DIPTFORD AND NORTH HUISH

PARISH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2026 No. 670

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 November 2026

Date & Liturgical Colour	01.11.2026 All SAINTS SUNDAY	08.11.2026 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	15.11.2026 SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY	22.11.2026 CHRIST THE KING	29.11. 2026 ADVENT SUNDAY
	Revelation 7. 9-17 Psalm 34. 1-10 1 John 3. 1-3 **Matthew 5. 1-12**	**Romans 9. 1-5** Psalm 145. 15-end **Matthew 14. 13-21**	Zephaniah 1. 7 & 12-18 Psalm 90. 1-8 & 12 **1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11** **Matthew 25. 14-30**	Ezekiel 34. 11-16 & 20-24 Psalm 95. 1-7 **Ephesians 1. 15-23** **Matthew 25. 31-46**	**Isaiah 64. 1-9** Psalm 80. 1-8 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9 **Mark 13. 24-37**
Diptford with North Huish	11am Holy Communion	10.50 am Remembrance Service Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	11am Benefice Holy Communion
Ermington	11am Morning prayer	10.50am Service of Remembrance	11am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	As above
Ugborough	4:30pm All Age Worship	9:30am Remembrance Service Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	9:30 Holy Communion	As above
Halwell	9.30am Holy Communion	As above	As above/ below	As above/below	As above
Moreleigh	As above	As above	As above/ below	3.30pm Holy Communion	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

WANTED 

QUIZ TEAMS

FOR THE ANNUAL DIPTFORD QUIZ 2026

FRIDAY 27th NOVEMBER 7.15 PM

Entry £6 per team (teams of four)

Bring Your Own Food & Drink

A Raffle Prize from Each Team Much Appreciated

All Money Raised to Fund Christmas Eve Carols in Diptford Square



First Question: How many feet does a lobster have?

Question Master



Lucy Fir

Previous Champions -The Diptford Disasters
Can Your Team Beat Them?



Ivan Idea



Robin Banks



Ida Thought

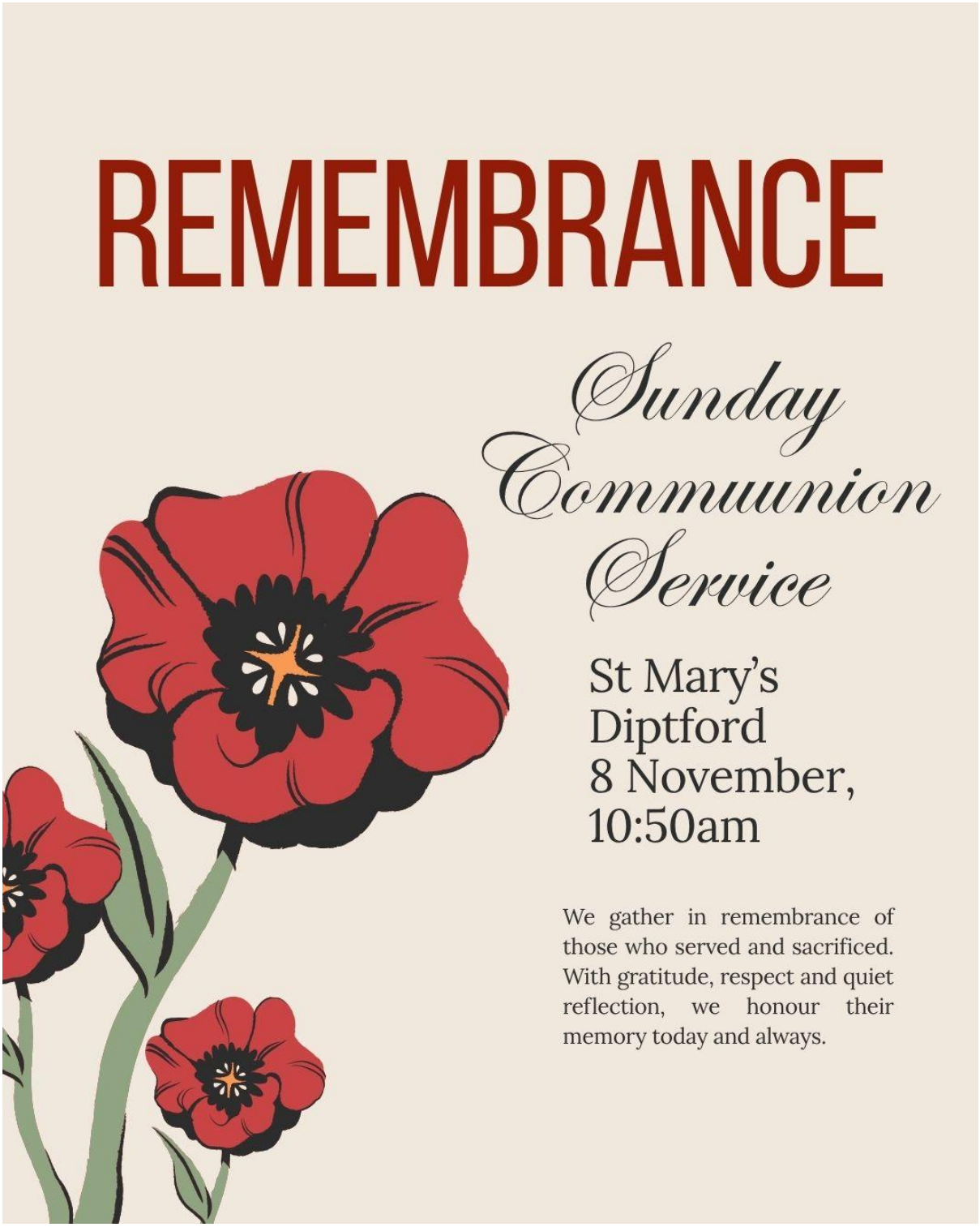


Carrie Oakey

Scorer



Miss Counting



DIPTFORD CHURCH CLEANING



2026 is a very special year for our Church
as it celebrates its 800 anniversary
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 7 November and 5 December.
Steve Partridge is now organising our cleaning sessions
partridge.steve@btinternet.com



NORTH HUISH COMMUNITY GROUP

The beautiful Grade 1 listed building St Mary's North Huish 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.

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

- Sunday 6th December: **Carols by Candlelight, 4.00pm.**

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? Almost £97 has been raised this year for the Playing Field using EasyFundraising.

A SURPRISE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND AT DIPTFORD GREEN

Every now and then, an old property gives up its secrets: in our case a few horseshoes, iron nails and bottles. However, after 30 years at Diptford Green (once a blacksmith's forge and laborour's tenement cottage we thought that we had exhausted all such finds-that is until now.



The subject of water was a topic for all of us this summer, for more reasons than one. A run of water leaks has rendered the lower garden unusable for most of a year, flooded curtesy of leaking pipes. Water finding its way down has regularly part filled the old well area in winter- a stone built rounded area with steps up and over. Water passed through leaching out the other side, orange stained with iron. The old well had a pump head which thirty years ago we removed with the intention of repairing, but family life and house renovation meant it was forgotten and the children used the sunken area as a hidden play area. Conversations of water this summer were all about the need to water the garden particularly as we had worked hard to get the garden ready for the Open Gardens for St Lukes, a day which we all so enjoyed. I nonchalantly spoke with friends about having a well on our property and someone suggested I try to find it!

One summer's morning I set to it amidst grumbles of," Haven't you got anything better to do"? First, I used divining rods. Nothing beats the excitement when they spin round in two places, the middle of the area and in the corner where the old bracket to the pump gave a rather good clue. Finding the water proved harder because the area was full of leaf mould, which over the years had covered most of the pump bracket, and the bottom two steps. I started in the middle where the rods had indicated water. Two and a half spades down, there was the clinking of metal on stone. I dug. There was stone – a large one. I dug some more to reveal more stones leading down to the corner where the pump had been. There in the corner was a step, boot worn and smooth leading to a huge flat stone. Using my trowel I searched in the corner. Fortunately, because of the drought our fine soil was like dust making it easier to remove. Suddenly, the earth gave way and I all but lost my trowel. I'd found it: the hole where the pump pipe had been. I went in search of string and a weight and tentatively dropped it down. Down it went … and came back wet! 1.2M down there was water. I got the longest canes I had and sent them down- 10-12ft before mud at the bottom. Using a metal rod, I could feel that is wider than just a borehole, most definitely the well that is marked on our deeds somewhere.

It was very exciting, but it led me to thinking. The steps are slate and a quarry worker lived here (in the left-hand cottage) in 1850s. There are two properties marked on the census at Diptford Green, which accounts for two fireplaces, one each end of our snug. We know that the blacksmith's forge was attached at the other end, the earliest farrier I can find is William Ferris in 1840. The oldest part of the house dates though to 1650. Because the property is situated on the road with a field boundary either side, access to this well would orginally led from the road.

I could see that the bank bore the remains of an old gate from an ancient post and a bit of concrete. There was a mountain of earth to move from there to the stones at the bottom. Again I was asked the question- why was I doing it?... but I was onto something!

I started on the verge and immediately found a stone, beautifully smooth and boot worn. So that was it- there must be steps. Over a couple of days, I moved mountains of earth and did indeed find rough steps leading down. There must have been steps to this since 1650- no one could live up here without water and there are no streams. It was big enough for a community to use. Father Willis- in the 90s- wrote of Diptford Green, that it had been a drinking house. Prisoners tried at Diptford Court made their way here for a final drink before the hanging up on the top field on Kerswell Hill. So, once it was a drinking house. Further to that- the green marks a junction of the Saxon and Norman roads. Monks from Buckfast once walked the Ridge Road to Slapton. They would need to stop for water – perhaps the spring was across the road even then- maybe there is a holier connection to our humble well.

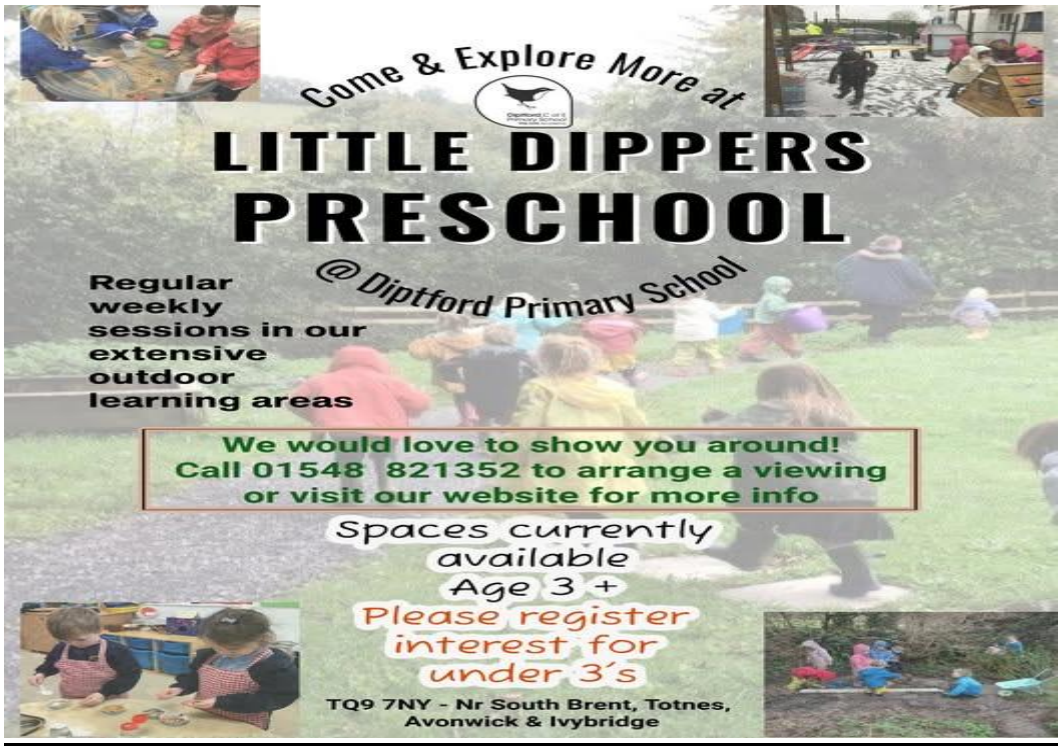
Now it remains to source a pump to use our own water next year on the garden. Its been a very exciting project and adds to the story of this place and its importance in the community. Many of you have stopped to look and its been wonderful to show you.







Ruth Partridge



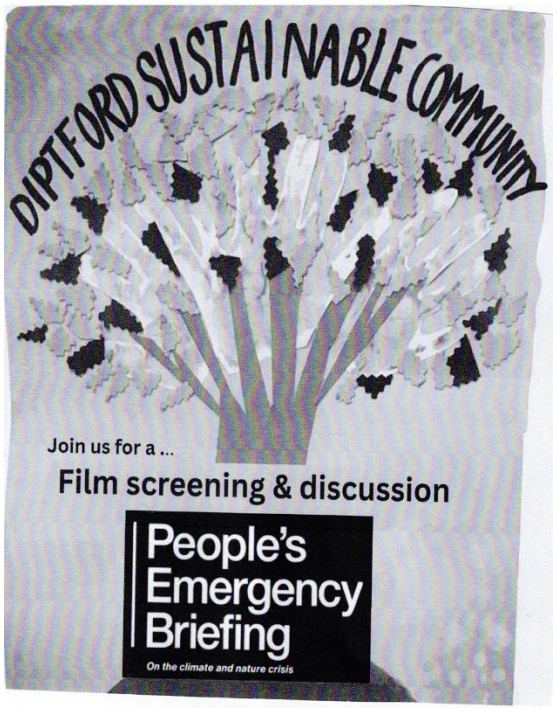
NOTES FROM DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 2026

News from our County Cllr Dan Thomas - Government has approved £191millionwhich will cover 90% of the SEND deficit of DCC. Another £1million will go to rapid response teams for potholes and drainage. Please report issues on DCC website under 'Report a Problem'.
District Cllr Guy Pannell reported that mobile fly tipping cameras are working well with prosecutions happening.
New Planning rules come into force in November. More decisions will be officer mead but District Cllr will still be able to speak to officers but will no longer be able to call an application in to Committee. Parish Councils will continue to be consulted but of course cannot make decisions.
Two Planning applications were discussed, one supported and one not.
The Council purchased **flashing speed sign** has now been delivered and will be installed hopefully before Christmas using sites identified by Highways Officer. Our volunteer **Road Wardens** have completed the online training but will shortly be undertaking the physical course, after which they will be accredited.
Following the meeting severe damage was sustained by the **village stone flowerbed** at the Square but although several residents heard the incident there were no witnesses. Quotations are currently being sought for the repair.

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place in the Parish Hall on TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER at 7.30pm

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





DID YOU MISS THE FIRST SHOWING OF THIS THOUGHT PROVOKING FILM?

A FURTHER SHOWING HAS BEEN ARRANGED SO THAT ANYONE UNABLE TO ATTEND PREVIOUSLY CAN COME IF THEY WISH

MINIMUM RECOMMENDED AGE IS 16 YEARS

AT THE PARISH HALL ON MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER TO START AT 7PM

THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM DAVID AND HEATHER SAYLE

The Vicarage
Chittlehampton
Umberleigh
North Devon
EX37 9QL

Tel No: 01769 721172
Email: parish_sayle@me.com

27 October 2026

Dear All

Please accept my apologies for the delay in writing to you. Moving, uppacking boxes, finding our bearings along with the Licensing Service and the fact that we have only just had internet and a phone line placed into the Vicarage today means time has just disappeared.

Heather and I would like to say a very big 'thank you' for all the kind comments, cards and gifts we received as we left the Three ivers Mission Community. We look forward to using all the gifts and vouchers in the new year when we will move into South Molton Rectory.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to see some of you at the Licensing Service last Wednesday evening. Thank you for taking the time to travel on such a foul evening. As we have always said, if you are ever around the South Molton area, please do let us lnow – the kettle is always on.

Finally, be assured of our prayers for you all as you take the time to discern God's way for your new chapter as a Mission Community.

With our love and prayers,

David and Heather

Devon County Council | Cost of living
Help and advice for people in Devon

COULD YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW BE MISSING OUT ON PENSION CREDIT OR OTHER BENEFITS?

Pension Credit

If you're over State Pension age and on a low income, you could be entitled to Pension Credit.

Many people who qualify do not claim it, so it's worth checking whether you're eligible. Pension Credit can top up your income and may also help you access other support, including:

- Council Tax Reduction
- Help with heating and energy costs, including the Warm Home Discount Scheme
- Housing Benefit or support with housing costs
- Help with NHS costs, including dental treatment, glasses and travel to hospital appointments
- A free TV licence if you're aged 75 or over
- Winter Fuel Payment
- Cold Weather Payments (where eligible)
- Support for Mortgage Interest if you own the property you live in

Business adverts as in Pages 9 and 10 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

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION

DIPTFORD PARISH HALL BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

TO MAKE A BOOKING FOR DIPTFORD PARISH HALL

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 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
Clllr D Dugdall - debbie.dugdall@diptfordparishcouncil.org

PARISH COUNCIL OF DIPTFORD
NEXT MEETING DIPTFORD PARISH HALL TQ9 7NY
TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER at 7.30pm
All residents welcome to attend

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

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.

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