

Ugborough Parish Newsletter

December 2020



Merry Christmas and a Happy and (above all) Healthy New Year.

At last there will be some regular services at St. Peter's- INCLUDING CHRISTMAS MORNING. Details of all services for December and Christmas at St. Peter's and Bittaford Methodist Church are on Page 12.

We welcome you back to our churches, and to get you into the Christmas mood.....

Create an advent calendar window for all to see! - Sue Johns 07889 737967

To mark the season of Advent and the lead up to the (scaled down) Christmas Celebration let's create a Community Advent Window!

Every day from December 1st to 25th create (draw/paint/collage/knit/sew/anything) a festive Something (snowflake/star/reindeer/crib/anything!) and fix to a window that can be viewed by passers -by. Spotting the growing Advent scene, maybe lit with Christmas Lights, can perhaps lighten these dark, restricted times.

It would be great too for this challenge to be taken up by ALL ages. If anyone needs materials just let me know and I can deliver a selection of craft bits and pieces.

Pictures of complete windows could be displayed!

Calling all messy church families, friends and neighbours.....

Rainbow angels!

There will be a Christmas tree in St Peter's church porch from 7th December – and we thought it would be very special to adorn it with rainbow coloured Angels. Not only will this remind us of the Christmas Story it will also make us think of those amazing NHS workers who have given so much to the population in this extraordinary year.

The angels are simple to make, I can provide the template, instructions, and rainbow coloured card – so please let me know and I can make sure you're supplied.

Then you can take them to the church porch after December 7th and hang them on the tree.

We shall bring the tree into the church to display at our **9:30 Christmas Day service.**

This service will be an All Age Eucharist and sadly limited in capacity – so please book your place by e mailing or ringing David Stafford dasecl@aol.com 01752 691525, nearer the time.

Sue Johns 07889 737967 suejohnsdunwellfarm@gmail.com



Ugborough Church floodlit for an extended Advent.

What a fantastic sight to see the floodlit Church towering over the Square in Ugborough!
It just feels like a beacon of hope in this troubled time....

Thanks to Taffy for organising and to the PCC for ratifying the proposal.

If anyone would like to show their appreciation by donating towards the cost, it would be gratefully received. Cash/cheque donations to Taffy – or myself (at the Post Office on a Thursday morning)

Or by BACS to ‘Parochial Church Council of Ugborough’ Sort Code: 30-94-58 Acct: 00096503

Thank you. *Sue Johns* (Thanks to those who have already made a contribution.)

🎄 Sparkling Christmas – Sarah Woodman.

Ugborough villagers have heard a rumour about a sparkling Christmas this year - just what we need after the dreariness of Lockdown Phase II.

A villager full of Christmas cheer will be displaying Christmas lights on the trees in Ugborough Square, and the Parish Council is supporting her by providing the lights. If the new decorations are successful, we may extend Christmas lights elsewhere in the Parish in future years. Merry Christmas!

Remembrance Sunday- Francis Douglas.

Despite the Covid restrictions (with lockdown), the Ugborough Poppy Appeal raised £453 this year. A particular thank you to those who contributed to the very generous donations in the Church and Anchor pub boxes.

The Covid compliant Remembrance went ahead and it gave us all a chance to remember and reflect on the ultimate sacrifice that the men from our small parish made. Hopefully, next year the service will be back to normal with church service, bugler etc.

Ugborough and Bittaford Pre- School-(incorporating breakfast club and after school club)

Charity Number 1043499- *Dani Ackrell*

Open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday – Friday during term time in Ugborough Village Hall

Baby and Toddler Group (drop-in) – Monday 1.30-3 p.m.

Contact

07763215455

admin@ugboroughandbittafordpre-school.org.uk

Firstly, I would like to welcome the new committee members. We are pleased at the turn-out of our first virtual AGM and can announce a new committee. Please welcome Leanne, Catherine, Charlott, Emma, Helen, Alice, Dani, Malan, Katie and Becky. I am sure that they will be as great as the last.

After a well-deserved break for children and staff alike, it was great to have the children back raring to go!

Throughout the month the children have been exceptionally busy practicing their culinary skills. Cooking helps the children with health and hygiene, great listening skills, measuring and hand and eye coordination among many other skills. They have made pizzas muffins, oat biscuits, jam tarts, and pastry Catherine wheels in preparation for bonfire night. The children have had great fun and enjoyed eating their delights for snacks at pre-school.

The children relish in their Thursday morning forest school lessons, which helps to give them an understanding of the great outdoors. They learn about changes in season and how it influences different types of weathers all whilst enjoying the wonderful muddy puddles.

Back in September we said goodbye to a big cohort of children, leaving spaces for new faces, so if your child likes a diverse range of playing inside and exploring the great outdoors then come and see us at Ugborough and Bittaford pre-school. You can contact Tania for further information.

As most of you are aware the Preschool is a charity and rely on donations. During these difficult and unprecedented times, it has been almost impossible to fundraise. In order to raise funds for the new spring term we are holding a Christmas raffle and would really appreciate support far and wide. Numbers are being allocated at random and are £1 per number, which can be paid via Bacs. The numbers are available now through to Monday 14th December with the raffle held on Thursday 17th December.

Please also continue to support us through your amazon purchases. If you select 'smile Amazon' before checkout and then select 'Ugborough and Bittaford Preschool' as your chosen charity. We will receive a small percentage of your total amount spent at no extra cost to yourselves.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child 2020 Shoebox Appeal Update - *Kate Brampton*

Thank you to everyone in the Community who supported the Appeal this year by providing filled shoeboxes, items for shoeboxes and/or monetary donations – it has all helped.

Between us we have provided a fantastic **total of 30 Gift Shoeboxes** (19 physical and 11 online Shoeboxes) including their associated project/shipping costs for needy children/young people overseas. At the time of writing it is anticipated the shoeboxes will start their delayed journey after lockdown in early December from our local drop off point for the next part of their journey.

We are endeavouring to track whereas many of the shoeboxes are going as possible, and this will be done via those shoeboxes that were registered/paid for online. Hopefully we should hear early next year which country/countries these shoeboxes have gone to. In previous years, it has been Belarus, Albania, Bulgaria, Central Asia and Serbia.

Thank you once again for your generous support particularly during these challenging times.

The Beacon Federation - Executive Headteacher - Mrs. Karen Dixon
Ugborough Primary School.

Remembrance Day

Pupils took part in a two minutes' silence on Wednesday 11th November at 11 a.m. Mr Kellas held an assembly beforehand to mark the occasion. Every child made a poppy that became part of the display in our hall.

Children In Need –Well done Ugborough! Despite such difficult circumstances, you raised £95.20!!

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch arrangements will run slightly differently this year. So that we can ensure that all our children are able to enjoy the experience as much as possible, whilst still adhering to safety measures, we are going to timetable the lunches over 2 days. This gives our bubbles the chance to really celebrate Christmas in a safe and well managed environment. We are so grateful to our PTA, who are kindly paying for all children to receive a Christmas lunch this year.

Dates for the Diary:

Wed 9th Dec –Christmas Lunch for Years F, 1, 2, 3

Thurs 10th Dec –Christmas Lunch for Years 4, 5, 6

Fri 11th Dec –Christmas Jumper Day for 'Save the Children'

Fri 18th Dec–Last day of Autumn Term

Mon 4th Jan–First day of Spring Term

Community Quilt- *Libby Johns*

I hope you're all well in lockdown #2, what a very strange year! Val has very kindly offered to sew the community quilt together We've got some amazing pieces and it's going to look incredible. Thanks everyone

Ugborough Village Hall- Stafford Williams

The Village Hall needs a volunteer for the post of Booking Secretary and to join the committee. Philomena Jones has filled this role for many years but has had to hang up her keys – the committee wishes to thank her for her service and her contribution to helping the Hall work so well. The Booking Secretary holds and distributes keys for hirers, provides the point of contact for bookings through the website and coordinates with the Treasurer regarding payments. As a committee member you would be required to join the monthly meetings (currently done by Zoom) and act as a Trustee of the Hall on behalf of the community. The task is not onerous but does suit someone who lives and spends most of their time in the village. If you would like to serve the community in this role please contact the Secretary, Stafford Williams on 07941 588581 or stafford@inxite.co.uk – your village needs you.



G-UP Creating a community where it's easy to live sustainably- Rowan Martin

David Attenborough's documentary "A life on Our Planet" was released in late September. The film is billed by Attenborough as his "witness statement" giving a stark assessment of the changes he has seen and lived through over six decades of wildlife film making. Attenborough is regularly listed among the figures most trusted by the public. His opinions matter to people, and this film is important to anyone who cares about...well anything really. So we thought we should probably watch it.

As a way of navigating the COVID restrictions we decided to venture into the world of shared online viewing experiences, trialling a "watch party". The idea was to simultaneously watch the film from the comfort of our own homes and meet for a chat on Zoom after. A bit like going to the cinema and then grabbing a beer in the bar afterwards - except without the cinema or bar. Not quite the same, but then what is currently?

The journey starts with compelling footage of animals walking through empty buildings close to Chernobyl. It's a bittersweet image - nature is thriving but people are absent from the scene. Attenborough then takes us through his life bringing the timescales into sharp relief. When he made his first documentary the world still had 66% of wilderness remaining and CO₂ concentrations were at 280ppm. Today, only 35% remains and CO₂ concentrations have surpassed 415ppm. The second half of the film is dedicated to projecting hope - what can be achieved if decisive and dramatic action is taken now? While some of the solutions offered are a bit simplistic, it makes it clear that all is not lost, while we can't rely on someone else to fix these problems. Time to get cracking then!

So, the nascent G-Up working groups are starting to take shape. the "Wildlife and Biodiversity" working group has secured sapling trees from the Woodland Trust and is

currently looking to develop our own source of tree saplings. If you have land that needs planting with trees within the Parish then get in touch. The “Waste reduction and recycling” group has found a new solution for the recycling of crisp packets – watch this space for updates. The “Transport, energy and Renewables” group is investigating a number of initiatives including ways to encourage walking between Ugborough and Bittaford to access the public transport links.

If you fancy getting involved in any of these groups, have ideas or are just mildly curious about what more could be done then we’d love to hear from you.

You can contact us on:

Email: <mailto:greenerugg@gmail.com>

The Ugborough website: <https://www.ugborough.com/sustainability-group> Our Facebook page: Greener Ugborough Parish

Worried about your energy bills?



Need help switching?

Want advice on heating, energy efficiency or retrofit?

Having difficulties with your supplier?

Get in touch for **advice** and **support** with all of this and more...

www.sdce.org.uk/energy-advice

advice@sdce.org.uk

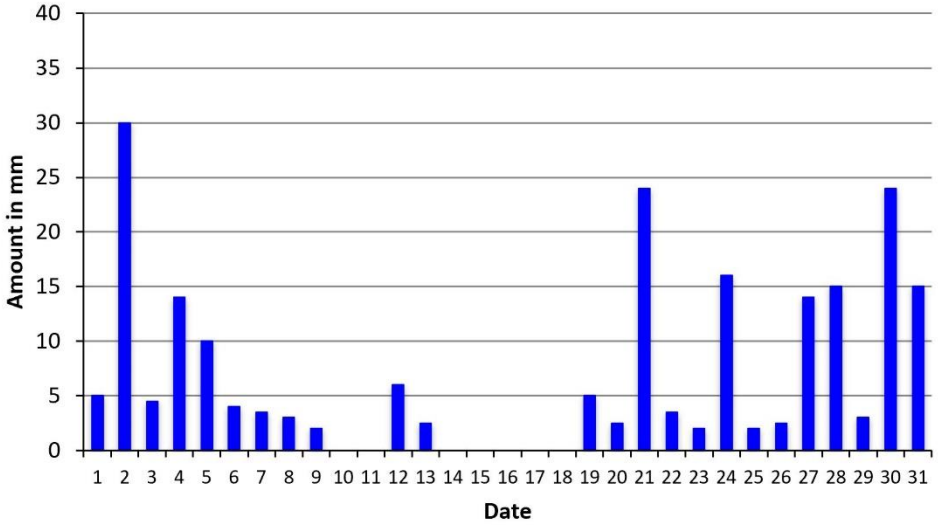
0800 112 3044



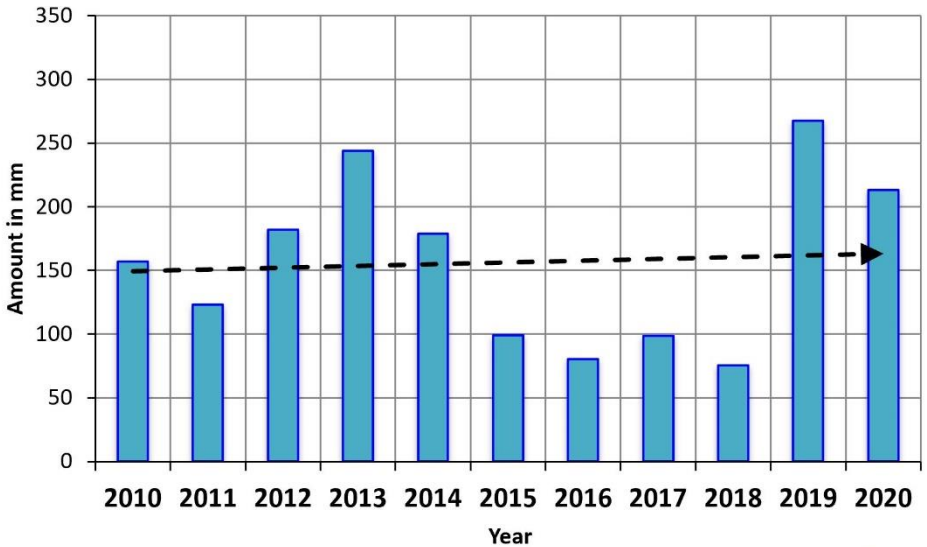
Rainfall at Shellwood Hill *George Arnison*

October started with Storm Alex (named by the French Met Office)... and ended with Storm Aiden (named by the UK & Ireland Met Offices). There was also a Storm Barbara (named by the Spanish Met Office) in the middle – but I’m not sure we noticed it much. None affected us too badly, but they contributed to a month that just felt wet and dull overall. In fact the Met Office have it down as the fifth “dullest” October in the UK since 1919...which is a metric I didn’t know existed! At Shellwood Hill I recorded 213mm (just under 8.5”) of rain, which compares to my monthly average for Octobers over the last 11 years of 156mm...and after February it was the wettest (and probably dullest) month this year.

Rainfall in October 2020



October rainfalls and Trend



Beryl's Bookworms – Norma Roe

Once again, we did not let the Covid restrictions defeat us and we met in two groups of less than 6 in homes and two further members joined through Zoom. However, this month we managed to connect the two groups through the wonders of technology and so were able to share comments (but not cakes!) Thanks to everyone who enabled this to happen.



Our book was *Two Caravans* by Marina Lewycka and this provoked a wide range of views. It tells the experiences of migrant workers from (mainly) Eastern Europe doing the unpleasant and menial jobs that no British person wants to even consider doing. The book gives character to the bones of the statistics and we learn of the perils, hardships and friendships born of the search for economic improvement.

The story starts in an idyllic setting- the strawberry fields of Kent and in the field are Two Caravans- one for the male workers and one for the female. The characters are introduced here and after the experiences at the strawberry farm, they travel to different parts of England, usually towing one of the caravans. We learn of the brutality of intensive poultry farming as the migrant workers learn the hard way what cheap food really entails. Some of the scenes here are comic, but most of it is pretty horrifying and the work is dehumanizing. Marina Lewycka tells what is really a dark story with a light touch, and although this appealed to some, others found it distasteful. Indeed, the story includes some depressing truths of exploitation, corruption and sex trafficking amongst the central love story and occasional humour. Desperately important issues are perhaps described with too much levity.

The story is also told from different viewpoints- including a dog- and some members found this made it disjointed and difficult to follow. So overall very mixed views on this book (from 4 out of 5 to under 1) and the average score of 2.75 doesn't really reflect the diversity of opinion- that's what makes book groups so interesting!

Poignantly, the book is dedicated to the cockle pickers of Morecombe- migrant workers who tragically lost their lives.

Incidentally we were sad to learn that Marina Lewycka now has a serious neuro-degenerative illness and writing is now much more difficult for her. Personally, I really hope that this will not stop her from publishing another book, as she is a real favourite for me.



Your Stars Tonight. The steamed dieter needs constant mental stimulation whilst we are doing our daily surviving Covid/ Lockdown/ damp winter walks around the block. Ever eager to please, I pontificate on some recent scientific research on dreams. In particular, the work was trying to understand why human beings need to dream. I had thought that dreams were the way that the brain makes sense of the previous day's events, shuffling them around and then

filing them as memories for future use. But somehow that mental equivalent of tidying up the office desk at the end of the working day never explained the surreal quirkiness of most people's dreams. This new hypothesis on the need to dream comes from a slightly unexpected angle – thinking about how computer based Artificial Intelligence is trained to recognise things - faces, animals, guns, ships or whatever.

It's all done by programming in some rough and ready rules and then letting a super computer loose on tens of thousands of images until it begins to identify correctly (most of the time) which is a human and which is a cute puppy dog - even though both have two eyes and teeth when viewed from the front (and with their mouths open). Apparently one of the problems with training an Artificial Intelligence is that they can get sloppy and over confident in their predictions and to prevent this the programmers have to regularly feed in fake and junk photos that are obviously wrong in order to knock some sense back into the AI. So, is this what the brain is doing in dreams? Deliberately producing ludicrous and bizarre situations so that the brain gets a mental jolt to make it smarter? Sounds like an interesting idea - but how on earth you could prove it is a different matter all together.

After this exposition I am surprised to find that the steamed dieter's attention seems to have wandered and she is gazing into the far distance across the fields to a rather damp view of a glum Dartmoor. She gestures to a far corner of the meadow "That's a big rabbit, it's hopping like an enormous hare, it can't be a deer, it can't be but it must be it's a wallaby!"

And in the fading light I am riding a grey stallion down to the Anchor pub, to meet up with old Australian friends, but I can't find the door to the bar and I have ended up in the cellar. Of course, now I remember, there is the secret smugglers' tunnel that comes out underneath the Ship, but it is twisting and getting narrower, at last I have escaped and I'm riding my bike up the hill to a meeting at Toby Cross but it is getting dark and I forgotten my lights. And there is a man in a pointy hat and cloak embroidered in gold stars and he says "we are so lucky that since the first of December we have been blessed with clear skies every night which has meant every evening after dusk we have watched Saturn and Jupiter coming closer together as we approach the Great Conjunction when Earth, Jupiter, and Saturn are almost perfectly aligned". He waves his shepherd's crook and intones in a reverent fashion "And tonight, the 21st December, at 5.30 we will see that they are so close that they appear as one bright star – it's the great conjunction of the millennium". The stars are just coming out in the cloudless sky but then I notice an ominous miasma of mist coming from a huge hole which is opening up in the ground under my feet and my binoculars fall out of my plastic shopping bag and start to slide down the slope into hole and

The steamed dieter gives me a vigorous nudge and says "I bet you never thought you would see a Wallaby in Devon" and I can only reply that it is about the same chance as having a clear night to see Saturn and Jupiter cosmically entwined just after sunset on the 21st December.

Ugborough Parish Council

Clerk: Sarah Woodman Tel: 01364 661127 Email: ugboroughhpc@yahoo.co.uk

Website: <https://ugboroughparishcouncil.org>

Ugborough Parish Council

Christmas is just round the corner, and the December meeting started with a suggestion from a villager for Christmas lights in the Ugborough Square trees. Councillors thought this was an excellent idea and will be arranging the lights, plus a set for Bittaford, too. Hopefully, this will make our Christmas a bit more enjoyable. Grants are also being made, as usual, towards Christmas lighting at Ugborough Church, Bittaford Methodist Hall and Bittaford Community Hall.

Dartmoor National Park has embarked on fundraising schemes, including SeaMoor Lotto, [Donate for Dartmoor](#) and shopping with easyfundraising.co.uk. DNP has published [Welcome to Dartmoor walks](#), aimed at introducing people to Dartmoor's history, heritage and habitats. The routes vary from 3-10km and provide opportunities to eat and drink locally

Bin collections, or the lack of them, was a complaint addressed by District Cllr Holway. The new arrangement was suffering teething problems and missed collections should be reported at <https://southhams.fccenvironment.co.uk/missedcollection>

County Cllr Hosking provided local Covid statistics and encouraged volunteer support groups to help the vulnerable and those shielding. South Hams District Council had revived its helpline 01803 861297, and **Cllr Holway** added that individuals and traders suffering hardship due to Covid should contact SHDC at <https://southhams.gov.uk/welfarefund>

Planning applications – with recommendations in **bold**:

[0464/20](#) Replacement extension to include external pergola/screen walls at Windbells, 5 Highfield Terrace, Bittaford **Object. Proposal is a breach of Policy DMD4 as it would have an overbearing and dominant impact on the neighbouring property. Applicant has not complied with the previous breach of condition notice**

[0485/20](#) Single storey rear extension and decking at 16 Moorland Close, Bittaford **Support**
[3347/20/VAR](#) Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) following grant of planning consent 3717/19/ARM Land adjacent to Siding Cross, Wrangaton **Object. Two bed housing is needed in the area, suitable for young couples**

[2399/20/FUL](#) Change of use from agricultural to equestrian, erection of single storey barn and access track at Lot A Earlscombe Farm Ugborough **Object, as adequate plans have still not been provided and there is no justification for the stable to be located at the far end of the field**

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) has recently celebrated the 60th Anniversary of its designation, with a number of activities planned during the coming year. They are also raising funds for Young Carers from South Devon to have some respite days out on the coast next summer, by asking people to walk the 60 miles of the South West Coast Path in the AONB to celebrate the 60th Anniversary. The timescale is between

now and April 2021 and people can do this as individuals or groups, collecting sponsorship for their efforts. The target is £6000.

Full details of the campaign can be found at <http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/60at60/>

Dartmoor's Disappearing Phone Boxes is an exhibition which includes our phone boxes in Bittaford and Wrangaton (both of which have been repurposed). The timing of the exhibition may have changed due to Lockdown – for the latest information, go to <https://www.dartmoorphotographer.co.uk/exhibition-dartmoors-disappearing-phone-boxes/>

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held remotely on Wednesday 2nd December, starting at 7.30pm. Agenda and minutes will be displayed on the website and noticeboards. *Privacy policy – visit ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk*

Changes to collection days over the Christmas period

Friday 25th December changed to **Tuesday 29th December**

Friday 1st January changed to **Tuesday 5th January**

Friday 8th January changed to **Monday 11th January**

From 11th-15th January- all collections one day late

From 18th January- normal collection days.

Please visit www.southhams.gov.uk for information about what can be recycled after Christmas including ideas on how to reduce, reuse and recycle. Advice includes what to do with Advent calendars, decorations, cars, wrapping paper, Christmas trees and any left-over food.

Avian Influenza information (Bird Flu) Information from Trading Standards Office

Do you keep chickens, ducks or geese? Help protect your birds from the risks of bird flu. A National Protection Zone has been put in place for all poultry keepers including those who only keep a few birds in their back yard.

As it is highly contagious, you must act now to reduce the risk of disease to your flock by following biosecurity measures including feeding and watering your flock under cover.

Full details and advice can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>.

The risk to public health is very low and bird flu is unconnected to COVID 19.

The Eden Cottages Trust

A spacious two-bedroomed Almshouse, suitable for two people, will become available shortly at Eden Cottages in Exeter Road, Ivybridge.

The accommodation comprises a large sitting room, two bedrooms, bathroom, downstairs toilet and kitchen.

The Trustees invite applications from anyone in housing and financial need but under the terms of our governing document they must be members of the Church of England.

Applications will not be considered from existing homeowners, nor from established tenants of social housing.

Full details and application form available from the Clerk to the Trustees, 6 Erme Park, Ermington, Ivybridge PL21 9LY.

Bittaford Methodist Chapel *Chris Phillips 07899934743*

All being well, we will intend to re-open on 6th December at 11 a.m.; it is hoped to have services as follows;

Sunday 13th December at 6 p.m.

Sunday 20th December at 11 a.m.

Sunday 27th December at 11 a.m.

It seems unlikely that we will have our Christmas eve carol service, but the nativity scene will be out the front of the chapel as usual

Ivybridge Methodist Church will be hosting a Zoom service every Sunday at 10.30 a.m. For more information go to their web site.

In the New Year the chapel will be getting a new roof ensuring its future use as a chapel and a community resource.

St. Peter's Church, Ugborough

St Peter's Church Services in December

We are delighted to be able to invite you back into our church for regular services but please note that numbers re limited due to Covid restrictions – so please book your place by e mailing or ringing David Stafford dasecl@aol.com 01752 691525.

Date	Service
Sunday 6 th December at 4.30 p.m.	Evening Service led by David Stafford
Sunday 20 th December at 4.30 p.m.	Evening All Age Advent/Christmas service of words, music and pictures led by Rev'd David Sayle
Friday 25 th December at 9.30 a.m.	Christmas communion service
Sunday 3 rd January at 4.30 p.m.	Evening service

It will be necessary to wear face coverings at all services and strict hygiene measures will be in place.



Come along and join our Messy Church online via zoom.

Messy Christingle service on Sunday 6th December from 4.30 p.m. Please contact Rev'd David Sayle on 01548 821199 or at parish_sayle@me.com for further information, and by 6 p.m. the day before for login details.

Additional Three Rivers Mission Community Services

It is hoped to have an online Carol Service on 24th December and also a midnight communion, but details have not yet been finalised at time of publication.

Every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.- Holy Communion at Ermington. You need to book place with Peter and Lesley Thurley e mail- services@ermingtonchurch.org.uk

There are also evening services at other churches in the Mission Community on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 3.30 p.m.- see www.3rivers.org.uk for full details.

Mid-week Holy Communion services are held on Wednesdays at Harberton (9.30 a.m.) and Diptford (10.30 a.m.)

Mission Community Services online via Zoom or telephone.

Please contact Rev'd David Sayle on 01548 821199 or at parish_sayle@me.com for further information, and by 6 p.m. the day before for login details.

Every Sunday at 11 a.m.- Sunday Service

7.30 p.m. Tuesday 3 Rivers Online Advent Study Group (each week to Tuesday 15th December)

10:30 a.m. Wednesday Telephone (only) service

Thursday evening ½ hour of prayer

We will be continuing our half hour of prayer on Thursday evenings and will be offering a weekly Telephone service on Wednesday mornings at 10.30 a.m. Again, if you would like any further information about these, please contact The Rector.

Finally, if you have a favourite Christmas Carol and are willing to explain why, I would love to hear from you and hopefully we will be able to include some of these Carols and reasons in our Christmas Services.

The **Three Rivers Mission Community** covers the parishes of Diptford, Ermington, Halwell, Harberton, Harbertonford, Moreleigh, North Huish and Ugborough.

You can find out about everything that's going on across all the parishes at its website, www.3rivers.org.uk

For all church business and parish matters, please contact

Rev'd David Sayle, The Rectory Diptford Totnes Devon TQ9 7NY
01548 821199 email parish_sayle@me.com.

Devon Historic Churches Day

Congratulations and thanks to Taff Jones and others who took part in this year's Devon Historic Churches Day Ride and Stride, and thanks also to Mary Burnell-Nugent for organising the event.



The Farming Community Network

We are a voluntary organisation & charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community.

Whether the issue is personal or business-related, FCN is here for you. We run a confidential, national helpline and e-helpline which is open every day of the year from 7am to 11pm and our volunteers provide free, confidential, pastoral and practical support to anyone who seeks help. Over 6,000 people a year benefit from FCN's support and we can help with a variety of issues.

The FCN helpline is open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. as usual to speak to one of our dedicated volunteers. Currently our volunteers will not be carrying out home or farm visits, however we are here for you every day via our helpline.

Call us now on 03000 111 999 or email help@fcn.org.uk.

You are not alone this winter.

Village services.

A reminder that you can visit the Devon Libraries Mobile Library Service at Ugborough Square, Tuesdays from 9.30 a.m.-10 a.m. every 4 weeks. The date for December is 8th.

Help us to continue to bring books and a lifeline to 80 rural communities in South Hams and West Devon.

The current mobile library, affectionately known as Gertie, is going into retirement. This van has given 14 years' service to rural communities, but sadly is becoming more and more difficult to keep on the road.

A replacement has been found but it urgently needs to be renovated to meet the needs of the communities that use the mobile library.

The cost to get this 'new' mobile library on the road is £15000.

To contribute to this fundraising effort visit [justgiving.com/campaign/get-mobile-library-on-road](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/get-mobile-library-on-road)

Or text BOOK to 70460 to donate £3

During lockdown 1 the mobile library team phoned every library customer, and since July we have been on the road again. For the first 2 months to keep customers and staff safe we delivered bags of books, and from September until the current lockdown we've been allowing people to come back on board to choose their own. Customers have been incredibly happy to see the return of the mobile library; many tell us that using our service not only provides their reading material but also gives them the opportunity to meet and talk to other people.

This mobile library carries 2,000 books to rural communities every week and last year, 11,368 books were borrowed by people, young and old. It is much more than a book delivery van though. The mobile library is an educational, social, wellbeing, and cultural service.

Post Office in Ugborough Church

And don't forget to visit your Post Office in Ugborough Church on Thursday morning from 10a.m.-12 noon.

BUT PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO POST OFFICE ON THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER (to allow the necessary Covid secure time before the service on 25th December.)

Breaking News. ***Support Ugborough*******

We are poised to offer extra help throughout December.

We are very aware that most of our Vulnerable Persons in the Community have been extremely careful during the November Lockdown and will continue to do so until the promised vaccine materialises, and things really do begin to feel more 'normal'. This is still some time off sadly.

Please just contact your support person, Sue Johns: 07889 737967 or Katie Lloyd 07919 028839, if you need anything at all – or indeed just a chat,

We are hoping to home deliver a delicious Christmas meal to those who are vulnerable or live on their own in the Village and immediate outlying area. Details to follow!

Contributions

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this 10th far from normal Newsletter.

A few hard copies have been produced for those without internet availability and many thanks to ICC for printing these and to those safely distributing them.

I am very much looking forward to when we can go back to our usual paper format, but we must keep our volunteer distributors and all who receive the Newsletter safe.

Contributions should be sent by e mail to Mrs. Norma Roe, The Editor, Ugborough Parish Newsletter at norma-davidroe@tiscali.co.uk

The deadline is 15th of the month please. Thank you for keeping to this.

Your Newsletter is available online at the Parish Council website <https://ugboroughparishcouncil.org> and at the village website <https://ugborough.com>

Views published in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Newsletter Group, or of any other contributing group. Contributions are published at the Editor's discretion. The Editor's decision is final.