

# DIPTFORD AND NORTH HUISH

## PARISH NEWS

**MARCH 2024**

**No. 638**

If you know anyone who would like to receive the Parish News – contact  
Val Haddy 01548 821418 or email [valjohnhaddy@aol.com](mailto:valjohnhaddy@aol.com)

There are many new residents within Diptford Parish – who are all welcome to join the mailing list  
for the Parish News – find out what is going on in the village and come and  
join in this vibrant community

Reminder our clocks change one hour forward on the night of Saturday March 30th

### Three Rivers Mission Community Sunday Services March 2024

Date & Liturgical Colour	03.03.2024 Lent 3	10.03.2024 Mothering Sunday	17.03.2024 Passiontide Begins	24.03.2024 Palm Sunday	31.03.2024 Easter Day
	Exodus 20: 1-17 Ps. 19 or verse 7-end 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2: 13-22	Exodus 2: 1-10 OR 1 Samuel 1.20 -end Ps. 34: 11-20 OR 127.1-4 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 OR Colossians 3. 12-17 Luke 2: 33-35 OR John 19. 25b-27	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Ps.51: 1-13 OR Ps. 119: 9-16 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33	Mark 11: 1-11 Ps 118. 1-2, 19- end Isaiah 50: 4-9a Philippians 2: 5-11 Mark 14: 1- end of 15 OR Mark 15. 1-39 [40-end]	Acts 10: 34-43 Ps. 118: 1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 John 20: 1-18 OR Mark 16: 1-8
Diptford with North Huish	11am Morning Prayer 4.30pm Brick Church	11am Holy Communion	11am Songs of Praise	11am Holy Communion	11am Benefice service of Holy Communion
Ermington	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	6pm Evensong with Chorus Ecclesiae	11am Family Service	11am Easter Day Service
Harberton	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	Benefice Service at Diptford
Ugborough	9.30am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30 Holy Communion 4.30pm Messy Church	9.30am Easter Day Service
Halwell	As Above	3.30pm Evening Service	As Below	As Below	Benefice Service at Diptford
Moreleigh	As Above	As Above	As Below	3.30pm Evening service	Benefice Service at Diptford
Harbertonford	As Above	As above	As Above	As above	Benefice Service at Diptford

Further information can be found on the Mission Community website

[www.3rivers.org.uk](http://www.3rivers.org.uk) or at [www.achurchnearyou.com/8942](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/8942)

### Three Rivers Mission Community Services Holy Week 2024

Date & Liturgical Colour	Monday 25th March	Tuesday 26th March	Wednesday 27th March	Maundy Thursday 28th March	Good Friday 29th March	Holy Saturday 30th March
	Isaiah 42: 1-9 Ps 36 5-11 Hebrews 9: 11-15 John 12: 1-11	Isaiah 49: 1-7 Psalm 71:14 or v. 1-8 1 Cor. 1:18-31 John 12. 20-36	Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12: 1-3 John 13: 21-32	Exodus 12: 1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116: 1, 10-end 1 Cor. 11: 23-26 John 13: 1-17, 31b-35	Isaiah 52: 13-end of 53 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10: 16-25 John 18: 1- end of 19	
Diptford with North Huish	7pm Zoom Compline	7pm Zoom Compline	7pm Zoom Compline	7pm Service of Holy Communion	2-3pm Quiet Hour at The Cross	No Service

For further information about the services of compline by Zoom please contact Revd David Sayle by email to [parish\\_sayle@me.com](mailto:parish_sayle@me.com) or telephoning 01548 821199.

#### Bob Ellis

I am sad to announce the death of my husband, Bob Ellis, who died peacefully at home (White Gates) on 2 February after a long illness. The funeral is at Diptford Church on Thursday 7 March at 3pm and anyone in the village who knew Bob and wish to pay their respects will be most welcome.

Sherry Ellis

#### St Mary's Diptford

Help with Brass Cleaning- would you like to help and be added to the Brass Rota? Clean a piece of Brass in your time; this would be for Christmas and Easter only.

Please contact Val Haddy on 01548 821418 to be added to the rota Thank you.

#### Diptford St Mary's Church Bells

Be prepared for some 'noise' on Friday evenings! The Church Bells will ring out again! Please come along and contribute to the heavy metal 'music'. Watch this space for dates and times.

Cheers,

Ham Sampford (01548 821419) [Captain]

#### Diptford with North Huish Parochial Church Council

Is still looking for a **Treasurer**, if you are interested please contact Rev D. Sayle 01548 821199 for details

## **Village Playing Field - help needed**

Dear all,

We are asking for some **community assistance to help with the upkeep of the Playing Field** please.

We all want to ensure the park is safe and available for everyone who uses it of course, along with that there are also statutory requirements to maintain the ground and equipment. Some of this requires outside involvement but there are other things that we can deal with to ensure the park and its facilities remains open.

So we would appreciate anyone who was available on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March to join us at the Park between 10.00 to 12.30 to help with various tasks**. Nothing too strenuous will be involved and any necessary tools will be provided: all that's needed is suitable footwear and clothing to be worn by the volunteers.

Although the 17<sup>th</sup> March is a few weeks away, it would be very useful to get some idea now of the number of people who would be available to come along, so please just drop an email to [ralphyimages@mac.com](mailto:ralphyimages@mac.com)

Thank you for your support for our village asset.

## **An Important Spring Clean!!!**

As many people now know, the maintenance of the churchyards in Diptford and North Huish will be taken over later this year by South Hams District Council, but in order to prepare for this we are hoping to hold a.....



**Spring Cleaning Day  
at St Mary's Church Diptford  
on  
Saturday 9 March 2024  
at 10:30 – 1:00pm  
(weather permitting!)**



Part of this process will be to 'map out' the churchyard. We are inviting all members of the community to help with a variety of cleaning/tidying tasks as well as the mapping of the graves. We are keen to welcome younger members of our community (with an adult to supervise please!) to with the help of listing the names from the gravestones.

Afterwards we plan to provide some warm refreshments such as bacon sandwiches and drinks at lunchtime to reward the hard work of volunteers!

The churchyard is an important feature of our village community, so please volunteer a few hours of your time to help make it a more attractive feature.

**Every member of the community will be most welcome!**

**For more information contact:**

**Ruth Parker Davidson on 01548 821529    Steve Partridge on 01364 73343**



## Diptford Short Mat Bowls Club February 2024

The Club has managed to collect over £80 pounds as a donation to Devon Air Ambulance.

Although knocked out of the Knock Out Competition and the Tens Tournament, the team has kept playing in the League and has played well to keep a position midway in the Division.

Once again if there are any potential players please come along on a Wednesday evening to 'have a go'. As we are playing many of our fixtures on a Wednesday night, to save costs, it would be sensible to check if it is a Club night or a match for any particular night.

Contact: Ham 01548821419 or Nancy 01548821272

### North Huish Community Group

This group was set up in 2023 with the purpose of organising community events for the residents of North Huish and surrounding villages. The venue is St Mary's Church, North Huish, now closed for regular public worship but kept open to the public, providing a meeting space for the local community. This beautiful Grade 1 listed building is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, a national charity protecting historic churches at risk. Funds donated at events held there, help to support the cost of repair and maintenance which, in a typical year, can amount to nearly £2,000. Currently, there is a power supply but no electric circuit installed so, this year, a proportion of the funds raised are to be set aside to pay for the installation of electric sockets where they are most needed for safety and convenience when running events.

Events planned for 2024 are:

- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April: **Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy Cake Sale and Plants, 10.00 -12.30.** For offers of cakes, please contact: [caroline.n.stradling@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:caroline.n.stradling@hotmail.co.uk) For offers of plants, please contact: [jacciandjohn@icloud.com](mailto:jacciandjohn@icloud.com)
- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June: **Cream Tea with a local history display entitled: Memories of North Huish, 2.00 - 5.00pm.** If you can lend old photographs or articles for display, please contact: [sara@artgilbert.co.uk](mailto:sara@artgilbert.co.uk)
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September: **Harvest Lunch, 12.00 – 2.00pm.** Homemade soup and bread + dessert + cider or apple juice.
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November: **Armistice Day short Act of Remembrance, 10.50** in support of the Royal British legion. Coffee and biscuits served.
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: **Carols by Candlelight, 4.00pm.** Mulled wine and mince pies served.

The North Huish Community Group look forward to welcoming you at any of these events.

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## **MARCH 2024**

It has been reported that Climate Stress has caused fruit trees to suffer from diseases. Drought, high temperatures and heavy rainfall have led to an increase in fruit tree diseases. These problems of extreme weather conditions have made plants more susceptible to disease. This is based on enquiries to the RHS Gardening Advice Service. To minimise plant disease advice includes practicing good plant hygiene, mulching plants while the soil is moist and pruning out dead or diseased material. After winters with such prolonged and heavy rain it, is a good procedure to replace leached out minerals with an organic compound fertiliser in spring when the soil is warming up in March/April. Something like Fish/Blood/Bone is very useful, then after having forked this in cover with a thick mulch to retain warmth and moisture.

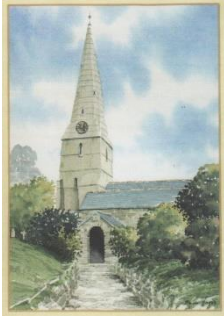
March can be a very busy month but don't be too eager to get onto the soil as if wet it compacts easily, especially if the soil is heavy. Let the soil dry out before working or sowing seeds. These seeds will not germinate in heavy, damp soil. You will be wasting time and money!

What can be done when the weather allows?

- ✓ Hoe and weed all borders and beds to get rid of annual weeds.
- ✓ Prepare seed beds
- ✓ Finish spreading organic mulch
- ✓ If the soil is dry enough, sow hardy annuals outside.
- ✓ Pot on cuttings under protection [Pelargoniums, Fuchsias, etc].
- ✓ Plant out sweet peas
- ✓ Lift & divide Snowdrops as they finish flowering (in the green).
- ✓ Plant summer flowering bulbs
- ✓ Finish pruning fruit trees, except plums, also prune currants gooseberries & cane fruit.
- ✓ Prune roses to accepted height.
- ✓ Feed trees & bushes with compound fertiliser.
- ✓ Remove thatch & open up the grass with a spring-tined rake.
- ✓ Feed grass with an appropriate spring grass feed.
- ✓ Re-sow or re-turf patches of worn grass if weather is right.
- ✓ If weather is warm a& dry start mowing with high set blades.
- ✓ Finish cutting back & tidying beds & borders.
- ✓ Divide & re-plant existing perennials.
- ✓ Prepare borders for new planting.
- ✓ Label up any extra divisions ready to 'give away'.
- ✓ Check staking & ties after the winter winds.
- ✓ Prune out any damaged or diseased material.
- ✓ Tie in climbers.
- ✓ Prune shrubs that will flower on new growth.
- ✓ Give the greenhouse some attention.
- ✓ Start watering regime especially if the weather is hot.
- ✓ Continue sowing tomatoes, peppers, chilies etc.
- ✓ Ventilate during the day, & watch out for the odd night frost or temperature drop.
- ✓ In the vegetable area, earth up those potato shoots.
- ✓ Give spring cabbage a generous nitrogenous feed.
- ✓ Sow or plant onions, shallots, mid & late crop potatoes, leeks

Enjoy the season.

Zephyrus



### **DIPTFORD CHURCH CLEANING**

**Would you like to keep our lovely Church sparkly?**

**You will be very welcome to come along to**

**St Mary's Church, Diptford**

**Saturday 2 March and Saturday 30 March**

**From 9.30 am til 11 am**

**Steve Partridge is now organising our cleaning sessions**

**[partridge.steve@btinternet.com](mailto:partridge.steve@btinternet.com)**

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH    DIPTFORD**



**Diptford Church has a happy band of volunteers to help decorate  
the Church with floral arrangements.**

**We would like a few more people to call on.**

**If you would like to help – no experience necessary, you would be  
most welcome.**

**It does not have to be on a regular basis, just as and when you are  
able.**

**Please get in touch with Mary Sams if you are able to assist.**

**01364 72435**

**Would YOU like to add a contribution to the monthly Parish News?**

**If so, contact Val Haddy on [valjohnhaddy@aol.com](mailto:valjohnhaddy@aol.com)**

**or Sue Franklin on [sue@jassy.org.uk](mailto:sue@jassy.org.uk)**



**DIPTFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**DIPTFORD, NR TOTNES**  
**01548 821352**

# **Diptford Toddler Group**

**EVERY TUESDAY 10 -11.30AM**

**STARTING FEBRUARY 27TH 2024**



**JUST TURN UP ON THE DAY FOR A WARM WELCOME**

**BASED IN DIPTFORD VILLAGE HALL, TQ9 7NY**  
**HEALTHY SNACKS PLUS TEA AND COFFEE FOR THE GROWN UPS**

## **February Nature Notes March Edition 2024**

It has been an exceptionally wet month. Some areas of the South West have had one and a half times the average expected rainfall in the first week of February. BBC weather news quoted that 147 mm were received in a week, whilst only 100mm were expected for the whole month. The soil is so saturated that excess rain has poured off the topsoil, taking fine material with it.

The owls have been conducting orchestral pieces overnight to mark out their territories. The woodpeckers have been drumming during the day searching for grubs in the old branches or echoing their patch down in the valley. The spring bird garden watch saw the usual collection of numbers and species. Wren, Robins, Blackbirds, Starlings, Rooks, Blue Tits, Sparrows, and Wood Pigeons all visited at the appropriate time to be recorded. Outside that time had Long-tailed Tits, Goldfinches, Sparrow Hawk, a lone Greenfinch was reported, Wagtails, Great Tits, Thrush, Collared Doves, all appeared by magic out side the recording period to avoid being included on the returns sheet!

Snails and slugs are being removed both day and night by the hard work of Hedgehogs, Thrushes, Sparrows as well as the unseen workers: Beetles, Sloe Worms, and other helpers. Noticed many Ladybirds in clusters on leaf litter and twigs. They are out searching for Aphids and other tasty morsels. It looks as if the garden is being well protected by the friends. There are masses of small new worms around the base of pots and containers as well as the colonies of woodlice. The Hedgehog has a huge take-away supply of food.



Heard the raucous notes of frogs and toads at night, calling for mates or pronouncing their territories. Toads with their dark, warty, dry and rough skin can be encountered crawling across damp grass and amongst the plants, whereas the slim, smooth, bright, damp frog is best seen hopping around near the pond. Both will go for their sauna to mate. This might be a good year for spawn!



Many plants flowering outside the accustomed period largely due to the mild winter. Snowdrops came early, Camelias have been an early surprise, many catching the frost and going over quickly, the beautiful Japanese 'quince' with its apricot tint opened slowly to reveal the mass 'Laura Ashly' fabric. Primroses and Daffodils have brightened the hedgerows with bright yellow.

Hellebores have come out with their hidden beauty. You need to raise their heads in order to see the markings inside the petals. The drift of Witch-Hazel scent around the garden has been most heady and wonderful. So many plants have taken advantage of the mild conditions to 'spring' ahead of their usual flowering time. Tree buds are swollen, ready to burst out. In some places Hawthorn is at the point of breaking into flower. By the river the Hazel bushes and trees are covered in the longest catkins seen for a long time. The lime-green-yellow strings give the plants a halo of colour. Khaki is probably the best colour description.

It has been Spring-like before the end of winter. A riot of colour and scent to make up for the wet unusual conditions.

What a wonder!

Ham.



### DIPTFORD W I REPORT

A very well attended February meeting of the WI which was attended by DFWI Chair Evelyn Watson. The purpose of Evelyn's visit was so that the Devon Federation could be satisfied that all our members were aware that we intend to leave the umbrella of the WI this year. All members had been asked for their agreement and, in addition, a vote to leave was undertaken at our 2023 AGM. There has been much discussion within and outside of the group about plans going forward. The committee is satisfied that all our members are aware of and in agreement with the decision to leave.

Prior to that, we had a most interesting presentation by our very own Debbie Dugdall, CEO and trustee of the charity **Breakthrough Transformation Trust**. The charity works with children, young people and families who have serious life challenges. It was a most interesting talk, and we learned that one of the charity's centres is nearby at Wrangaton. A small collection was made on the night, which is to be used for the purchase of seeds and gardening equipment for the students learning horticulture at our nearest centre. Some of us are hoping to arrange an evening of Bingo at Halwell & Moreleigh Village Hall on Friday 21 June in aid of this charity.

Following refreshments, we had the business part of the meeting, when arrangements were firmed up for coffee in Ivybridge and a lunch at Rattery with a talk by three auctioneers.

Our next, and LAST meeting as Diptford WI, will take place on Monday 11 March. Our speaker will be from Firesafe, a part of the Fire Service.

Sue Franklin

Press Officer

#### DIPTFORD AMENITY TRUST

#### (THE CHARITY BEHIND THE VILLAGE PLAYING FIELD)

**Easy Fundraising** has now been set up to help with fundraising for the **Diptford Amenity Trust**.

If you are purchasing anything online sign into the Easy Fundraising website and then go to the website for the company you wish to purchase from. It means that the Amenity Trust get a donation, but it **does not cost you anything**. This means we get a monetary donation every time you shop which can be for groceries delivered from all the big retailers or a one off purchases from others.

We can also accept one off donations direct to the Amenity Trust to help us with the fundraising for new play equipment. Any donations will be gratefully received and can be paid into the following bank account

**Account Name: Diptford Amenity Trust**

**Sort Code: 30-98-69**

**Account Number: 00196602**

**Diptford Parish Council    Ali Kohler, Parish Clerk    [diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Parish Council Meeting February 2024**

**Councillor Daniel Thomas (DCC)**

To read the County Councillor's Report, please see the following:    **See appendix 1**

<https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/meetings.php>

**Councillors David Hancock and Guy Pannell (SHDC)**

To read the District Councillor's Report, please see the following: **See appendix 2**

<https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/meetings.php>

**Garden Refuse** - With spring approaching, subscriptions to the South Hams Garden waste collection service are now open. Early bird subscription will cost £52 for the year if you sign up before 1 April 2024. The price from 1 April will be £55. A subscription covers a single brown wheelie bin, with a maximum of two subscriptions (which would cover two bins) per household. The new subscription year will run from Monday 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2025. You can sign up for the service on our website. The annual cost applies for fortnightly collections, excluding the weeks over the winter period when the service is suspended. Happy gardening!

**Amenity Trust** – We have now received a detailed inspection report and repairs are being actioned. Grants are currently being applied for, to help with the cost of repairs and replacement equipment.

**Highways** – Notification of Road Closure – Work Ref: LM211MT1f0571682 on the road from Kerswill Cross to Lincombe Cross, Diptford. South West Water has applied for a road closure to complete utility works from the junction of Lincombe Cross to near the junction for Lincombe Cross. These works, subject to approval from Devon Highways, will take place between 23/4/2024 and 25/4/2024.

Highways notice – TTR02454307 for works at Gara Bridge from 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 has been posted on the Parish Council Website.

Highways notice – Order number 21060511 – resurfacing of road from East Leigh Cross to East Moore Cross in Diptford from 16/2/24 to 20/2/24

The Next Parish Council Meeting, to which all Parishioners are welcome, will take place at the Village Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 12 March. If you have an item you would like raised, please contact the Parish Clerk, [diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk) in the first instance.

## **DIPTFORD AREA OIL CO-OPERATIVE**



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[admin@heltor.co.uk](mailto:admin@heltor.co.uk)

Heltor in Newton Abbot are now our supplier of choice for the Oil Co-Operative and are proving to be reliable and better matching the original brief we had with Watsons. They are prepared to support the group need for regular top up or fixed amount deliveries at competitive pricing. Basically the arrangement we originally had with Watsons. Also to support sporadic urgent requests that sometimes arise with group members, without ridiculous spot charges/prices.

Please see flyer attached or website [www.heltor.co.uk](http://www.heltor.co.uk) for more details. I am monitoring and agree prices, as previously, to ensure we retain the lowest possible pricing.

**If you are interested in joining the Diptford Oil Co-Operative**

**please contact Steve Hill on 01548 821272 or email**

**[mr.sjhill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mr.sjhill@yahoo.co.uk)**

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## Social Media in the Village

We have our Village Website

[www.diptfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.diptfordvillage.co.uk)

Parish Council website

[www.diptfordparishcouncil.org](http://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org)

Facebook Diptford Sustainable  
Community

WhatsApp Diptford Support  
Network

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### **DIPTFORD PARISH HALL**

#### **BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS**

**TO MAKE A BOOKING FOR DIPTFORD PARISH HALL**  
**Now with NEW CHAIRS and up to date small kitchen!**  
**contact**

[DiptfordPH@yahoo.com](mailto:DiptfordPH@yahoo.com) or via the village website [www.diptfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.diptfordvillage.co.uk)

*Chair of Trustees*

*Diptford Parish Hall. [DiptfordPH@yahoo.com](mailto:DiptfordPH@yahoo.com) 07944 098174*

### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**THE NOTICE BOARD IN THE SQUARE IS FOR COMMUNITY NOTICES ONLY**

**NO COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING WILL BE ALLOWED**

**WE WOULD ASK ALL ORGANISATIONS NOT TO 'HOG' THE SPACE AVAILABLE**

This additional facility has been installed by Diptford Parish Council  
 with funding from our County and District Councillors

There is a combination lock – details of which have been given to voluntary organisations within  
 the village

### **Diptford Parish Lands Eleemosynary Charity**

An independent charity

Do you know that there are funds available for people living in the parish of Diptford to  
 access in times of need?

Confidentiality Guaranteed

Contact: Reverend David Sayle at [parish\\_sayle@me.com](mailto:parish_sayle@me.com)

### HIGHWAYS CONTACTS

**To report any Highways problem, either report direct on Devon County  
 Council website – [devon.gov.uk](http://devon.gov.uk) (Report a Problem) or telephone the  
 Call centre on 0345 155 1004**

This applies to faulty streetlights, potholes and problems of visibility though landowners  
are encouraged to keep road signs on their land clearly visible and to cut roadside hedges  
on an annual basis out of the nesting season. There are exemptions from the timing if  
 there are road safety issues.

***Editor : Mrs Val Haddy, School House, Diptford Tel: 01548 821418***

PLEASE NOTE THAT all copy MUST be received before the 25th of the preceding month

Contributions may be submitted by e-mail to [valjohnhaddy@aol.com](mailto:valjohnhaddy@aol.com)

Contributions subject to change due to availability of space

If you have pictures which could be used in the News – please email to [sue@jassy.org.uk](mailto:sue@jassy.org.uk)

Diptford & North Huish Parish News is published monthly by Diptford Parochial Church Council. Every care is  
 taken in compiling the Parish News and no responsibility can be taken for any action arising from information  
 given therein. All information is believed to be correct at the time of publication.