

DIPTFORD AND NORTH HUISH

PARISH NEWS

JANUARY 2026

No. 660

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

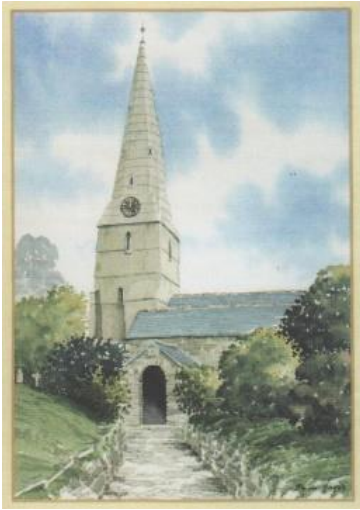
There are many new residents within Diptford Parish – who are all welcome to join the
mailing list for the Parish News – find out what is going on in the village and come and join
in this vibrant community

Three Rivers Mission Community Services January 2026

Date & Liturgical Colour	04.01.2026 Epiphany	11.01.2026 Baptism of Christ	18.01.2026 Epiphany 2 <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	25.01.2026 Epiphany 3
Lectionary Readings	Ps. 72 10-15 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12	Ps. 29 Acts 10. 34-43 Matthew 3. 13- end	Ps. 40 1-12 1 Corinthians 1. 1- 9 John 1. 29-42	Ps. 67 Acts 9. 1-22 Matthew 19. 27 - end
Diptford with North Huish	11am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion
Ermington	11am Holy Communion	As Above or Below	11am Holy Communion	As Above or Below
Ugborough	9:30am Family Service Prayer	9:30am Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Service	9:30 Holy Communion 4.30pm Messy Church
Halwell	9.30am Holy Communion	As Above	As Above or Below	As Above or Below
Moreleigh	As Above	As Above	As Above or Below	3.30pm Holy Communion
Harbertonford	As Above	As above	9.30am Holy Communion	As above

Further information can be found on the Mission Community website
www.3rivers.org.uk or at www.achurchnearyou.com/8942

DIPTFORD CHURCH CLEANING



2026 is a very special year for our Church as it is 800 years old

**Would you like to keep our lovely Church sparkly?
You will be very welcome to come along to
St Mary's Church, Diptford From 9.30 am til 11 am
2026**

**Saturdays January 10th February 6th March 7th
April 4th**

**Steve Partridge is now organising our cleaning
sessions partridge.steve@btinternet.com**



A huge 'Thank-You' from St Mary's Diptford

The congregation of St Mary's Diptford would like to say thank you to all those who helped to make the church look lovely for Christmas 2025.

Special thanks to all who help with the flower arrangements, the brass cleaning and also everyone who keeps our Church spic and span throughout the year. You know who you are!

Our beautiful Church (which will be 800 years old this year!) would not be so inviting without their help on this occasion and at other times throughout the year.

Thank you too to everyone who helped with the School Carol Service, our wonderful Carol Service which saw a packed Church, and also to everyone who facilitated and helped with the Carols around the Tree on Christmas Eve.

Please accept our thanks.

PARISH COUNCIL OF DIPTFORD

NEXT MEETING

DIPTFORD PARISH HALL TQ9 7NY

TUESDAY 20 JANUARY 2026 at 7.30pm

All Parishioners welcome to attend

**Minutes of Meetings are published on the Parish Council website
diptfordparishcouncil.org and on the Notice Board by School**



Diptford Primary School



Two extensive adventure areas including new outdoor classroom



Small Class Sizes - spaces available



Quiet village location



Regular sessions of outdoor learning throughout the week

Come and see how we love to learn - inside and out!

Explore MORE at Diptford

Diptford Primary School, TQ9 7NY
 Telephone: 01548 821352
 Email: admin@diptford.thelink.academy

SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE VILLAGE

Parish Council website www.diptfordparishcouncil.org

Village Hall Bookings www.diptfordparishhall.org.uk

Facebook - Diptford Sustainable Community

WhatsApp - Diptford Support Network

DIPTFORD AMENITY TRUST Registered Charity Number 276979

Account Name: Diptford Amenity Trust Sort Code: 30-98-69

Account Number: 00196602

GIFT AID REGISTERED TOO!

These are the details to use if you would like to donate towards the upkeep of our village
 Playing Field

Diptford Amenity Trust is registered on #easyfundraising which means you can raise free funds for them as you shop online this year, at no extra cost! All the big names like John Lewis & Partners, M&S, Argos, eBay and more are ready to donate. Every donation makes a difference! Did you know that you can register on the EasyFundraising app to get a donation when you shop in-store too?

DIPTFORD QUIZ 2025

Diptford Quiz 2025

The annual quiz was held in December. The event was as competitive as ever and enormous fun.

The result was remarkably close with fantastic efforts from every team involved.

Congratulations to **The Memory of an Elephant**, the team who triumphed narrowly.

(This team were operating, suspiciously, under an alias, they were previous winners as **The Book Club**, do not think we did not notice! We can spot you whatever name you go under).

The full result:

1. The Memory of an Elephant [99 Points]
2. Young Ones [95 ½ Points]
3. Fifty Percent [91 ½ Points]
4. Elves [88 Points]
5. Away With the Fairies [84 Points]

Well done everyone.

As ever, some rounds were found more difficult by the teams. Noticeably the round on puddings attracted over 80% correct answers, in contrast to English Literature at less than 40%, obviously reflecting the priorities in Diptford.

There were no cake questions this year, which usually attracts 100% correct answers, being another category, we are all rather fond of.

The two true or false rounds mysteriously only achieved a 51% correct answer success rate. I hate to mention it, but just guessing the answer should achieve around 50%.

No team achieved a perfect ten, in any round. Many came close to achieving perfection, with scores of fifteen “9s” recorded—just one mark away from the highest possible score.

The raffle raised all the money needed to supply the fare for around the Christmas Tree, which is the overall purpose of the quiz.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made a great evening of it.

From one of the Participant Teams

Huge thanks again to Rob and Juli Worms who made the perfect quizmaster and scorer. A great time was had by all. Maybe next year more teams will come forward to show their knowledge – all in a very light-hearted manner.

DIPTFORD AREA OIL CO-OPERATIVE



Heltor in Newton Abbot are 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.

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 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 07944 098174 or email

mr.sjhill@yahoo.co.uk

Business adverts as in Page 9 will be considered by the Editorial Team and are charged at £50 per advert – for 12 issues of the Parish News

If wishing to advertise please contact the Editor Val Haddy
valjohnhaddy@aol.com

NOTES FROM DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 2025

The next Diptford Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 20 January.

Notices and Minutes will be published on the Parish Council noticeboard near School, and on the Parish Council website.

All Parishioners are welcome to attend and can raise any item for a limited time within Open Forum at the start of the meeting.

Parishioners are recommended to contact clerk@diptfordparishcouncil.org beforehand.

Cllr Crocker was thanked by the Council for arranging the **Christmas Tree**, along with his son Toby, Ed Foster, Seb Lethbridge and Dan Paull. Everyone agreed that it looked spectacular.

Thermal Imaging Camera Hire – A meeting is planned in January in the Hall for interested people to attend so that we can arrange to hire the camera for a period. Watch social media and notice boards for more information. please let the Clerk know if you are interested. clerk@diptfordparishcouncil.org to help our community stay warm and save on energy bills this winter.

An application has been made to the Devon Community Fund for monies to be used towards the cost of **new equipment in the Playing Field**, and Cllr Carrol suggested that we should also be starting to fundraise to replace the Climbing Frame which is steadily deteriorating.

10 Fruit trees donated by the Wildlife Trust are expected to be delivered in early February and Council will be consulting the Tree Warden regarding siting and planting. Council will apply to the Devon Wildlife Trust for a **free 'Landmark' tree** and again will consult on a suitable site.

The Parish Council has agreed to construct an **Emergency Plan**, with particular emphasis on encouraging all vulnerable residents of the parish to register as such with their Power and Water companies to ensure they get priority treatment. Council asks any resident with suitable equipment or alternative power source to advise clerk@diptfordparishcouncil.org – this information to be kept confidential and will be redacted in any future published documents.

Concern was expressed about excessive amounts of mud deposited on local roads, making them dangerous for all, whilst appreciating that we live in a working farming environment..

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 ELEEMOSYNARY CHARITY TRUST

Grants for teenagers in Diptford going on to higher or further education are available from a historic local charity that was originally created last century to benefit rural apprentices. The current Trustees now wish to broaden the eligibility and invite applications from a wider group of young people, who are resident in Diptford Parish and need financial assistance with equipment/books to support their university courses or further education including technical courses and apprenticeships.

Applications are also invited from any local parishioner who is undergoing or preparing for higher education or a further training scheme that provides a suitable life skill or employment qualification. Regular University course and accommodation costs do not qualify, but other supplementary one-off costs could be considered. Successful applicants will need to show evidence of the benefit and grant expenditure.

Applications to The Eleemosynary Charity Trust should cover the following headings:

- **Full name: and name of parent for applications from children under 16.**
- **Address: (applications can only be accepted by residents of Diptford Parish).**
- **Email & Telephone:**
- **Reason for the application providing any evidence of need, the benefit, and details of what the grant will be expended on:**
- **A proposed breakdown of grant expenditure with associated cost evidence.**

The merit of all applications will be assessed by trustees of the Eleemosynary Charity Trust on the individual's financial need and their personal benefit from a grant.

Applications should be sent by email to the Chairman of the Eleemosynary Charity Trust by 30th April each year (Revd P David Sayle, Rector of The Three Rivers Mission Community, parish_sayle@me.com).

Applications of special merit and immediate need may be made at short notice using the above application

Applications should be sent by email to the Chairman of the Eleemosynary Charity Trust by 30th April each year (Revd P David Sayle, Rector of The Three Rivers Mission Community, parish_sayle@me.com).

Applications of special merit and immediate need may be made at short notice using the above application

COLD CALLERS - OFFERING INSULATION REMOVAL SERVICES

We have been made aware that there may be cold callers offering insulation removal services in the Devon area.

If you want work doing in your home or garden please consider the following advice:

- Don't agree to work offered by unsolicited doorstep callers.
- Don't rely on posts or recommendations on social media sites without doing your own research.
- Don't be swayed by glossy flyers or impressive websites as they may not show the trader's own work.
- Don't pay cash or agree to be taken to the bank or immediately transfer money before any work is started.
- Don't be rushed into making a decision.

Do:

- Get three written quotes from reputable businesses.
- Research the companies you're looking to use e.g. ask for references and look online.
- Ask friends and family to recommend local traders or search via [Buy With Confidence](#)
- Decide who to use in your own time and make sure you have confidence in their skills and abilities.
- Make sure you have the full name of the company and the person doing the work and their contact details (address, phone number, email).
- Ask to see professional qualifications, public liability insurance and if applicable waste carriers licence.
- Check if you're entitled to your 14-day cooling-off period

If someone knocks on your door and you are not sure, don't open the door.

If you are concerned someone is at risk, always call the police.

If you are concerned rogue traders are operating in your area, always report it.

If a company claims to be working with a local council, contact the local council yourself to check this is true.

If you have concerns, or have any information please contact Trading Standards or police by phoning 101, if possible, please make a note of any descriptions and vehicle registrations seen.

Please phone 999 if immediate/or a crime is taking place.

Please pass this information on to neighbours and consider displaying on notice boards etc.

Thank you.

DIPTFORD VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE



This year's spectacular Christmas Tree has been adorning the Village Square and we have to thank Cllr Trevor Crocker, his son Toby, Ed Foster, Seb Lethbridge and Dan Paull for erecting the tree and making it beautiful for all of us.

Once again the electric supply to the tree has been provided by Ann and Tim Baker.

The tree is provided by the Parish Council annually

This wonderful picture was taken by Ralph Mortimore of Ralph Images

Overhanging Hedges/Vegetation and Trees on Highways.

If you are a landowner with hedges / vegetation adjacent to the public highway, unless hedges are regularly cut back, they may cause an obstruction.

Landowners and occupiers are required, by law, to trim any hedge next to the public highway where the growth is preventing the passage, or affecting the safety, of the highway user. In accordance with the Highways Act 1980 which requires you to cut it back so it is no longer overhanging or obstructing the public highway.

Vegetation should be cut back to maintain the minimum required clearances for roads and footways:

- 5.5 m height clearance for vegetation overhanging roads.
- 2.1 m height clearance for vegetation overhanging footpaths.
- 2.5 m height clearance for vegetation overhanging cycleways.

We appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

TOTNES TV & ELECTRICAL

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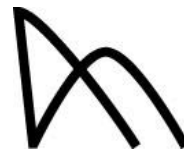
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Contact Us
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or visit www.bluebirdcare.co.uk

SEASONED LOGS FOR SALE

Available in nets or dumpy bags

£5/ net or £110/ dumpy bag

Free delivery to Diptford

Call Graham on 07813 169035

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

DIPTFORD PARISH HALL

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

TO MAKE A BOOKING FOR DIPTFORD PARISH HALL

Diptford Parish Hall has a website!

www.diptfordparishhall.org.uk

Please use the online Calendar & Booking System.

Also, there is a facility to 'Add an Entry' if your group /organisation would like to add any local events or organisations.

Please feel free to share this amongst your groups & friends.

I hope you find the website useful & helpful in your interactions with the Hall.

Feedback welcomed.

Steve.

Chair of Trustees Diptford Parish Hall.

DiptfordPH@yahoo.com 07944 098174

Diptford Parish Councillors

The Parish Council Councillors now have dedicated email addresses and if you wish to contact any of the Councillors directly, please use the email addresses listed below or alternatively contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@diptfordparishcouncil.org

CLlr S Franklin (Chair) – sue.franklin@diptfordparishcouncil.org

CLlr S Parker-Davidson (Vice Chair) – steven.parker.davidson@diptfordparishcouncil.org

CLlr C Peach – chris.peach@diptfordparishcouncil.org

CLlr T Crocker – trevor.crocker@diptfordparishcouncil.org

CLlr L Lethbridge – louise.lethbridge@diptfordparishcouncil.org

CLlr L Carrol – lucy.carrol@diptfordparishcouncil.org

CLlr G Paterson – gavin.paterson@diptfordparishcouncil.org

CLlr D Dugdall – debbie.dugdall@diptfordparishcouncil.org

HIGHWAYS CONTACTS

To report any Highways problem, either report direct on Devon County Council website – 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

Contributions subject to change due to availability of space

Views expressed within the Parish News are those of the contributors and no endorsement can be given by the PCC to views expressed.

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.