

DIPTFORD AND NORTH HUISH

PARISH NEWS

MARCH 2026 No. 662

**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 Sunday Services March 2026

Date & Liturgical Colour	01.03.2026 Lent 2	08.03.2026 Lent 3	15.03.2026 Mothering Sunday	22.03.2026 Lent 5	29.03.2026 Palm Sunday
	Genesis 12.1-4a Psalm 121 John 3. 1-17	Exodus 17. 1-7 Psalm 95 John 4. 5-42	2 Corinthians 1. 3-7 or Colossians 3. 12-17 Luke 2. 33-35 or John 19. 25b-27	Ezekiel 37. 1-14 Psalm 130 John 11. 1-45	Matthew 21. 1-11 Isaiah 50. 4-9a Matthew 26. 14- end of 27 or 27. 11-54
Diptford with North Huish	11am Morning Prayer 4.30pm Brick Church	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion Rev'd D. Sayle	11am Benefice Holy Communion
Ermington	11am Holy Communion	As Above or Below	11am Holy Communion	As Above or Below	As Above
Ugborough	9.30am Family service	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion 4.30pm Messy Church	As Above
Halwell	9.30am Holy Communion	As above	As Above or Below	As Above or Below	As Above
Moreleigh	As above	As above	As Above or Below	3.30pm Evening Service	As Above
Harbertonford	As above	As above	9.30am Holy Communion	As Above	As Above

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

REV PETER AMBROSE DUNCAN WILLIS

2nd November 1934 -13th December 2025

Priest and Rector of Diptford and North Huish 1968-1996.

The Willis family would like to thank everyone who attended the Memorial service on Monday 23rd February 2026, and also those who sent their love and best wishes. We really do appreciate it. To our surprise the church was packed full, with many people occupying chairs behind the pews. The warmth that we felt from all those who attended was palpable. Thank you to Rev Sayle and Rev William West for a lovely service, And also to Steve Partridge for all his assistance.

We would like to send our thanks to Pat Sampford, Mary Sams, Linda Pantry, Mary Stowe, and Ruth Parker Davidson for the beautiful flower arrangements they prepared for the church.

Our father loved the people of Diptford, and he was loved back in equal measure. The gathering in the parish hall afterwards was a wonderful opportunity to meet up with many parishioners who we had not seen for a long time. Thank you to Steve Hill and the Parish Hall Committee for allowing us to use the Hall, and to the Ladybirds for all that they did to ensure the event was a success.

Our father came to Diptford and North Huish after spending the previous 5 years as Rector of the 8 Windward Parishes of Tobago in the West Indies. In Diptford, just like Tobago, Peter and Monica fully immersed themselves into the Church, the Community and the school. Both played a full part in village and parish life.

We heard many stories of how Peter and Monica had touched people's lives during that time. I overheard an ex-pupil telling Monica that she was the best teacher that she ever had. Others had fun stories about Peter chasing his sheep around Higher Moorcott field on his moped, after returning from Evening song at North Huish church, one summers evening!

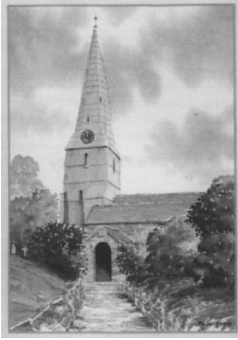
As children of Peter and Monica, we all grew up in Diptford, attending the primary school before moving on to KEVICS. Diptford will always remain our home, and its people will always have a special place in our hearts.

If anyone was unable to attend or would like to read a copy of the eulogy, the order service, or the tribute to Peter Willis from the Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago, please contact Val Haddy, who will be pleased to forward a digital copy to you.

Stephen Willis

**PARISH COUNCIL OF DIPTFORD
NEXT MEETING
DIPTFORD PARISH HALL TQ9 7NY
TUESDAY 17 MARCH 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 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
Saturdays March 7th April 4th

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

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 AREA OIL CO-OPERATIVE



If you are new to the village, you may not be aware that we have an arrangement with Heltor in Newton Abbot who are now our supplier of choice for the Oil Co-Operative. They 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 8 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 FEBRUARY 2026

Alan Mighall from South Hams Ramblers spoke in **Open Forum**. As part of the National Ramblers Association the South Hams Way has recently been created which has been very popular with walkers and they are now looking to have a link from South Brent to Salcombe. They have not spoken to any land owners along a possible route as yet but are looking to do so an attempt to make the route as off-road as possible. He stressed that this would be a permissive path not a public right of way. He was told that when the railway was closed in the early 60's, the land reverted back to individual landowners, many of whom had opposed a previous suggestion from the Primrose Trail group which would have included cyclists. The Parish Council is unable to give any details of landowners, due to GDPR. Alan also confirmed that the ramblers offer path maintenance and clearing, labour is free, any materials need to be purchased – Cllr Parker-Davidson has details of this service for any P3 works, and hopefully may utilise their services with improvements to Footpath 1 from the Village Hall to Mill Lane.

Several parishioners have complained regarding the state of the land adjacent to the River Avon, within the South Devon National Landscape.

Full details of the **Minutes** can be found on the Diptford Parish Council website including reports from County and District Councillors.

Two **Thermal Imaging Cameras** have been loaned to Council for use free by residents to assess the heat / insulation performance of our properties. Contact Cllrs Sue Franklin and Steven Parker Davidson if you wish to know more.

Council has been granted £1500 towards the purchase of a replacement **road grit spreader** as the original purchased many years ago is no longer fit for purpose.



Work commenced 19 February on the **improvements to the Playing Field** which will be welcomed by all. However the lower legs of the original multi use climbing frame have deteriorated significantly and the item will be replaced once around £10,000 has been raised. A wheelchair friendly bench is to be installed on the field.



10 Fruit trees will be planted at suitable locations within the Playing Field, having due regard to their height and spread over years to prevent ongoing problems. A Landmark White Hornbeam will also be planted but careful consideration will be given to its siting as this will grow to be a sizeable tree. Will Young, our Tree Warden has been instrumental in this.

The next Diptford Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 17 March 2026

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.

St Mary's Church, North Huish

Churches Conservation Trust

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 maintaining the building.

Events planned for **2026** are:

- Saturday 11th April: **Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy Cake Sale, 10.30 -12.30.**
- Friday 19th June: **Quiz Night, 6.45 for 7.00pm.**
- Saturday 26th September: **Harvest Lunch, 12.30 – 2.00pm.**
- Wednesday 11th November: **Armistice Day short Act of Remembrance, 10.50.**
- Sunday 6th December: **Carols by Candlelight, 4.00pm.**

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

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

FRIENDS OF DIPTFORD SCHOOL (FODS)



A quick update on some of the new FODS investments coming up:-

- 1 £2000 for a growing area and Polytunnel – hopefully installed by the end of February.
- 2 £500 for the library and non fiction books
- 3 £200 Swim Safe Course KS2
- 4 £250 new outdoor equipment space for EYFS – being installed over half term
- 5 £600 Orienteering Phase two – being installed over half term

Thanks to all our supporters.

We plan to run a large Easter Raffle this year (the Duck Race will be back in 2027)

Let's smash 2024's raffle total of £500! More to come on this shortly.

FODS Team

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

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

PLANTING OF DIPTFORD ORCHARD AND LANDMARK WHITEBEAM
FRIDAY 20 MARCH FROM 3.30pm



Diptford has been given 10 Fruit Trees and a Landmark Tree, a Devon Whitebeam, by the Devon Wildlife Trust.

These have been sourced and selected by Will Young, Diptford's Tree Warden.

We have identified suitable sites within the Playing Field for these trees and will be holding a **Community Planting Day on Friday 20 March from 3.30pm.**

Come along with a spade, maybe wellies, and a lot of good humour to get these trees in the ground.

Maybe bring a picnic with you to celebrate the installation of the new Play Equipment in the field and the planting of the trees?

You can then also see why we now need to raise funds to replace the ageing climbing frame! Hope to see a lot of our residents there.

LITTLE DIPPERS PRESCHOOL @

Diptford Primary School



Preschool age 3+
Also recording interest for under 3's
- please contact to go on waiting list

STAY & PLAY

this half term!

Welly Walks



Thurs 5th March
Thurs 19th March
Thurs 2nd April

10.30 - 11.45am

Join us for new adventures for our Stay & Play sessions
Parents/Carers and children aged 2-6 years welcome



Spaces available
in all classes

Onsite Preschool with regular
outdoor learning sessions

Outdoor education areas inc woodlands, shelter, amphitheatre style outdoor seating and polytunnel

SPACES AVAILABLE IN ALL CLASSES!



Explore more at Diptford

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

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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.