

DIPTFORD AND NORTH HUISH

PARISH NEWS

APRIL 2026 No. 663

**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 April 2026

Date & Liturgical Colour	05.04.2026 Easter Day	12.04.2026	19.04.2026	26.04.2026
	Acts 10.34-43 Psalm 118.14-24 John 20. 1-18	Acts 2. 14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 John 20.19-end	Acts 2. 14a, 36-41 Psalm 116. 1-7 Luke 24. 13-35	Acts 2. 42- end Psalm 23 John 10. 1-10
Diptford with North Huish	11am Morning Service	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Service	11am Holy Communion Parish Boundary Walk
Ermington	11am Holy Communion	As Above or Below	11am Holy Communion	As Above or Below
Ugborough	9:30am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	9:30am Family 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 Evening 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

Join the Diptford Boundary Walk!

Looking for the perfect spring Sunday out? Join us for a scenic stroll through the countryside while supporting a great cause!

When: Sunday, 26th April

Where: Starts in Diptford at 9:30 am

Why: Raising funds for the Diptford Playing Field



Why You'll Love It:

- **Scenic & Historic:** Walk sections of the old **Primrose Line**, enjoy stunning views, access some private fields
- **Fun for All Ages:** Includes a **Scavenger Hunt!** The afternoon section is specially designed for younger adventurers
- **The Best Reward:** Every entry includes a **Cream Tea** at the finish in the church




The Essentials:

- **Lunch:** Stop at Horner from 1:00 pm (don't forget your picnic lunch!)
- **Cost:** £5 Adults | £1 Children | £10 Family
- **Extras:** Certificates for young finishers and the option to join the route at any point

Scavenger Hunt

Interested?

 Email pjc.mcc10@gmail.com for the full route.

 Call **Mike Cox** at **01548 821186** for more details.

Proceeds benefit the Diptford Amenity Group (Charity No. 276979).

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult

PARISH COUNCIL OF DIPTFORD

NEXT MEETING DIPTFORD PARISH HALL TQ9 7NY

Annual Parish Meeting where local organisations are invited to submit brief reports on their activities at 7.00 pm

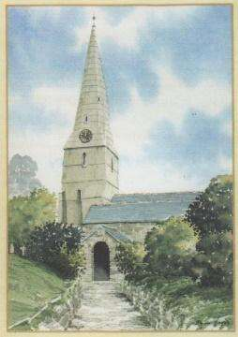
Followed by normal Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm

TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026

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 April 4th 2nd May 6th June 4th July .**

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

MARY SAMS

A Woman of Floral Virtue! This is a personal note of gratitude to all those who help and assist with the flower arrangements that adorn St Mary's church in Diptford on all the special occasions, such as Christmas and Easter. Some bring flowers to honour their loved ones, while others just enjoy being creative for an hour or so, but all are committed to making the church look welcoming and cheerful for our visitors. Mary Sams is one of these helpers who is truly a woman of floral virtue! She has assisted with creating beautiful arrangements for many years and has shared her expertise during that time. Mary has assisted with and organised no less than three flower festivals at St Mary's, the first being in 1975! She has practised her talents in many other churches, Exeter Cathedral and Buckfast Abbey to name a few. After so many years of service the congregation of St Mary's is indebted to her support and assistance. Sadly, after helping with the recent arrangements for the funeral of Peter Willis, Mary has decided to hang up her rose cutting scissors for the last time.

We will all miss Mary's input but wish her well in the future. Other members of our community who regularly help with creating beautiful arrangements and cleaning the brassware in church are:- Pat Sampford, Linda Pantry, Elizabeth Ann Reed, Mary Stowe, Sue Hopwood, Jo Jaimeson and Liz Hallett.

Personally I am always very appreciative of their help and I know too that everyone is grateful for the difference they make to the enjoyment of St Mary's church.

Ruth

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?

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.

NORTH HUISH COMMUNITY GROUP

COFFEE MORNING

At North Huish Church

**BRING & BUY
CAKE SALE
& CHARITY
RAFFLE**



All Welcome

**SATURDAY 11th APRIL 2026
10.30 - 12.30**

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

**Business adverts as in Pages 6 and 7 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

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



Spaces available
in all classes



Onsite Preschool with regular
outdoor learning sessions

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

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

SPACES AVAILABLE IN ALL CLASSES!



Explore more at Diptford

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

FRIENDS OF DIPTFORD SCHOOL (FODS)



Hi all, FODS is resting the Duck race this Easter after the successful event last year- expect it back bigger than better in 2027!

This year we are holding a bumper Easter raffle to be drawn on Thursday 2nd April. Loads of prizes to be won - great way to support the School.

You can buy raffle tickets at £1 each/£5 a strip via Lucy Carrol to organise

your tickets.

Alternatively we will be popping round the village selling them before the draw..

This term we have focused on the Polytunnel installation and outdoors project which has cost about £10,000 in total, also books, trips, equipment etc.

YOGA CLASSES

Home visits and online

For all ages and fitness levels
Tailored to your health, wellbeing and
lifestyle needs

For more info contact Daisy Perry
07894 473 432
daisyperryyoga@gmail.com



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

TOTNES TV & ELECTRICAL

Established 1992
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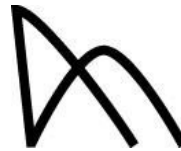


077100 94424 01548 821 847

inkirton@btinternet.com

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 for service and installation of oil appliances
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 bathrooms
 Any plumbing jobs considered

Andrew Heimann



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Property Maintenance

All Interior or Exterior decorating
 considered

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amheimann@icloud.com

Or phone on 07717 477178

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- Short-term respite
- Complex care for Dementia & Alzheimer's

Contact Us
 Plymouth & South Hams 01752 347 700
 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 TREE PLANTING IN THE PLAYING FIELD



It was lovely to see so many people turn up in the Playing Field for our afternoon of planting 10 native apple trees and a landmark tree for the village. The Devon Whitebeam will make a substantial tree over time, and has been planted on the bank on the eastern side of the

field. The 10 apple trees have been placed at the bottom of the bank.

All this was thanks to our Tree Warden, Will Young, who advised us and helped us all with the planting. Will has also offered to look after the young trees as they settle in.



Following the planting, Steve Partridge said a few words to dedicate the Whitebeam for the 800th anniversary of St Mary's Diptford, and also in memory of the late Rev Peter Willis who did so much to set up the Playing Field in the 1970s. Liz, one of his daughters, brought along Monica, his widow, for the dedication, and some of those planting well remember being taught by Monica as for many years she was a much loved teacher at our School.

We had also been given a disabled and wheelchair friendly picnic bench, which was put into place by Trevor Crocker and Gavin Paterson and we hope this too will prove a boon to the village.



As we left, it was lovely to see so many children enjoying the new equipment in the field, the birds nest swing being a particular hit.

We are now focussing on raising another £16,000 circa towards the replacement of the rather tired climbing frame!

Sue Franklin on behalf of Diptford Parish Council

NOTES FROM DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 2026

Our Parish Council meetings are NEVER dull!

In Open Forum our intrepid **litter pickers** were thanked for their efforts – see above and we heard of a county highway in the parish where the road condition is so bad that SHDC now refuse to collect the refuse!

Your Parish Council will further discuss our **Emergency Plan** at our April meeting. We have responded to the LGR (Local Government Reorganisation) consultation that we support the 4,5,1 option – see Minutes for full details of this. We feel that the likely effect will be that Parish Councils may become more important locally and become responsible for delivering more community services at a cost to residents.

County Cllr Dan Thomas's monthly report is published in full in the Minutes including welcome news that there will be an additional £15 million investment in Devon's roads plus a 5 year commitment of additional £10 million in funding. Government has confirmed the write off of around 90% of Councils' historic High Needs deficits and commits to fund SEND provision sustainably going forward. County Cllr locality budgets have risen and Diptford will be making further applications to help fund our projects.

Amenity Trust – Works continue apace at the Playing Field and the newly installed play equipment is already being well used. Cllrs Crocker and Paterson have been reacting to the monthly safety reports with repairs being made as necessary. Council is now fundraising actively to replace the ageing Climbing frame. A wheelchair accessible picnic bench has now been installed in the Field. The Community Planting of fruit trees and Devon Whitebeam was really well supported and Steve Partridge dedicated the tree in commemoration of the 800th anniversary of St Mary's Diptford and also in memory of the late Rev Peter Willis who was Rector of Diptford for almost 30 years.

Sunday 26 April Boundary Walk – Mike Cox is again organising this to raise money for the Amenity Trust, at only £5 for adults it is really good value. See Page 2 for details.

Council agreed to **grant** £250 to FODS towards raised beds and gardening equipment and also to fund the purchase of a new planter and compost for the village square plantings, to be ready for the Open Gardens in the village on Sunday 7 June. Beverley Sugden and Jeni Mortimore do a fantastic job keeping the square looking lovely for us all to enjoy. Would anyone like to join a 'rota' to keep the plants watered? Let me know.

From Open Forum the condition of some of our rural roads has been reported to DCC Highways and Cllr Dan Thomas will escalate this together with pushing for the improvements agreed at Diptford Cross.

The next Diptford Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 21 April 2026 which will be the Council's Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 7pm when local organisations are invited to submit short reports of their activities to the Clerk. This meeting will be immediately followed by the April Parish Council Meeting.

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

Recycling & Waste

Collections over Easter Holidays



Normal day	New day
Friday 3 April	Tuesday 7 April
6-8 April	Two days late
Thursday 9 April	Saturday 11 April
Friday 10 April	Monday 13 April
13-16 April	One day late
Friday 17 April	Saturday 18 April

These changes also apply for Garden Waste Customers



Please put your waste out by 7am



For more information go to
find my collection day on our website

www.southhams.gov.uk

 recycle for South Hams

LITTER PICKING AROUND THE VILLAGE



Once again Lucy facilitated a Litter Pick around our village and so many people came out and helped – thank you all.

Thanks to all the families and individuals who donned their hi-viz and grabbed litter pickers.

Depressingly, shortly afterwards more litter was dumped around the lanes – what is wrong with people?

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.