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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
October Edition
Volume 20 Issue 9
2023



St Mary Magdalene's Church - Huntshaw

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

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

Webbery Cross Cottage

Webbery

EX39 4PU

Phone 01271 858534

e-mail thelocal.rag@btinternet.com

From The Assistant Editor

Last month I mentioned the **Big Breakfast**, well now it's that much nearer! Whoopee - Sunday 29 October, make a note - details are on p7.

Time is definitely passing, there is even mention of the "C" word. In fact, twice - Christmas AND Carol.

It's only 96 days to Christmas AAARRGH!

The **Bells are Coming Home** at St. Mary Magdalene in Huntshaw. After months of work to restore them they will be re-hung starting Monday 17 October, it will take about a week to complete the work. Details on p9.

And at **All Saints in Alverdiscott**

the extensive repairs to the tower are almost completed. On Friday 27 October there will be a short service of thanksgiving, in celebration of the completion of the work. Details on p9.

Memorial Garden

The paved area has been completed, and we are in the process of ordering the bench.

No one supplied any suggestions as to why wood pigeons spend so much time **walking** around, when flying must be quicker and probably safer. I guess it will remain an unsolved mystery...

And also, we haven't had any one volunteering to take over the editorship of the Local Rag. The clock is ticking...

ALL SAINTS "FRIENDS" SUNDAY LUNCH

On Sunday 26th November we will be serving an

"Early Christmas Lunch"

at

Alverdiscott Community Hall.

More information next month but please

make a note of the date in your

diary NOW!

**Emergencies**

Police - Fire etc.	999
Electricity	0800 678 3105
Gas	0800 111 999
Water	0344 346 2020
RSPCA	0300 123 4999
Calor Gas	0345 744 4999

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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

Local Hall Bookings & Enquiries

Alverdiscott Hall David Potter
01271 858534

Huntshaw Parish Hall Jenny Staines
01805 624490

huntshawparishhall@outlook.com

Community Contacts**Advice Lines**

Police	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
CAB	01805 626126
FCN	03000 111999

Samaritans - Free from any phone 116 123

Western Power Enq. 0800 0963080

North Devon Council 01271 327711

Torrige DC 01237 428700

Coronavirus Test Line 119

Sandra Brown PCSO

30096@dc.police.uk

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

torridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

For routine messages that **do not** require prompt action.

Free support

Are you aware of the new funding opportunities available as part of the Agricultural Transition?

FUTURE FARMING RESILIENCE

businessinfopoint.co.uk/FFR

Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs | Devon County Council | DIO

I am writing to you from **Business Information Point** whilst we currently strive to support farmers during this transitional time.

The FFR programme is offering on going FREE information and business skills development workshops to help farmers and land managers navigate the changes brought about by the Agricultural Transition.

You may be aware of the current free support for farmers and land managers we are offering, but the programme is now offering even more workshops including a large option of specialist ones we have developed with further guidance from the farmers we have already been working with.

Business Information Point, alongside other delivery partners, are providing free tailored one to one advice, workshops, and specialist webinars to help farmers and land managers navigate the changes brought about by the Agricultural Transition.

Transition workshops: Local workshops to discuss the changes coming, and look at new funding options, as well as planning strategies for the future.

The upcoming workshops we are running locally are:

19th October 7pm Chagford Victory Hall

15th November 7pm Great Torrington Town Hall

28th November 7pm Okehampton Business Centre

One-to-one support: Access free one-to-one support with an experienced agricultural advisor to talk specifically about your farm business and develop an agreed and documented action plan.

Small group webinars: Attend small group webinars covering topics such as digital skills, succession planning, woodlands, environmental schemes, soil management, diversification, marketing, business planning and grant schemes.

Digital training: Build digital confidence and gain IT skills to better manage your farm business.

For full details of the support and to register on any of the workshops please visit our website - <https://businessinfopoint.co.uk/ffr/> or call 0800 592 872. **Louise Turley.**

A message from the Rector

You may have spotted that there has been much discussion in one national newspaper about the future of the Church of England. Our neighbouring diocese of Truro has received much criticism for lumping parishes together in large groups, to the detriment, it is claimed, of parish churches.

Here in the Two Rivers we are of course a large group of 10 parishes. The reality is that neither the Church of England centrally nor our parishes individually can house and pay for a vicar for each church. It's easy to do the maths: a vicar's stipend alone is £28,000 per year. Some of our parishes have fewer than 200 residents, so that's £140 per resident per year. Then there's the cost of housing, pension, and expenses of office. Even if central funds could cover the cost of a vicar in every parish, I suspect we would rather the Church of England spent that money on schools, hospices, or even repairing the roads.

But being part of a large group is not necessarily a disadvantage for the parishes within it. Our local schools benefit greatly from being part of multi-academy trusts, in which resources are pooled and shared, admin is reduced and teachers are freed up to teach. Our vision for the Two Rivers is similar, with the central resources of our mission community used to support each parish, the people who worship in it and the wider community. The 'centre' is there to support the parishes, not the other way round. Over the last four years we've increased the number of services in most parishes, with 7 of our churches now holding weekly services and 2 others twice each month. Huntshaw church has now resumed monthly services. The number of people actively involved in church life is up.

Making a system like this work requires everyone to do their bit. We are blessed with people in each parish who can lead services on a Sunday, visit and take communion to the sick and even increasingly take funerals. They know their community well. We call them **focal** ministers. We are training more. Some are ordained, many are not. Some are paid, most volunteer their time freely. None work alone, but with a team from their particular parish.

Cont'd on Page 4

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

The September coffee morning raised £80 for the Appledore Lifeboat Station, thank you to all who attended.. **On Thursday 5 October we shall be raising money for the North Devon Hospice.**

The Coffee Morning in November is on Thursday 2nd. We have not yet decided which charity to support, if you have any suggestions get in touch.

Please do come along - between 10am and noon - to support our worthwhile causes.

Garden Club

Garden Club meetings are on the last Monday of each month (except Bank Holidays when it will normally be the Monday before) at 2.30pm in the chapel schoolroom. On **Monday 6th November** we shall be visiting John Turner's garden at Horwood.

Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00.

Arts and Craft Group

**Due to declining numbers the Arts and Crafts group is now closed.
Thank you to all who have supported it in the past.**

Cont'd from page 3

One of our main problems is maintaining our church buildings. It would be more cost effective to abandon them and hire village halls. It might also be warmer in the winter! But we are committed to keeping these much-loved buildings in as good a state of repair as possible, and open and available to all. We are very grateful to everyone who helps with this, whether they regard themselves as a Christian or not.

The future of the Church of England, and its parish churches, is by no means certain. But here in the Two Rivers we are doing our best and we are optimistic about the future. God loves these villages and has good plans for them.

Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792 07947 358050

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Leisure



Local Bike Rides



As a local resident and keen but not too serious a cyclist, I was wondering if anyone is interested in forming a local cycle group to enjoy our local beautiful countryside? Nothing too serious, just social bike rides to enjoy.

If you are interested please drop an email to

Nigel Davies at b_davies6@sky.com

Medical Jokes

The patient has a chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

The patient refused an autopsy.

The patient has no past history of suicides.

The patient has left his white blood cells at another hospital.

Between you and me, we ought to be able to get this lady pregnant.

The patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.

Apparently these are all genuine comments left on patients notes!

Last time the word was: RESIDENCE

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 - Helianthus

E	L	N
U	O	S
R	W	F

Word count 30 = Good. More than 35 = Well done!

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 201

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 200

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

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792

07947 358050



Huntsraw Church Autumn Services

Sunday 8th October: Morning Worship, 11.00am

Sunday 12th November: Remembrance Sunday service, 10.55am

Sunday 19th November: Dedication of the bells with Bishop Jackie, 2.00pm

Sunday 10th December: Carol service, 11.00am

You can find out more at -

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Minister Rev Rob Blackhall 01805 628041

Services planned for Alverdiscott Chapel in October and November

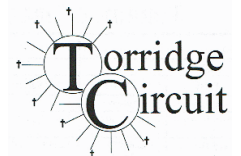
01 October	11.00am	Rev R. Blackhall - Harvest Service
15 October	11.00am	Rev S. Hill - Holy Communion
29 October	11.00am	United Service at Parish Church
05 November	11.00am	Rev R. Blackhall - Holy Communion
19 November	11.00am	Elsie Potter

Information about the Methodist Church

can be found here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/>

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



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October Bells for Huntshaw!



This is the month Huntshaw gets its bells back – After about 18 months of being away to get refurbished.

It was an extended visit with Taylor’s because they couldn’t get the work done in time for the Bat deadline of April 1st of this year – and so had to wait till the end of bat maternity season to install them.

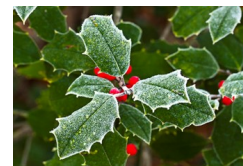
Taylor’s have confirmed that they shall be arriving Monday 17th October and will take about 5 days to rehang. They will be sending their bell hanger to hoist them back into position and we have agreed to provide a rota of volunteers to help with the lifting and carrying of tools etc., just like we did when the bells were taken down for repair last year.

If you want to come and see all 3 bells, newly graphite washed and at ground level in the church before they’re hoisted up the best time will be on the Monday morning (of 17th Oct).

On Sunday 19th November 2023 the Bishop of Crediton at 2pm will be leading a Service of Thanksgiving for the restoration of the bells – during which the bells will be rung out in peal for the first time. (The Bishop of Exeter was looking forward to coming but he will have retired by then).

After the service there will be refreshments in the Parish Hall to which all will be welcome.

Richard Sears - September 2023.



*Huntshaw Church Christmas Party
Saturday 2nd December - Save the date!*

More details to follow...

Parish Council News

Notice of Parish Council Meetings

Two vacancies have arisen on the parish council, one to represent Alverdiscott, and the other for Huntshaw. Council meetings will now take place **every other month on the third Thursday**, alternating between the two village halls.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 16th November at 7.30pm in Huntshaw Parish Hall.

We would welcome those interested in becoming a councillor, and invite you to come along and give a **(very!)** short presentation about yourself.

Graham White - Chairman.

Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers

Graham White - Chairman	01271 858441
Liz Meaney - Vice Chairman	01805 624990
Bernard Hardwicke	01271 858676
Helen Bolton	01271 858885
Caroline Lewis	07890 764234
Gill Ross	01271 858392
James White	01271 858580
Paul Matthews	01271 858652
Alan Matthewman - Parish Clerk	01769 560740

E&OE

Parish Clerk email alvhuntpc@gmail.com **Please note new address**

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

Parish Council Website: <https://alverdiscott-huntshaw-parish.org.uk>

The Local Rag is available to view on the PC website

County and District Councillors and Police & Crime Commissioner

County Councillor

Linda Hellyer linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk 07828 758360

District Councillors

Rosemary Lock councillor.lock@torridge.gov.uk 01805 804254

Thomas Elliott councillor.elliott@torridge.gov.uk

PCC for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Alison Hernandez alison@alisonhernandez.co.uk 01392 459808

THE ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL

BIG BREAKFAST



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NORTH DEVON

*****SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER*****

From 9.00am to 1.00pm
Adults £8, under 12s £5

TURN UP AND TUCK IN

Alverdiscott Parish Church

There will be a United Service at Alverdiscott Church on Sunday
October 29th at 11.00 am.

A very warm welcome is extended to everyone.

Following the service we will not be serving Coffee
as our team will be at the Village Hall serving the Big Breakfast.

Do hope you will be able to join us there.

Barbara Ford

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Friends of All Saints Church Supporters Club – September Draw Prize Winners

1st	Sandra and Alan Clements	£25
2nd	Mike Mathers	£15
3rd	Sarah Webber	£10

If you are not a member but would like to join please contact Louise Saunders on 01271 858522 or, louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com. The cost of a year's membership is £12. As a member you will be helping us to keep our church in good order and stand the chance of winning a monthly prize. All Members also receive the monthly Newsletter.

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH



MUSICAL LUNCHES



Friday 29th September will be **"Graham's Choice"**. Lunch from 12.30pm.

Music from 1pm.

Then on Friday 27th October we will be celebrating the completion of the repairs to the tower.

There will be a short service of thanksgiving followed by some music and a soup and sandwich lunch. Service 12.30pm.

