date, there has been no response. We feel that this could well increase the amount of dog fouling. PLEASE TAKE A BAG WITH YOU WHEN WALKING YOUR DOG AS YOU WILL STILL BE LIABLE FOR A PENALTY IF CAUGHT ALLOWING YOUR DOG TO FOUL PUBLIC HIGHWAYS AND PRIVATE FIELDS.

CHEQUER TREE FARM PLANT NURSERY

ELLS LANE, BLOXHAM, OX15 5EE.

EXTENDED COVERED AREA OPEN FOR BROWSING FRESH GARDEN VEG AVAILABLE SEEDS, COMPOST, HOUSEPLANTS CONTAINERS OF ALL SIZES AT REASONABLE PRICES BULBS FOR AUTUMN/WINTER PLANTING FOR SPRING FLOWERING

PANSIES, VIOLAS, ERICAS AND CYCLAMENS FOR PLANTING IN BASKETS AND CONTAINERS

ALSO IN STOCK A LARGE VARIETY OF ROSE TREES, FRUIT TREES, ORNAMENTAL TREES AND SHRUBS.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO FEED THE BIRDS DURING WINTER.

CHRISTMAS TREES ARE ON THEIR WAY – ALL SIZES AND VARIETIES LARGE CAR PARK AND AMPLE SPACE INSIDE FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING.

Telephone: 01295 720778

Email: office@wyattsgardencentre.com www.wyattsgardencentre.co.uk OPEN EVERY DAY



BLOXHAM CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 3RD - SUNDAY 5TH

Preparations are well in train for this year's Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church, Bloxham. Do make a note in your diaries to come along to see the stunning spectacle of St Mary's full of imaginatively decorated Christmas Trees. I've attached a copy of our flyer with more information - please share this with your contacts and put it on display if you can! This Festival has become a major village event. We have 35+ village organisations sponsoring and decorating trees, and we're hoping to beat the footfall figure from last time of 1200!

Various steps are being taken in planning layout to ease congestion points and facilitate sensible distancing.

If you can help for an hour or two at some point over the weekend with serving refreshments, making cakes or being a steward, please get in touch.

FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS QUIZ, FRI 12 NOV, 7.30PM

If you haven't already done so and would like to enter a team (up to six people) in the Quiz, taking place in the Warriner School Hall, it's not too late! Please contact Brendan Hunter, Friends' Treasurer, at brendanhunter 1@ outlook.com to register your team.

DON'T MISS OUT ON TICKETS FOR THE SPECIAL FESTIVAL CONCERT, SAT 4 DEC, 7.30PM - EXETER COLLEGE CHOIR AT ST MARY'S CHURCH BLOXHAM

We are delighted to be welcoming the terrific choir of Exeter College, Oxford to St Mary's for an evening of Christmas and Advent carols from the middle ages to the present day - favourites and unknown gems by Elgar, Victoria, Parry, and more. Again, I've attached our flyer which has more information about this special performance. There are no physical tickets and the audience size is being capped to facilitate distancing. Tickets are £12 each - the simplest way to secure your places is to respond to this email to book and I will let you have information on how to pay, whether by online transfer or cheque.

"BUILDING OUR FUTURE" PROJECT UPDATE

The Building our Future project to improve St Mary's for everyone is the focus of Friends' current fundraising. The latest quarterly project update is attached for your information. The Friends have made significant grants to the Parochial Church Council to fund the new heating system which is nearing completion.

Thanks for your support for the Friends.





CHRISTMAS CARDS are being sold in aid of St. Laurence's Church with various views of Milcombe at £5 per pack kindly organised by Andrew Watts.

These are available now and can be picked up from the village shop.

FREE Adverts for local business

Footcare by Lesley

07789697670 lesley.toenails@gmail.com

(Dip non-surgical footcare, RGN, Enhanced DBS)

Nail Cutting & Foot Care in your own home.

BUMPS AND BABIES

We are a drop-in café for mums, carers and babies with baby toys, group singing and homemade cakes!

BUMPS AND BABIES IS RE-OPENING ON SEPTEMBER 13th. Contact office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk or Margaret Craggs mjcraggs@saintconsulting.co.uk

ST. MARY'S THURSDAY CLUB

ST. MARY'S THURSDAY CLUB HAS NOW RE-OPENED IN THE PARISH ROOMS