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**THE LOCAL RAG**  
ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the  
**October Edition**  
Volume 17 Issue 9  
2020

**Update from Assistant Chief Constable Glen Mayhew**

Demands on Devon & Cornwall Police, and the police service in general, are back to pre-COVID levels, making it even more important that people respect the change in the law and take personal responsibility.

I hope that we do not need to enforce the latest legislation as people understand the importance of the measures to keep us all safe.

The pandemic has not gone away and everyone must play their part to protect themselves, their families and our communities.

I know we are seeing large numbers of younger people returning to universities in our region and campus life is likely to be very different with these latest measures. The work of universities and student groups to prepare for the year ahead highlights how we can all adapt. But I would ask everyone to respect yourself, others and comply with the law to make Devon and Cornwall a safe place for all."

If members of the public are concerned that the law is being broken or they are experiencing anti-social behaviour, they can report this to Devon and Cornwall Police. We will consider the most appropriate response and will target the most problematic behaviour. Reports should be made through online reporting wherever possible via <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk>

Full details of the guidance can be found on the Government website - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> You can also visit our frequently asked questions page which is updated regularly - <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/covid-19-coronavirus/>

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<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/>

**Publication and Distribution**

The **Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Local Rag** is produced by the Editor Elsie Potter and Assistant Editor David Potter and is distributed, free, by a team of volunteers to every residence in our area. Finance is provided by the Parish Council, income from advertisers and donations from community organisations and individuals. Local reporting is easy -

**e-mail your items to:**

[thelocal.rag@btinternet.com](mailto:thelocal.rag@btinternet.com)

or drop in to Webbery Cross Cottage. The more articles you send the more likely the Local Rag is to continue.

The date for inclusion in the next issue is **20th of each month**. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or amend any article submitted. Any article published does not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team.

The Local Rag

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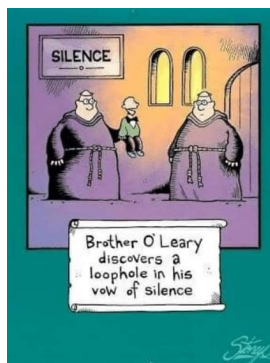
**From The Assistant Editor**

Last month I was wittering on about how the CV19 situation in parts of Europe was getting worse. Well I hate to be right, but France is having a big up-surge in cases, and the same is happening in Spain. The number of cases is almost back to how things were earlier in the year. Our own situation is also beginning to look doubtful with cases rising here as well. Previously the UK seemed to be running a couple of weeks behind the situation in Europe. Now our Government have warned us today that if we don't toe the line it will have to take drastic action. They are moving the level from 3 - meaning an epidemic is in general circulation - to 4, to signify an "epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially".

We have been warned...

Now, on a lighter note! So it's not all bad news! On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at All Saints Alverdiscott there was a Harvest Festival service led by Rev Gary. The Church was beautifully decorated with flowers and there were harvest hymns, but sadly no singing.

And then on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> the Friends had a Covid friendly Sunday Lunch at Alverdiscott Hall. Well done to all who managed to make it work.

**Planned Events during 2020 at the Village Halls**

All the events that were planned at both our village halls have for the moment been cancelled or at least postponed. Here in our wonderful part of north Devon we have been spared some of the misery that has affected other parts of the UK. We have been fortunate so far but the situation is very uncertain and there is no guarantee that we will continue in the same way. If the Covid situation worsens then the Government will have no choice but to reintroduce a rigid lockdown similar to that which we had back in March.

We all hope and pray that does not happen but we must be prepared for things to get worse before they get better.

**Emergencies**

Police - Fire etc.	999
Electricity	0800 6783105
Gas	0800 111999
Water	0800 1691144
RSPCA	0300 1234999
Calor Gas	0345 7444999

**Medical**

<b>NHS - Advice Line</b>	<b>111</b>
Barnstaple Hospital	01271 322577
Bideford Hospital	01271 322577
Torrington Hospital	01805 622208

For a GP out of hours call Devon Doctors on  
0845 671 0270

**Community Hall Bookings**

<b>Alverdiscott</b>	David Potter 01271 858534
<b>Huntshaw</b>	Suzy White 07711 787853

[huntshawparishhall@outlook.com](mailto:huntshawparishhall@outlook.com)

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<b>Police</b>	<b>101</b>
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
CAB	01805 626126
FCN	03000 111999

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Western Power Enq.	0800 0963080
North Devon Council	01271 327711
Torrington District Council	01237 428700

**Coronavirus Test Line 119**

Sandra Brown PCSO [30096@dc.police.uk](mailto:30096@dc.police.uk)

Your local neighbourhood policing team at  
Torrington Police Station email address:

[torrington@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:torrington@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

### Notice: Huntshaw Parish Hall AGM - Postponed

Due to Corona Virus lockdown restrictions the Emergency Committee for Huntshaw Parish Hall were unable to hold the AGM as planned at the end of March. The Committee have continued to care for the Hall in the mean time and hope that an AGM can be planned in the near future, once the Government allow us!

We do, however, want to keep the community involved and have therefore chosen to publish our "Officer" reports and accounts on the Parish Council Website. These will be formalised once an AGM can be held.

These reports will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> July at

<http://alverdiscott-huntshaw-parish.org.uk/your-parish-council/>

### Friends of the Church of St Mary Magdalene Huntshaw

#### We say goodbye to Michael.

It is with great sadness that I report that one of our Friends Michael Barrow died on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Michael was born in the village and farmed at Knockworthy and was well known for his positive and cheerful approach to life. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the church whose dedication and hard work made him a valued and much loved Friend. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

#### The Future of the church.

You will have read the article from the PCC\* in which it is outlined how Covid-19 has taken its toll on the financial viability of the church. The future of the church is now being considered. The Friends see this as an opportunity to take our hard work and considerable success over the past two years to the next level.

We want you to tell us what you want from your church so urge you to attend the AGM on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 8 pm at the church (Covid permitting).

\* p7.

### From the Rector

Over the summer we've taken up bodyboarding. Well, it's been one of the few things we've been allowed to do! But we've really enjoyed it... especially when you hit a wave just right and it lifts you up and carries you right into shore.

Riding on top of a wave on a bodyboard is one thing. Walking on top of the waves is another! The bible tells us that it was no problem for Jesus... as you might expect for the Son of God. But the bible tells us that there is one other person in history who has managed it – Peter. When Peter saw Jesus walking on top of the sea towards the boat in which he sat, he called out in excitement, "Lord, if it's really you call me to come and join you". Jesus called and Peter got out of the boat and miraculously the waves held him up – until he took his eyes off Jesus, looked instead at the waves, and with faith wavering began to sink.

I didn't want to write another Rector's message about Covid-19. There is a limit! But I did want to write about Jesus who "calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea". Jesus never promised an easy life to those who follow him. In fact, quite the opposite. But he did promise to be with us and help us. He did promise to see us safely home to heaven when the troubles of this life are over. And he did promise that the journey from now to heaven would be an adventure like no other... in which we might even get to walk on water!

To pray Peter's prayer, "Lord, if it's you, invite me to come and join you on the water" is a dangerous one. But like a ship was not designed to stay safe, moored in a harbour, but to sail the oceans, so we are not designed to live a 'quiet' life with little to aim for except a retirement on the golf course.

Praying Peter's prayer is the gateway into finding the life we've always wanted... a life of purposeful adventure, fun and fulfilment.

Go on, why not pray it now...

**"Lord, if it's you, call me to join you on the sea".**

**Rev Gary Owen - 01769 560792**

**Harvest Festival Service**

"It was a delight to reopen All Saints Church, Alverdiscott after the Covid shutdown, for a Harvest Festival on Sunday 13th September. Twenty two adults and two children, from church and chapel, filled the building to Covid capacity. The church looked beautiful - many thanks to Barbara, Lornie and Kate for their decorations. Gordon played harvest hymns (which frustratingly we could not sing but loved to hear) and John sang two solos. We celebrated God's goodness to us, prayed for those who bring us the fruits of the earth and remembered those less fortunate than ourselves with a collection for Tearfund amounting to nearly £200.

**Do You Need Assistance During Covid -19?**

If you live in the Local Rag area and are having problems due to the current situation there are several groups in the local area who are offering to help out. They will take on tasks such as shopping, collecting prescriptions and even walking the dog, all of which can be more difficult than normal, right now. Please get in touch with the Rag and we will see if we can find someone to help you.

**More Quick Wit**

***I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.***

*They said a mask and gloves were enough to go to the grocery store. They lied, everyone else had clothes on.*

***I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6 foot pole" would become a national policy - but here we are!***

*Elaine Banks - MWiB Weekly email.*

**Leisure**

B	A	S	I	L	H	C	A	N	I	P	S
R	L	P	A	R	S	N	I	P	S	I	E
E	E	A	P	L	U	M	S	E	P	L	I
A	T	W	C	L	E	X	A	A	I	O	R
D	T	H	O	K	E	E	X	R	N	C	R
W	U	Y	A	L	B	S	K	S	R	C	E
H	C	E	X	Y	F	E	N	S	U	O	B
E	E	N	R	O	C	I	R	A	T	R	W
A	V	O	C	A	D	O	L	R	E	B	A
T	R	H	U	B	A	R	B	U	I	B	R
B	E	E	T	R	O	O	T	X	A	E	T
C	R	E	S	S	T	O	R	R	A	C	S

**Harvest Time  
26 To Find**

- STRAWBERRIES    TURNIPS    LETTUCE    BEANS    PLUMS    HAY
- BLACKBERRIES    BROCCOLI    SPINACH    LEEKS    BREAD
- CAULIFLOWER    MARROW    CARROTS    PEARS    CRESS
- PARSNIPS    AVOCADO    APPLES    HONEY    CORN
- BEETROOT    RHUBARB    WHEAT    BASIL    TEA

**Last time the word was: Trimester**

Only For Fun. You have 15 minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters shown in the grid. Each word must contain four or more letters, one of which must be the central square. No letter may be used more than once in each word. No proper nouns, plurals or foreign words allowed. There is one nine letter word for which the clue is - Office Worker

Word count 25 = Good. More than 35 = Very Well done!

Y	T	R
R	E	A
C	S	E

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 168

Good Luck...

		9				2		
				7	8			
5	8						7	9
6	9						1	7
		5				3		
				1	2			
9		8	3	4	1	7	5	
7		1	8	6	9	4	3	

Solution to Su Doku No. 167

6	4	1	7	5	2	9	8	3
9	5	3	8	6	4	2	1	7
7	8	2	9	3	1	5	6	4
3	9	4	6	1	8	7	2	5
1	7	8	2	9	5	4	3	6
5	2	6	4	7	3	8	9	1
2	6	5	3	8	7	1	4	9
8	1	9	5	4	6	3	7	2
4	3	7	1	2	9	6	5	8

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen  
01769 560792 07947 358050



All Saints in Alverdiscott will be open for private prayer on Saturdays from 9.00am to 4.00pm.

Please observe social distancing rules.  
Sanitise hands on arrival and departure.  
Only use those areas not taped off.

[www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org](http://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org)

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel  
Minister Rev Rob Blackhall - 01805 628041

We are living in very difficult times.  
Life feels very different, and it is hard not meeting and worshipping as we usually do.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to ask. I might not immediately know the answer, but I will endeavour to find out.

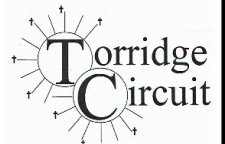
These are challenging times, but we are the Church and we will carry on, just in a different way.

Please pray, read your Bibles and share in Worship in your homes. And to start your Bible reading - try Psalm 91 - we are all under the care of Almighty God.

Current advice from the Methodist Church can be found at

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus-guidance/>

<http://torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk/>



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Parish Council Facebook page: [@alverdiscotthuntshaw](https://www.facebook.com/alverdiscotthuntshaw)

Parish Council website: <http://alverdiscott-huntshaw-parish.org.uk/>

The new Parish Council website is packed with useful and relevant stuff, so do go and have a look around. If you have something that could be helpful, informative or entertaining in the current situation please get in touch, via the website or the Rag.

**Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers**

Bruce Millar	V Chairman	07392 304567
Francis Courtenay		01271 858322
Peter Ley		01271 858230
Donald Easterbrook		01805 623113
Eddie Staines		07831 262808
Tony Goldstone		01271 858437
Helen Bolton		01271 858885

**Parish Council Vacancies - Update**

There are still 3 vacancies on the Parish Council. Those interested in serving on the Parish Council should contact any current member for details.

**PLEASE NOTE - All the original events and planned work at St Mary Magdalene Huntshaw have been postponed until further notice, pending the course of Covid -19.**

**\*\*\*See p7 for the latest news\*\*\***

You can also keep a watch on our website [www.huntshawchurch.com/](http://www.huntshawchurch.com/) for the most up-to-date information.



**Parish Council News**

The next Parish Council meeting will be via Zoom and is planned for 21 October.

The last meeting, in September, has been declared null and void. Therefore any local resident interested in joining the Parish Council can still apply, before the Zoom meeting planned for 21 October.

Those interested should contact any current member of the Parish Council with a brief description of why they wish to join. There are two vacant places for Alverdiscott and one for Huntshaw.

**Please see the Parish Council website for the latest news and updates.**

**Planning Applications**

Application Number and Date	Description <i>Full Details Available from Torridge District Council Website - <a href="http://www.torridge.gov.uk/plans">www.torridge.gov.uk/plans</a></i>	Parish Comment	LPA Decision And Date
1/0399/2019 03/12/2019	Proposed extension to shed and formalisation of B2 (General Industrial) Use (amend description, revised plans, transport and noise reports) Staines Trailers Ltd Huntshaw.	18/12/19	Awaited
1/0624/2020 28/07/2020	Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling house And associated building operations under Class Q (affecting a public right of way) Nethercott Farm, Alverdiscott	Emailed	Awaited
1/0596/2020 03/08/2020	Part retrospective application for change of use from Agricultural Store to cold meat Store with ancillary cutting room. Barn at Nethercott Farm, Alverdiscott	Emailed	Awaited
1/003/08/2020 542/2020	Erection of 4 holiday lodges. Land at Grid Ref: 252226 123009 Huntshaw. Adjacent to Foxdown Woods.	Emailed	Awaited
1/0340/2020	Conversion of 2 Barns into domestic dwellings & associated site works, Woodtown Farm, Woodtown.	Emailed	Awaited
1/0434/2020 17/06/2020	Erection of a dwelling & associated works (Resubmission of application 1/0210/2019) Agricultural Building at Grid ref: 250454 123756 Huntshaw.	Emailed	Awaited

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING FOR THE CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE HUNTSRAW**

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 8 pm at the church**

The agenda will be posted on the church notice board before 30<sup>th</sup> September and will include the election of church wardens, representatives to the Deanery Synod and the Parochial Church Council. The future of the church will be the first item on the agenda.

As you will know there have been no services in church since March. We have also not kept up our payments to the diocese of £61 per month. These payments are our contribution to our share of a priest and other Diocesan support. The absence of services and defaulting on payments to the Common Fund has serious implications for the future of the church. Regrettably, the time has come to consider the future. The PCC urge you to attend the AGM to let us know what you want from your church and what you are willing to contribute. The options are to:

- continue as a parish and build a worshipping community in the current building
- continue as a parish and become a festival church \*
- become part of another parish and become a chapel of ease \*\*
- become part of another parish, close the building and sell it, possibly to a community trust set up to look after the building

\* Becoming a Festival Church means that we can provide a flexible approach to its use including hosting services of worship as and when we want to e.g. celebrating Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day. At the same time, we would continue to broaden the building's use as a community resource by putting on cultural, educational and social events

\*\* Becoming a Chapel of Ease would mean that a new united parish would take responsibility for the church in Huntshaw. Alverdiscott is an example of a Chapel of Ease with the Friends group managing fundraising events for care of the building.

More information on the above will be posted on the Friends website [www.huntshawchurch.com/](http://www.huntshawchurch.com/) and on the church notice board.

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**FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH ALVERDISCOTT**

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Sunday lunch and also to those who felt unable to attend but kindly made donations. Thanks must also go to all those who donated a large amount of the food, and of course the many raffle prizes.

Within the Covid guidelines we were able to sit 30 people at a safe distance and serve them with a roast dinner and a choice of desserts. We even managed to serve take-aways for several local people.

Everyone enjoyed the meal and also the opportunity to feel part of the community again. It was a great atmosphere.

The final figures are still being calculated but we raised over £600 for church funds. We would love to hold another lunch in the not too distant future but it will obviously be dependent on the Covid situation.

Graham White



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